**Key data for Malawi**

**Strong Performance**
- Spending on agriculture (11.7% of public spending in 2018) meets government commitments set out in the African Union’s Maputo Declaration (10% of public spending).
- The Government encourages varied agricultural research and extension services, and local farmer organisations are involved in setting policy priorities. The extension system is effective and properly reaches out to poor farmers. Government policies, strategies and mechanisms seek to ensure gender equity in access to extension services.
- Relative to other HANCI countries, Malawi’s medium/long term national development policy (Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III) assigns strong importance to nutrition.
- Malawi instituted a separate budget line for nutrition, enabling transparency and accountability for spending.
- The National Nutrition Policy/Strategy identifies time bound nutrition targets and a multisectoral and multistakeholder policy coordination mechanism has been set up.
- Policymakers in Malawi benefit from regular nutrition surveys that are statistically representative at national level. The last survey was published in 2015-2016.
- The Government of Malawi promotes complementary feeding practices.
- In Malawi 97.6% of women aged 15-49 were visited at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel in 2017.
- In Malawi, constitutional protection of the right to food is strong.

**Areas for improvement**
- Malawi’s spending in its health sector (9.8% of public spending in 2017) does not fully meet (15%) commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration.
- In Malawi, the law does not give women economic rights equal to men. Men and women have equal legal access to agricultural land, but this is not effectively enforced and discriminatory practices against women continue, increasing their vulnerability to hunger and undernutrition.
- Weak access to improved sanitation facilities (55.1% in 2016) obstructs better hunger and nutrition outcomes.
- In Malawi, constitutional protection of the right to social security is weak.
- Social safety nets in Malawi are basic and only cover few risks for a limited number of beneficiaries.
- Civil registration rates are weak (67% in 2015-2016) and potentially hold back children’s access to critical public services such as health and education.

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. Country scores are calculated in relation to the political commitment of the other countries in the index.
### Key data for Malawi

#### Hunger Reduction Commitment Index (HRCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HRCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on agriculture as share of total public spending</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public spending on health as share of total public spending</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies**

- Access to land (security of tenure) | Moderate | 2019 | Joint 25th |
- Access to agricultural research and extension services | Strong | 2019 | 8th |
- Civil registration system — coverage of live births | 67% | 2015-2016 | 23rd |
- Functioning of social protection systems | Weak | 2018 | Joint 26th |

**Laws**

- Level of constitutional protection of the right to food | Strong | 2019 | Joint 1st |
- Equality of women’s access to agricultural land (property rights) | In Law, not in Practice | 2019 | Joint 3rd |
- Equality of women’s economic rights | Not in Law | 2019 | Joint 16th |
- Constitution recognises the right to social security (yes/no) | No | 2014 | Joint 33rd |

1 Possible scores are: • <75% of AU’s commitments set out in the Maputo Declaration • >=75 % and <100% • >=100%
2 Possible scores are: • <75% of AU’s commitments set out in the Abuja Declaration • >=75 % and <100% • >=100%
3 Possible scores are: • Very weak/Weak • Moderate • Strong/Very strong
4 Possible scores are: • Not in Law • In Law, Not in Practice • In Law & Practice

#### Nutrition Commitment Index (NCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public spending</th>
<th>Score*</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NCI Rank of 45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separate budget for nutrition (no/sectoral only/yes)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Joint 1st</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Policies**

- Vitamin A supplementation coverage for children | 75% | 2018 | 20th |
- Government promotes complementary feeding (yes/no) | Yes | 2012 | Joint 1st |
- Population with access to an improved water source | 88.7% | 2017 | 15th |
- Population with access to improved sanitation | 55.1% | 2016 | 16th |
- Health care visits for pregnant women | 97.6% | 2017 | Joint 6th |
- Nutrition features in national development policy | Strong | 2017-2022 | 8th |
- National nutrition policy/strategy (yes/no) | Yes | 2019 | Joint 1st |
- Multisector and multistakeholder policy coordination (yes/no) | Yes | 2019 | Joint 1st |
- Time bound nutrition targets (yes/no) | Yes | 2019 | Joint 1st |
- National nutrition survey in last 3 years (yes/no) | Yes | 2015-2016 | Joint 1st |

**Laws**

- ICMBS enshrined in domestic law | Many Aspects Enshrined | 2019 | Joint 19th |

1 Possible scores are: • Weak • Moderate • Strong (Note: Performance relative to other countries)
2 Possible scores are: • Not enshrined in law • Few/Many aspects enshrined • Fully enshrined
* International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes

*For full details visit: www.hancindex.org