

The UN General Assembly for Heads of State and Governments adopted long-term development agenda for low-income countries in partnership with high-income countries. The long-term international development agenda is called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it is to be implemented over a period of 25 years starting in the year 1990. This is the third report on MDGs implementation in Malawi. The first two reports produced in 2003 and 2005 focused on selected goals and reports revealed that the country was off target on most of the indicators on poverty, gender and maternal health. This report, which provides a mid-point assessment, Government and its stakeholders have reviewed progress on all the MDGs.

The first goal is to reduce poverty levels of the country. The poverty levels have declined from about 54 percent in 1998 to 45 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, poverty is projected to reduce to about 27 percent by 2015. This implies that the country will meet the MDG target. The poverty gap ratio increased from 16 percent in 1992 to about 19 percent in 2000 and then dropped slightly to about 18 percent in 2006. All other things being the same, if this rate of change continues, the poverty gap will have declined to around 17 percent by the year 2015. Hence, it looks unlikely that Malawi will reduce by half the poverty gap ratio by the year 2015. The share of the poorest quintile in Malawi has not improved between 1998 and 2005. The 1998 Integrated Household Survey revealed that the poorest 20 percent of the population controlled only around 10 percent of national consumption implying that inequality is not decreasing

The second goal is to increase enrolment in schools. Primary school enrollment increased from 58 percent in 1992 to 78 percent in 2000 and 82 percent in 2004. It must be noted however that there has been a decline in net enrolment from 82 percent in 2004 to 73 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, by 2015, net enrollment ratio in primary education is projected to be at 83 percent, which is below the MDG target of 100 percent. The proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5 without repeating a grade increased from 69 percent in 2000 to about 86 percent in 2004 and dropped to 75 percent in 2006. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 is projected to reach 87 percent by 2015, which is below the MDG target of 100 percent. Youth literacy has increased from 68.1 percent in 2000 to about 76 percent in 2006. At this rate of improvement, youth literacy would reach 90 percent by 2015. In order to achieve gender equality, the disparities between girls and boys in all spheres of education need to be eliminated. The ratio of literate females to males 15-24 years-old has increased from 0.82 in 2000 to 0.88 in 2006.

Women's share in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector has moved from 13 percent in 2000 to 15 percent in 2006. This trend seems to suggest that there has been very little improvement with respect to the share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector. Hence, Malawi is unlikely to reach a target of having an equal ratio of men and women in wage employment as projections show that women's share in wage employment will be 19 percent by 2015. During the 1999 presidential and parliamentary elections, out of 193 elected members of parliament, only 18 members of parliament were women, representing 9 percent. In the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections, there were 193 elected members of parliament and only 27 of them were women. This represents an increase of about 50 percent. In absolute terms, the total number of women in relation to men is still regarded low as the women have only about 14 percent (2004) of the seats, far below 50 percent that may be indicative of equal representation

Malawi is making good progress towards reducing under-five mortality. The country recorded an under-five mortality rate of 234 deaths per 1000 live births in 1992. This rate declined to 189 in the year 2000 and has further declined to 133 in 2005. At this rate, under-five mortality would decline to as low as 41 deaths per 1000 live births by the year 2015, implying that the country is likely to reduce under-five mortality by more than two-thirds of 1992 levels. According to the 1992, 2000 and 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys, infant mortality rate has been

steadily declining in Malawi from a very high level of 134 in 1992 to 69 in 2006. At this rate of decline, Malawi is likely to achieve this target by 2015. The proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles has dropped from 86 percent in 1992 to 77 percent in 2006. The projection shows that by 2015, only about 71 percent of the 1-year old children will be immunized against measles and this percentage is below the MDG target of about 95 percent.

The maternal mortality ratio in Malawi has increased sharply from 620 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1992 to 1,120 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000. The 2004 MDHS indicated that maternal mortality ratio had declined to 984 deaths per 100,000 live births. If the recent rate of improvement is maintained, Malawi would have a maternal mortality ratio of about 610 deaths per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Under the MDG target 6, Malawi is expected to have a maternal mortality ratio of about 155 per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Hence, unless additional measures are put in place, it is unlikely that the MDG target will be met. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel was about 55 percent in 1992, about 56 percent in 2000, and 62 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in 2015 will have increased to about 67 percent. Hence Malawi is not on track to reach the target .

According to the National AIDS Commission Sentinel Surveillance report, HIV prevalence amongst 15-24-year-old pregnant women was 17 percent in 1994. The prevalence rate increased to 24 percent by 1998. However, it started to decline, reaching 15 percent amongst 15-24-year-old pregnant women as of 2005. At this rate of change, the country is reducing HIV prevalence rate at 2 percentage points per annum. As such, a linear projection of the recent trend would imply that the prevalence rate may drop to about 3 percent by 2015. This would be a remarkable achievement for Malawi.

In 1990, a total of 12,333 tuberculosis cases were detected in Malawi. Since then, the incidence of tuberculosis has been increasing overtime. In 1995 a total of 19,153 cases were detected and incidence went further up to 27,672 in 2001. This increase in the incidence of tuberculosis may be to some extent attributed to HIV incidence. It is estimated that about 77 percent of tuberculosis patients are also infected with HIV. The proportion of tuberculosis cases cured under Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) was 66 percent in 1990 and decreased to 63 percent in 1996. The cure rates have however increased to 67 percent in 2001 and to 75 percent in 2005. This may likewise be attributed to the success of the DOTS strategy. The projection shows that by 2015, proportion of Tuberculosis cases cured under DOTS will be 91 percent.

The proportion of land area has been declining from around 41 percent in 1990 to around 36 percent in the year 2006. If this rate of deforestation continues, by 2015 only about 33 percent of land area will be covered by forest. The proportion of protected area has remained constant since 1990. In the year 2000 about 98 percent of population were using solid fuels and by 2006 the percentage had only reduced to 97. This then implies that the country is far from achieving an MDG target of 0 percent because the projection shows that by the year 2015, the proportion of population using solid fuel will be around 95 percent.

By the year 2015 about 74 percent of the Malawi population should have access to safe drinking water. Access to water resources had significantly improved from 47.1 percent in 1992 to 75 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, the projection shows that by 2015 about 94 percent of population will have access to an improved water source, which is above the MDG target of 73 percent. In 2000, the proportion of households with access to improved sanitation was 81.4 percent. Access has increased to 83.9 percent in 2006. At this rate of improvement, about 89 percent of households will have access to improved sanitation by 2015, which is above the MDG target of 86.2 percent.

The Net Official Development Assistance has increased from 11 percent of Gross National Income in 1990 to 19 percent in 2006. In nominal terms Net Official Development Assistance has increased from US\$ 216 million in 1990 to US\$ 409 million in 2006. At the Completion Point, Malawi's outstanding debt stock was reduced significantly from US\$2.97 billion as of end-2005 to US\$488.00 million as of end-2006. Multilateral creditors provided US\$2.1 billion or 88 percent of the debt stock cancellation while bilateral creditors provided US\$292 million. Most of the bilateral debt relief was provided by the Paris Club creditors through 100 percent cancellation of the bilateral debt stock as of end-2006.

The urban unemployment of 15- 24 year old has increased from 1 percent in 1998 to 9 percent in 2006. The projection shows that by 2015, urban unemployment will be reduced to 4 percent. The reason for the increase in unemployment could be as a result of closure and downsizing of companies, increase in rural- urban migration, which is currently estimated at 6.3 percent as well as restructuring of the civil service, which resulted in some employees losing their jobs.

According to 2004-2005 Integrated Household Survey (IHS), more households in Malawi have mobile phones than landlines representing 3 percent of households with mobile phones and only less than 1 percent with landline telephones. There has been an increase in the number of subscribers from about 0.4 percent in 2000 to about 2 percent in 2005. There has also been an increase in the number of subscribers for the fixed landlines from about 0.4 percent in 2000 to about 0.6 percent in 2005. The number of subscribers for the internet services has increased from about 0.05 percent in 2002 to about 0.07 percent in 2005.



