



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

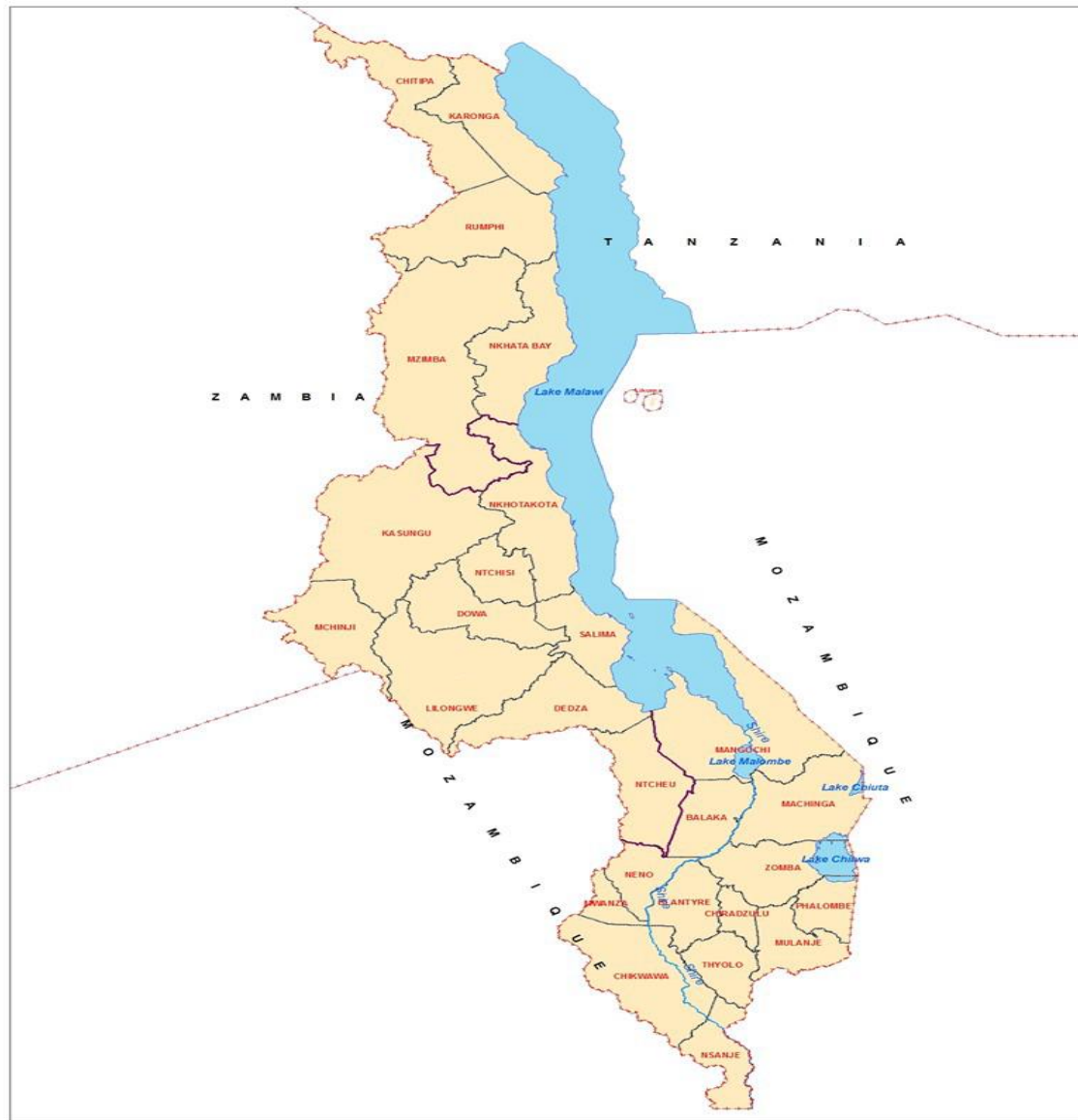
MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHILDREN, DISABILITY AND SOCIAL WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS.

**AGEING IN MALAWI:
POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES.**

JULY 2016

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A BRIEF ABOUT MALAWI

- **Malawi is a landlocked country sharing boundaries with Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania.**
- **Administratively, the country is divided into four regions namely North, Central, Eastern and Southern. These regions are further divided into 28 districts**

POPULATION

- **Malawi's population is growing rapidly, and in just over 40 years has increased from 4 million people in 1966 to 13.1 million in 2008.**
- **Estimated at 17 million**
- **Older Persons population is estimated at 5.3%. In 2008 there were 684,316**
- **It is projected that by 2050 there will be 3 Million plus older persons in Malawi**
- **85% of Malawian population live in rural areas with 50.7% living below the poverty line.**

AGEING IN MALAWI

- Older persons in Malawi are persons 60 and above.
- The majority of older persons live in rural areas, 93.7%, and are among the poor of the poorest
- Only a small proportion of the elderly receive a pension
- Many Older people are breadwinners and caregivers and hence continue to work for as long as they possibly can.

- **Play an important role in leadership and conflict management at family and community as well as political circles.**
- **Safety-net for Malawian society by caring for orphans. 62% of double orphans are cared for by their grandparents.**
- **Older people face a number of problems: being victims of difficult situations, witchcraft accusations, abuse, neglect, exploitation, food insecurity, poor access to basic social services**

- **Social exclusion as they are regarded as useless, a burden, that give no contribution to society**
- **Considered to be passive**

POLICES AND PROGRAMMES

1. The Constitution

- The Constitution of the Republic of Malawi guarantees the welfare and development of all the people of Malawi,
- It defends the human rights and opportunities for all citizens and national harmony.

2. The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy

- medium term national development strategy formulated to attain the country's long term development aspirations.
- It represents a decisive and strategic single reference document to be followed by all stakeholders

3. The National Policy for Older Persons

- **Policy for the Elderly and its Implementation Strategy sets out the principles, objectives and strategies that will contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of older persons.**
- **The Policy is built around six key Priority Areas: Promotion and Protection of older persons rights, Promotion of access to health, water and sanitation services, Promotion of food and nutrition security,**

Provision of Welfare support and income security, Provision of Housing and shelter and Promotion of research, Education and Training on Ageing

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SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

1. **Public Works Programmes-** labour intensive and involve working on community projects. Participants are paid cash or in some cases in-kind for the number of days they work on a particular project
2. **Social Cash Transfer Scheme-** Targets 10% ultra poor and labour constrained households
3. **Farm Input Subsidy Programme-** Provide poor farmers with seeds and fertilizers

4. **Decent Housing Programme-** Poor families are provided with a soft loan of building materials to
improve their houses
5. **Public Welfare Assistance** where needy older persons are provided with food, clothing and
repatriation for those who become destitute.

OTHER RELATED POLICIES

1. **National Social Support Policy**
2. **The Malawi Social Welfare Policy**
3. **National HIV and AIDS Policy**
4. **National HIV and AIDS Response Plan**
5. **Nutrition Policy**
6. **Food security Policy**
7. **The National Gender Policy**

CHALLENGES

- **The concept of ageing is not understood by many. As a result there is little recognition of older persons needs and concerns in most of the national policies;**
- **Negative attitudes towards older persons resulting into failure by stakeholders to appreciate their situation;**
- **Limited budgetary support for ageing programmes**
- **Very few research has been done on ageing resulting into limited information and data for programme design;**

END

Thank you!!

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15