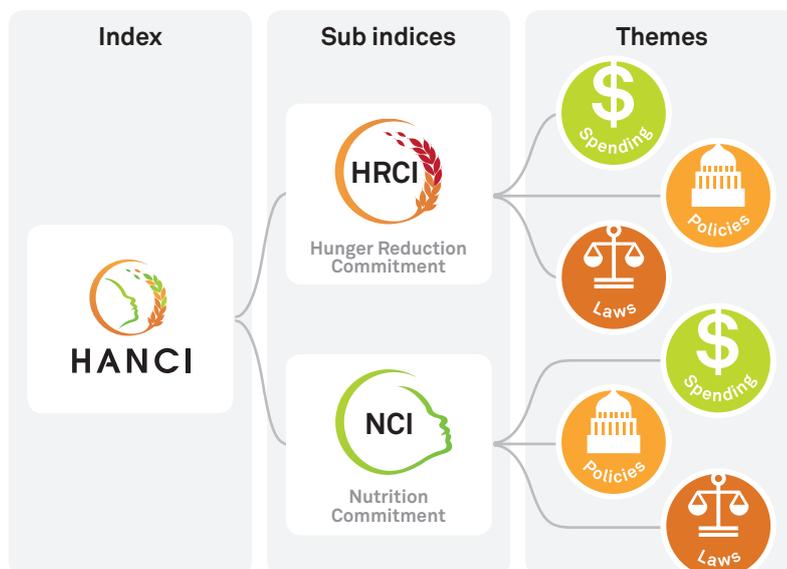


# Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI)

## Key data for Malawi



The structure of the HANCI



Existing rates of: **Hunger** 23% of population **Stunting** 47% of children under 5 **Wasting** 4% of children under 5

Sources: WHO and measuredhs.com

**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 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.

# Hunger and Nutrition Commitment Index (HANCI)

## Key data for Malawi



### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

● Strong performance ● Areas for improvement

#### Public spending

	Score	HRCI Rank of 45
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) <sup>1</sup>	0.5	Joint 6th
Women's economic rights	Weak	Joint 6th
Constitutions recognising the right to social security (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st

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

### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

#### Public spending

	Score	NCI Rank of 45
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/no)	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 <sup>2</sup>	Very strong	1st
National nutrition policy, plan or strategy (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
Multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st
National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no)	Yes	Joint 1st

#### Laws

Efforts to enshrine the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes in domestic law	Many aspects enshrined	Joint 19th
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<sup>2</sup> Score indicates mentions of key search terms in key docs / no. of pages