



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 (23.45% of public spending in 2014) meets government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- Malawi’s spending in its health sector (16.8% of public spending in 2014) 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 of Malawi promotes complementary feeding practices.
- 90.2% of the population of Malawi in 2015 has access to an improved drinking water source.
- In Malawi 96.1% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2014.
- 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.
- The Government of Malawi has only achieved two high doses of vitamin A supplementation for 41% of children in 2014.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (41% in 2015) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- Social safety nets in Malawi are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- 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 ¹	23.45%	2014	1st
Public spending on health as share of total public spending ¹	16.8%	2014	1st

Policies

Access to land (security of tenure) ²	Moderate	2014	Joint 16th
Access to agricultural research and extension services ²	Moderate	2013	Joint 21st
Civil registration system — coverage of live births	63.9%	2014	Joint 22nd
Functioning of social protection systems ²	Weak	2016	Joint 20th

Laws

Level of constitutional protection of the right to food ²	Strong	2011	Joint 1st
Equality of women's access to agricultural land (property rights) ³	In Law, not in Practice	2014	Joint 1st
Equality of women's economic rights ³	In Law, not in Practice	2011	Joint 7th
Constitutional right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	2006	Joint 1st

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

² Possible scores are: ● Very Weak/Weak ● Moderate ● Strong/Very Strong

³ 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

Policies

Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children	41%	2014	37th
Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no)	Yes	2012	Joint 1st
Population with access to an improved water source	90.2%	2015	Joint 9th
Population with access to improved sanitation	41%	2015	17th
Health care visits for pregnant women	96.1%	2014	11st
Nutrition features in national development policy ¹	Strong	2011-2016	2nd
National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no)	Yes	2015	Joint 1st
Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no)	Yes	2015	Joint 1st
Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	2015	Joint 1st
National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	2013-2014	Joint 1st

Laws

ICMBS [^] Enshrined in domestic law ²	Many Aspects Enshrined	2016	Joint 15th
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¹ Possible scores are: ● Very Weak/Weak ● Moderate ● Strong/Very Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries).

² Possible scores are: ● Not Enshrined in Law ● Few/Many Aspects Enshrined ● Fully enshrined.

[^] International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes