Countdown Malawi country profile: accelerating progress toward 2030

The Malawi country profile presents the latest data on the country’s progress toward improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition. This profile will be updated regularly with new data and analyses by Countdown.

Review the data

The first step in using the Malawi country profile is to review the range of data presented. Information in this profile includes: demographics, coverage of key interventions across the continuum of care, equity in coverage, essential nutrition indicators, and information on legislative policies, governance processes, financing and service delivery. When exploring the presented data, questions to consider include:

- Are trends in mortality and nutritional status in Malawi moving in the right direction? Is Malawi on track to reaching the health-related Sustainable Development Goals?
- What are the coverage levels and trends for key interventions across the continuum of care?
- Is coverage equitable between the poorest and richest Malawians?
- Are legislative policies and financial expenditures in Malawi adequate to scale-up the coverage of key interventions?

Identify opportunities to accelerate progress toward 2030

The second step in using the Malawi country profile is to identify opportunities to address key intervention coverage gaps and to accelerate progress in improving health outcomes for women, children and adolescents. Key questions to ask include:

- Are the coverage data consistent with the epidemiological situation in Malawi? For example:
  - Are sufficient resources being invested to provide high quality family planning services, antenatal care, skilled delivery care, and postnatal care for all women to reduce preventable maternal deaths?
  - Although the percentage has dropped over time, 37% of children under-five years of age are stunted. Are policies and programs in place to encourage breastfeeding and to ensure children receive a diverse diet? Are those in need of other key nutrition-related interventions receiving care?
- Do the data suggest any clear action steps in expanding coverage of key interventions in Malawi?
- Do gaps and inequities along the continuum of care suggest prioritizing specific interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health and nutrition? Malawi has achieved great success in reducing inequities between the richest and poorest, yet national coverage is still below 50% for antenatal care (4 or more visits), postnatal care for mothers, vitamin A supplementation, and for the population using basic sanitation and hygiene services.

The profile is meant to serve as a tool that can be used as a starting point for further discussion and action to improve the lives of all women, children and adolescents living in Malawi.

The Countdown Malawi country profile

The country profile was prepared by the Countdown profile development team in consultation with the Technical Review Group of Countdown. Members of the team include: Liliana Carvajal-Aguirre (UNICEF), Claes Johannson (UNICEF), Jennifer Requejo (Johns Hopkins University), and Rada Noeva (UNICEF). Development Gateways, by a team led by Martha Staid, produced the profile.

Countdown would like to thank GMMB for their design and packaging of the Malawi national and equity profiles. The data sources and definitions for the indicators on the Malawi profile are available upon request. An interactive version of the Malawi profile will be launched in January 2018.
- **Demographics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population (000)</td>
<td>18,092</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total under 5 population (000)</td>
<td>2,908</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total adolescent (10-19) population (000)</td>
<td>4,395</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary completion rate (upper, females)</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Births (000)</td>
<td>666</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total fertility rate (births per woman)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent (15-19 years) birth rate (births per 1,000 girls)</td>
<td>143</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Birth registration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total maternal deaths</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime risk of maternal deaths (1 in N)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillbirth rate (per 1,000 total births)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neonatal deaths, as % of all &lt;5 deaths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total under 5 deaths (000)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent (10-19) mortality rate (per 100,000), by sex</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Continuum of Care Coverage**

- **Maternal & Newborn Health**

- **Additional Maternal and Neonatal Health Interventions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnant women living with HIV receiving ART</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermittent preventive treatment for malaria during pregnancy (a)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional Delivery</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-section rate</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Breastfeeding Practices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early initiation of breastfeeding</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exclusive breastfeeding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More information about indicator sources, definitions, and other details can be found in the Countdown report annexes: countdown2030.org/annexes
Malawi

Demographics

Maternal Mortality Ratio
Deaths per 100,000 live births

Source: UNMDEG 2015

Neonatal & Under-five Mortality Rate
Deaths per 100,000 live births

Source: UNMDEG 2017

Child Health

Immunization
Percent of children under 5 years with 3 doses of DTP

Source: UN IGME 2017

Pneumonia Treatment
Percent of children under 5 years with symptoms of pneumonia taken to appropriate health provider

More years of data may be available on the dashboard.

Malaria Prevention & Treatment
Malaria prevention in children under five - sleeping under ITNs

More years of data may be available on the dashboard.

Environmental

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Source: WHO/UNICEF JRF 2017

Causes of Maternal Death - 2014
Regional estimates for Sub-Saharan Africa

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profiles.countdown2030.org/annexes

Legislative Policies

Family planning for adolescents without spousal or parental consent

Yes

Maternity protection (Convention 183)

No

International code of marketing of breast milk substitutes

Partial

Legislation on food fortification

Rice

Governance

Costed national implementation plan(s) for maternal, newborn and child health available

No

Maternal Death Review 2014

No Data

Financing

Total expenditure on health, per capita

29 2014

Government expenditure on health, per capita

15 2014

Out of pocket expenditure as % of total expenditure on health

11% 2014

Civil society involvement in review of national maternal, newborn and child health available

No Data

Service Delivery

Life Saving Commodities in Essential Medicine List

Reproductive Health

1. Contraception

2. Contraceptive implants

3. Contraceptive counseling

Maternal Health

1. Emergency obstetric care

2. Maternal death review

Newborn Health

1. Maternal mortality audits

2. Maternal health

3. Maternal death review

Child Health

1. Child mortality

2. Child health

3. Maternal health

National availability of functional Emergency Obstetric Care (% of recommended minimum)

40% 2014

Density of skilled health professionals (per 10,000 population)

3.5 2009

Midwives authorized for specific tasks

More years of data may be available on the dashboard.

Causes of Death Under Five - 2015
Globally nearly half of child deaths are attributable to undernutrition

More years of data may be available on the dashboard.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

Source: WHO/UNICEF JRF 2017