Malawi

Population & Development
Progress through Family Planning

By Dr. Chisale Mhango
Director, Reproductive Health Services
Ministry of Health
Malawi

National Vision

2020 Vision

Malawi will be secure, democratically mature, environmentally sustainable, self-reliant with equal opportunities for and active participation by all, having social services, vibrant cultural and religious values and a technologically driven middle-income economy

Growth and Development Strategy

Poverty reduction through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development
Population
Economie et Society

How does population affect Malawi’s economic growth and social development in the coming decades?
Current Situation
Population Statistics

13 million people in 2008
52% population under 18
6 births per woman
35% teens 15-19 bear children
12% HIV prevalence

Sources: Malawi DHS 2004-05, 2008 Census, and UNAIDS

Photos by Angeli Kirk, Gunnar Salvarsson, Karl Mueller
Population Triples by 2040

Current Fertility Rate

Sources: 2008 Malawi Census, Spectrum
Contraceptive Use
Malawi

Primary factor to lower growth
Well-established in the culture
Many women want to delay or limit births, but are not using contraceptives
Potential exists to increase contraceptive use

2 in 5 births are unintended or arrive too soon
Family Planning

Unmet Need for Contraception

1 in 4 women need contraception

Rwanda: 38%
Malawi: 28%
Zambia: 27%
Kenya: 25%
Tanzania: 22%
Zimbabwe: 13%

Source: Various Demographic and Health Surveys

Photo by Gunnar Salvarsson
Growing Demand

Demand for Family Planning by Married Women

Source: Malawi DHS 2004-05
Slower Population Growth
By Meeting Existing Demand for Family Planning

Source: Spectrum
Development Sectors

1. Education
2. Health
3. Agriculture
4. Economy and the Labor Force
Education
Primary Students
Fewer Students, More Resources Available per Child

Number of Students (Million)

Sources: Malawi Ministry of Education and Spectrum
Primary Schools

Fewer Schools Needed

Source: Malawi Ministry of Education and Spectrum
Better Education
With Less Population Pressure

More resources for training and incentives to keep teachers in rural areas

More resources for classrooms and educational material

Smaller classrooms and better learning environments

Progress on MDGs

  2: Achieve universal primary education
Health

Critical shortage of human resources

Inadequate infrastructure for universal access to health care

Malawi RAPID16
The cumulative savings is $1.8 Billion.
Agriculture

Land Availability
Issue #1

Land Fragmentation
Higher Population, Less Land per Holder

Land holdings divided among more family members

Lower productivity from small farms – less food security

Less food per person

Photo by Gunnar Savarsson
Issue #2

Environmental Degradation
Higher Population Leads to Overuse

Lower Productivity

Overexploitation
Deforestation
Erosion
Less soil fertility

Photo by John Duffell
Arable Land

More Land per Person with Lower Population

Sources: FAOSTAT, World Bank and Author Calculations
Better Agriculture

Less Pressure on Resources Used to …
Modernize
Fertilize for higher yields
Improve family nutrition
Reduce environmental degradation
Progress on MDGs
  1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
  7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Employment
More Youth Requires More Jobs

4 Million More Youth Need

Scenario
Cumulative difference in the number of youth at a high versus low fertility rate

Source: Spectrum, Youth: 18-24 years old
Better Economy
With Less Population Pressure

More funding for social sector
Greater disposable family income for education and health
Lower youth unemployment
Greater stability
Progress on MDGs
  1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Why Act Now?
Cost of Inaction Increases with Time

ISSUE
High population growth
Unbalanced age distribution (half below age 18)
41% of births are unintended or ill-timed
28% of married women want to avoid or delay pregnancy but don’t use contraception

OPPORTUNITY
Contraceptive use is established in the culture
33% of married women already use contraceptives
Potential for increased use is large

READINESS
Political will is present
Service networks are established and developing
Development partners very sympathetic to Malawi’s population development agenda.
FP Facilitates Achievement of MDG Targets

1. **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1):**

   Targets: (a) Halve, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day, and (b) who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015

   - FP improves maternal health, thereby increasing women’s productivity, and reduces dependency level at both family & national levels

2. **Achieve universal primary education (MDG2):** Target: Ensure that, by 2015, children, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete primary schooling

   - FP reduces the number of children that have to be provided with education & makes the target manageable

3. **Promote gender equality and empower women (MDG3):**

   Target: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015

   - When a family has too many children parents tend to educate sons only – promoting gender inequality

4. **Reduce child mortality (MDG4)**

   Targets: (a) *Reduce by two thirds, the under-five mortality rate 1990 by 2015*, (b) *100% measles immunization of 1 year old children*

   - The fewer the number of children the better the care, the more the food, the lower child mortality. There will be savings on vaccines.
5. Improve maternal health (MDG5)

Targets: (a) Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio 1990 by 2015

- Family planning reduces exposure to risk of pregnancy related death
- The fewer the births, the more likely we can cope with provision of skilled attendance at births

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases (MDG6)

Targets: (a) By 2015 halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases

- Condom use in family planning protects against HIV infection
- The fewer the children the more likely the target to provide U5C with ITNs can be achieved

7. Ensure environmental sustainability (MDG7)

Targets (a) Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation

- Family planning reduces the number of people that have to be provided with safe water and good sanitation

8. Develop Global Development Partnership (MDG8) [Goal calls for increasing access to essential drugs on a sustainable basis ++]

- The savings realised from family planning will assist to increase availability of essential drugs on a sustainable basis.
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Malawi

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Thank You

Photo by Sarah Depper