

MALAWI FACTSHEET

BASIC STUFF

Malawi is a beautiful land-locked country in Southern Africa

Total area: 118,480 sq km (24,400 covered by water)

Lowest Point: 37m - Highest Point: 2003m

Cultivated land: 25% (280 sq km irrigated)

PEOPLE

Friendly people but struggling with famine, HIV/AIDS and extreme poverty

Population: 12,159,924 (only 2.8% over 65)

Life Expectancy: 37 years

HIV prevalence rate: 14.2%

Living with HIV/AIDS: 900,000

Dying from HIV/AIDS: 84,000 annually

Working in agriculture: 85% (90% of them are subsistence farmers)

CULTURE

The former Nyasaland under British rule it has been well evangelised but now has a growing Muslim community.

Languages: Chichewa

Literacy: 63% over age of 15 read/write (76% male)

Religion: 20% Muslim, 75% Christian, 5% other

ECONOMICS

Malawi ranks among the world's least developed countries and is the 10th poorest country in the world. It is heavily indebted.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$600 per capita

Population living below poverty line: 55%

Telephone lines; 85,000 - Mobiles: 135,000

BLINDNESS

Prevalence is high due to "river blindness" and other diseases

Clinically blind: 100,000

Partially sighted: 150,000

Sources: CIA, Foreign and Commonwealth Office



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