



Existing rates of: **Wasting:** 3.8% **Stunting:** 42.4% **Proportion of population underweight:** 16.7%

Source: Gov. of Malawi (MDG endline survey, 2014)

## Strong Performance

- Spending on agriculture (12.04% of public spending in 2013) meets government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Malawi’s spending in its health sector (17.8% of public spending in 2012) exceeds commitment (15%) set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Malawi’s medium/long term national development policy (Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Malawi instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Malawi benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2013-2014.
- The Government has enshrined aspects of the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes into domestic law.
- The Government of Malawi promotes complementary feeding practices and has achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 90% of children in 2013.
- In Malawi 94.7% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2010.
- In Malawi, constitutional protection of the right to food and the right to social security is strong.

## Areas for improvement

- In Malawi, the law gives women and men equal economic rights and equal legal access to agricultural land. However, these laws are not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (52.9% in 2011) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- Civil registration rates are weak (63.9% in 2014) and potentially hold back children’s access to critical public services such as health and education.



## Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	HRCI Rank of 45
Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>	12.04%	2013	2nd
Public spending on health as share of total public spending <sup>1</sup>	17.8%	2012	4th
<b>Policies</b>			
Access to land (security of tenure) <sup>2</sup>	Moderate	2013	Joint 15th
Access to agricultural research and extension services <sup>2</sup>	Moderate	2013	Joint 21st
Civil registration system — coverage of live births	63.9%	2014	Joint 22nd
Functioning of social protection systems <sup>2</sup>	Weak	2014	Joint 20th
<b>Laws</b>			
Level of constitutional protection of the right to food <sup>2</sup>	Strong	2011	Joint 1st
Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) <sup>3</sup>	In Law, not in Practice	2014	Joint 1st
Equality of women's economic rights <sup>3</sup>	In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 7th
Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	2006	Joint 1st

<sup>1</sup> Possible scores are: ● <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges ● >=75 % and <100% ● >=100%

<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are: ● Weak ● Moderate ● Strong

<sup>3</sup> Possible scores are: ● Not in Law ● In Law Not in Practice ● In Law & Practice

## Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

Public spending	Score*	Year	NCI Rank of 45
Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
<b>Policies</b>			
Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	90%	2013	Joint 22nd
Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	2012	Joint 1st
Population with access to an improved water source	85%	2012	12nd
Population with access to improved sanitation	52.9%	2011	12nd
Health care visits for pregnant women	94.7%	2010	Joint 11st
Nutrition features in national development policy <sup>1</sup>	Strong	2011-2016	1st
National Nutrition Policy/Strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2014	Joint 1st
Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2012	Joint 1st
National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2013-2014	Joint 1st
<b>Laws</b>			
ICMBS <sup>^</sup> Enshrined in domestic law <sup>2</sup>	Aspects Enshrined	2014	Joint 16th

<sup>1</sup> Possible scores are: ● Weak ● Moderate ● Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

<sup>2</sup> Possible scores are: ● Not Enshrined in Law ● Voluntary Adoption ● Fully enshrined.

<sup>^</sup> International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes