

Malawi



General Information

Area:	118,480 sq km (land: 94,080 sq km; water: 24,400 sq km).
Population:	11.6 million.
Capital:	Lilongwe.
Major cities:	Blantyre, Dedza, Dowa, Kasungu, Mangochi, Mzimba, Mzuzu, Mulanje, Ntcheu, Salima, Thyolo, Zomba.
Religions:	Christianity (80%), Islam (13%), traditional beliefs (7%).
Languages:	English, primary language in business; Chichewa, major national language.

Political structure

Constitutional status:	Republic of Malawi.
Constitution:	18 May 1994.
Government type:	Multiparty democracy.
Executive branch:	The president is both the head of state and the head of government. Elected by popular vote for a five-year term, he names the members of Cabinet.
Legislative branch:	The unicameral 193-member National Assembly is elected by popular vote to serve a five-year term. The last election was in 1999, next election in May 2004.
Political parties:	United Democratic Front (UDF); Malawi Congress Party (MCP); Alliance for Democracy (AFORD); Malawi Democratic Party (MDP).
Legal system:	Based on English common law and customary law.

Economy

Currency:	Kwacha (1€=121 Kwacha).
GDP per capita:	166 US\$ (PPP: US\$ 570).
GDP per capita annual growth rate, 1975-2001:	0.2
Inflation rate, 2002:	14.9
GDP composition, 2002:	Agriculture (36.5%); Industry (14.8%); Services (48.7%).
ODA received (as a % of GDP), 2001:	23.0

Social Indicators

Human Development Index:	0.387 [ranking: 162nd out of 175 countries (2003)]
Population living below \$1 a day (as % of total), 1990-2001:	41.7
Annual population growth rate (as % of total), 1975-2001:	3.1
Urban population (as % of total), 2001:	15.1
Life expectancy at birth (years), 2001:	38.5
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births), 2001:	114
Adult literacy (as % of total), 2001:	61.0
Population with access to improved water source (as % of total), 2000:	57
Population with access to improved sanitation (as % of total), 2000:	76
HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, 2001:	15

Sources: Human Development Report (2003), World Bank (2003), European Commission