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