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Flag of the Republic of Malawi

Malawi, an introduction

Malawi, (in Bangla: মালাউি, formerly the British Protectorate of Nyasaland, is a landlocked country in southeastern part of Africa and is bordered by Tanzania, Mozambique and Zambia. The capital is Lilongwe.

Malawi has more than 10 million inhabitants with one religious ethnic group, Maoi and Europeans. The most spoken language is Chichewa. English is the official language.

According to 2007 estimates, about 80% of the population is Christian, About 13% are Muslim.

Birth rate per 1000 inhabitants is 42.2011
Death rate per 1000 inhabitants is 17.5211
Infant mortality rate per 1000 is 104.1 (2007)
Life expectancy is 47.2 years, (male 46.7 and women 47.8 years)

The per capita income in Malawi is about $900 per year. Malawi is one of the poorest nations. 10% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Malawi has the Maoi as ethnic group

Lake Malawi (Lagoon) is a large and very rich area. Discovered in 1859 by British explorer and cartographer David Livingstone. The lake (Nyanja/Chichewa name is Lake Nyasa) is 560 km long, 75 km wide and is maybe more than 700 m deep.

A watchman in Chiwanga with dance and singing

Politics

The history of Malawi can be divided into four historical periods. Pre pre-colonial era (before 1891), the colonial era, the period of independence (1964-1994) and the period after the multiparty elections and the declaration of independence of Malawi in 1994. The centralization of power was strongly implemented under the country's first president, Hastings Kamuzu Banda, who banned opposition and independent civil society organizations. The ruling party, the Malawi Congress Party, controlled all aspects of the country's politics, economy, and society. Banda was president for life.

In a referendum in 1993, Malawians voted for a multi-party system and parallel presidential elections were held the following year. The new constitution was based on liberal democratic norms that made the president accountable to the parliament and independent courts. The constitution also recognized organizations outside the ruling party, assisted by cabinet members. The legislative branch, the National Assembly, consisted of representatives from the districts elected there by the eligible voters. The judiciary was headed by the Supreme Court of Appeal and the High Court.

The new parties that emerged alleviated tyranny but it is not by power oriented individuals. It participated in the government as a party, the dominant position was used for its own interest of the people and the economic development.

The 75-year colonial government (1891-1964) and the four authoritarian one-party system (1964-1993) still determine the way the country is governed.

Board

The public service, which after the introduction of the multi-party system, had difficulties in keeping up with the provision of services by and for the government. While civil servants used to be able to live on their salaries, they now had to supplement their income with other jobs. The establishment of independent civil society organizations had increased the pluralistic system turned out to have no opt for effective management of the economic and poverty reduction.

In addition to the formal, democratic system, the traditional system has been maintained with chiefs. Chiefs are the leaders of the traditional authorities, who are responsible for the enforcement of the rule of justice and have been directly elected by the villagers. In turn, the village chiefs choose their regional head, etc. In urban and suburban areas, there are hereditary district leaders, based on the British model. The chiefs choosed to be there and a village leader, but there is a lively debate about the chiefs.

Malawi has 28 districts, including the cities of Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe, Kasungu, Mangochi, Luchenza and Mzuzu. The last is classified as a rural area.

The district is governed by elected representatives from the district who can fall back on government services with internal resources.

The historical legacy of strong chiefs is the basis of contemporary politics. Decisions usually not from the government but from the traditional authorities, the chiefs and the representatives of the people. The patronage and consultation determine the power around the president in Malawi, the allocation of public funds and the distribution of services.

Society

Malawi is densely populated but largely rural with 152 inhabitants per square kilometer. Sixteen percent of the population lives in cities and towns. Malawi's population is 13.1 million people. Eighty-four percent live in small rural/tribal communities in the Lilongwe where they provide for their own necessities as farmers on a small piece of land. Livestock and horticulture is minor. Most farmers cultivate maize, which is the staple food. Maize is the main crop, but only 1/3 supply is dried or sentled for domestic consumption and for export. Irrigation makes the rates because of local needs. The yield of the minerals present is negligible.

Situation

The level of national development is well below the average in Africa south of the Sahara due to a combination of factors, including a rapidly growing population, AIDS, and the lack of a viable source of income capital. Malnutrition is common in Malawi, which means that the least potential is available for development.

Almost 52% of the inhabitants live below the poverty line. It is estimated that 12 percent of the population can be classified as ultra poor: people who are chronically hungry most of the year.

Food insecurity in %	Ultra poor	Marginal	Low	Very low	Still
Self assessment	12,8	5,4	5,8	16,5	60

The country is one of the poorest countries in the world and is dependent on donations for 40% of their GDP. In a self-assessment, the residents have expressed that their character and their social status in relation to their neighbors and friends.

Social status in %	Very poor	Poor	Average	Rich
Self assessment	36,6	39,9	17,8	5,7

Social status in %	Very poor	Poor	Average	Rich
Compared to the neighbors	24,7	42,6	25,6	4,4

Social status in %	Lower	Equal	Higher
Compared to friends	12,4	49,4	38,2

More than half of the population in Malawi is under the age of 18. For future, this country can therefore actually count on a dynamic young population with favorable prospects. The reality is that the life expectancy is 47 years. The population pyramid shows a very young population, which is with the result that this growth is demographically very destabilizing.

In fact, the rural population in Malawi does not always have basic necessities, namely food, clothing, and shelter. Malawi is a country with a very young population, which is characterized by a high birth rate with the minimally developed and unstable agriculture. It is assumed that these references are present within one household, which according to African standards consists of all relatives of one family, and that the family members are forced to live in one house. Malawi is one of the poorest and average projects of a household consist of:

Possessions per household	Grain mill	Bed	Table	Chair	Bicycle	Radio	TV	Bicycle Check	Iron	Computer
in %	37,1	32,6	30,5	37,4	6,1	24,0	11,6	34,4	5,5	13,9	2,2

Maize harvest at the population in Malawi is every day go off

Malawi's infrastructure is limited. Almost 70% of the population lives further than two kilometers from a water road. Forty-seven percent of households spend more than 30 minutes a day collecting drinking water for their own use. About 40% of households have access to a mobile phone. Less than 0% of the population has internet.

Adversity

For decades, the population has had to deal with unusual and accidental events that affect livelihood security. Not only as a result of the increasingly common natural disasters. In patronage, one is well informed about the amount of adversity.

Every year, the population of Malawi has to be processed that is experienced and affects decision-making. Because of the unemployment, they have to rely on family members, the extended family and that partly explains the tolerance of the residents after an unusual event.

Unusual events	Unusual in %	Personal	Local	Neighbors	Other
Unusually high prices for food	98,9	87,1	60,9	58,4	60,0
Unusually high cost of agricultural input	96,5	17,8	52,1	49,4	49,1
Irregular rains	95,6	55,1	49,1	44,0	49,1
Unusually high level of crop pests or diseases	42,9	14,4	48,9	41,4	46,2
Drought	91,1	19,1	39,1	29,0	32,7
Floods	27,6	10,0	31,0	36,2	39,0
Unusually low prices for agricultural products	23,5	16,9	26,9	25,0	19,9
Unusually high level of livestock diseases	17,3	6,5	19,3	18,1	15,6
Reduction of household income	15,7	15,1	16,0	15,2	16,1
Theft of money/securities and agricultural land	11,0	11,6	10,9	10,9	11,4
Death of other family members	8,1	8,4	8,1	7,7	5,8
Separations	8,0	6,3	8,2	5,1	14,5
Reduction of household income	7,1	6,7	7,3	6,5	6,5
Reduction of income from non-agrare activities	6,9	8,6	6,5	7,0	6,5
Out of regular residence/residence/element	5,8	5,6	7,1	6,2	6,2
Conflict/violence	6,5	6,2	6,6	6,1	7,4
Death of the income earner(s)	5,3	5,4	6,8	4,6	10,2
Birth in the household	6,3	5,4	6,5	6,4	6,2
Landslides	5,1	5,2	5,8	5,1	5,0
Loss of employment from previous work	4,5	6,2	4,1	4,7	4,0
Earthquakes	3,9	2,8	4,1	3,4	4,8
Reduction of income from current work	3,4	2,8	3,4	3,9	3,4
Other reasons	4,1	5,1	3,9	3,9	4,5

According to The IFAD Integrated Household Survey of the National Statistical Office

Means of subsistence

In Malawi, 83% of the rural population is self-sufficient. That is, they grow their own food and eat only what they produce. The remaining 17% of the population earns a little money from the sale of small, more commercially oriented farms on the side, compared to some households with much more land ownership. Farmers' households with older household heads aged 65 and over usually appear to be more self-sufficient than younger households. Although the 65 and over age group is the oldest age category in agriculture usually has near the poverty line. The indicator for that is a farming family certainly does not have more than 1000 to spend on an annual basis and they for below the poverty line.

Land is considered common property and distributed as needed and tended to the chief, usually one acre (1/2 ha) per family. Some rents for polygyny (the traditional rule of one field per woman), but this is not the rule. Land is not considered property in the sense of the word. There is also a concern about the abandoned arable land because it is not used or tended. Farmers in Malawi cultivate every land. It turns out that the yield from soybeans is on average 1/3 of the total income of a rural family. Farmers in Malawi are not used to growing soybeans and the farmers have to be convinced of its tasty. Although the official rule is that the chief can no distribute unused farmland, it is not against the law.

Based on a rural environment, young people realize that they live in a conservative, traditional and non-innovative area and that agriculture has no future. Out of disadvantages, they therefore prefer to leave the country and work in the city. Young people who have left the country for work in the department of young people in urban areas in the hope and expectation of being able to build a more meaningful existence on them. It partly explains the flow of migration to urban areas and illegal immigration to neighboring countries. The population in Malawi is aware of the fact that there is no employment in the cities. Although the forced free redundancies in urban areas due to the lack of employment in the cities, it has an impact on agriculture and economic activities.

Malawi's agriculture is characterized by a dual system, which is a direct result of the forced to the relocation of returning to their village where they have lived. So it is not just about extra-economic or economic benefit. It concerns, the growing family relative and the uncertain conditions in the slums of the cities. Although the population in Malawi is aware of the fact that there is no employment in the cities, they are able to build a rural house of mastery (which is their farmer farms) regardless of their ownership. The diversity of this is very and jealousy in the midst of the community.

In a general sense, there is no employment in the countryside for farmers' households to possibly bring income above the poverty line, but depopulation does create relatively more opportunities. Farmers' households are therefore forced to make a combination of agricultural and non-agricultural income. Their search is always incomplete. Although there are quantities of farmers' households who are dependent on it. For the living of dairy, there are commercial companies that are willing to buy milk from farmers. Farmers' households can earn a little money from it and during the dry period. These farm is relatively limited and return. Wages are very low, but as income they are complements higher than annual agricultural yields.

Farmers' households in Malawi are characterized by a lack of capital. By selling most of the proceeds for cash, the immediate cash requirement can be met. Consumption can be limited to the bare minimum and additional earned wages, he is neither of course, the lower number of arable land around the villages is not sufficient to provide the family with food and income. Agriculture in Malawi is not profitable. Due to these circumstances, self-sufficient agriculture is increasingly being by cultivar - many fields remain unworked while their owners struggle to make ends meet.

In urban areas, looking for temporary or salaried employment is a major challenge because of the unemployment. Although there are many people who are willing to work, there are no opportunities or achievements and skills. The majority therefore experience their search for work as a competition with the non-qualified and the unemployed.

The suburban households also often have a piece of land for their own use. The small-scale farms engaged in agriculture there are usually not poor (there, probably because they also engage in wage employment).

Witchcraft

Witchcraft is a Witchcraft is the worship of the ancestors and the fear of being accused of witchcraft. The existence is perceived by 74% of Malawians. Most people witchcraft with the use of magic to kill people, make them sick or ensure that they have bad luck. Witchcraft is used to keep people in their place in the community and everyone will be addressed to it. Witchcraft is not tolerated.

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Agriculture

Clear also the smallholder farmer. Agriculture

Farmers' households in Malawi are very spaces in which only a few food crops can be harvested due to the short duration. The growing of high quality personal market crops such as tea, coffee and vanilla is therefore not possible. The sector is dominated by small self-sufficient farms. The population in Malawi is aware of the fact that the agricultural sector is underdeveloped. There is a piece of arable land the size of a football field has been productively the size of tomato in the countryside for decades.

In the countryside, farmers in the southern part of Malawi also have too little land to grow annual non-staple crops, such as cotton and tobacco to increase their family income. Land is the main limit crop. After the harvest, tobacco are kept as the farm for about 7 months, some of which are sold to seeds. Farmers' households in Malawi are not able to grow tobacco because of the lack of land. Farmers with so-called

Corn as a commercial product

According to the World Bank, agricultural development is the engine of individual and collective prosperity worldwide and one of the most powerful instruments against extreme poverty. The system is a series of actions to bring agricultural goods and services from the production areas to the final consumer. It in a chain along which the products run in the different operations.

With the introduction of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1987, it became possible for private traders in Malawi to buy/sell agricultural products. With that restructuring, Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) withdrew from the market as a state-owned company at the insistence of the World Bank and liberalized trade. The trade in corn as a national food product also became self-sufficient. That seemed to be the best strategy to improve access to food for everyone in Malawi in a fairer system. At the same time, a number of indicative (non-binding) prices were introduced to protect the small farmers from unscrupulous traders, but that could not prevent undesirable side effects from arising. The competitive market-based effect did not seem to benefit small farmers. There are indications that there is a conflict between private traders.

Due to the lack of competitiveness, the agricultural economy in Malawi has been minimally developed. Fragmented organizational structures, the inefficient presence of unnecessary intermediaries and the lack of accurate and timely information are referred to as the cause. In the latter case, it is objective market information that farmers can use when making production and marketing decisions and when negotiating the purchase and sale of their products.

In most cases, there is no response to a first offer from a buyer, but in the consideration the farmers are very uncertain. Traders tend to negotiate ground prices while farmers go out to get a price that is between the government-advised selling price for corn and the corn consumption prices on the local market. Because the fixed prices no longer exist and the available information often one-sided, the farmers sometimes sell their products unintentionally with a loss in order to be able to dispose of cash.

In most cases, traders in agricultural supplies and purchasers of agricultural products also do not have data on supply and demand. As a result, it can happen that stocks are lost due to damage or rotting, which has consequences for availability.

These two common aspects in the food chain are the reason that the agricultural markets in Malawi are not working well and economic growth is not coming off the ground. Although there is a logistical need to gain insight into food needs and existing stocks, insight is lacking even though the markets are integrated. In that situation, the consumer prices for corn have been manipulated, in such a way that poverty and hunger continue to plague the population uninterruptedly.

The existence of the unfair trade can survive as a result of poorly organized farmers' cooperatives that maintain access to lucrative markets through bribery and corruption. Due to a lack of market awareness, the self-sufficient farmers have meanwhile become increasingly poor in their dependence position. In general terms, also the rural communities due to the lack of assets, lack of storage facilities due to liberalization and exploitation.

In Malawi, the local market is essential for food supply and is a meeting place for the latest news. It is the place to buy daily food, trade crops and where prices are determined. The market area also has a social function for local activities, music, sports and playing bao. Especially in the afternoon, the run-up increases.

The market supply is focused on the local need of almost exclusively the basic necessities. The products are offered by market merchants from a market stall and by farmers from the area. Because the price of each product is negotiated, the amount of supply is not fixed. These can be such that families cannot afford their daily shopping. Various factors contribute to price volatility such as deficits or surpluses at that time, macroeconomic factors and government measures.

Stabilizing prices is not easy for several reasons. In general terms, due to the malfunctioning market forces and the massive export of non-existent agricultural surpluses to be able to repay loans in dollars.

Because there was no economic boost, it can be found that the private sector was not able to fill the gak after the departure of ADMARC. The underperformance of agricultural marketing is certainly not only the result of the lack of participation and the lack of adequate market information. It also concerns the inefficient agricultural marketing systems and the undesirable level of commercialization. Despite those worrying market effects, additional policies have been left out, perhaps because the government benefits from the export of non-existent surplus corn and from the repeated devaluation of the Kwacha at the expense of the residents.

Economy

Economy

(See also the substantive theme 'Economics'

Malawi's economy is based on the agricultural sector with annually recurring destructive weather conditions during the growing season. The successive poor harvests always cause imbalances in society, because it is not possible to spread the economic risk. Partly due to existing budget deficits, high food prices cannot be regulated. Not even with subsidies from development partners, which means that the livelihood of the population is constantly under pressure. Almost three-quarters of the population lives in hopeless extreme poverty.

Due to persistent budgetary derailments, Malawi has the highest budget deficit in sub-Saharan Africa, partly due to the inconsistent tax system and large exchange rate losses when repaying loans in foreign currency. These are the result of failing management, trade disturbs, miscalculations and an unsustainable debt burden, which has put the economic situation in a vicious circle of crisis. The outlook is hopeless for the time being because economic growth in Malawi has lagged behind population growth

Healthcare

'Health care'

(See also the substantive theme 'Healthcare'

The daily eating of low-calorie corn porridge has consequences for the health status of the inhabitants of Malawi due to a lack of necessary nutrients. Then it is not so much about the physical state or the strength of the mind, but more about the resilience to diseases, defects and, for example, when drinking polluted water. Diarrhea due to poor hygiene can be fatal.

Research was conducted on the state of health and its experience, looking at the most common complaints over a period of 14 days. It turned out that a third of the population had a fever and suffering from malaria at the time.

Disease symptoms population Malawi during the last two weeks in %	Malawi	National	Urban
Malaria and fever	34,1	35,2	26.0
Sore throat and flu	21,3	20,4	27.0
Headache	9,0	9,0	9.1
Stomach pain	8,2	8.1	9.1
Joint pain	4.8	4.9	4,2
Diarrhea	3,3	3.0	5,3
Other condition	19,3	19,3	19,4

Health services in Malawi are provided by public and private institutions. The public sector includes all health facilities that fall under the Ministry of Health and are free of charge when used. The private institutions charge user fees, as do the traditional healers who are also part of the health care system. Malawi's healthcare system has three levels, namely primary, secondary and tertiary care. These different levels are connected via a fixed referral system.

Especially in preventing infant and maternal mortality and fighting HIV, AIDS and malaria, significant progress has been made in the last decade. Nevertheless, mortality rates remain high, especially due to HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhea and perinatal diseases. In children, chronic hunger, lung disease and malaria are the main reasons for premature death.

See also the theme 'health care'.

Education

'Education'

In 1994, the Malawian government introduced free primary education, which led to a large influx. Classes with hundreds of children were created because of the huge shortage of teachers and inadequate infrastructure.

The school system in Malawi is based on the 8-4-4 model, i.e. 8 years of primary education, 4 years of secondary education and 4 years of university education and is based on accessibility, equality and quality. There is little appreciation for the teaching profession and not at all for teachers.

Children in Malawi go to primary school at the age of six. For this, some children have to walk 10 km there and 10 km back. On the way, they pick fruit from the trees, because they have not yet eaten *nsima*. School time begins with a meeting in the schoolyard. That takes 15 minutes with announcements and singing the school song. School hours are from 07.30 to 14.30, with 'agriculture' being the most important subject. There is a large shortage of teachers in a number of schools. One of the reasons is that the school has to offer a house and the school often cannot afford that. The teacher shortage and the lack of teaching and learning materials are partly the cause of extremely poor school performance in primary education. Many students still cannot read comprehension after several years of primary school. Once a year there is a routine school inspection, but little attention is paid to the quality of education. During the first year of primary school, almost 20% of primary school students leave

If the students pass primary education, they are selected to attend secondary education. In 1999, the government of Malawi expanded access to secondary education with *Community Day Secondary Schools*. Here, too, problems with under-stated schools, the lack of basic infrastructure and a lack of teaching and learning materials arose. In particular, the quality of the teachers and the lack of basic knowledge had major consequences for the completion of secondary education.

With a diploma, the student could then enroll in tertiary education under certain conditions. Over the years, several public and private universities and colleges have been built, but the success rate is also exceptionally low here due to a poor basis in a general sense.

See also the theme 'education'.

For Khasu, we had brought school supplies for 700 children. There we were received by the school board, teachers, village chief, district chief, parents and 800 children

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