

Foreword


The Malawi Government signed the Millennium Declaration that was adopted in September 2000. There are eight goals in the declaration, ranging from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Government of Malawi and development partners are reorienting their work around the Goals. Despite the commitments to reducing poverty and advancing other human developments, Malawi is already falling short in a number of ways. Progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is in most cases out of track. Malawi has seen high school drop-out rates, low access to basic health care, deteriorating environment and life expectancy plummeting due to HIV/AIDS.

The MDGs are time-bound, measurable, easily understood and hold both Government and the international community accountable for their achievement. In the case of Malawi, the MDGs will be implemented through Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy (MPRS) and Malawi Economic Growth Strategy (MEGS). The overall monitoring of the MDGs will be in line with the Monitoring Master plan. The reporting of the annual MDGs, therefore, needs to be synchronized with the Annual Review of the MPRS.

While re-allocating and mobilizing more domestic resources towards targets related to the Goals is of paramount importance, strengthening governance and institutions and adopting sound social and economic policies are all necessary to achieve the goals. Long-term initiatives to halve hunger and poverty require fundamental restructuring of the global trade system where the rich countries will have to dismantle subsidies, lower tariffs and level the playing field. The fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases will be lost without effective supplies of affordable and essential drugs to poor countries. Stable, long-term fiscal planning will be impossible for some of the poorest countries without more systematic and sustained debt relief.

In middle-income countries the implementation of the MDGs is integrated with regular budget processes and long-term development strategies. In the least developed countries, like Malawi, poverty reduction strategies are the most appropriate instruments. However, they are only achievable with the right policies and sufficient resources. Poor people care about what happens to their income, gender-sensitive education systems, infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, their environment and whether or not they have access to clean water and sanitation. The issues of economic development in Malawi are articulated in Vision 2020, MPRS, Malawi Economic Growth (MEG) and the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).

This Report, therefore, is devoted to assessing whether or not Malawi is achieving the MDGs and ways of addressing the challenges experienced in the implementation of the goals. Although the goals provide the framework for development, the success depends on political will, good governance, the implementation of good development policy statements and economic reforms. The Malawi Government is committed to ensure that the targets set in the MDGs are implemented and achieved.



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