Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HANCI)

Key data for Malawi

HANCI compares 45 developing countries for their performance on 22 indicators of political commitment to reduce hunger and undernutrition. All the countries compared in the index have high rates of hunger and undernutrition. The comparative approach of the index means that country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.

Strong performance

- Malawi invests substantially in its agriculture sector, and is one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa which meets its Maputo promises, to spend over 10% of public expenditures on agriculture (12.2%).
- Malawi invests substantially in its health sector, which receives 14.2% of public expenditures.
- The government promotes complementary feeding practices and 96% of of children aged 6–59 months received 2 high doses of vitamin A supplements within the last year.
- More so, 92% of women aged 15–49 were attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel.
- Nutrition is a priority area in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, and a range of nutrition-focused policies have been put in place in the past eight years with clear time-bound targets.
- Malawi has instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, improving public oversight and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan set out time bound nutrition targets and set up an intersectoral coordinating body (National Nutrition Committee).
- Regular (once every three years) nutrition surveys enable policymakers to have access to up to date information.
- Nutrition is increasingly integrated in key sectoral policies and has received high-level political endorsement; the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, which implements the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan, is situated in the Office of the President and Cabinet.

Areas for improvement

- While the constitution of Malawi enshrines a right to food and the right to social security, women's economic and other rights could be strengthened to reduce their vulnerability to hunger. Some of these rights exist on paper but are not effectively enforced. Discrimination against women reduces their access to, and ownership of farmland increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- People's access to improved sources of drinking water (83%) and sanitation (51%) are high compared to some of Malawi's neighbours; nevertheless, there is substantial scope for improvement.
- Institutional, legal and market frameworks for accessing land have been put in place, however they do not always help poor rural households gain secure land tenure. Moreover, agricultural research and extension services do not always effectively reach poor farmers.
- Social protection programmes are rudimentary, largely donor funded, and do not yet cover key potential beneficiary groups with adequate support, to mitigate extreme poverty and hunger.

Existing rates of:

- Hunger: 23% of population
- Stunting: 47% of children under 5
- Wasting: 4% of children under 5

Sources: WHO and measuredhs.com
## Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI)

### Key data for Malawi

#### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

**Public spending**

- Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending: 12.2% (5th)
- Public spending on health as share of total public spending: 14.2% (7th)

**Policies**

- Access to land (security of tenure): Moderate (14th)
- Access to agricultural research and extension services: Moderate (25th)
- Coverage of civil registration system - live births (latest year): 50% (28th)
- Status of welfare regime: Weak (24th)

**Laws**

- Level of constitutional protection of the right to food: High (Joint 1st)
- Women's access to agricultural land (property rights): 0.5 (Joint 6th)
- Women's economic rights: Weak (Joint 6th)
- Constitutions recognising the right to social security: Yes (Joint 1st)

1 Scores range from 0 (no or limited legal rights for women) to 1 (equal access)

#### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

**Public spending**

- Separate budget for nutrition: Yes (Joint 1st)

**Policies**

- Vitamin A supplements for children (6-59 months) in last year: 96% (17th)
- Government promotes complementary feeding: Yes (Joint 1st)
- Population with access to an improved water source: 83% (13th)
- Population with access to improved sanitation: 51% (16th)
- Health care visits for pregnant women: 92% (12th)
- Nutrition features in national development policies: Very strong (1st)
- National nutrition policy, plan or strategy: Yes (Joint 1st)
- Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination: Yes (Joint 1st)
- Time bound nutrition targets: Yes (Joint 1st)
- National nutrition survey in last 3 years: Yes (Joint 1st)

**Laws**

- Efforts to enshrine the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in domestic law: Many aspects enshrined (Joint 19th)

2 Score indicates mentions of key search terms in key docs / no. of pages