Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index Africa (HANCI-Africa)

Key data for Malawi

HANCI-Africa compares 45 African countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

**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.
- 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.

Existing rates of:

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

Source: Gov. of Malawi (MDG endline survey, 2014)
### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score* (%)</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending</td>
<td>12.04%</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies
- **Access to land (security of tenure)**: Moderate (2013, Joint 15th)
- **Access to agricultural research and extension services**: Moderate (2013, Joint 21st)
- **Civil registration system — coverage of live births**: 63.9% (2014, Joint 22nd)
- **Functioning of social protection systems**: Weak (2014, Joint 20th)

#### Laws
- **Level of constitutional protection of the right to food**: Strong (2011, Joint 1st)
- **Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights)**: In Law, not in Practice (2014, Joint 1st)
- **Equality of women’s economic rights**: In Law, not in Practice (2011, Joint 7th)
- **Constitution recognises the right to social security**: Yes (2006, Joint 1st)

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### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate budget for nutrition (No/Sectoral only/Yes)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Policies
- **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**: 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)

#### Laws
- **ICMBS**: Enshrined in domestic law (Aspects Enshrined) (2014, Joint 16th)

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1. Possible scores are: Weak, Moderate, Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).
2. Possible scores are: Not Enshrined in Law, Voluntary Adoption, Fully enshrined.
3. Possible scores are: <75% of agriculture (Maputo) and health (Abuja) spending pledges, >=75% and <100%, >=100%

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