



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

MALAWI

The Sixth Integrated Household Survey

2024 – 2025



NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE



Malawi

SIXTH INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (IHS6)

2024-2025

Main Report

National Statistical Office

Zomba, Malawi

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**Joint Data Center
on Forced Displacement**



WORLD BANK GROUP



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FOREWORD



The National Statistical Office (NSO) conducted the Sixth Integrated Household Survey (IHS6) over a twelve-month period, from July 2024 to July 2025. This vital data collection initiative, undertaken every three to four years, encompasses a range of subjects and is instrumental in informing national policies and development strategies.

Information on welfare and socio-economic indicators is gathered to support the planning and monitoring of progress towards national and international development goals, specifically as outlined in Malawi 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This initiative is reinforced by support from development partners such as the World Bank, emphasizing our collective commitment.

Additionally, the survey provides researchers with datasets suitable for advanced analysis to inform policy-making, ensuring that decisions are based on comprehensive and accurate data, which is crucial for effective governance.

Acknowledgement is extended to the World Bank, through the StatCap Project, the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) team, and UNHCR for their financial and technical assistance during the implementation of the sixth Integrated Household Survey.

Honourable Joseph MATHYOLA MWANAMVEKHA, MP

Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralisation

PREFACE



The Sixth Integrated Household Survey (IHS6) is the latest in a series of Integrated Household Surveys implemented by the National Statistical Office (NSO). NSO conducts these surveys with financial and technical support from the Malawi Government and the World Bank. The inaugural survey, known as the Household Expenditure and Small-Scale Economic Activities (HESSEA), was held in 1990. This was succeeded by the 1997/98 survey, commonly called IHS1, followed by IHS2 in 2004/05, IHS3 in 2010/11, IHS4 in 2016/17 and IHS5 in 2019/20. The most recent round (IHS6) was implemented from July 2024 to July 2025.

The primary objective of this survey is to collect comprehensive data and produce updated information on the welfare and socio-economic conditions of Malawi's population. Results are made available at various levels, including national, urban-rural, regional, district and are further disaggregated by sex.

The data collected allows for an in-depth analysis of poverty indicators such as poverty incidence, poverty gap and severity, as well as a detailed analysis of household consumption and expenditure, both food and non-food, over a full year.

In addition to consumption and expenditure data, the survey also gathers extensive data on demographic characteristics, health, education, labour force participation, access to credit and loans, savings, non-farm enterprises, agriculture, housing conditions, asset ownership, food security and other welfare indicators.

The successful implementation of IHS6 was made possible through the dedication and professionalism of NSO Management, technical staff, field supervisors and enumerators. I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable cooperation of the District Authorities (TAs), community leaders, and, most importantly, the respondents who generously provided the information contained in this report. A special note of gratitude goes to the World Bank through the StatCap Project, the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) team, and UNCHR for providing financial and technical support during the execution of the Sixth Integrated Household Survey.

Shelton KANYANDA

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large initial 'S' and a long, flowing tail.

Commissioner of Statistics

ACRONYMS

CPI	Consumer Price Index
EA	Enumeration Area
GER	Gross Enrolment Rate
GPS	Geographical Positioning System
HESSEA	Household Expenditure and Small-Scale Economic Activities
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IHS	Integrated Household Survey
ISA	Integrated Surveys on Agriculture
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Surveys
LSMS-ISA	Living Standards Measurement Surveys-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture
MCA	Millennium Challenge Account
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MIP-1	Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan
MoFEPD	Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralization
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NSO	National Statistical Office
PSU	Primary Sampling Unit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WB	World Bank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Education Literacy rate continued to improve, reaching **79.3%** of population aged 15 years and above, while the rate of those who never attended school fell to **10.6%**. Primary school participation was high, with a gross enrolment rate of **108.0%** and a net rate of **90.2%**. Secondary enrolment remained low, with gross and net rates of **22.1%** and **15.2%** respectively. Primary dropout stood at **1.7%**; secondary dropout at **10.9%**.

Credit Markets Credit access expanded markedly. **54.6%** of households applied for a loan and **86.7%** of the applicants were successful.

Household Enterprises, Non-farm enterprises were dominated by wholesale, retail trade, restaurants and hotels (**55.5%**), followed by manufacturing (**27.7%**), transportation and communication (**4.7%**), and financing and business services (**2.1%**). Construction and mining each contributed below **1%**.

Housing Infrastructure and Environment, **67.2%** of households were owner-occupiers and **15.2%** rented. Dwelling quality has improved: **43.1%** live in permanent structures, **35.3%** semi-permanent, and **21.7%** in traditional housing. Access to an improved water source reached **91.2%**. However, **97.4%** of households still use solid fuel for cooking.

Agriculture, **85.7%** of households engaged in farming and **46.4%** keeping livestock. **40.4%** of farming

households practising intercropping.

Welfare, deprivation is widespread: **67.0%** of households reported inadequate food access, **56.4%** inadequate health care, and **54.6%** inadequate housing. Food insecurity is acute, only **11.4%** of households were highly food secure, while **65.8%** fell into the very low food security category and a further **20.6%** into the low food security category, meaning over **86%** of households face some degree of food insecurity. Child undernutrition remains a concern, with severe stunting at **12.7%**, severe underweight at **2.4%**, and severe wasting at **1.0%** among children under five.

Savings and Financial Inclusion, only **18.8%** of adults owned a financial account. Of those who saved, **26.9%** used formal institutions while **58.7%** relied on informal mechanisms.

Domestic Tourism, in a first for the IHS series, domestic tourism was captured: **19.8%** of individuals made same-day trips and **20.0%** undertook overnight trips.

The IHS6 (2024) findings point to real but uneven progress. Gains in education, water access and credit reach contrast sharply with entrenched food insecurity, high dependence on solid fuel, and low formal financial inclusion. These results provide the evidence base for targeted policy action to improve the welfare of all Malawians.

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025.

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1.1 Background Information

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) is a nationally representative, multi-topic survey conducted by the Government of Malawi through the National Statistical Office (NSO). Its primary purpose is to monitor and evaluate the welfare and living conditions of households across the country.

The survey provides critical benchmark indicators on poverty, vulnerability, and socio-economic conditions to support evidence-based policy formulation and to monitor progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives outlined in Malawi 2063, particularly under the first 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1).

Malawi's Integrated Household Survey (IHS) series spans over two decades, beginning with IHS1 (November 1997 – October 1998), supported by the World Bank and IFPRI, and followed by IHS2 (March 2004 – February 2005), which enabled comparisons with the baseline data. IHS3 (March 2010 – March 2011) was implemented under the World Bank's LSMS-ISA initiative, strengthening agricultural components through nationally representative, multi-topic panel surveys across sub-Saharan Africa. IHS4 (April 2016 – March 2017) received financial support from both the World Bank and the Millennium Challenge Account, and IHS5 (April 2019 – March 2020) continued with sustained World Bank financial and technical assistance collectively forming a comprehensive dataset tracking living standards in Malawi over more than two decades.

Most recently, the Sixth Integrated Household Survey (IHS6) was conducted from July 2024 to June 2025, with support from the World Bank through the SADC Regional Statistical Capacity Building Project. For the first time, the survey covered the Dzaleka Refugee Camp, with support from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), thereby expanding its inclusiveness. The results presented in this report are unaffected by the Dzaleka sample, as it was analysed independently and does not contribute in any way to the national results.

1.2 Objectives of the survey

The primary aim of the IHS is to generate evidence to support evidence-based policy-making, development planning, and national monitoring of progress towards key objectives.

The survey aims to achieve the following specific objectives:

- Provide a comprehensive understanding of the population's living conditions.
- Update Malawi's national poverty profile, covering poverty incidence, gap, and severity.
- Create the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and the Child Multidimensional Poverty Index (CMPI) to measure non-monetary aspects of poverty impacting households and children.
- Estimate the total household spending and examine household consumption habits to revise the weights for Malawi's Consumer Price Index (CPI).

- Gather comprehensive data on farming activities to aid in agricultural policy development and planning.
- Produce data related to household consumption and production for compiling National Accounts.
- Create national food security indicators and establish a detailed food security profile for the country.

The survey, carried out roughly every three years, aligns with national policy goals and international standards, especially in monitoring the SDGs and MIP-1 more effectively. Ongoing IHS implementation guarantees access to current socio-economic data, supporting development planning and policy-making in Malawi.

BOX 1.1.

Sample Design

The sampling frame for the IHS6 is based on the 2018 Malawi Census frame. The target universe for the IHS6 includes all households and persons living in these households within all the districts of Malawi, including the small island district of Likoma, which had also been included in IHS4 and IHS5, but not in the previous surveys. The sampling frame excludes the population living in institutions, such as school dormitories, hospitals, prisons and military barracks.

A stratified two-stage sample design was used for the IHS6. The primary sampling units (PSUs) selected at the first sampling stage were the census enumeration areas (EAs) defined for the 2018 Malawi Census. The EA is the smallest operational area established for the census with well-defined boundaries identified on maps, corresponding to the workload of one census enumerator. The EAs have an average of about 215 households each. This is an ideal size for conducting a new listing of households in each sample EA.

The desired reporting domains for the IHS6 are the 28 Administrative Districts that comprise Malawi. However, as is standard practice for NSO surveys in Malawi, the districts comprising the four main cities (Mzuzu city in Mzimba district, Lilongwe city in Lilongwe district, Zomba city in Zomba district and Blantyre city in Blantyre district) are further split into 2 distinct domains representing the urban and rural areas of these districts. Therefore, the total number of “districts” serving as the reporting domains in IHS6 are 32. The island district of Likoma only represents about 0.1% of the population of Malawi and had been excluded from the sampling frame for the previous surveys up to IHS3. Starting with IHS4, it was decided to include Likoma in the sampling frame. Because of the small size of Likoma, for stratification purposes it was combined with the district of Nkhata Bay. For the first time in the IHS6, Likoma was included as a stand-alone domain, and the sample was designed to provide reliable estimates as well for the district.

Unlike previous rounds of the IHS, the IHS6 also interviewed households in Dzaleka camp. A separate sampling frame and sampling approach was followed for this sample which is independent of the general population cross-sectional sample.

Additional information regarding the sampling and weighting can be found in the basic information document.

1.3 Organisation of the Report

The report is organized into twelve thematic chapters, with a technical annex and statistical tables afterward. These chapters address various socioeconomic topics, based on data from interviews with 12,888 households.

Chapter 2: Demographic Characteristics

Provides an overview of the population's age and sex distribution, household size and composition, dependency ratios, orphanhood status, and migration trends, establishing a basic profile of the surveyed community.

Chapter 3: Education

Includes information on literacy levels, school attendance, reasons for never attending, gross and net enrollment rates, and dropout rates, broken down by residence, region, and sex.

Chapter 4: Health

Analyzes the occurrence of sickness and injuries, the prevalence of chronic diseases, reproductive health outcomes such as delivery locations and birth assistance, and the utilization of insecticide-treated bed nets.

Chapter 5: Credit and Loans

Examines household involvement in credit markets, their success in acquiring loans, motivations for seeking credit, and the significance of formal versus informal credit sources.

Chapter 6: Household Non-Farm Enterprises

Details the kinds of non-farm businesses run by households, where they get their start-up funds, and their main operating costs, emphasizing how self-employment contributes to household livelihoods.

Chapter 7: Housing Infrastructure and Ownership of Assets

This covers aspects such as housing tenure, construction materials of dwellings, energy sources for lighting and cooking, access to water and sanitation, and ownership of household assets.

Chapter 8: Agriculture

Provides a comprehensive overview of crop cultivation, including plot sizes, labor inputs, use of fertilizers and pesticides, livestock production, access to extension services, and the wider agricultural landscape.

Chapter 9: Welfare

Provides subjective household assessments concerning food, housing, and health sufficiency, in addition to exposure to economic and environmental shocks, the mitigation strategies employed, and access to social safety nets.

Chapter 10: Food Security

Analyzes household food consumption patterns, dietary diversity scores, and meal frequency to provide insights into food access and nutritional quality at the household level.

Chapter 11: Anthropometry

Assesses the nutritional health status of children under five years of age by analyzing the prevalence of stunting, wasting, and underweight conditions, along with their participation in growth monitoring clinics.

Chapter 12: Savings

Discusses ownership and usage patterns of bank and mobile money accounts, along with household savings behaviors and strategies.

Chapter 13: Domestic Tourism

This describes household participation in domestic travel, encompassing the frequency, reasons, and specifics of both overnight and day trips within Malawi.

Annex Tables

The section has the descriptive statistics tables expanded to the district level.

Key messages

- Malawi's population is predominantly female (51.6 percent) and strikingly young, with about 61 percent of the population aged 24 or younger and 40 percent under the age of 15.
- Average household size has slightly declined from 4.4 members (IHS5) to 4.2 members (IHS6), with the Northern Region having the largest households at 4.6 members.
- The country remains overwhelmingly rural, with 83.1 percent of the population living outside urban centres.
- Internal mobility is rising, with the proportion of people who moved in the last five years increasing from 8.3 percent to 12.4 percent. Movement is dominated by rural-to-rural flows (61.6 percent), driven mainly by family reunification and marriage.

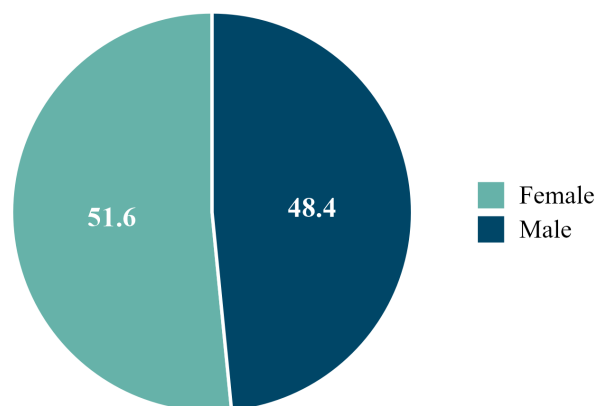
2.1 Introduction

For the purposes of this survey, a household is defined as either an individual residing alone or a collective of individuals, whether related or unrelated, who live together and share common household arrangements, indicating that they operate under a unified budget. The household head refers to the individual acknowledged by household members as being responsible for decision-making within the household. The demographic aspects addressed in this chapter encompass age and sex distribution, household size, dependency ratio, orphanhood, and migration.

2.2 Age and sex distribution

The survey findings indicate that the population of Malawi is primarily female, with females constituting 51.6 percent of the population, whilst males account for approximately 48.4 percent. (Figure 2.1).

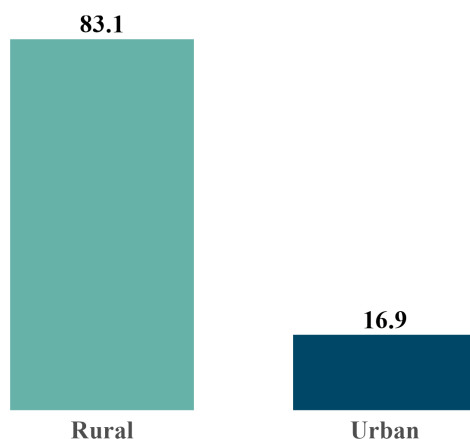
Figure 2.1: Percentage Distribution of Population by sex



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The survey results indicate that 83.1 percent of the population resides in rural areas, while urban areas constitute 16.9 percent of the population. (Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Percentage Distribution of Population by Place of Residence



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Malawi's population is predominantly young, with about 40 percent under 15 and less than 4 percent aged 65 or over. The majority of the population (56.3 percent) falls within the working-age group of 15 to 64 years. This age group is more concentrated in urban areas (63.8 percent) than in rural areas (54.6 percent).

In rural areas, children aged 0 to 14 years make up the largest proportion of the population, at 41.3 percent. In contrast, urban areas have a higher concentration of those aged 15 to 29 years, who account for 33.8 percent of the population in these areas. The elderly (60 years and above) population represents 5.1 percent of the total population. Rural areas have a higher share of older people, around 6 percent, compared with 2.7 percent in urban areas. (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1: Percentage Distribution of Population by Five-Year Age Groups and Place of Residence, IHS6 2024-2025

	Place of Residence		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Age Group			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-4	12.9	14.8	14.5
5-9	11.5	13.8	13.4
10-14	10.4	12.7	12.3
15-19	11.4	11.2	11.3
20-24	11.9	9.4	9.8
25-29	10.5	7.7	8.2
30-34	8.4	6.4	6.8
35-39	7.0	5.2	5.5
40-44	5.3	4.3	4.5
45-49	3.6	3.6	3.6
50-54	2.6	2.9	2.8
55-59	1.9	2.2	2.2

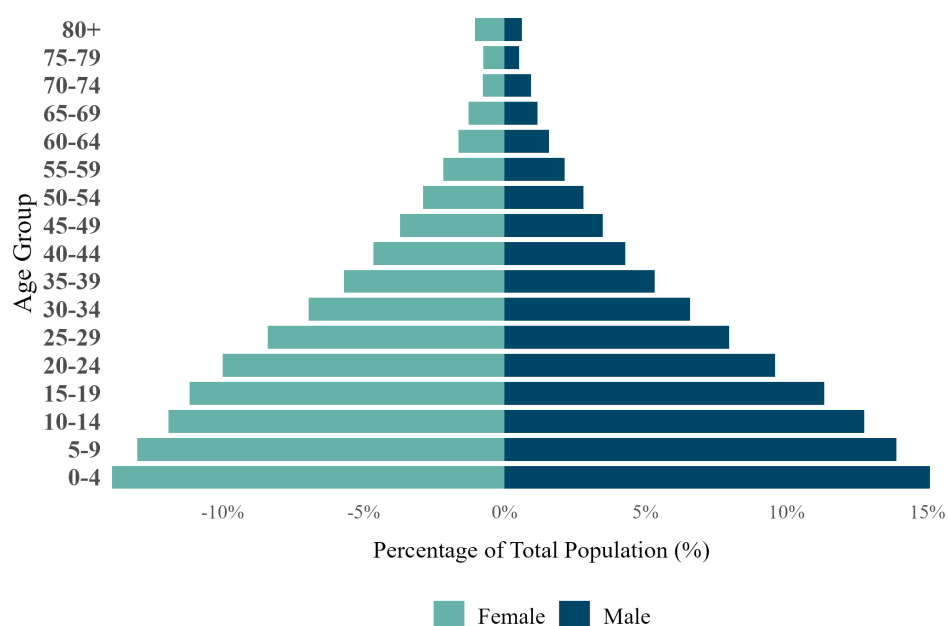
60-64	1.2	1.7	1.6
65-69	0.6	1.3	1.2
70-74	0.5	0.9	0.9
75-79	0.2	0.7	0.6
80+	0.2	1.0	0.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The population structure by age and sex shows that Malawi is characterised by a predominantly youthful population, with approximately 61 percent aged 24 years or younger. The structure gradually narrows with age, reflecting a steady decline in the number of individuals in older age groups.

Overall, the pyramid is nearly symmetrical, indicating a balanced distribution of males and females across most age groups (Figure 2.3 and Table 2.2).

Figure 2.3: Population pyramid for Malawi



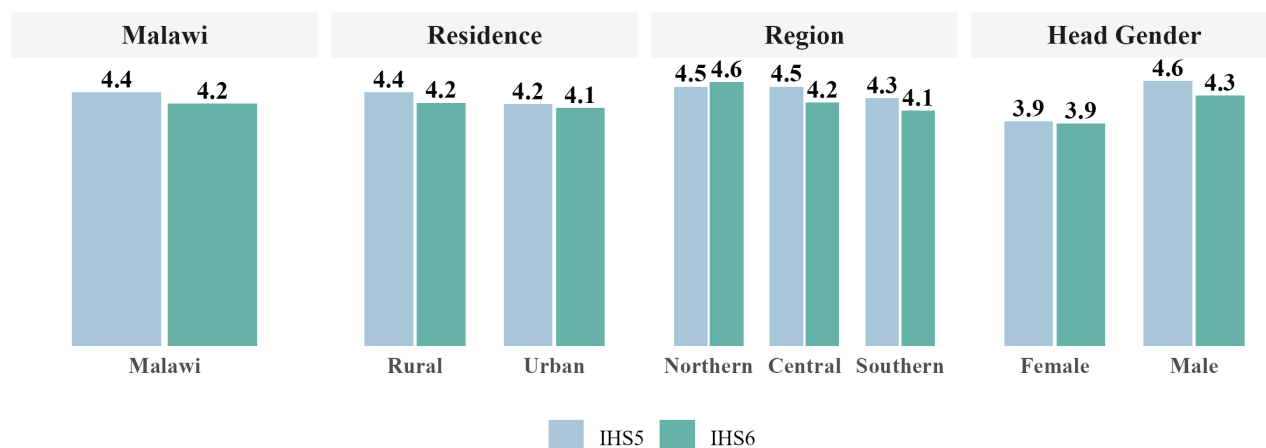
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

2.3 Household size

Nationally, the average household in Malawi has 4.2 members, down from 4.4 reported in IHS5. Rural households followed the same trend, falling from 4.4 to 4.2 members, while urban households declined marginally from 4.2 to 4.1 members. (Figure 2.4 and Table 2.3).

Analysis by region shows that the Northern Region has the largest average household size (4.6 members), followed by the Central Region (4.2 members) and the Southern Region (4.1 members). (Figure 2.4 and Table 2.3).

Figure 2.4: Mean Household Size



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

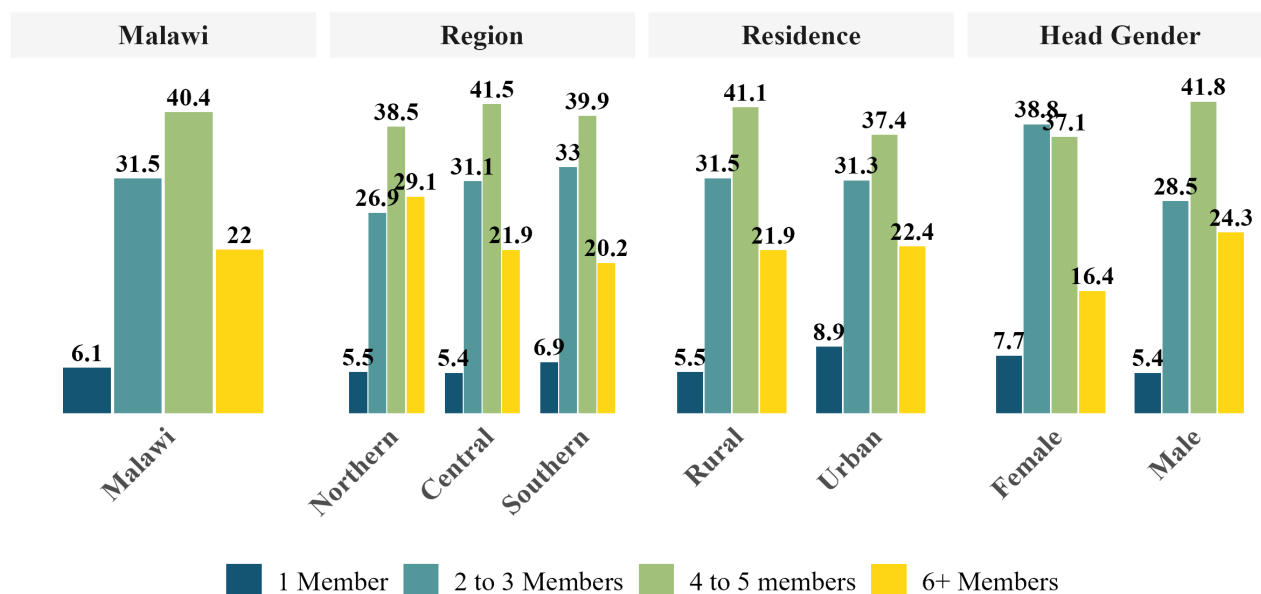
Male-headed households are consistently larger than female-headed households across both survey periods. In IHS5, male-headed households averaged 4.6 members, compared with 3.9 for female-headed households. In IHS6, the averages declined slightly to 4.3 members for male-headed households and remained at 3.9 members for female-headed households. (Figure 2.4 and Table 2.3).

The distribution of household sizes in Malawi was further analysed by comparing four household-size categories: single-member households, those with 2–3 members, those with 4–5 members, and those with six or more members. At national level, households with 4–5 members constitute the highest proportion at 40.4 percent, followed by those with 2–3 members at 31.5 percent, while households with a single member account for the smallest proportion at 6.1 percent. (Figure 2.5 and Table 2.3).

Analysis by place of residence shows that households with 4–5 members are the most common, accounting for 41.1 percent in rural areas and 37.4 percent in urban areas. The proportion of households with one member was higher in urban areas, at 8.9 percent, compared with 5.5 percent in rural areas. (Figure 2.5 and Table 2.3).

At the regional level, households comprising four to five members constitute 41.5 percent in the Central Region, 39.9 percent in the Southern Region, and 38.5 percent in the Northern Region. Households with six or more members are most prevalent in the Northern Region at 29.1 percent, compared to 21.9 percent in the Central Region and 20.2 percent in the Southern Region. The Southern Region exhibits the highest proportion of households with two to three members at 33.0 percent, followed by the Central Region at 31.1 percent and the Northern Region at 26.9 percent. Single-person households are more common in the Southern Region at 6.9 percent than in the Northern Region at 5.5 percent and the Central Region at 5.4 percent. (Figure 2.5 and Table 2.3)

Figure 2.5: Distribution of usual Household Members by Place of Residence



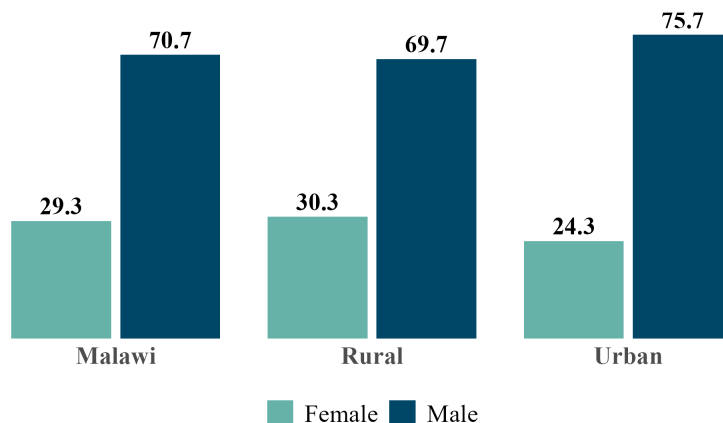
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The results, distinguished by the sex of the household head, indicate that 7.7 percent of female-headed households consist of only one member, in contrast to 5.4 percent of male-headed households. Female-headed households also predominate the 2–3-member category at 38.8 percent, compared to 28.5 percent for male-headed households. Male-headed households exhibit a higher proportion in the 4–5-member category (41.8 percent) and households with six or more members (24.3 percent), in comparison to female-headed households at 37.1 percent and 16.4 percent, respectively. (Figure 2.5 and Table 2.3).

2.4 Sex of household head

The survey results reveal that a majority of households in Malawi are led by males, at 70.7 percent, while 29.3 percent are headed by females. An examination by place of residence indicates that male-headed households are more common in urban areas (75.7 percent) than in rural areas (69.7 percent). (Figure 2.6 and Table 2.4).

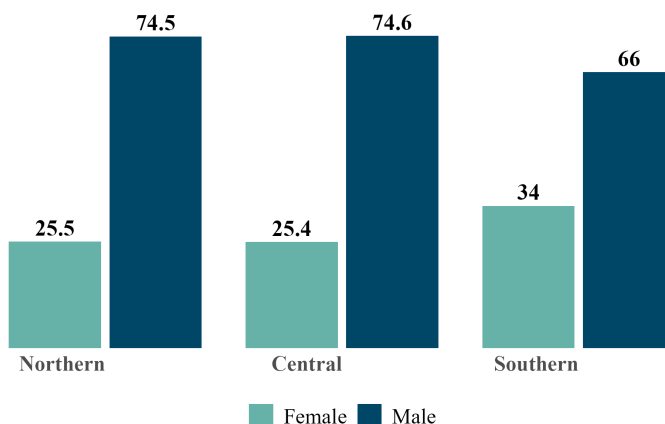
Figure 2.6: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sex of Household Head and Place of Residence



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The results indicate regional disparities in household headship based on sex. The Northern and Central regions have comparable proportions of male-headed households, each approximately 75.0 percent. Conversely, the Southern Region exhibits the lowest proportion of male-headed households at 66.0 percent and the highest proportion of female-headed households at 34.0 percent. (Figure 2.7 and Table 2.4).

Figure 2.7: Percentage distribution of households by sex of household head and Region

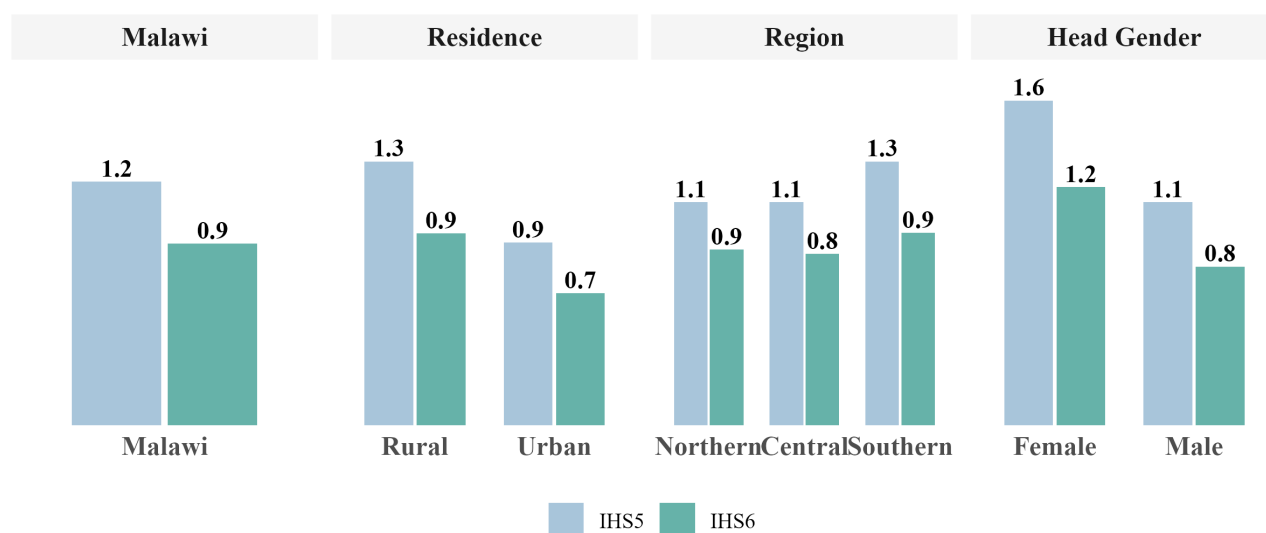


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

2.5 Dependency Ratio

The total dependency ratio compares the number of dependent individuals (children aged 0–14 years and older adults aged 65+ years) to the working-age population (15–64 years). A ratio of 1.00 signifies that there are 100 dependents for every 100 individuals of working age. Lower ratios imply a reduced support burden on households of working age, whereas higher ratios denote a greater burden.

Figure 2.8: Dependency Ratio



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

National analysis reveals a dependency ratio of 0.9, meaning there are 90 dependents for every 100 people of working age. Urban areas have a dependency ratio of 70 dependents per 100 working-age individuals, while rural areas have a higher ratio of 90 dependents per 100 working-age people. (Table 2.5).

Analysis by region shows that households in the Southern region carry the heaviest support burden, with the highest dependency ratio (0.9) compared with the Central Region (0.8). The Northern Region also records a ratio of 0.9. Across regions, the dependency ratio declined between IHS5 and IHS6, with the largest decline recorded in the Southern region. (Table 2.5).

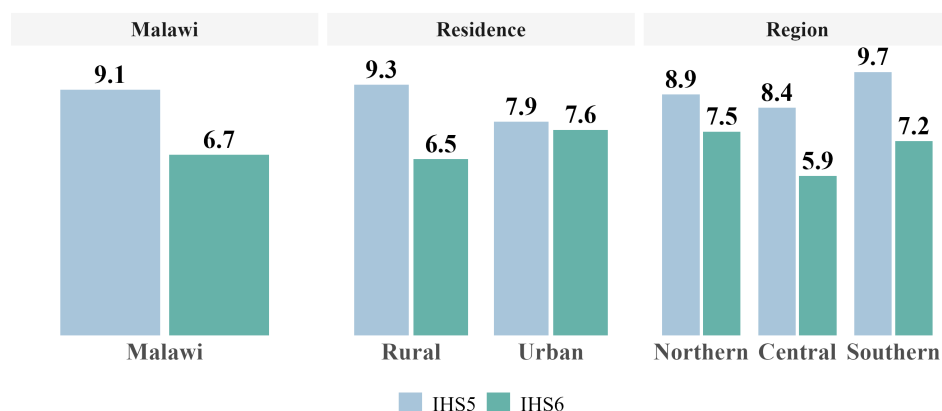
The survey results show differences in dependency ratios between male- and female-headed households. Female-headed households have a higher dependency ratio of 1.2, compared with 0.8 in male-headed households. This indicates that female-headed households support more children and older adults than male-headed households. (Table 2.5).

2.6 Orphanhood

The the survey defines orphans as children aged 0 to 17 years who have lost one or both biological parents. At the national level, the proportion of orphans decreased from 9.1 percent in IHS5 to 6.7 percent in IHS6, representing a decline of 2.4 percentage points, approximately 26 percent lower than IHS5. This indicates that fewer children are living without one or both parents in comparison to the preceding survey period.

Analysis by place of residence indicates that rural areas reported a lower orphan proportion at 6.5 percent compared to 7.6 percent in urban areas. (Figure 2.9 and Table 2.6).

Figure 2.9: Proportion of Orphans by Place of Residence



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

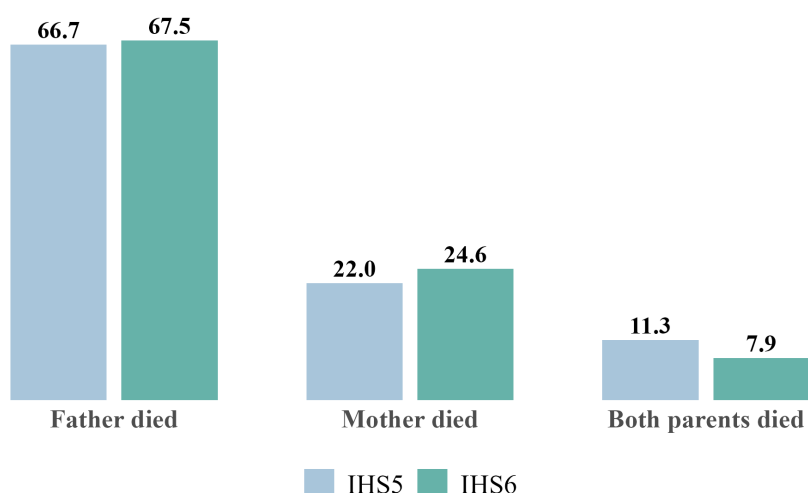
Regional analysis indicates a decrease in orphanhood rates across all regions between IHS5 and IHS6. The Northern Region experienced a decline of 1.4 percentage points, decreasing from 8.9 to 7.5. Both the Central and Southern regions each registered a reduction of 2.5 percentage points. (Figure 2.9 and Table 2.6).

Analysis by sex of household head indicates that children in female-headed households are more than four times (14.5 percent) as likely to be orphans as those in male-headed households (3.4 percent) for both IHS5 and IHS6 (Table 2.6).

This section classifies orphanhood status depending on whether a child has lost one parent or both.

Compared to IHS5, the proportion of double orphans decreased from 11.3 percent to 7.9 percent in IHS6. Conversely, there was an increase in the proportion of orphans with a deceased father (from 66.7 percent in IHS5 to 67.5 percent in IHS6) and with a deceased mother (from 22.0 percent to 24.6 percent). (Figure 2.10 and Table 2.7).

Figure 2.10: Orphanhood Status



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence reveals variations in orphanhood patterns. In rural regions, the predominant situation involves orphans who have lost one parent, with the father being the most commonly bereaved parent (68.3 percent), followed by the mother (25.0 percent). Only 6.8 percent of orphaned children have lost both parents. Conversely, urban areas demonstrate a higher percentage of orphans who have lost both parents, at 13.5 percent, an increase from 8.3 percent as reported in IHS5. (Table 2.7).

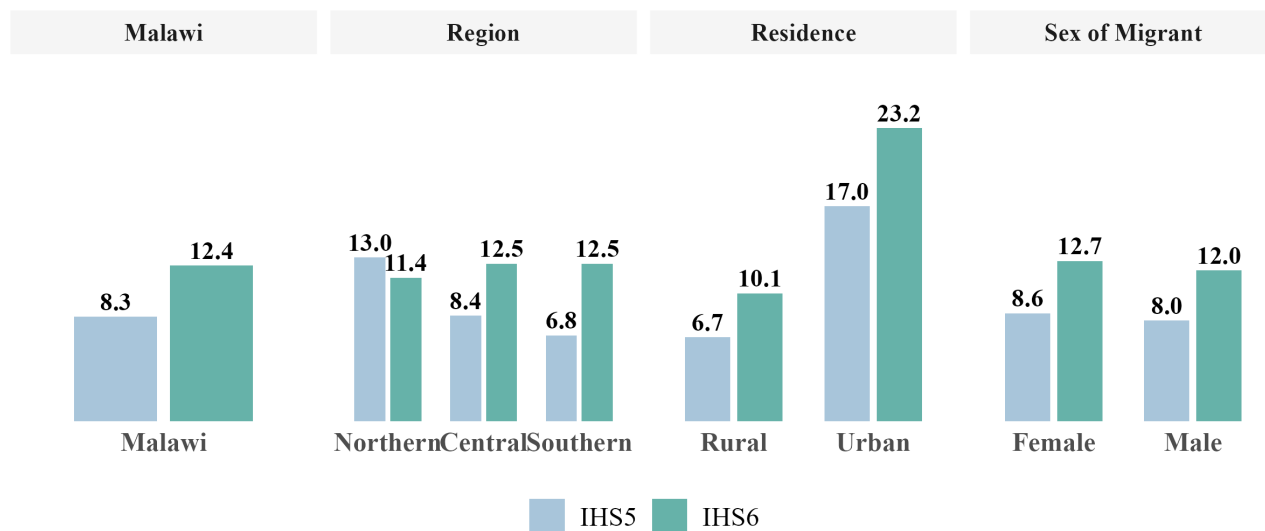
2.7 Migration

For movements within a nation, the appropriate terms are in-migration (relocating into a area) and out-migration (relocating out of an area).

In the IHS6, households were asked whether members had always resided in their current location or had relocated from elsewhere. For those who had moved, additional details were collected regarding their previous location, the duration since the move, and the reasons for their relocation. For this analysis, migration is defined as movements occurring within the past five years. The survey classified geographic units as urban, rural, districts, and international (outside Malawi).

The proportion of people who moved in the past five years has increased nationally from 8.3 per cent in IHS5 to 12.4 per cent in IHS6. Migration is more common in urban areas, where the proportion rose from 17.0 per cent to 23.2 per cent, compared with rural areas, where it increased from 6.7 per cent to 10.1 per cent across the two survey periods. (Figure 2.11 and Table 2.8).

Figure 2.11: Proportion of Migrants



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Regional migration patterns demonstrate significant variations between IHS5 and IHS6. In the Northern region, the proportion of individuals who relocated within the past five years diminished from 13.0 percent to 11.4 percent. Conversely, migration rates in the Central Region increased from 8.4 percent to 12.5 percent, and in the Southern Region, the proportion rose from 6.8 percent to 12.5 percent. (Figure 2.11 and Table 2.8).

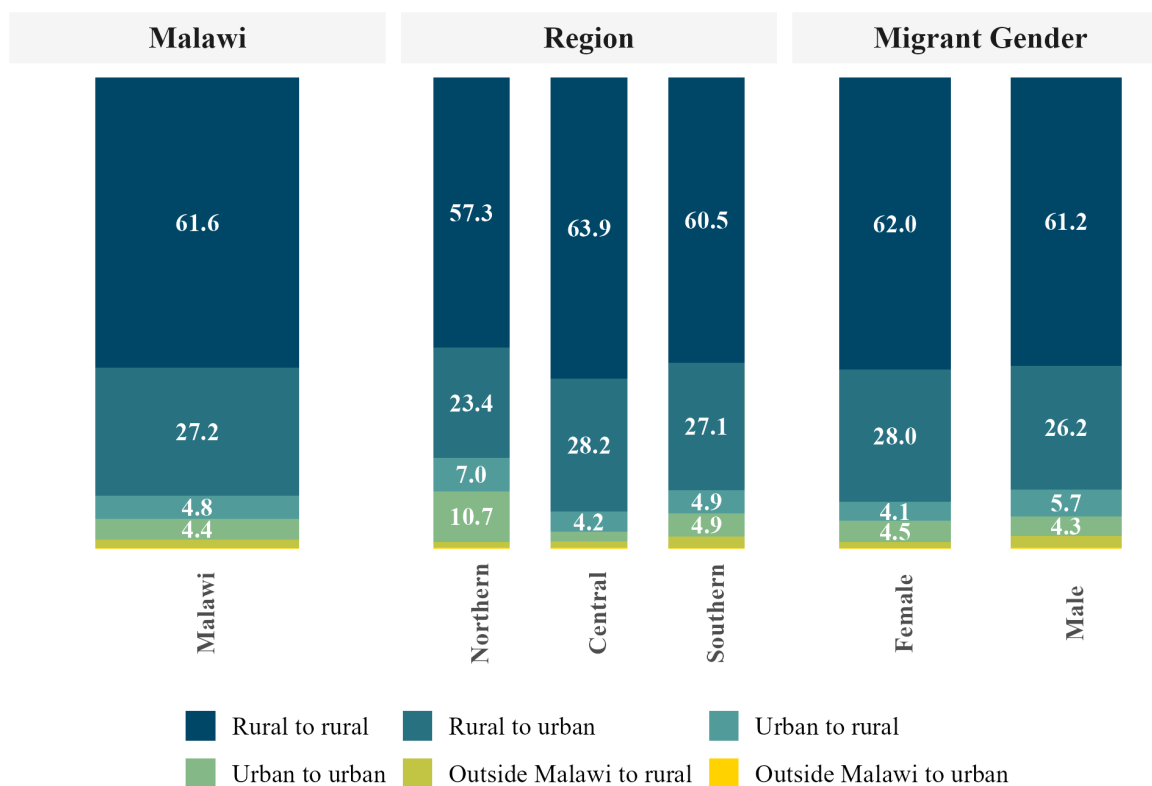
2.7.1 Migration Pattern

At the national level, 61.6 percent of internal migrants transitioned from one rural area to another, whereas 27.2 percent relocated from rural to urban regions. Movements within urban areas (urban-to-urban: 4.4 percent) and from urban to rural areas (4.8 percent) are comparatively minor. International in-migrants constitute a modest proportion overall (approximately 2.0 percent), with the majority settling in rural regions (1.8 percent). (Figure 2.12 and Table 2.9).

At the regional level, the Central Region exhibited a higher proportion of rural-to-rural migration (63.9 percent) and rural-to-urban migration (28.2 percent) in comparison to other regions. The Northern Region documented a higher urban-to-urban migration proportion of 10.7 percent. (Figure 2.12 and Table 2.9).

Analysis by the sex of the household head indicates that in-migrants originating from female-headed households constitute a greater proportion in rural-to-rural (62.0 percent) and rural-to-urban (28.0 percent) migration patterns. Conversely, male-headed households exhibit higher rates of movement in urban-to-rural migration at 5.7 percent and migration outside Malawi to rural areas at 2.4 percent. (Figure 2.12 and Table 2.9).

Figure 2.12: Proportion of migrants by movement pattern



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Among migrants who relocate to join family or relatives, 60.2 percent undertake rural-to-rural moves, 27.4 percent move from rural to urban areas, 5.2 percent move from urban to rural areas, 4.7 percent move between urban areas, and 2.2 percent migrate from outside Malawi to rural destinations.

The highest proportion of rural-to-rural movement stands at 74.5 percent, followed by rural-to-urban migration at 18.6 percent, urban-to-rural movement at 3.1 percent, urban-to-urban migration at 2.3 percent, and migration from outside Malawi to rural areas at 1.3 percent.

Migrants who relocate to establish a business, seek employment, or engage in agriculture constitute 40.6 percent of rural-to-urban migration and 48.2 percent of rural-to-rural migration. Movements from urban to rural areas and within urban areas account for 4.4 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively, with 1.6 percent originating from outside Malawi.

Among migrants returning from employment or job transfers, 57.7 percent undertake rural-to-rural relocations, 20.2 percent engage in rural-to-urban moves, 11.4 percent in urban-to-urban relocations, and 8.6 percent in urban-to-rural movements, with 1.8 percent in an unspecified category, including those arriving from outside Malawi to rural areas.

Migrants citing alternative reasons accounted for a rural-to-rural proportion of 54.2 percent, rural-to-urban at 32.1 percent, urban-to-rural at 8.6 percent, urban-to-urban at 4.2 percent, and movements originating outside Malawi at 0.9 percent. (Table [2.9](#)).

Key messages

- The adult literacy rate (age 15+) stands at 79.3 percent, with a gender disparity — 84.2 percent for males compared to 74.9 percent for females.
- The Net Enrolment Rate (NER) at the primary level is 90.2 percent, in comparison to 15.2 percent at the secondary level.
- The primary reason cited for school dropout is lack of financial resources, accounting for 50.5 percent.
- Approximately 66.0 percent of the population aged 15 and above lack any formal educational qualifications.

3.1 Literacy

Literacy is defined as the ability to read and write a simple sentence in any language (2023 Compendium of Statistical Concepts and Definitions). It serves as a foundational indicator of human development and is critical for shaping education policies and development strategies. The literacy rate is a fundamental metric utilized to monitor progress toward national and global educational objectives, thereby enabling governments and organizations to assess the effectiveness of education systems over time.

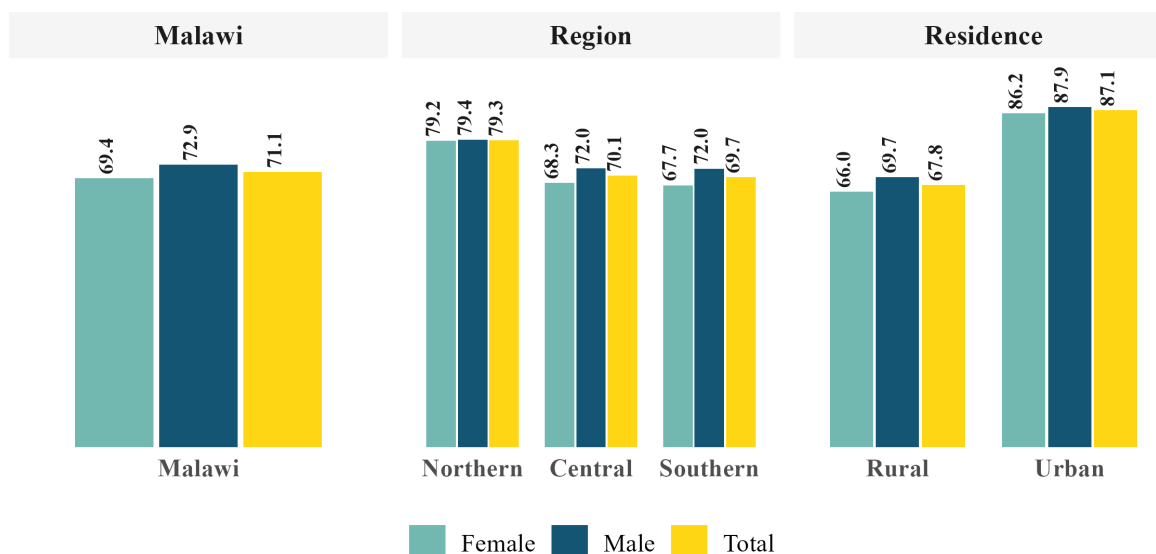
3.1.1 Literacy Rates for Population Aged Five Years and Above

The literacy rate among individuals aged five years and above stands at 71.1 percent. A greater proportion of males in this age group (72.9 percent) are literate compared to females (69.4 percent). Concerning place of residence, urban areas exhibit a higher literacy rate (87.1 percent) in comparison to rural areas, which have a rate of 67.8 percent. (Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1).

At the regional level, the Northern region exhibited the highest literacy rate at 79.3 percent, followed by the Central region at 70.1 percent, and subsequently the Southern region at 69.7 percent. (Table 3.1).

At district level literacy rate were high in city districts compared to rural districts. Mzuzu city had literacy rate of 88.9 percent followed by Lilongwe City at 87.4 percent while Mangochi and Salima had the lowest literacy rates at 56.3 percent and 58.9 percent, respectively. (Table 3.1).

Figure 3.1: Literacy Rate for Population Aged 5 Years and Above



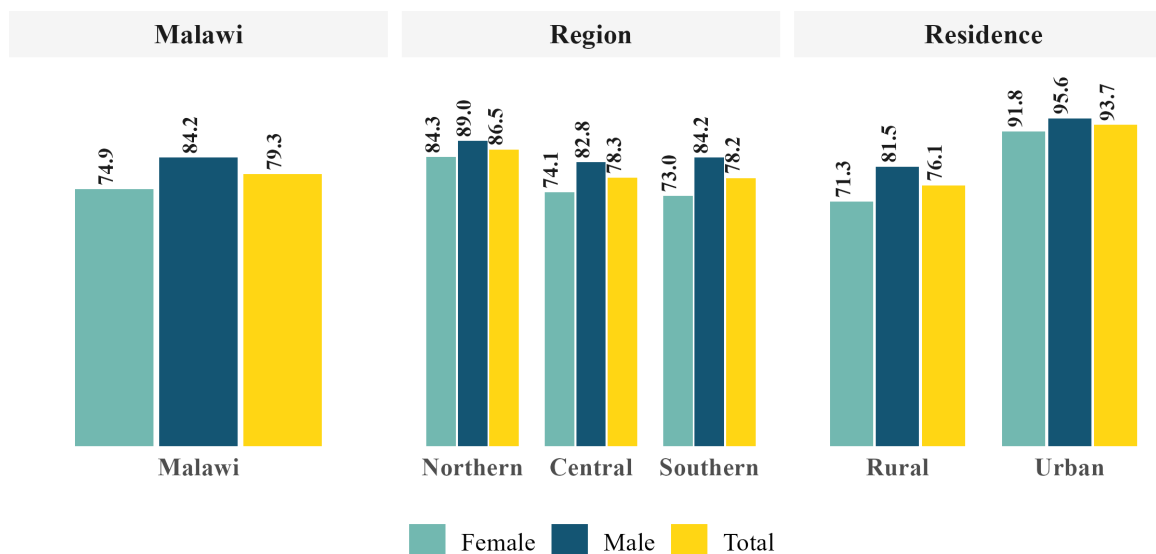
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

3.1.2 Literacy Rates for Population Aged Fifteen Years and Above

The findings indicate that the literacy rate among the population aged 15 years and above in Malawi is 79.3 percent. The rate is higher among males at 84.2 percent compared to females at 74.9 percent.

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 93.7 percent of individuals in urban areas are literate, compared to 76.1 percent in rural regions. (Figure 3.2 and Table 3.2). Analysis at district level shows that literacy rates were high in city districts of Zomba City (95.3 percent), Mzuzu City (95.1 percent), Lilongwe City (94.2 percent) and Blantyre City (94.1 percent). In rural districts Mangochi, Dedza and Salima had the lowest literacy rates at 64.9 percent, 66.9 percent and 69.0 percent respectively. (Table 3.1).

Figure 3.2: Literacy Rate for Population Aged 15 Years and Above



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by sex of the household head reveals that 80.8 percent of individuals in male-headed households are literate, in comparison to 75.0 percent in female-headed households. (Table 3.2).

3.2 School Attendance

The survey gathered data from household members to determine whether they have ever attended school. School attendance typically denotes the expectation that all enrolled students are present at school during operational hours.

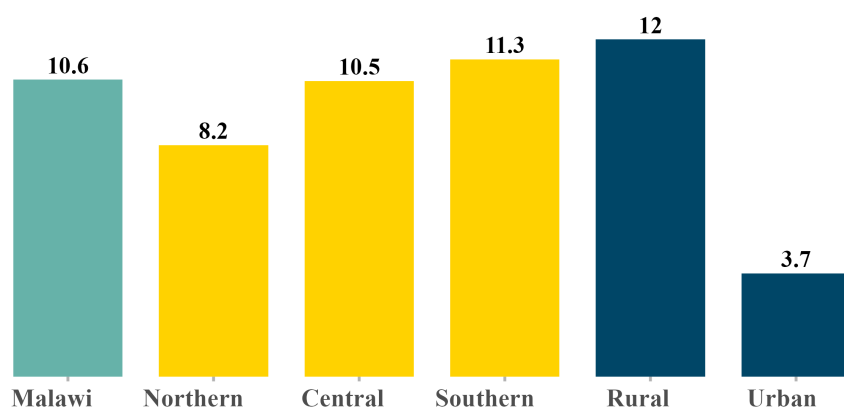
3.2.1 School Attendance by Population Aged Five Years and Above

At the national level, the results indicate that 10.6 percent of the population aged five years and older have never attended school.

An analysis based on place of residence reveals that 12.0 percent of individuals in rural areas have never attended school, in contrast to 3.7 percent of those in urban areas. (Figure 3.3 and Table 3.3).

Across regions, the Southern region exhibits the highest proportion (11.3 percent) of individuals who have never attended school, followed by the Central region (10.5 percent) and the Northern region (8.2 percent). (Table 3.3).

Figure 3.3: School Attendance by Population Aged Five Years and Above



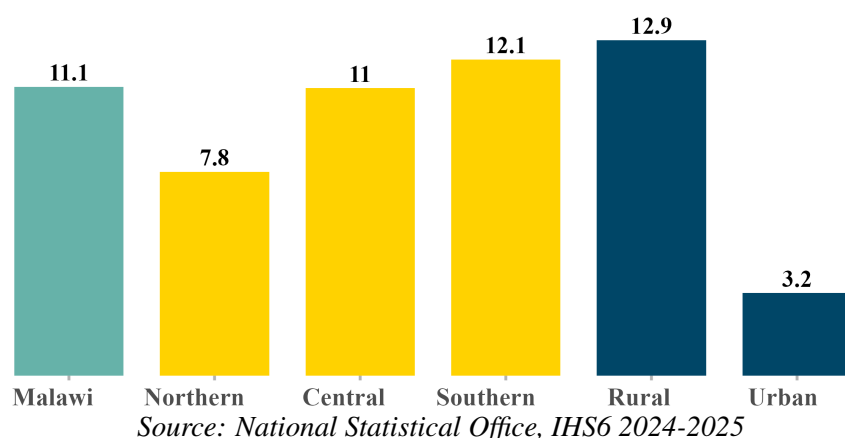
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

3.2.2 School Attendance by Population Aged Fifteen Years and Above

Overall, 11.1 percent of the population aged 15 years and above in Malawi reported never having attended school.

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 12.9 percent of individuals residing in rural areas have never attended school, in comparison to 3.2 percent of those in urban areas. (Figure 3.4 and Table 3.4).

Figure 3.4: School Attendance by Population Aged Fifteen Years and Above



Across regions, the Southern region registered the highest proportion (12.1 percent) of the population who never attended school, followed by the Central region (11.0 percent) and the Northern region (7.8 percent).

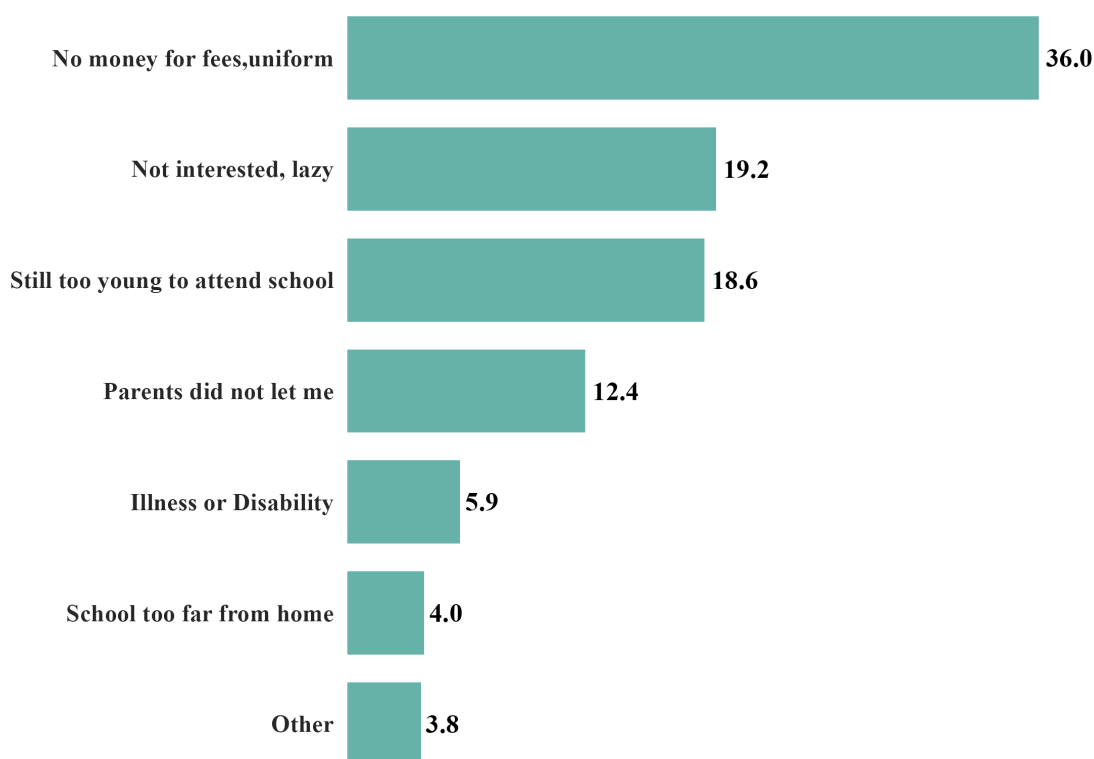
3.3 Reasons for Never Attending School

Participants were also requested to elucidate the reasons behind their non-attendance at school.

3.3.1 Reasons for Never Attending School for Population Aged Five Years and Above

The results indicate that 36.0 percent of the population aged five years and above who have never attended school cited financial constraints as the primary reason, followed by 19.2 percent who expressed a lack of interest in schooling. Other reasons which were reported were "poor quality of schools", "had to work or help at home" and "school conflict with beliefs" contributed to 3.8 percent (Figure 3.5 and Table 3.3).

Figure 3.5: Reasons for Not Attending School for Population Aged 5 Years



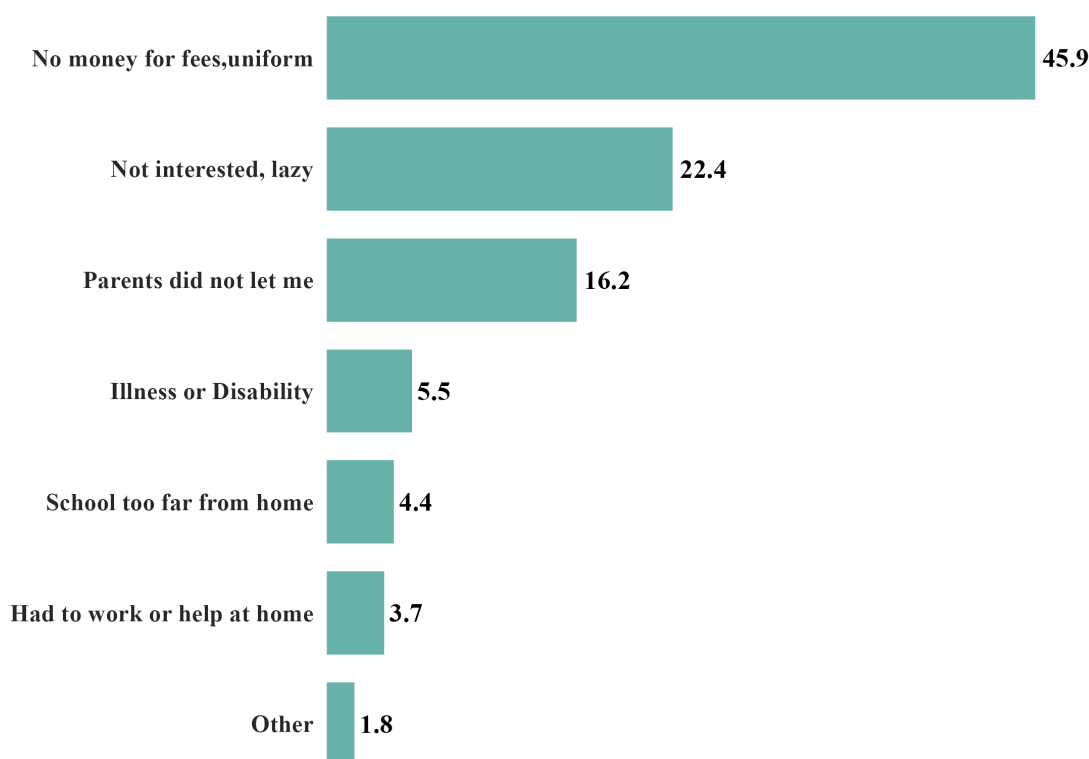
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis based on place of residence indicates that 36.7 percent of individuals residing in rural areas reported a lack of financial resources as the reason for never attending school, in comparison to 25.4 percent of those in urban areas. (Table 3.3).

3.3.2 Reasons for Never Attending School for Population Aged 15 Years and Above

The results indicate that 45.9 percent of the population aged 15 years and above, who have never attended school, cited financial constraints as the primary reason. This was subsequently followed by 22.4 percent, who reported a lack of interest or motivation to attend school, and 16.2 percent, whose parents did not permit them to attend. The following response categories; "poor quality of schools", "had to work or help at home" and "school conflict with beliefs" contributed to 1.8 percent of other reasons for never attending school. (Figure 3.6 and Table 3.4).

Figure 3.6: Reasons for Not Attending School for Population Aged 15 Years



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis based on place of residence indicates that 46.7 percent of individuals residing in rural areas cited financial constraints as the reason for never attending school, compared to 32.9 percent in urban areas.

Across the regions, individuals in the Central region reported a higher percentage (49.2 percent) citing lack of money as the reason for never attending school, followed by 45.3 percent in the Southern region and 33.4 percent in the Northern region. (Table 3.4).

3.4 Enrolment Rates in Primary and Secondary Schools

Gross the gross enrolment rate (GER) represents the proportion of pupils enrolled at a specific level of education, irrespective of age, relative to the total population of the official age group eligible for that level.

Conversely, the net enrolment rate (NER) is defined as the number of pupils within the official school-age cohort expressed as a percentage of the entire population within that age group. The official entry age for primary education in Malawi is 6 years, with an expected exit age of 13 years. Conversely, the official entry age for secondary schools in Malawi is 14 years, and the expected exit age is 17 years.

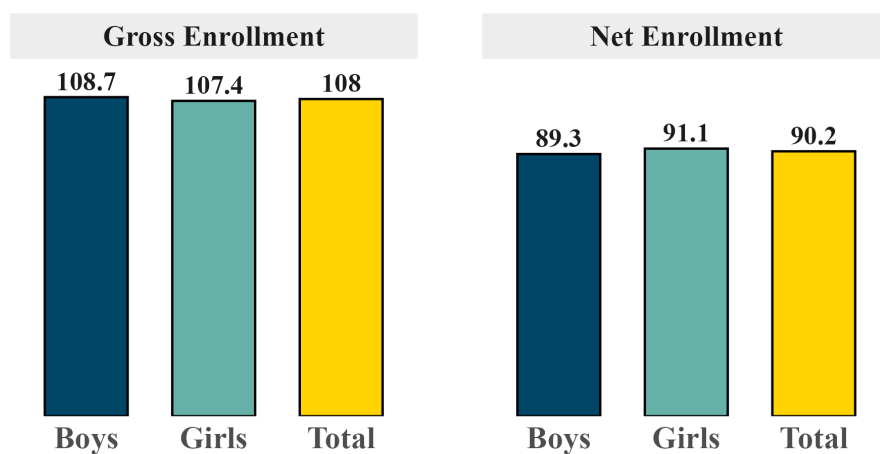
A high ratio of GER does not necessarily indicate a successful education system; however, it may reflect issues such as grade repetition, over-age students, under-age students, and late school entry.

3.4.1 Primary School Enrolment Rates

The primary school gross enrolment rate for Malawi is 108.0 percent, indicating that enrolment includes pupils who are outside the official primary school age range.

The primary school net enrolment rate in Malawi is 90.2 percent. The net enrolment rate is higher among females (91.1 percent) than among males (89.3 percent). (Figure 3.7 and Table 3.5).

Figure 3.7: Enrolment Rates at Primary School



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

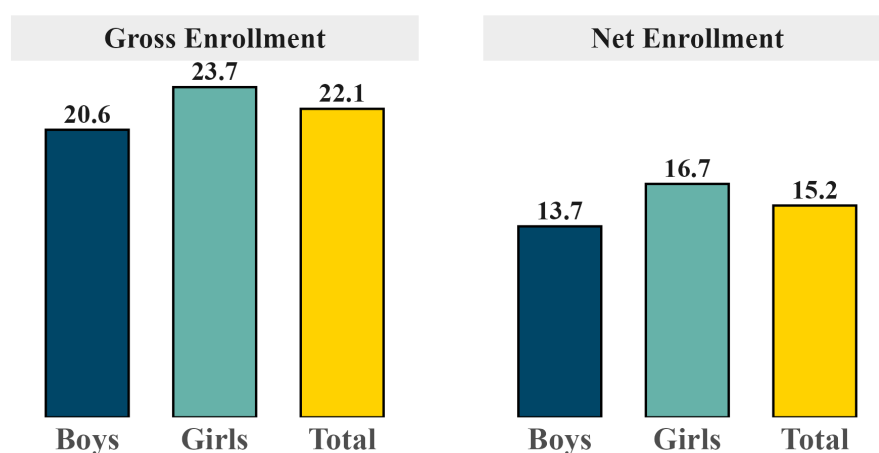
The net enrolment rate for urban areas stands at 93.0 percent, in comparison to 89.7 percent in rural regions. Additionally, the net enrolment rate is higher among students from male-headed households (90.9 percent) compared to those from female-headed households (88.7 percent).

Across different regions, the Northern region has the highest GER at 112.7 percent, followed by the Central region at 108.1 percent, and the Southern region at 106.8 percent. The Northern region also records the highest net enrolment rate at 91.6 percent, succeeded by the Southern region at 90.6 percent and the Central region at 89.4 percent. (Table 3.5).

3.4.2 Secondary School Enrolment Rates

The gross enrolment rate for secondary schools in Malawi is 22.1 percent, whereas the net enrolment rate is 15.2 percent. The net enrolment rate is higher among females (16.7 percent) than among males (13.7 percent). (Figure 3.8 and Table 3.6).

Figure 3.8: Enrolment Rates at Secondary School



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) for urban regions is 47.3 percent, whereas in rural regions it is 17.2 percent.

Across the regions, the Northern Region exhibits the highest GER at 27.3 percent, followed by the Southern Region at 22.4 percent and the Central Region at 20.2 percent.

Analysis by place of residence indicates that the NER is higher in urban areas (35.3 percent) compared to rural areas (11.2 percent).

Across regions, the Northern Region exhibits the highest proportion of NER at 17.8 percent, followed by the Southern Region at 16.4 percent and the Central Region at 13.1 percent.

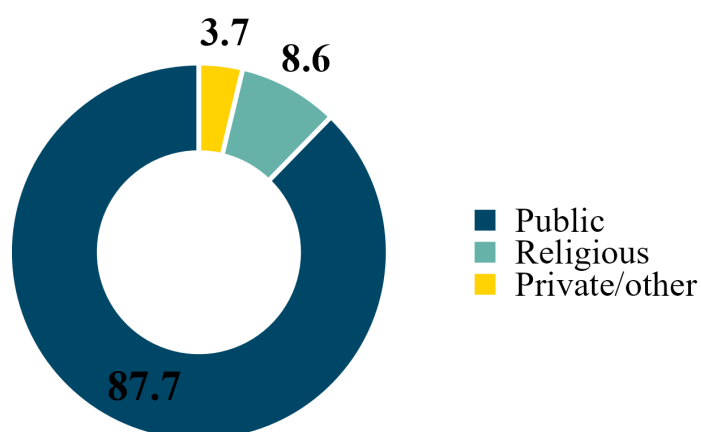
Furthermore, the NER is lower among pupils from female-headed households (12.7 percent) compared to those from male-headed households (16.5 percent). (Table 3.6).

3.5 School Attendance by Type of School

3.5.1 School Attendance-Primary School Education

The results indicate that the majority of students attend public primary schools, accounting for 87.7 percent. This is followed by 8.6 percent of students attending religious schools and 3.7 percent attending private primary schools. (Figure 3.9 and Table 3.7).

Figure 3.9: Type of School Attended by Primary School Pupils



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

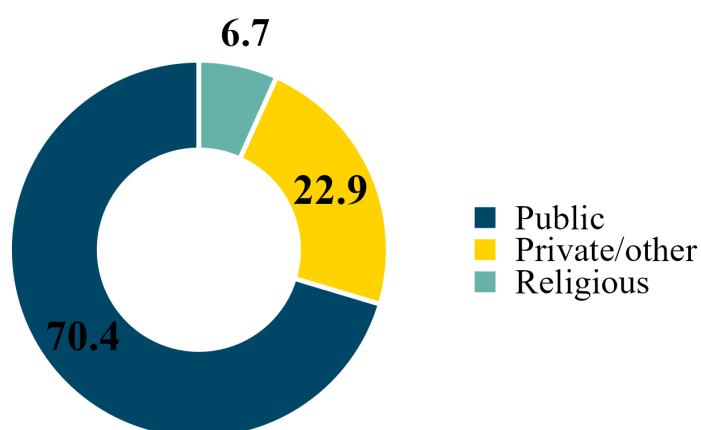
An analysis based on place of residence indicates that 90.4 percent of students in rural regions are enrolled in government schools, whereas 71.6 percent of urban students attend the same. Additionally, approximately 16.1 percent of urban students are enrolled in private institutions, in contrast to 1.6 percent in rural areas.

Across various regions, approximately 91 percent of students in the Northern and Central regions attend government primary schools, followed by 82.8 percent in the Southern regions. (Table 3.7).

3.5.2 School Attendance-Secondary School Education

The national-level results indicate that 70.4 percent of individuals reported attending public secondary schools, followed by 22.9 percent and 6.7 percent for private and religious secondary schools, respectively. (Figure 3.10 and Table 3.7).

Figure 3.10: Type of School Attended by Secondary School Students



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis based on place of residence indicates that 77.6 percent of students residing in rural areas are enrolled in public secondary schools, in comparison to 55.8 percent of students in urban areas. The findings also demonstrate that 10.3 percent of students in urban regions attend religious secondary schools, whereas only 5.0 percent of students in rural regions do so.

Across various regions, 77.9 percent of pupils attended government secondary schools in the Northern region, followed by the Central region at 75.3 percent and the Southern region at 63.1 percent. (Table 3.7).

3.6 Highest Education Qualification Attainment

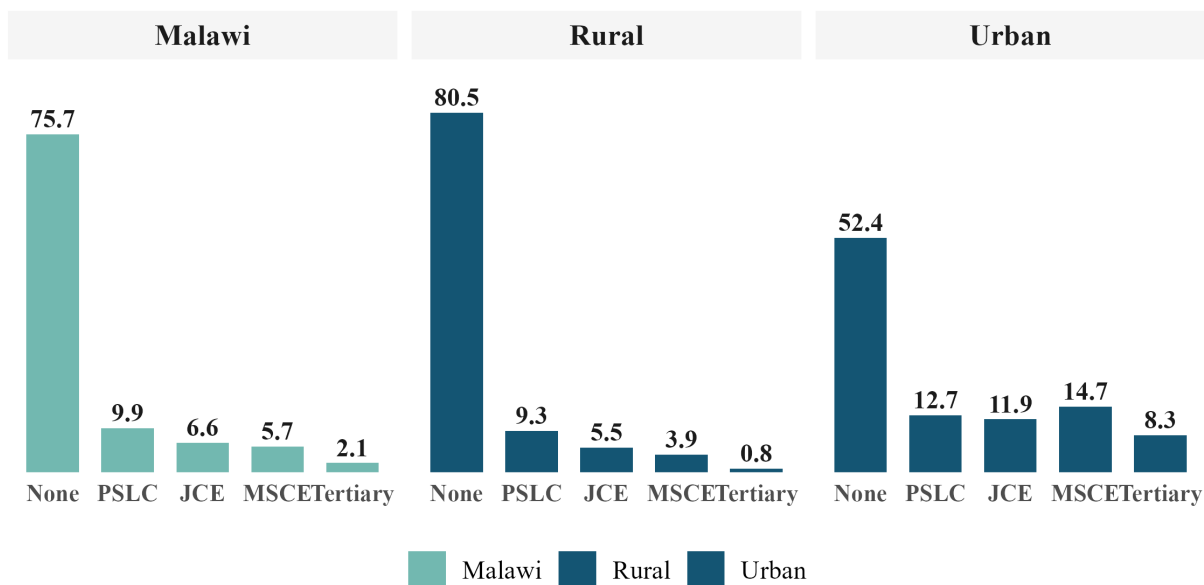
Highest education qualification pertains to the various levels of educational attainment acknowledged by the Malawian educational system for individuals who successfully complete the requisite coursework and examinations.

3.6.1 Highest Education Qualification Acquired (Population Aged 5 Years and Above)

At the national level, 75.7 percent of the population aged 5 years and above lack any qualifications.

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 80.5 percent of the population aged 5 years and above in rural areas possess no qualifications, compared to 52.4 percent in urban areas. (Figure 3.11 and Table 3.8).

Figure 3.11: Distribution of Population Aged 5 Years and above by Highest Education Qualification Acquired



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

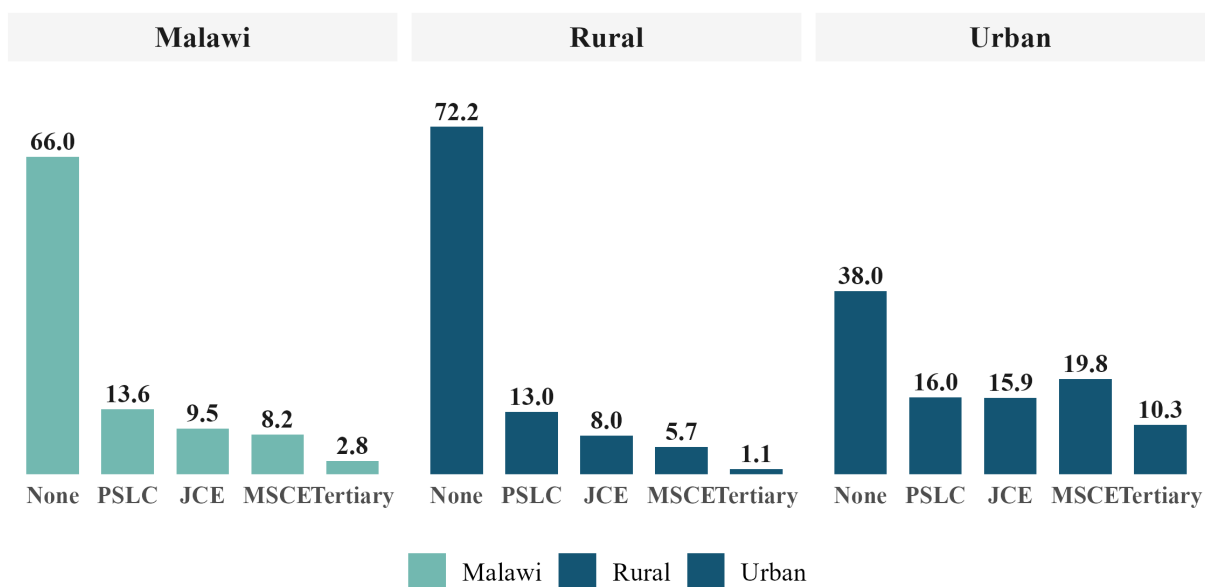
At the regional level, the Southern region has a higher proportion (76.6 percent) of the population aged 5 years and above without any qualifications, followed by the Central region (76.3 percent) and the Northern region (70.4 percent). (Table 3.8).

3.6.2 Highest Education Qualification Acquired (15 Years and Above)

At the national level, 66.0 percent of the population lack any qualifications.

Analysis by place of residence shows that 72.2 per cent of the population in rural areas has no qualification, compared with 38.0 per cent in urban areas. (Figure 3.12 and Table 3.9).

Figure 3.12: Distribution of Population Aged 15 Years and above by Highest Education Qualification Acquired



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

At the regional level, the Central Region has a higher proportion (67.0 percent) of the population with no qualifications, followed by the Southern Region (66.7 percent) and the Northern Region (60.1 percent). (Table 3.9).

3.7 Dropout Rate and Reasons for Dropout

The school dropout rate is defined as the percentage of students who enrolled but did not complete the academic year.

3.7.1 Dropout Rate-Primary Education

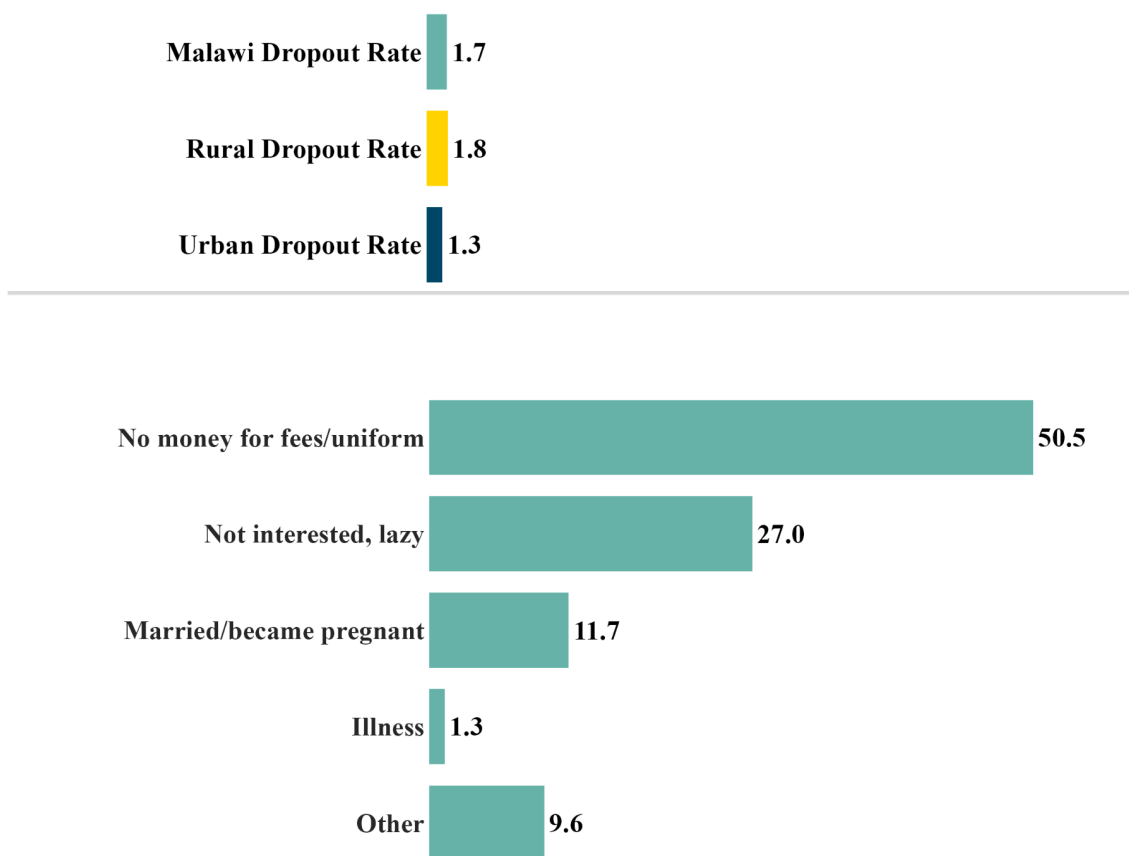
The dropout rate in primary schools in Malawi is 1.7 percent. Analysis by place of residence indicates that rural areas experience a higher dropout rate (1.8 percent) compared to urban areas, which have a rate of 1.3 percent. (Figure 3.13 and Table 3.10).

The findings additionally demonstrate that 50.5 percent of students who discontinue their primary education cite financial constraints as the primary reason for their dropout, while 27.0 percent of students withdraw due to disinterest in schooling. Furthermore, pregnancy and early marriage account for 11.7 percent of student dropouts. The results also show that 9.6 percent reported other reasons for dropping out from primary school. These include; acquired all education wanted, too old to continue, school too far from home, parents told them to stop, failed promotion exam and dismissed.(Figure 3.13

and Table 3.10).

Regional results indicate that the Central Region exhibits the highest dropout rate at 2.3 percent, in comparison to the Southern and Northern Regions, each with a rate of 1.3 percent. (Table 3.10).

Figure 3.13: Dropout Rate and Reason for Drop Out - Primary Education



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

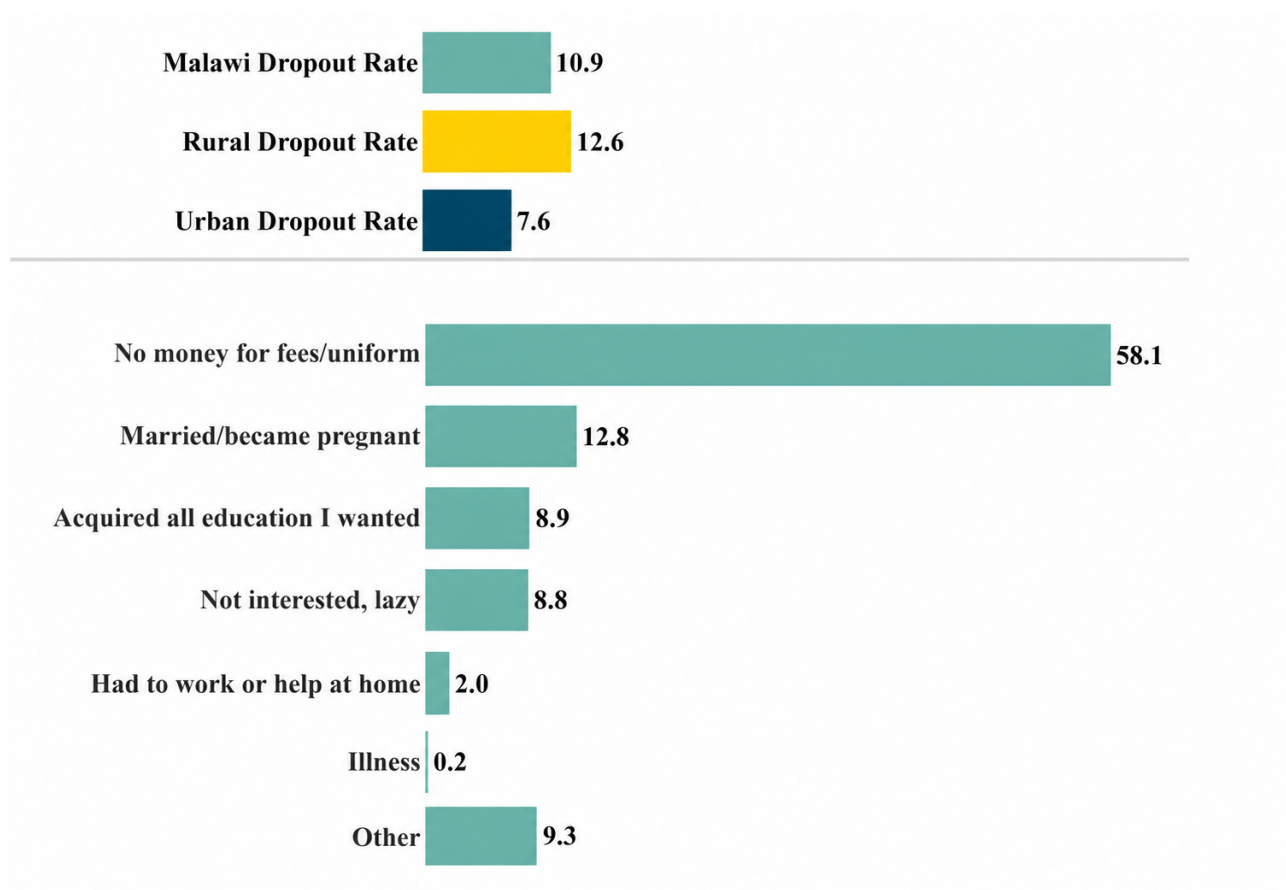
3.7.2 Dropout Rate-Secondary Education

The dropout rate in secondary schools in Malawi is 10.9 percent. An analysis by place of residence indicates that rural areas exhibit a higher dropout rate (12.6 percent) in comparison to urban areas, which have a rate of 7.6 percent. (Figure 3.14 and Table 3.11).

The results further indicate that 58.1 percent of students who discontinue their education at the secondary level cite financial constraints as the primary reason for their dropout. Additionally, 12.8 percent of students withdraw due to pregnancy or early marriages and 9.3 percent due to other reasons such as found work, parents told them to stop, failed promotion exam, dismissed and poor school facilities. (Figure 3.14 and Table 3.11).

Results by region indicate that the Central Region has the highest dropout rate at 12.5 percent, in comparison to the Southern and Northern Regions, which have rates of 11.1 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively. (Table 3.11).

Figure 3.14: Dropout Rate and Reason for Drop Out - Secondary Education



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Key messages

- Over thirty-five percent of individuals report experiencing illness or injury within the two weeks preceding the survey, with a greater prevalence observed in rural areas (36.1 percent) compared to urban areas (31.4 percent). The Southern Region records the highest incidence at 37.0 percent.
- Malaria and fever remain the predominant causes of illness, constituting 39.3 percent of reported cases. They are followed by sore throat and influenza, which together account for 22.1 percent, while stomach aches account for 8.2 percent.
- Informal care continues to be the primary method of addressing health issues, with 46.3 percent of individuals obtaining treatment from local pharmacies or grocery outlets, compared to 28.3 percent who seek assistance from government health facilities.
- Chronic illnesses affect 8.1 percent of the population, with HIV/AIDS (27.3 percent) and asthma (25.6 percent) among the most frequently reported conditions.

4.1 Incidence of sickness

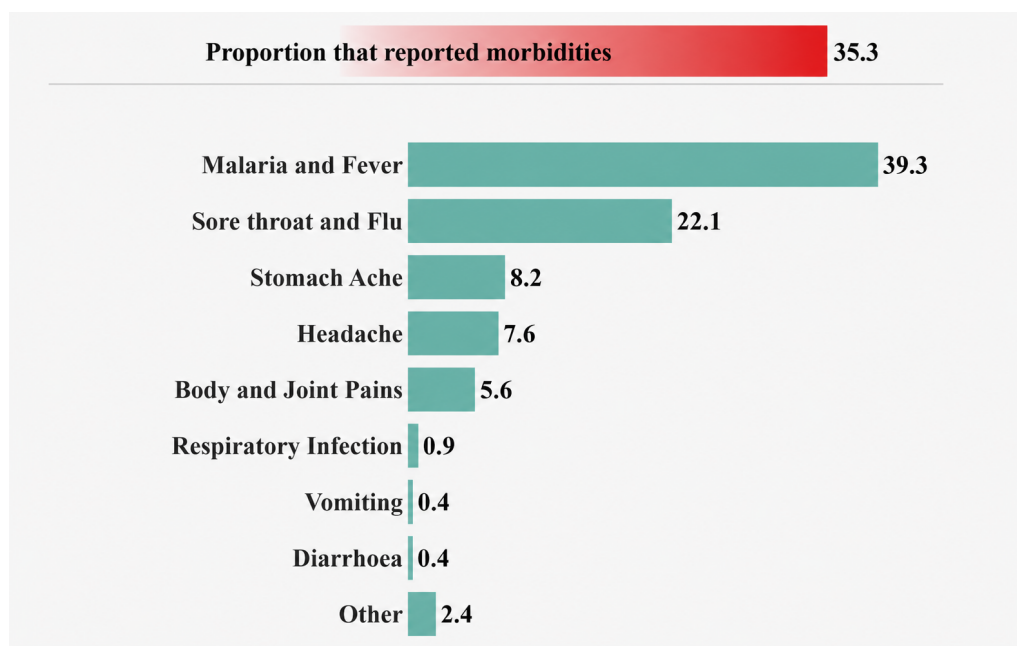
Overall, 35.3 percent of people report experiencing an illness or injury in the two weeks before the interview. Specifically, 36.1 percent in rural areas and 31.4 percent in urban areas report such conditions. (Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1).

At the regional level, the Southern Region demonstrates the highest proportion (37.0 percent) of individuals experiencing illness or injury, followed by the Northern Region (36.6 percent), while the Central Region reports the lowest proportion at 33.3 percent. (Table 4.1).

4.1.1 Major types of reported Morbidities

The survey examines the primary illnesses affecting individuals. Among those affected, 39.3 percent report fever and malaria, followed by sore throat and flu at 22.1 percent, and stomach ache at 8.2 percent. (Figure 4.1 and Table 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Proportion of Persons Reporting Illness/Injury and Percentage Distribution of Top Most Reported Diseases

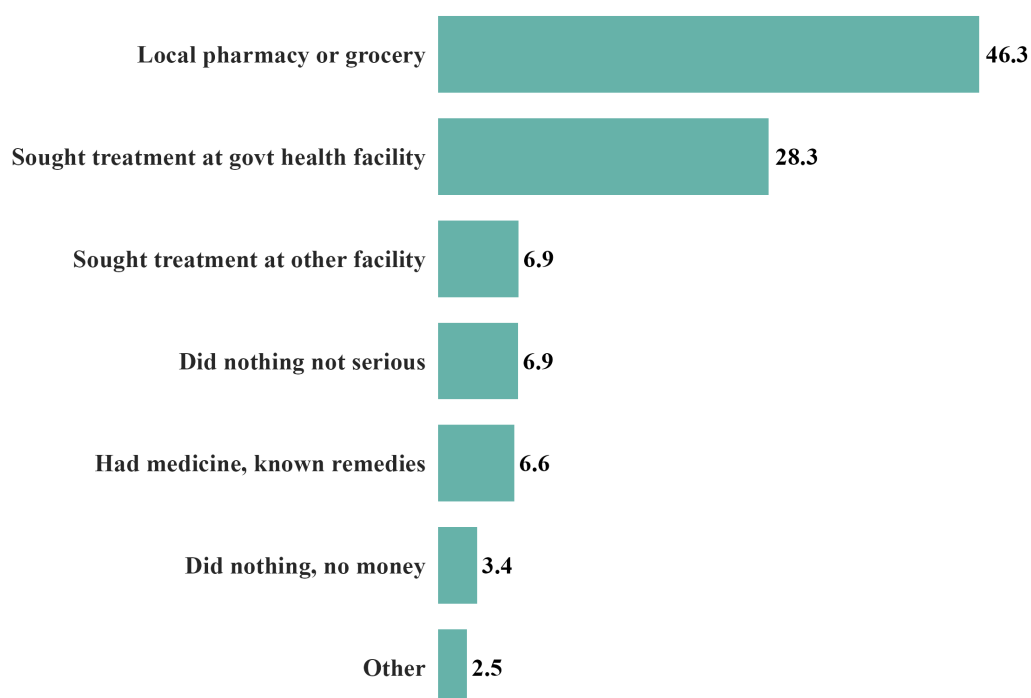


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

4.1.2 Action Taken in the Face of Illness or Injury

When asked about the actions taken by individuals who experience illness or injury in the two weeks prior to the survey, approximately 46.3 percent of respondents report seeking treatment at a local pharmacy or grocery store. This is followed by respondents who seek treatment at a government health facility, representing 28.3 percent. A smaller proportion of individuals seek treatment at another health-care facility (6.9 percent) or use traditional remedies or medication at home (6.6 percent). Conversely, a small percentage do not seek treatment due to financial constraints (3.4 percent). (Figure 4.2 and Table 4.2).

Figure 4.2: Actions Taken in Face of Illness/Injury



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence indicates that the majority of individuals seek treatment at a local pharmacy or grocery store, representing 50.6 percent in urban areas and 45.4 percent in rural areas. The second most common option is seeking treatment at a government health facility, with a higher proportion in rural areas (29.5 percent) compared to urban areas (22.3 percent). (Table 4.2).

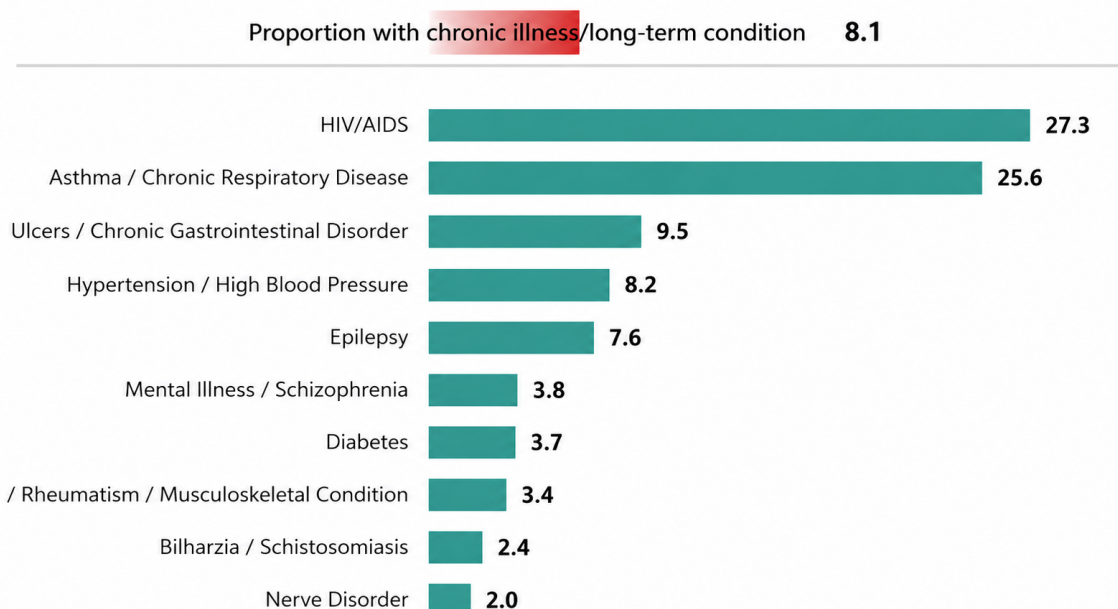
By region, among individuals who seek treatment at government facilities, the highest proportion is observed in the Northern Region, accounting for 43.1 percent. This is followed by the Southern Region at 31.9 percent. The Central Region records the lowest proportion, with only 16.3 percent of individuals seeking care at government facilities. (Table 4.2).

4.2 Incidence of Chronic Illness

Chronic illnesses are characterized by their prolonged duration, often exhibiting a gradual onset and exerting long-term adverse effects on health. This section presents the overall proportion of individuals reporting chronic illness, as well as the top ten reported chronic conditions among those affected.

The overall prevalence of reported chronic illness in Malawi is 8.1 percent. A higher proportion of individuals in female-headed households report chronic illness, at 8.7 percent, compared with 7.4 percent among individuals in male-headed households. (Figure 4.3 and Table 4.3).

Figure 4.3: Proportion of Persons Reporting Chronic Illness and Top Ten Reported Chronic Illnesses



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

At the regional level, 10.3 percent of individuals in the Southern Region report chronic illness, followed by 7.2 percent in the Northern Region and 6 percent in the Central Region. (Table 4.3).

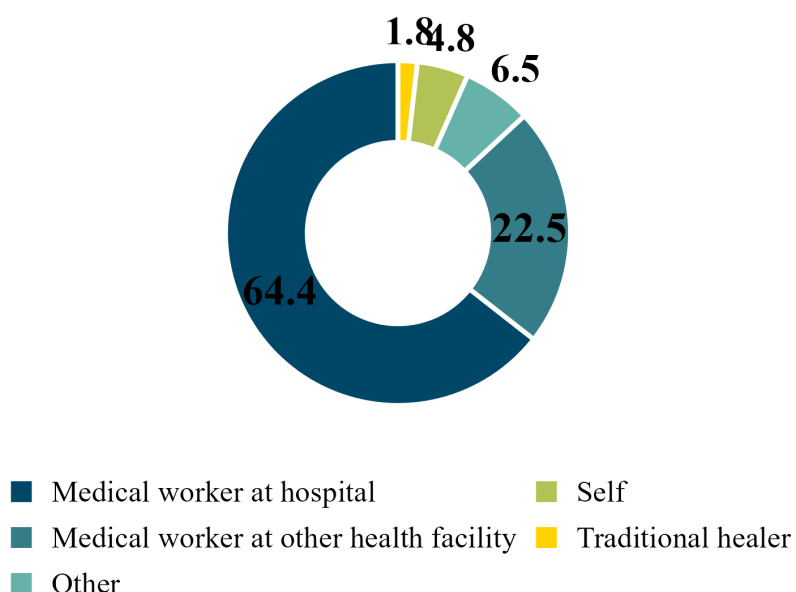
4.2.1 Commonly reported Morbidity

Among individuals reporting chronic illness, the top ten reported conditions are shown in Figure 4.3. HIV/AIDS is the most commonly reported condition, accounting for 27.3 percent, followed by asthma at 25.6 percent. Chronic gastrointestinal disorders account for 9.5 percent, while hypertension and epilepsy account for 8.2 percent and 7.6 percent, respectively. Other conditions among the top ten are mental illness at 3.8 percent, diabetes at 3.7 percent, arthritis/rheumatism at 3.4 percent, tuberculosis at 1.5 percent, and stroke at 0.6 percent. (Figure 4.3 and Table 4.3).

4.2.2 Diagnosis of Chronic Illnesses

The survey gathers data on the use of healthcare personnel in diagnosing chronic illnesses. The findings show that 64.4 percent of individuals are diagnosed by medical staff at hospitals, followed by 22.5 percent whose conditions are diagnosed by medical personnel at other healthcare facilities, and 4.8 percent who self-diagnose. (Figure 4.4 and Table 4.6).

Figure 4.4: Percentage Distribution of Persons Who Diagnose Chronic Illnesses



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Regarding place of residence, a greater proportion of individuals in urban areas (76.0 percent) are diagnosed by medical professionals at hospitals, compared to 62.1 percent in rural areas. Conversely, diagnoses by medical professionals at other health facilities are higher in rural areas at 24.3 percent, compared to 13.6 percent in urban areas. (Table 4.6).

The Northern and Central Regions exhibit higher proportions of individuals whose illnesses are diagnosed by medical professionals at hospitals (67.7 percent and 65.0 percent, respectively), compared to the Southern Region at 63.5 percent. (Table 4.6).

4.3 Reproductive Health

This section provides detailed information on place of delivery and type of birth assistance for children under the age of five.

4.3.1 Place of Delivery

In Malawi, nearly all births for children under five occur in healthcare facilities, with 96.9 percent delivered in hospitals, 3.0 percent at home, and 0.1 percent in other locations. Urban areas have a slightly higher rate of hospital deliveries (98.4 percent) compared to rural areas (96.6 percent). Conversely, home births are more common in rural areas (3.3 percent) than in urban areas (1.6 percent).

Regional data show that the Central Region (97.9 percent) and the Northern Region (97.8 percent) have the highest proportions of hospital deliveries. Conversely, the Southern Region has a lower hospital delivery rate at 95.8 percent and a correspondingly higher rate of home deliveries at 4.2 percent. (Table 4.7).

4.3.2 Type of assistance during delivery

Regarding the category of healthcare professionals involved in childbirth assistance for children under five years of age, the findings indicate that the majority of deliveries are assisted by qualified health

personnel. Specifically, 71.8 percent of deliveries are assisted by nurses or midwives, while 24.5 percent are assisted by doctors or clinical officers. Assistance by unskilled providers, such as traditional birth attendants, relatives, or self-delivery, remains minimal, constituting less than 3 percent. (Table 4.8).

District-level patterns indicate localized variations, with districts such as Mchinji, Chiradzulu, Phalombe, and Blantyre City demonstrating higher levels of physician involvement in birth deliveries, exceeding 38 percent. Conversely, districts including Mwanza, Chikwawa, and Mzimba predominantly rely on nurses or midwives, exceeding 82 percent. (Table 4.8).

4.4 Use of bed nets

At the national level, 74.8 percent of households report that at least one member sleeps under a bed net, while 95.9 percent of households with children under the age of five report that all such children sleep under a bed net. Bed net use varies only slightly between urban and rural areas, with rural households slightly exceeding urban households overall (75.0 percent versus 74.2 percent). However, urban areas have higher coverage among children under five (96.9 percent) compared to rural households (95.7 percent). (Table 4.9).

Regional and district patterns indicate that the Southern Region has the highest overall bed net use at 82.2 percent, whereas the Northern Region records the lowest at 63.4 percent. Coverage among children under five years remains consistently high across all regions, exceeding 94 percent. Dzaleka Camp has comparatively lower overall coverage, with 67.6 percent of households reporting any bed net use and 87.2 percent coverage among children under five.

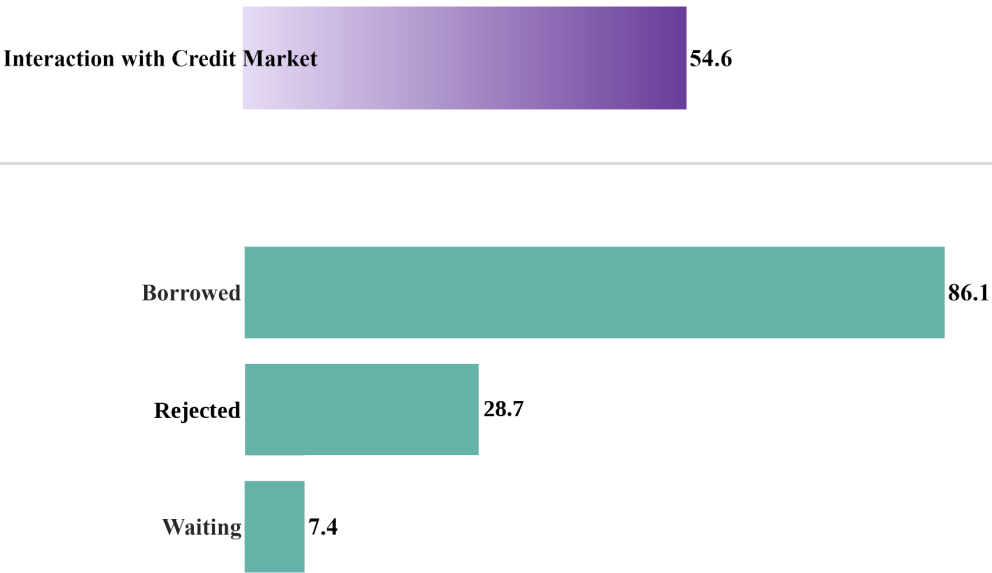
Key messages

- Approximately 54.6 percent of households in Malawi interacted with the credit market within the twelve months prior to the survey.
- Among households that apply for loans, the majority are successful, with 86.1 percent receiving loan approval and funds. However, 45.4 percent of households do not apply for loans.
- Consumption remains the principal motive for borrowing, accounting for 55.0 percent of loans. This is followed by household non-farm expenditure at 14.9 percent and business capital at 11.0 percent. Borrowing for productive agricultural purposes remains relatively low.
- Household borrowing in Malawi is primarily sourced from informal and community-based channels, with village banks (35.8 percent), neighbours (21.9 percent), and relatives (20.5 percent) serving as the main providers of credit. Formal financial institutions play a limited role.

5.1 Households and the Credit Market

Overall, 54.6 percent of households in Malawi apply for loans within the twelve months preceding the survey. Among households that apply, 86.1 percent receive loan approval and funds. In addition, 28.7 percent experience rejection of at least one loan application, while 7.4 percent still have pending applications at the time of the survey. These outcome categories may overlap where households submit more than one loan application. (Figure 5.1).

Figure 5.1: Credit Market Interaction

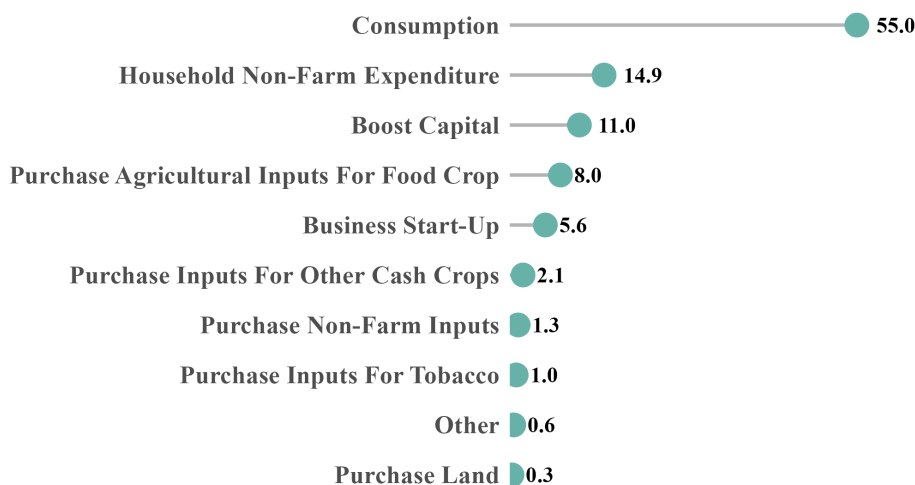


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

5.2 Reasons for Obtaining a Loan

When asked about the reasons for obtaining loans, the majority of households indicate consumption as the primary reason, accounting for 55.0 percent. This is followed by household non-farm expenditure at 14.9 percent and efforts to boost business capital at 11.0 percent. The least frequently cited purposes include the purchase of non-farm inputs (1.3 percent), purchase of inputs for tobacco (1.0 percent), and land acquisition (0.3 percent). (Figure 5.2 and Table 5.1).

Figure 5.2: Reasons for Obtaining a Loan



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 55.8 percent of rural households and 50.7 percent of urban households use credit primarily for consumption purposes.

The purchase of agricultural inputs for food crops constitutes the second most common reason in rural areas, at 8.6 percent, compared to 4.8 percent in urban areas. Business start-up ranks third among both rural and urban households, accounting for 5.6 percent and 5.9 percent, respectively. (Table 5.1).

Analysis by region indicates that borrowing is lowest in the Northern Region (44.0 percent), with comparable proportions in the Central Region (47.3 percent) and Southern Region (47.4 percent). (Table 5.1).

The Southern Region has the highest proportion of loans designated for consumption at 59.8 percent and the lowest proportion for agricultural inputs for food crops at 5.5 percent. The Central Region records higher proportions for agricultural inputs for food crops at 10.8 percent and business start-up activities at 5.8 percent. The Northern Region records higher proportions for inputs related to tobacco at 2.8 percent and household non-farm expenditure at 20.2 percent, with a comparatively lower consumption share of 44.6 percent. (Table 5.1).

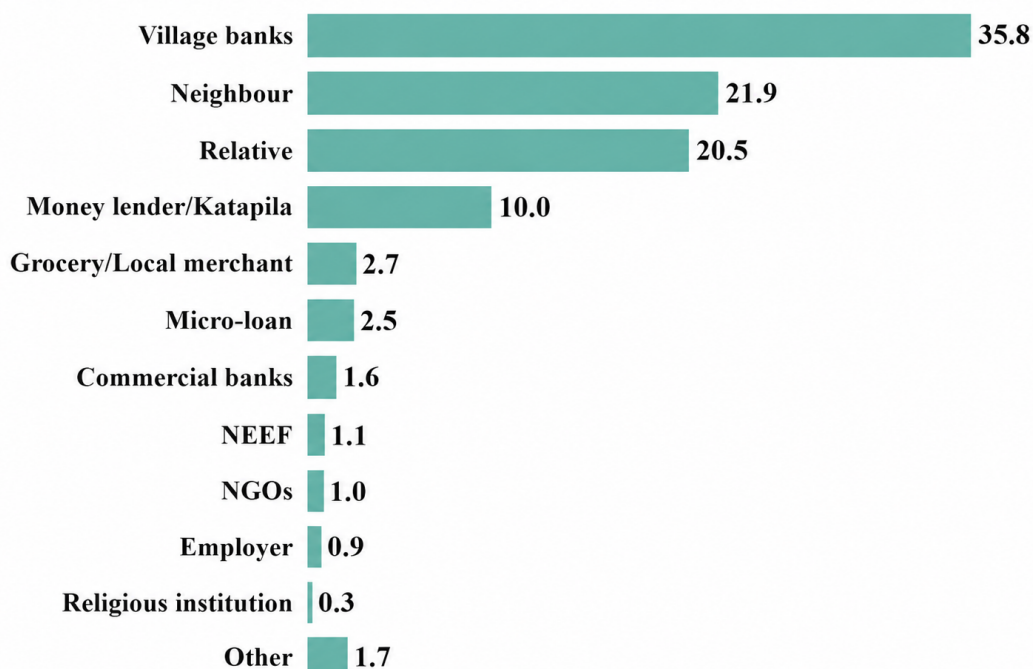
Analysis by sex of the household head indicates that borrowing is marginally higher among male-headed households (47.3 percent) than among female-headed households (46.2 percent). (Table 5.1).

Female-headed households have a higher proportion of loans for consumption (59.6 percent) and business start-up (5.9 percent). Conversely, male-headed households have a higher proportion of loans for agricultural inputs for food crops (9.0 percent), as well as comparable proportions for boosting capital (11.2 percent) and household non-farm expenditure (15.0 percent). (Table 5.1).

5.3 Sources of Loan

The findings indicate that household borrowing in Malawi is primarily conducted through community-based channels. At the national level, the three main sources of loans are village banks, which account for 35.8 percent; neighbours, at 21.9 percent; and relatives, at 20.5 percent. These informal networks continue to serve as the main framework for household credit. The least prevalent source at the national level is religious institutions, which account for 0.3 percent of loans. (Figure 5.3 and Table 5.2).

Figure 5.3: Percentage Distribution of Sources of Loans



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In urban areas, neighbours constitute the main source of loans at 32.6 percent, followed by village banks at 27.8 percent and relatives at 12.8 percent. Religious institutions are the least prevalent source in urban areas, accounting for 0.1 percent. In rural areas, village banks are the main source at 37.3 percent, followed by relatives at 21.9 percent and neighbours at 19.9 percent. Finca represents the least common source in rural areas, at 0.4 percent. (Table 5.2).

In the Northern Region, village banks constitute the main source at 43.9 percent, followed by neighbours at 23.9 percent and relatives at 15.3 percent. In the Central Region, village banks lead at 37.6 percent, followed by neighbours at 21.6 percent and relatives at 16.8 percent. In the Southern Region, village banks account for 32.8 percent, relatives for 24.4 percent, and neighbours for 21.7 percent. (Table 5.2).

Analysis by sex of the household head indicates that female-headed households use village banks as a source at a higher rate (42.0 percent) than male-headed households (33.3 percent). Religious institutions constitute the least common source among female-headed households, accounting for 0.1 percent. (Table 5.2).

Overall, these findings underscore the predominance of informal and community-based sources of credit, with formal financial institutions playing a minimal role in household borrowing.

5.4 Households that Never Applied for Loans

Overall, approximately 45 percent of households never apply for a loan. The national proportion is 45.4 percent, with rural households also at 45.4 percent and urban households at 45.7 percent. (Figure 5.4 and Table 5.3).

Analysis by region indicates that the Northern Region has the highest proportion of households that never apply for a loan, at 52.2 percent, followed by the Central Region at 44.9 percent and the Southern Region at 44.2 percent. (Figure 5.4 and Table 5.3).

Among male-headed households, 44.7 percent never apply for a loan, compared to 47.2 percent of female-headed households. (Figure 5.4 and Table 5.3).

Figure 5.4: Proportion that Never Applied for a Loan

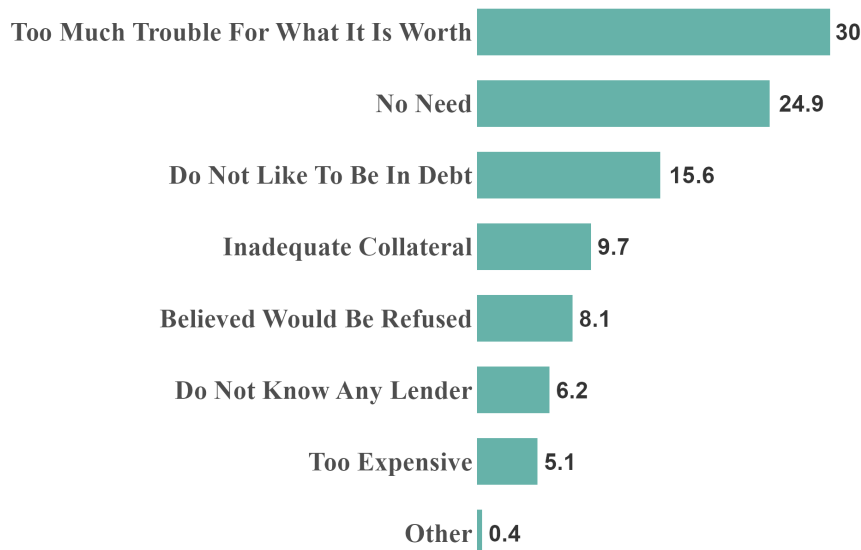


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

5.5 Reasons for Not Applying for a Loan

Overall, the most frequently reported reason for not applying for a loan is that borrowing is considered too much trouble for what it is worth, reported by 30.0 percent of households. This is followed by no need for a loan at 24.9 percent and a preference to avoid debt at 15.6 percent. Among the specified reasons, the least cited reason is that loans are too expensive, at 5.1 percent. (Figure 5.5 and Table 5.3).

Figure 5.5: Reasons for Never Applying for a Loan



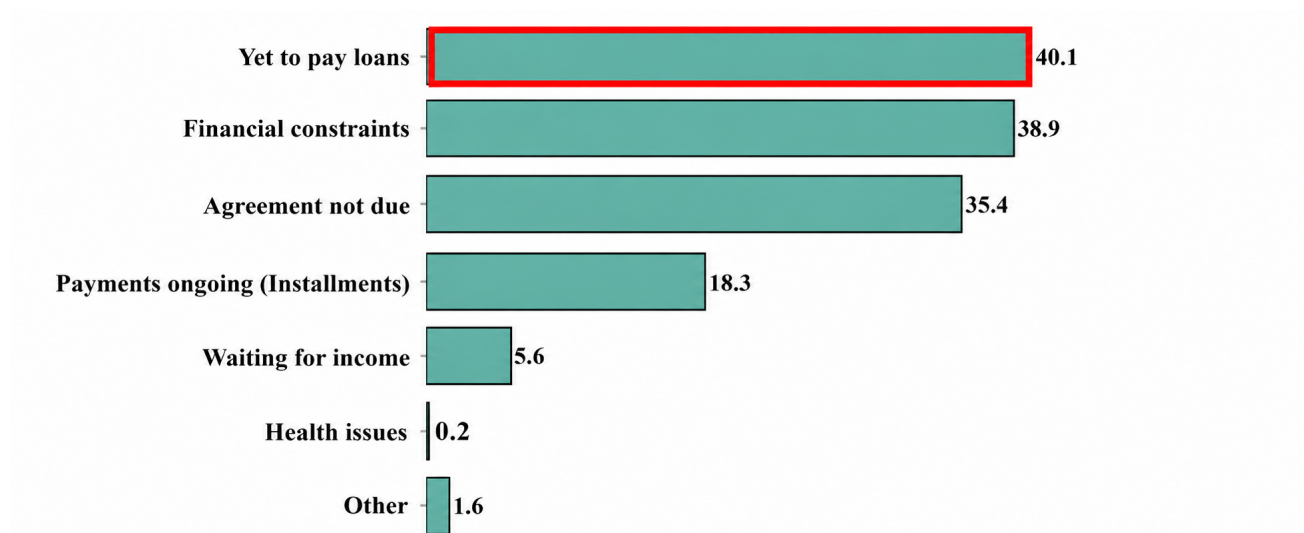
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

5.6 Households with Outstanding Loan Balances and Reasons for Not Fully Repaying the Loans

The results show the proportion of households that successfully secure loans and still have outstanding balances at the time of the survey. At the national level, 40.1 percent of households with loans have not fully repaid them.

The main reason is financial constraints, cited by 38.9 percent of households. This is followed by 35.4 percent who report that repayment is not yet due according to the loan agreement, and 18.3 percent of loan borrowers who are still paying in installments. (Figure 5.6 and Table 5.4).

Figure 5.6: Loan Repayment Status



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Disaggregation by place of residence indicates that urban households have a higher proportion of outstanding loan balances at 42.7 percent, compared to 39.6 percent among rural households. (Table 5.4).

The Southern Region records the highest proportion at 40.8 percent, followed by the Central Region at 39.8 percent and the Northern Region at 38.3 percent. (Table 5.4).

Among male-headed households, 39.4 percent have not fully repaid their loans, compared to 41.9 percent of female-headed households. (Table 5.4).

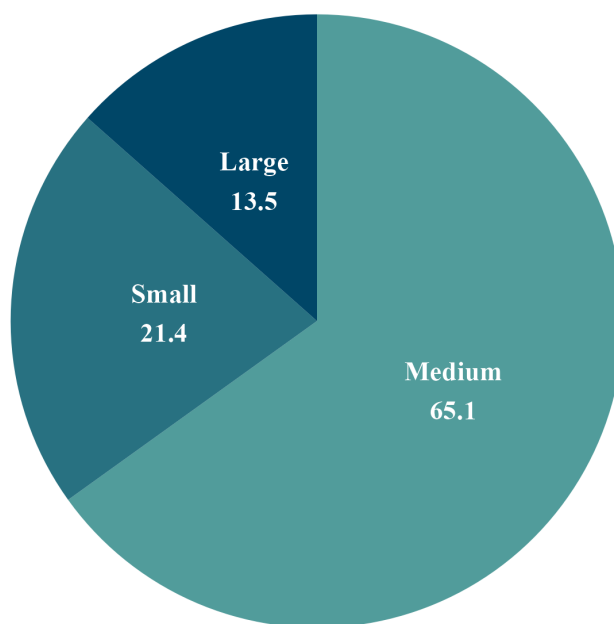
5.7 Loan Size Categories

This section presents the distribution of loans acquired by households, classified into three categories: small loans (less than MK10,000), medium loans (MK10,000–MK50,000), and large loans (exceeding MK50,000).

The majority of loans fall within the medium category, accounting for 65.1 percent of all reported loans. Small loans account for 21.4 percent, while large loans account for 13.5 percent. (Figure 5.7).

Analysis by sex indicates that medium loans predominate in both male-headed and female-headed households, accounting for 68.0 percent and 67.7 percent, respectively. Small loans account for 15.8 percent among male-headed households and 20.9 percent among female-headed households, while large loans account for 16.1 percent and 11.4 percent, respectively. (Figure 5.7).

Figure 5.7: Loan Size



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Key messages

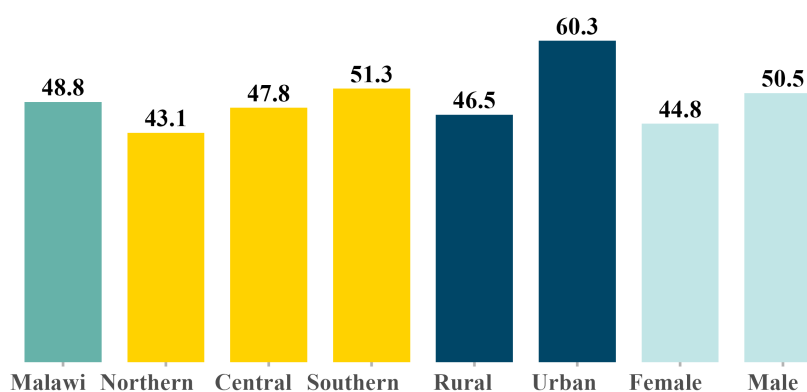
- Approximately 48.8 percent of households in Malawi operate non-farm enterprises, with participation higher in urban areas (60.3 percent) than in rural areas (46.5 percent).
- Household non-farm enterprises are mainly concentrated in wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, and food services (55.5 percent), followed by manufacturing (27.7 percent).
- Start-up capital for non-farm enterprises mainly comes from own savings, including non-agricultural savings (31.1 percent) and agricultural savings (24.4 percent), indicating limited reliance on formal financing.
- Formal registration and employment generation remain low, with only 4.0 percent of enterprises registered with an official authority and 92.4 percent not engaging any non-household members.

A non-farm enterprise refers to a household-owned income-generating activity that is outside own-farm production. This includes activities carried out from residences or household-operated establishments, such as shops, car washing, metalwork, mechanical services, carpentry, tailoring, and barbering. It also includes trading activities involving the buying and selling of agricultural products such as maize, rice, or groundnuts. The enterprises considered are those that operate within the 12 months preceding the interview and are owned by household members.

6.1 Households operating non-farm enterprises

The findings indicate that 48.8 percent of households in Malawi operate non-farm enterprises. This proportion is higher among urban households, at 60.3 percent, than among rural households, at 46.5 percent. At the regional level, the Southern Region reports the highest proportion of households operating non-farm enterprises, at 51.3 percent. This is followed by the Central Region at 47.8 percent and the Northern Region at 43.1 percent. (Figure 6.1 and Table 6.1).

Figure 6.1: Proportion that Operated a Non-farm Enterprise

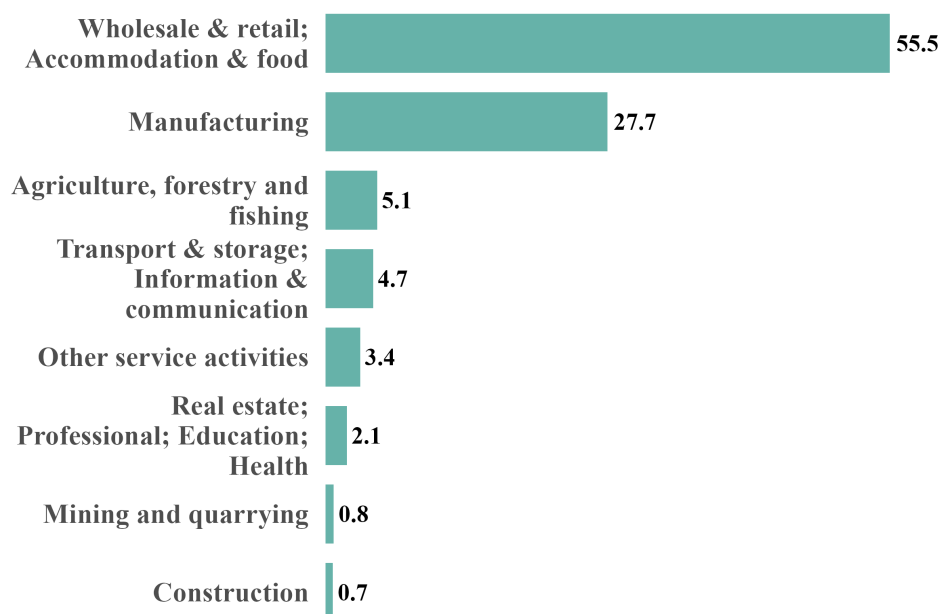


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

6.2 Activities of Household Non-farm Enterprises

Most household non-farm enterprises operate in wholesale and retail trade, accommodation, and food services, representing 55.5 percent. Manufacturing follows at 27.7 percent, while agriculture, forestry, and fishing account for 5.1 percent. Construction records the smallest share, at 0.7 percent. (Figure 6.2 and Table 6.1).

Figure 6.2: Main Industry of Non-farm Enterprises Operated by Households



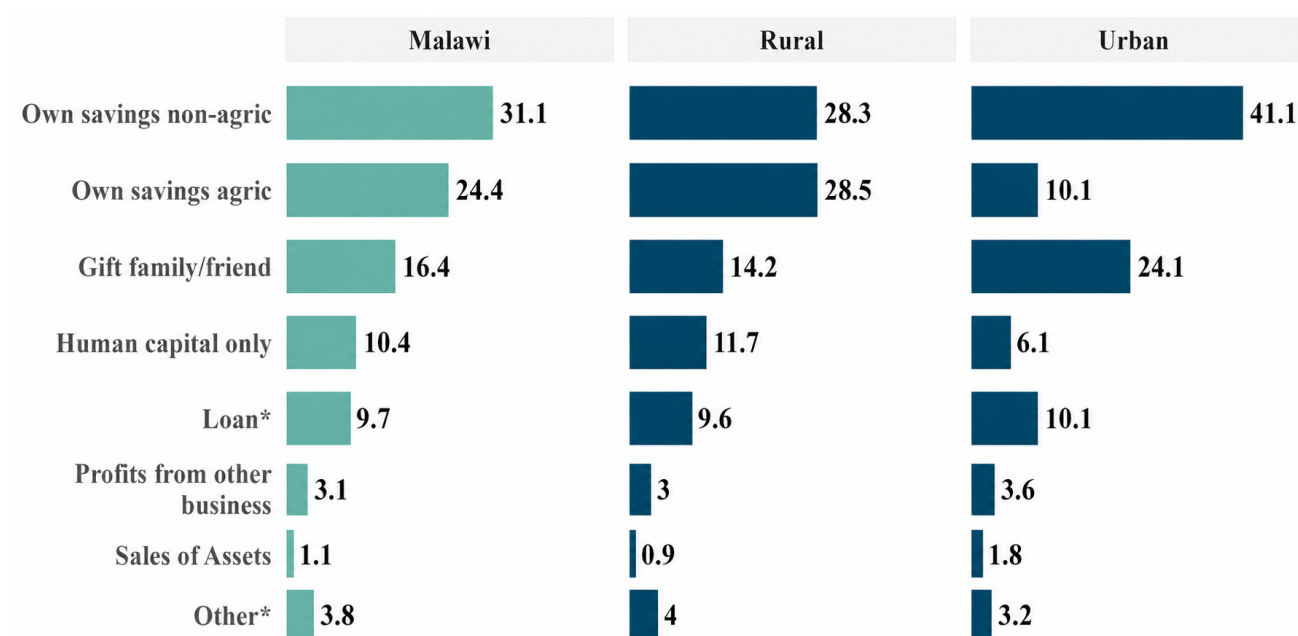
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

6.3 Source of start-up capital

Start-up capital is an important requirement for establishing non-farm enterprises. Funding may come from various sources, including own savings, loans, gifts, or other sources.

The findings indicate that the main sources of start-up capital are own savings from non-agricultural activities (26.8 percent), own savings from agricultural activities (24.4 percent), and gifts from family or friends (16.4 percent). The least reported source is the sale of assets, at 1.1 percent. (Figure 6.3 and Table 6.2).

Figure 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Sources of Start-Up Capital



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In urban areas, the main sources of start-up capital are own non-agricultural savings (38.3 percent) and gifts from family or friends (24.1 percent). In rural areas, enterprises rely mainly on own agricultural savings (28.5 percent), followed by own non-agricultural savings (23.5 percent). (Table 6.2).

At the regional level, own agricultural savings are the main source of start-up capital in the Northern Region (30.8 percent) and Central Region (29.5 percent). In the Southern Region, own non-agricultural savings are the leading source, at 27.5 percent. (Table 6.2).

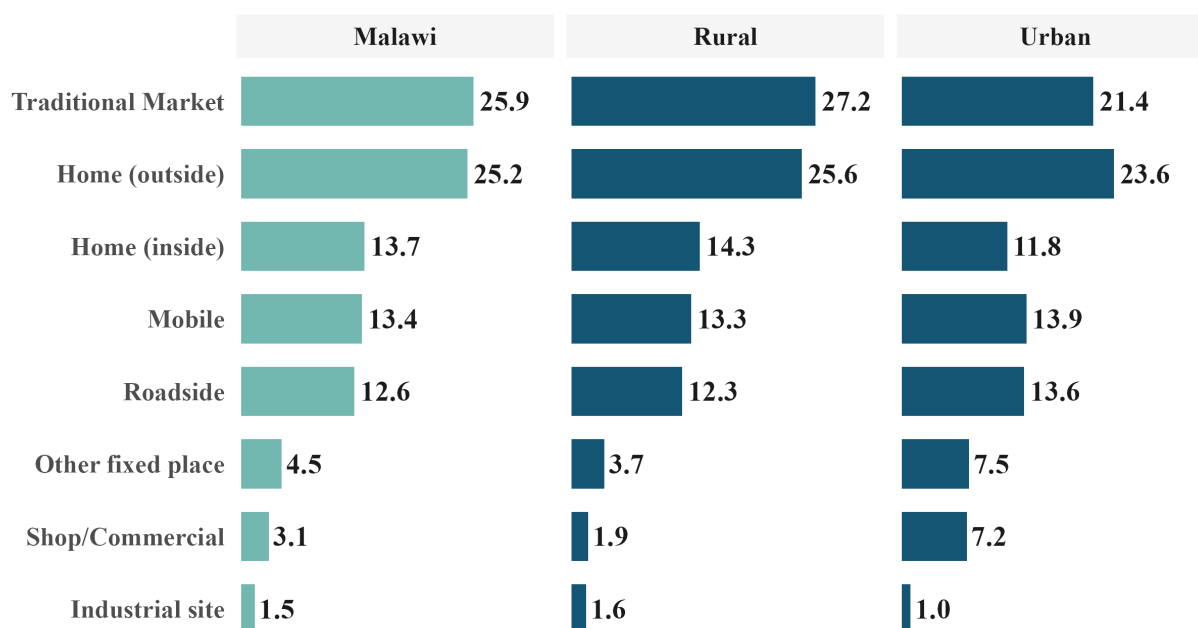
At the district level, own agricultural savings are particularly high in Chitipa (57.5 percent), Ntchisi (48.8 percent), Ntcheu (45.9 percent), Mchinji (42.4 percent), Dowa (39.5 percent), and Salima (39.2 percent). Among city areas, own non-agricultural savings constitute the largest source of start-up capital in Mzuzu City (43.1 percent), Lilongwe City (42.2 percent), Zomba City (40.6 percent), and Blantyre City (37.0 percent). (Table 6.2).

6.4 Business operating premises

Overall, 25.9 percent of non-farm enterprises operate from traditional markets, followed by those operating from home outside the residence (25.2 percent), home inside the residence (13.7 percent), and mobile enterprises (13.4 percent). (Figure 6.4 and Table 6.3).

In rural areas, 27.2 percent of enterprises operate from traditional markets, followed by home outside the residence at 25.6 percent and home inside the residence at 14.3 percent. In urban areas, the largest proportion operates from home outside the residence (23.6 percent), followed by traditional markets (21.4 percent). (Figure 6.4 and Table 6.3).

Figure 6.4: Place of Operation of Non-farm Enterprises



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

By region, the Northern and Southern Regions have the highest proportions of non-farm enterprises operating in traditional markets, at 29.8 percent and 28.3 percent, respectively, compared to 22.3 percent in the Central Region. The Central Region has the highest proportion of enterprises operating from home inside the residence, at 17.2 percent. Mobile enterprises are most common in the Northern Region, at 19.7 percent. (Table 6.3).

By sex of household head, 25.8 percent of non-farm enterprises in male-headed households operate in traditional markets. In female-headed households, the largest proportion operate from home outside the residence, at 28.6 percent. (Table 6.3).

6.5 Primary market of products and services

The results indicate that 84.2 percent of household non-farm enterprises sell their products or services directly to final customers. This is followed by 10.6 percent that sell mainly to traders and 4.3 percent that sell to other small businesses. This pattern is broadly observed across place of residence, regions, sex of household head, and districts. (Table 6.4).

In Dzaleka Camp, 90.4 percent of enterprises sell directly to final customers, while 5.3 percent sell to other small businesses and 4.3 percent sell mainly to traders. (Table 6.4).

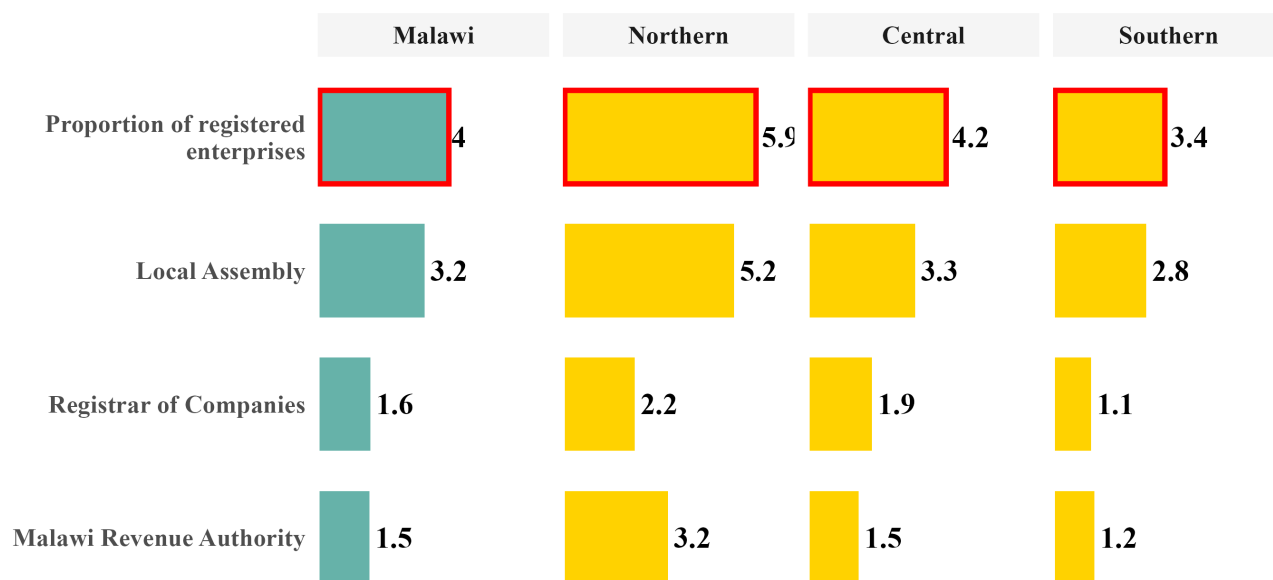
6.6 Formal registration status of enterprises

A business is considered formal if it is registered with at least one recognized authority, such as the Registrar of Companies, the Malawi Revenue Authority, or a local assembly. Enterprises that are not registered with any recognized authority are categorized as informal.

The findings indicate that only 4.0 percent of household non-farm enterprises are registered with at

least one registration authority. Registration is higher in urban areas, at 9.3 percent, than in rural areas, at 2.5 percent. (Figure 6.5 and Table 6.5).

Figure 6.5: Proportion of Registered Enterprises and Owners by Registration Agencies



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Among registration agencies, 3.2 percent of enterprises are registered with local assemblies, 1.6 percent with the Registrar of Companies, and 1.5 percent with the Malawi Revenue Authority. Across regions, the Northern Region records the highest registration rate at 5.9 percent, followed by the Central Region at 4.2 percent and the Southern Region at 3.4 percent. (Table 6.5).

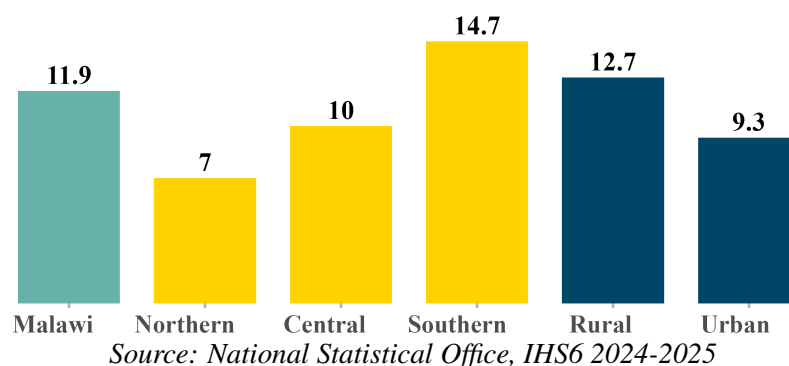
By sex of household head, registration is higher among enterprises in male-headed households (4.5 percent) than among those in female-headed households (2.5 percent). (Table 6.5).

6.7 Enterprises engaged in sales of forest-based products

Forest products play a role in supporting livelihoods and generating income in Malawi. This section presents results on non-farm enterprises engaged in the sale of forest-based products.

The results indicate that 11.9 percent of non-farm enterprises engage in the sale of forest-based products. The proportion is higher in rural areas (12.7 percent) than in urban areas (9.3 percent). (Figure 6.6 and Table 6.6).

Figure 6.6: Proportion of Enterprises Engaged in Sales of Forest-based Products

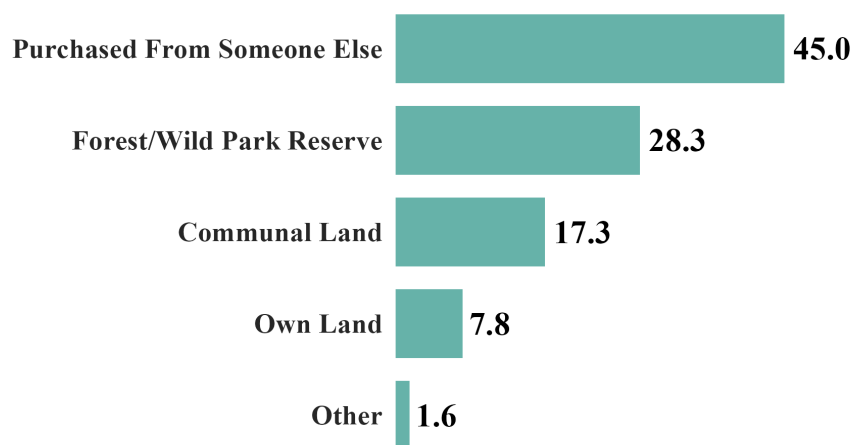


The Southern Region records the highest proportion of enterprises selling forest-based products, at 14.7 percent, followed by the Central Region at 10.0 percent and the Northern Region at 7.0 percent. At the district level, the highest proportions are observed in Chikwawa (30.8 percent), Neno (28.8 percent), Mwanza (20.0 percent), Blantyre (18.9 percent), and Machinga (18.4 percent). (Table 6.6).

6.7.1 Sources of Forest-based Products

Among enterprises engaged in the sale of forest-based products, 45.0 percent purchase the products from someone else. An additional 28.3 percent source products from forests or wildlife reserves, while 17.3 percent obtain products from communal land. A smaller proportion source products from own land (7.8 percent), and 1.6 percent report other sources. (Figure 6.7 and Table 6.6).

Figure 6.7: Sources of Forest-based Products



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In the Central Region, 57.2 percent of enterprises purchase forest-based products from someone else. In the Southern Region, 38.4 percent purchase from someone else, while 34.1 percent source products from forests or wildlife reserves. In the Northern Region, 37.8 percent purchase from someone else, and 28.0 percent source products from forests or wildlife reserves. (Table 6.6).

By place of residence, 82.7 percent of urban enterprises purchase forest-based products from someone else, compared to 37.1 percent of rural enterprises. In rural areas, 31.6 percent source products from

forests or wildlife reserves, and 20.2 percent obtain them from communal land. (Table 6.6).

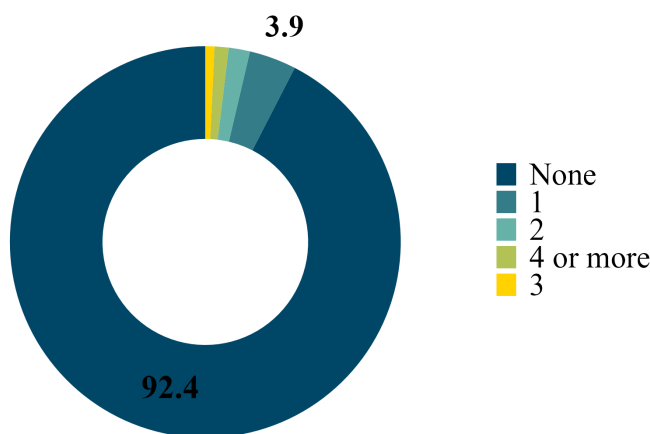
6.8 Profile of employment in household enterprises

The International Labour Organization (ILO) considers employment to include market-oriented production activities, including contributing family work in household businesses. This section focuses on non-household members engaged in household non-farm enterprises.

6.8.1 Non-household members engaged in enterprise

The results indicate that 92.4 percent of enterprises do not engage any non-household members. Among all enterprises, 3.9 percent employ one non-household member, 1.8 percent employ two, 0.8 percent employ three, and 1.2 percent employ four or more. (Figure 6.8 and Table 6.7).

Figure 6.8: Percentage Distribution of Non-Household Members Engaged in Non-farm Enterprises



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

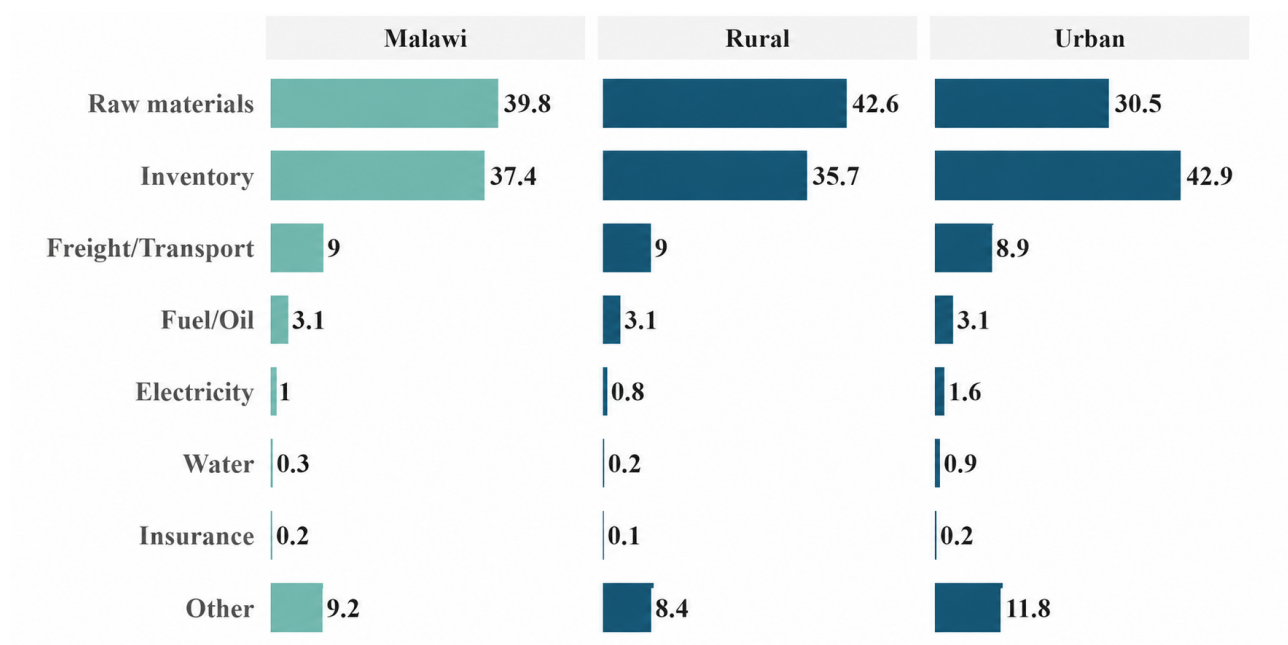
Urban enterprises are more likely than rural enterprises to engage non-household members. For example, 7.0 percent of urban enterprises employ one non-household member, compared to 3.0 percent of rural enterprises. Enterprises employing four or more non-household members account for 2.0 percent in urban areas and 0.9 percent in rural areas. (Table 6.7).

6.9 Expenses of operating household non-farm enterprises

Operating a business entails covering operating costs, including inputs, goods for resale, transport, fuel, utilities, and other expenses.

The largest share of enterprise expenditure is allocated to raw materials (39.8 percent), followed by inventory or goods purchased for resale (37.4 percent). Freight and transport account for 9.0 percent, fuel and oil for 3.1 percent, electricity and water combined for 1.3 percent, and insurance for 0.2 percent. (Figure 6.9 and Table 6.8).

Figure 6.9: Enterprise Total Expenditure by Item



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

By place of residence, urban enterprises allocate the largest share of their total expenses to inventory or goods purchased for resale (42.9 percent), while rural enterprises allocate the largest share to raw materials (42.6 percent). (Table 6.8).

At the regional level, enterprises in the Southern Region allocate 41.3 percent of total expenditure to raw materials. In the Central and Northern Regions, the largest shares are allocated to inventory or goods purchased for resale, at 40.1 percent and 32.6 percent, respectively. Expenditure on freight and transport is highest in the Northern Region, at 14.7 percent. (Table 6.8).

6.10 Ownership of non-farm enterprises

Overall, 93.3 percent of non-farm enterprises are under sole or joint ownership. The proportion is similar in urban areas (93.1 percent) and rural areas (93.4 percent). Across regions, sole or joint ownership is highest in the Central Region (94.0 percent), followed by the Northern Region (93.9 percent) and the Southern Region (92.5 percent). (Table 6.9).

By sex of household head, the proportion of enterprises under sole or joint ownership is higher among female-headed households (97.4 percent) than among male-headed households (91.9 percent). (Table 6.9).

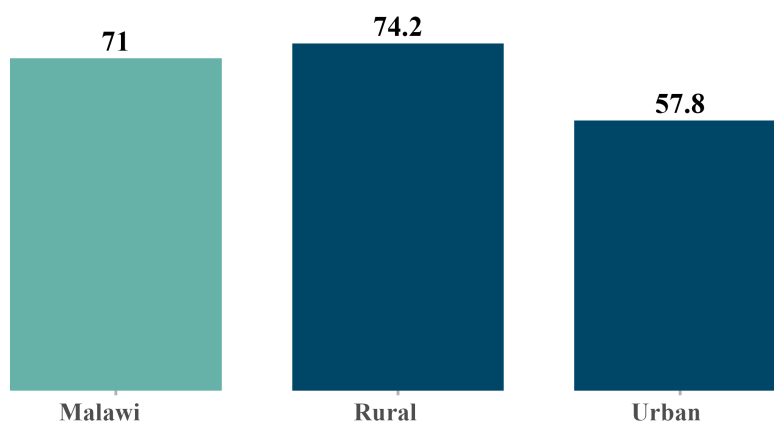
6.11 Income Generating Activities

All individuals aged 5 years and above are asked about their participation in household income-generating activities. This section focuses on persons aged 15 to 64 years.

Overall, 71.0 percent of persons aged 15 to 64 years engage in income-generating activities. Participation is higher in rural areas (74.2 percent) than in urban areas (57.8 percent). (Figure 6.10 and

Table 6.10).

Figure 6.10: Proportion of Individuals Aged between 15 and 64 Years Engaged in Income Generating Activities

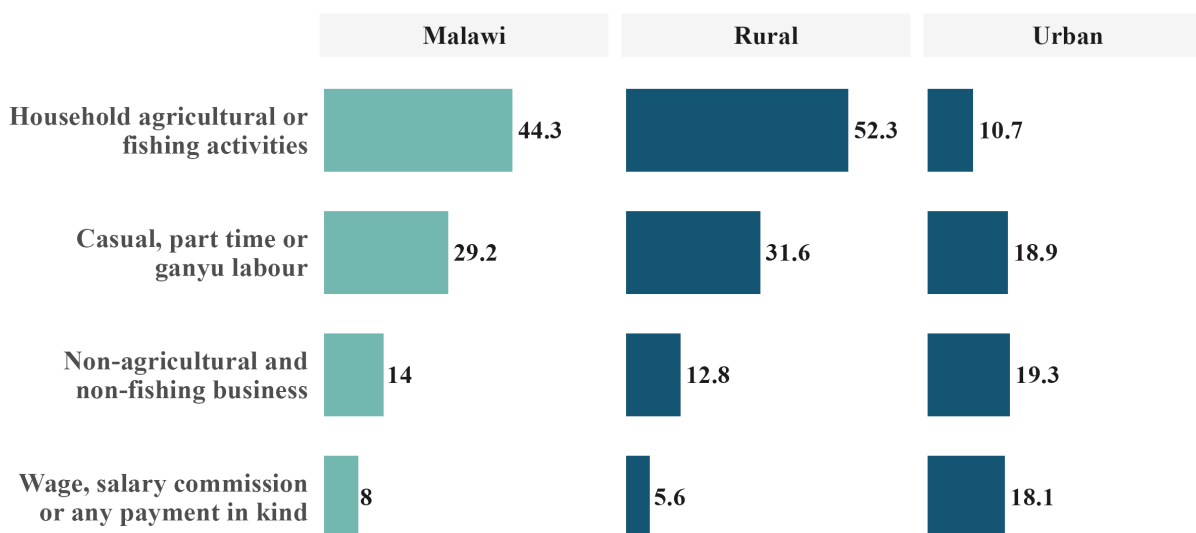


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

By sex, a greater proportion of males (75.1 percent) engage in income-generating activities compared to females (67.4 percent). Across age groups, participation is highest among persons aged 35–49 years (82.1 percent) and lowest among those aged 15–24 years (57.7 percent). (Table 6.10).

Regarding the types of activities undertaken, the largest proportion of persons aged 15 to 64 years engage in household agricultural or fishing activities (44.3 percent). This is followed by casual, part-time, or ganyu labour at 29.2 percent, non-agricultural and non-fishing business at 14.0 percent, and wage, salary, commission, or payment in kind at 8.0 percent. (Figure 6.11 and Table 6.10).

Figure 6.11: Proportion of Individuals Aged between 15 and 64 Years Engaged in Income Generating Activities by Type of Task



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

By place of residence, 52.3 percent of rural residents engage in household agricultural or fishing activities, compared to 10.7 percent of urban residents. Urban residents record a higher proportion in wage, salary, commission, or payment in kind, at 18.1 percent, compared to 5.6 percent in rural areas. (Table 6.10).

At the regional level, 75.0 percent of persons aged 15 to 64 years in the Southern Region engage in income-generating activities, followed by 70.5 percent in the Central Region and 60.0 percent in the Northern Region. (Table 6.10).

6.12 Average Weekly Hours Worked

On average, persons aged 15 to 64 years spend 5.5 hours per week on household agricultural or fishing activities, 3.9 hours on casual, part-time, or ganyu labour, 3.0 hours on non-agricultural and non-fishing business, and 2.0 hours on wage, salary, commission, or payment in kind. (Table 6.11).

By place of residence, rural residents spend more time on household agricultural or fishing activities, at 6.5 hours per week, compared to 1.0 hour among urban residents. Urban residents spend more time on wage, salary, commission, or payment in kind, at 5.0 hours per week, compared to 1.3 hours among rural residents. (Table 6.11).

By sex, males spend more time than females on casual, part-time, or ganyu labour (5.1 hours compared to 2.8 hours), non-agricultural and non-fishing business (3.3 hours compared to 2.7 hours), and wage, salary, commission, or payment in kind (2.8 hours compared to 1.3 hours). Females spend slightly more time on household agricultural or fishing activities, at 5.7 hours, compared to 5.3 hours among males. (Table 6.11).

6.13 Collection of Water and Firewood

The results indicate that 48.4 percent of persons aged 15 to 64 years collect water, while 18.1 percent collect firewood. The average time spent on the previous day is 0.4 hours for collecting water and 0.1 hours for collecting firewood. (Table 6.12).

By place of residence, collection of water and firewood is more common in rural areas than in urban areas. In rural areas, 51.5 percent collect water and 21.2 percent collect firewood, compared to 35.3 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, in urban areas. (Table 6.12).

By sex, females record higher participation in water and firewood collection than males. Overall, 73.8 percent of females collect water compared to 20.4 percent of males, while 29.0 percent of females collect firewood compared to 6.1 percent of males. (Table 6.12).

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE AND OWNERSHIP OF ASSETS

7

Key messages

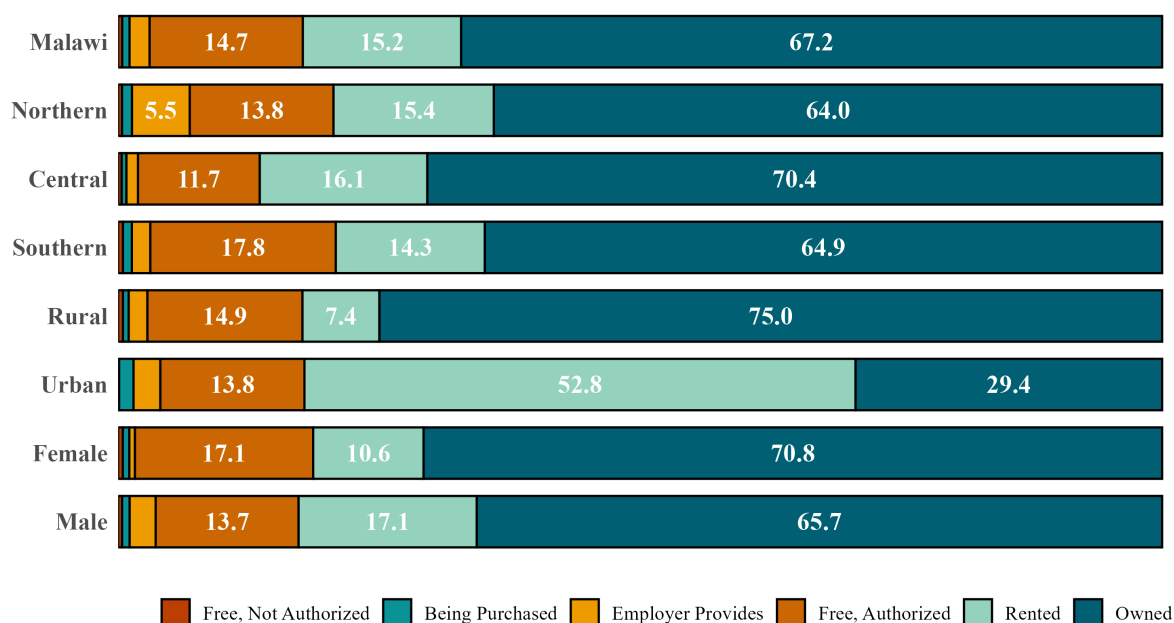
- The majority of households (67.2 percent) own their dwellings, whereas 15.2 percent are tenants.
- Approximately 15 percent of households utilize electricity for lighting purposes, while 63.6 percent depend on batteries and torches. Firewood remains the predominant cooking fuel for 75.9 percent of households.
- Approximately 91 percent of households have access to improved water sources, whereas 54.2 percent possess access to improved sanitation facilities.

7.1 Type of Housing Tenure

Housing tenure pertains to the arrangement by which households occupy their residential units, serving as a significant indicator of housing security and living conditions. This section categorizes housing tenure into owned, rented, being purchased, free authorized, employer-provided, and free non-authorized.

The results indicate that 67.2 percent of the dwelling units are privately owned, 15.2 percent are rented, 14.7 percent are provided free of charge with official authorization, and 0.7 percent are in the process of being purchased. (Figure 7.1 and Table 7.1).

Figure 7.1: Ownership Status of Dwelling



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

An analysis based on place of residence reveals that 75.0 percent of dwelling units in rural areas are owned, in contrast to 29.4 percent in urban areas. Conversely, 52.8 percent of urban dwelling units are rented, compared to only 7.4 percent in rural areas. (Figure 7.1).

Analysis the data indicating the sex of the head of household reveals that 70.8 percent of the dwelling units are owned by female-headed households, whereas 65.7 percent are owned by male-headed households. (Figure 7.1).

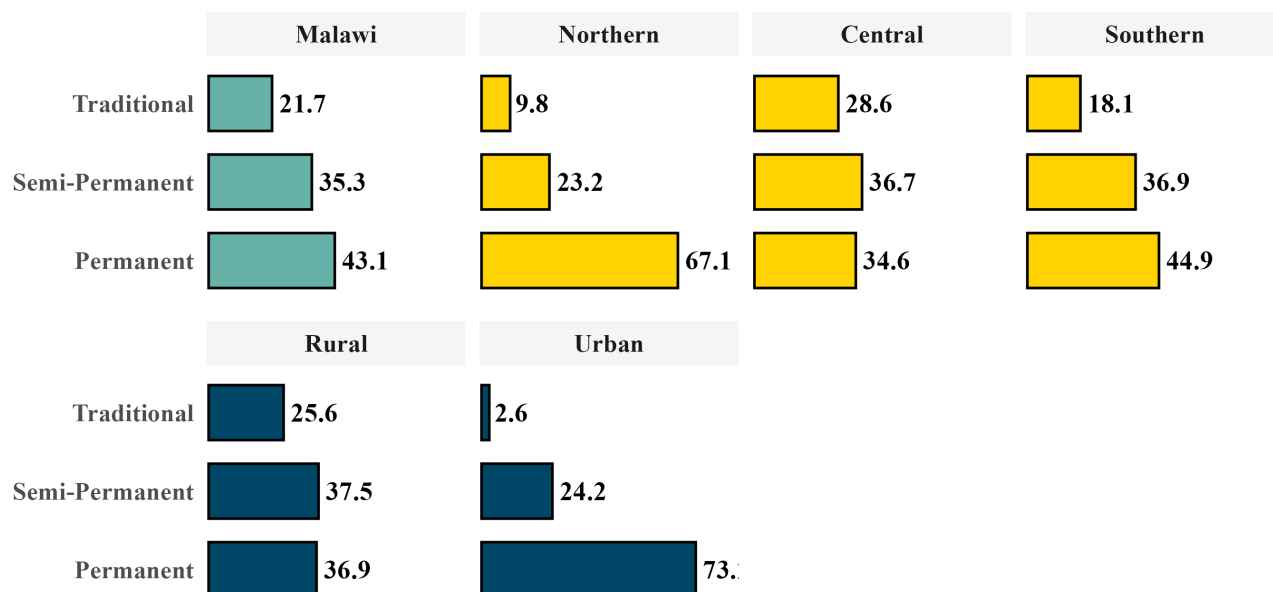
At the regional level, 70.4 percent of dwelling units in the Central Region are owned, followed by 64.9 percent in the Southern Region and 64.0 percent in the Northern Region. (Figure 7.1).

7.2 Types of Dwelling Structure

Dwelling structures are categorized into three primary groups based on the materials used for roofing and walls: permanent, semi-permanent, and traditional. A permanent structure is constructed using durable roofing materials such as iron sheets and robust walling materials like fired bricks. A semi-permanent structure lacks one of these materials. A traditional structure lacks both of these materials.

The survey results indicate that 43.1 percent of the primary dwelling units in Malawi are permanent structures, followed by semi-permanent structures at 35.3 percent, and traditional structures accounting for 21.7 percent. (Figure 7.2 and Table 7.2).

Figure 7.2: Type of Dwelling Structure



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 73.2 percent of main dwelling units in urban areas are permanent structures compared to 36.9 percent in rural areas. Traditional structures account for 25.6 percent of dwelling units in rural areas in contrast to 2.6 percent in urban areas. (Figure 7.2).

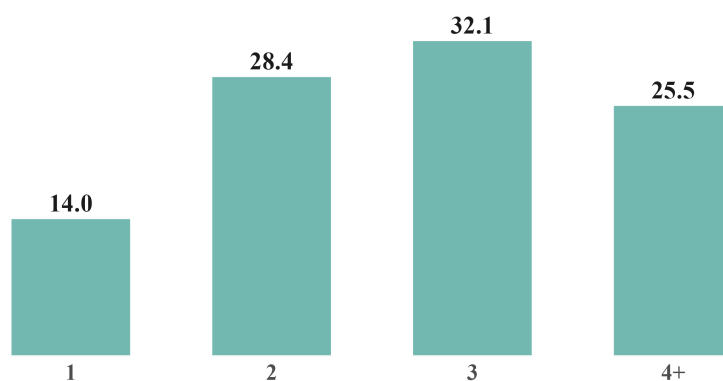
The Northern Region has the highest proportion (67.1 percent) of permanent structures, followed by the Southern Region at 44.9 percent and the Central Region at 34.6 percent.

7.3 Room Occupancy

This section captures number of separate rooms household members occupy. Overall, 32.1 percent of households have three rooms shared by household members, followed by 28.4 percent of households with two rooms for the household. (Figure 7.3 and Table 7.3).

At the regional level, the highest proportion (32.2 percent) of households have two rooms persons reported in the Central Region, followed by the Southern Region at 27.1 percent and the Northern Region at 19.6 percent. (Table 7.3).

Figure 7.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Number of Rooms Occupied by Members



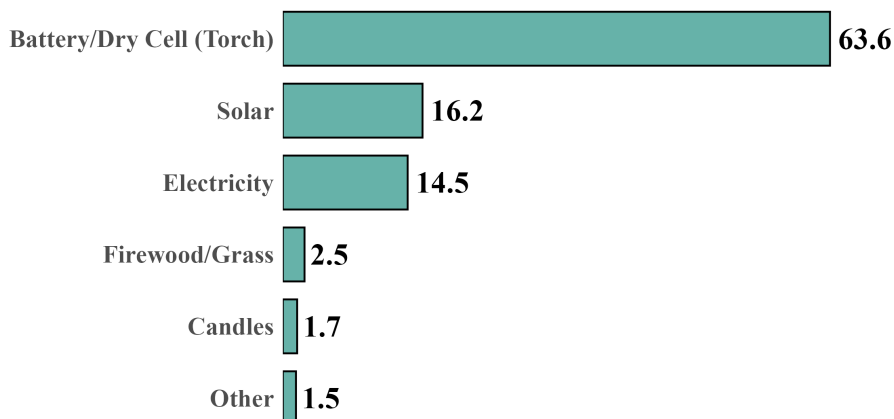
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

7.4 Source of Energy for Lighting

This section analyzes the primary sources of energy utilized for household lighting, encompassing batteries/dry cells (torch), solar energy, electricity, firewood or grass, and candles.

A greater percentage of households (63.6 percent) utilize battery/dry cell (torch) for lighting, followed by 16.2 percent that employ solar energy, and 14.5 percent that rely on electricity. A greater percentage of households (63.6 percent) utilize battery/dry cell (torch) for lighting, followed by 16.2 percent that employ solar energy, and 14.5 percent that rely on electricity. (Figure 7.4 and Table 7.4).

Figure 7.4: Main Fuels for Lighting



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

An analysis based on the place of residence indicates that 70.8 percent of households in rural areas utilize batteries or dry cells (torches) for illumination, whereas only 28.6 percent of urban households do so. Conversely, 56.5 percent of urban households have access to electricity, in comparison to merely 5.8 percent of rural households. (Table 7.4).

At the district level, Phalombe exhibits the highest percentage (80.9 percent) of households utilizing battery or dry cell (torches) for illumination, followed by Machinga (77.8 percent) and Thyolo (77.4 percent). (Table 7.4).

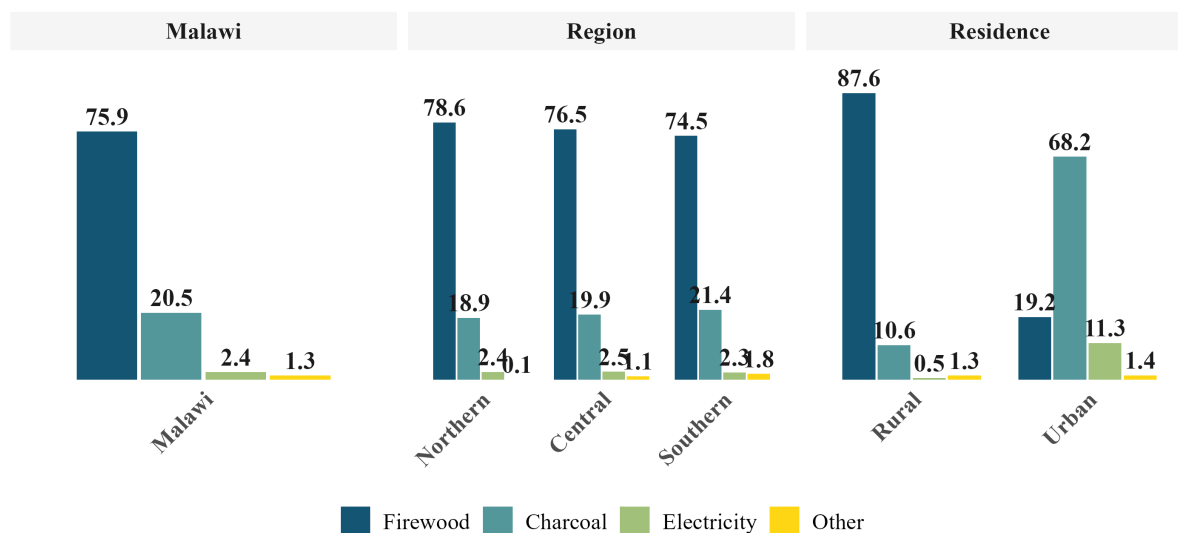
7.5 Main Fuels Used for Cooking

This section offers information regarding the primary cooking fuels utilized by households.

Overall, 75.9 percent of households utilize firewood as the primary cooking fuel, followed by 20.5 percent employing charcoal, and 2.4 percent utilizing electricity. (Figure 7.5 and Table 7.5).

At the residential level, 87.6 percent of households in rural areas utilize firewood for cooking, whereas 19.2 percent in urban areas do so. Conversely, 68.2 percent of households in urban areas employ charcoal, compared to only 10.6 percent in rural settings.

Figure 7.5: Main Fuels for Cooking



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

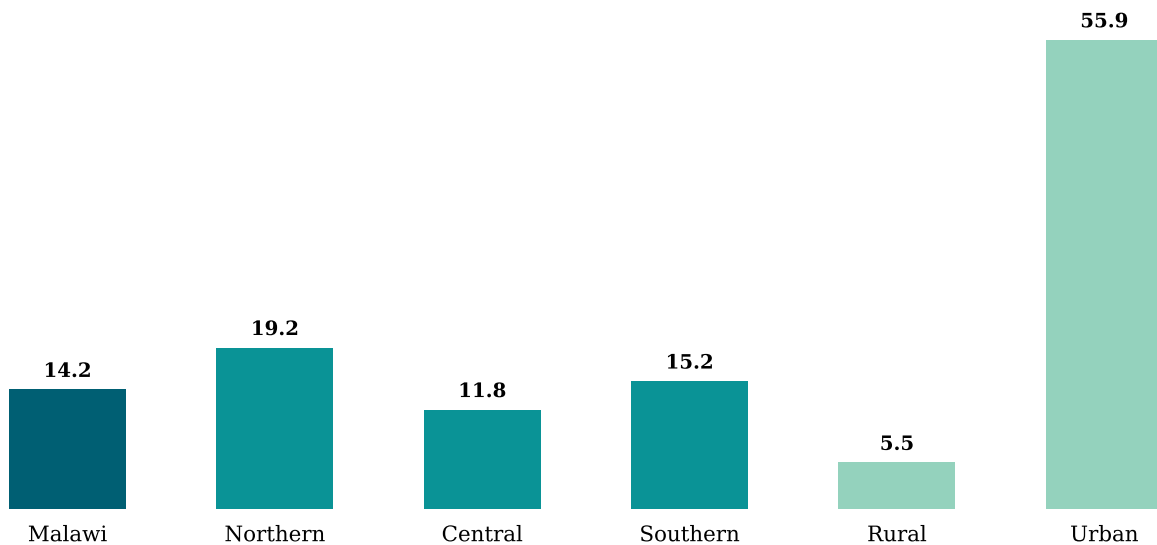
The majority of both female-headed and male-headed households employ firewood as their primary fuel for cooking, constituting 80.3 percent and 74.0 percent respectively. This is subsequently followed by the use of charcoal, accounting for 22.3 percent among male-headed households and 16.1 percent among female-headed households. (Table 7.5).

Analysis by district indicates that Ntchisi recorded the highest proportion (94.7 percent) of households utilizing firewood for cooking, followed by Mzimba at 92.9 percent and Dedza at 90.1 percent. (Table 7.5).

7.5.1 Access to Electricity by National Grid

At the national level, 14.2 percent of households have access to electricity through ESCOM. Access varies substantially by place of residence, with urban households recording a much higher access rate of 55.9 percent compared with only 5.5 percent among rural households. Regional differences are also evident: the Northern Region has the highest level of access at 19.2 percent, followed by the Southern Region at 15.2 percent and the Central Region at 11.8 percent. (Figure 7.6).

Figure 7.6: Percentage Distribution of Households by National Grid, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

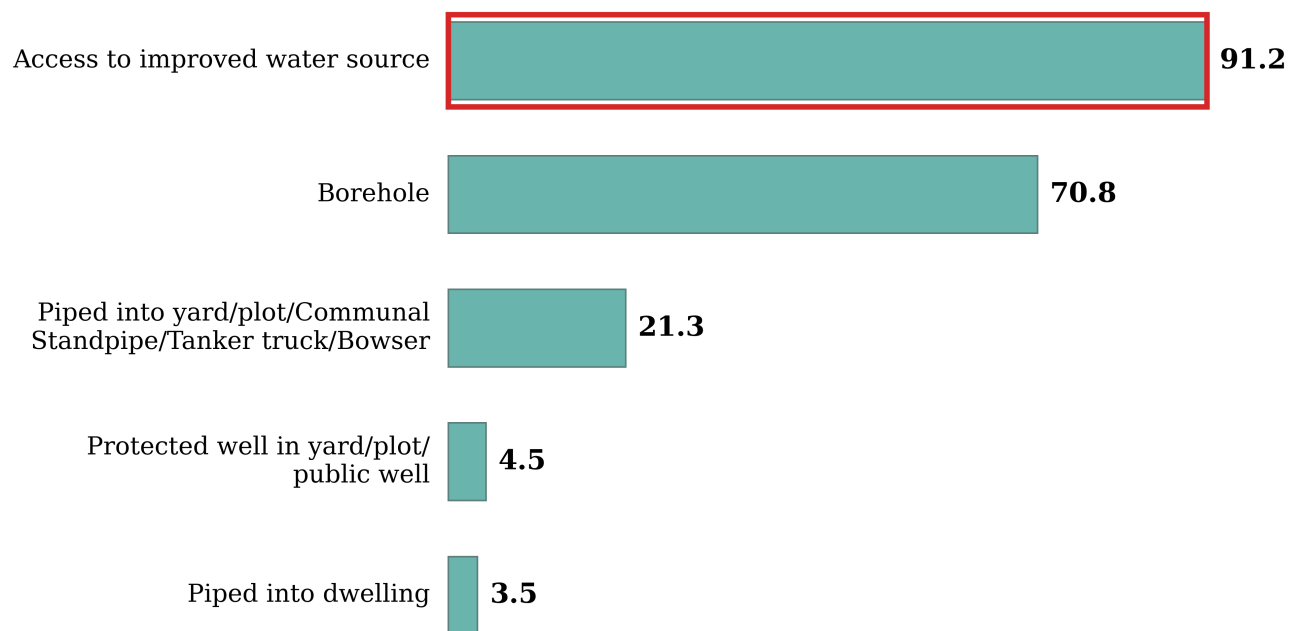
7.6 Water and Sanitation

7.6.1 Access to Improved Water Sources

A household is regarded as having access to an improved drinking water source if its main source of drinking water is piped into the dwelling, yard, or plot; obtained from a communal standpipe, tanker truck, or bowser; sourced from a protected well within the yard or plot; obtained from a protected public well; or drawn from a borehole.

Overall, 91.2 percent of households had access to improved drinking water sources. Among households using improved drinking water sources, boreholes were the most common source, accounting for 70.8 percent. This was followed by piped water into the yard or plot, communal standpipes, tanker trucks, or bowzers at 21.3 percent. Protected wells in the yard, plot, or public areas accounted for 4.5 percent, while piped water directly into the dwelling accounted for 3.5 percent (Figure 7.7 and Table 7.6).

Figure 7.7: Proportion of Households with Access to Improved Drinking Water Sources and Percentage Distribution by Type of Improved Water Source



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The proportion of households with access to improved drinking water sources was higher in urban areas, at 97.6 percent, than in rural areas, at 89.9 percent (Table 7.6).

Analysis by region shows that the Southern Region recorded the highest proportion of households with access to improved drinking water sources, at 91.7 percent. This was followed by the Northern Region at 91.0 percent and the Central Region at 90.8 percent (Table 7.6).

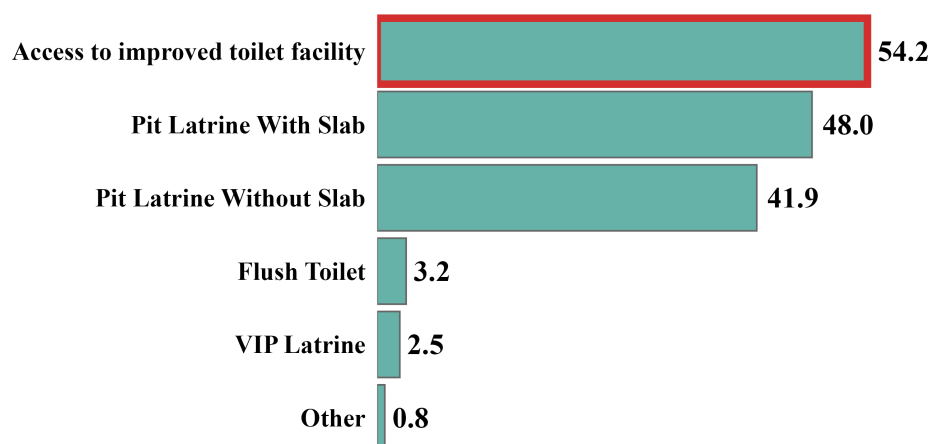
At district level, Chiradzulu reported the highest proportion of households with access to improved drinking water sources, at 99.4 percent, while Thyolo reported the lowest proportion, at 78.2 percent (Table 7.6).

7.6.2 Access to Improved Toilet Facility

The survey defines improved toilet facilities as flush or pour-flush systems, including flush toilets, flush systems connected to septic tanks, and flush systems connected to pit latrines. Improved facilities also include ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines, pit latrines with slabs, and composting toilets.

Overall, 54.2 percent of households had access to improved toilet facilities. Among households using improved toilet facilities, pit latrines with slabs were by far the most common type, accounting for 88.7 percent. This was followed by VIP latrines at 4.6 percent and flush toilets connected to septic tanks at 4.4 percent. Flush toilets accounted for 1.0 percent, composting toilets for 0.8 percent, and flush toilets connected to pit latrines for 0.5 percent (Figure 7.8 and Table 7.7).

Figure 7.8: Proportion of Households with Access to Improved Toilet Facilities and Percentage Distribution by Type of Improved Toilet Facility



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence indicates that access to improved toilet facilities was higher in urban areas, at 81.1 percent, than in rural areas, at 48.6 percent. Among households with improved toilet facilities, pit latrines with slabs remained the dominant facility type in both urban and rural areas. In urban areas, 74.7 percent of households with improved facilities used pit latrines with slabs, compared with 93.5 percent in rural areas. Flush toilets connected to septic tanks were more common among urban households with improved facilities, at 15.7 percent, compared with 0.5 percent among rural households. VIP latrines accounted for 5.0 percent of improved facilities in urban areas and 4.5 percent in rural areas (Table 7.7).

At the regional level, pit latrines with slabs were the dominant type of improved toilet facility across all regions. Among households with improved toilet facilities, pit latrines with slabs accounted for 91.2 percent in the Northern Region, 85.7 percent in the Central Region, and 91.0 percent in the Southern Region. The Central Region recorded a relatively higher share of VIP latrines, at 8.5 percent, compared with 1.0 percent in the Northern Region and 1.6 percent in the Southern Region. At district level, access to improved toilet facilities varied substantially, with Lilongwe City reporting the highest proportion of households with access to improved toilet facilities, while Phalombe recorded the lowest proportion (Table 7.7).

7.6.3 Use of Rubbish Disposal Facility

This section delineates the primary methods of waste disposal employed by households, including the utilization of rubbish bins, rubbish pits, incineration, public dumps, and instances where no disposal facilities are utilized.

The results indicate that 63.3 percent of households utilize rubbish pits as a form of waste disposal, 7.9 percent rely on public rubbish heaps, and 6.1 percent engage in burning their waste. However, 15.9 percent of households lack any rubbish disposal facilities. (Table 7.8).

According to residence location, 56.3 percent of households in urban areas utilize rubbish pits, whereas 64.8 percent in rural areas do so. A greater proportion of urban households (18.6 percent) employ rubbish bins, contrasted with 2.5 percent of rural households. Conversely, 17.7 percent of rural households lack a rubbish disposal facility in comparison to 7.2 percent in urban settings. At the

regional level, 72.0 percent of households in the Northern Region utilize a rubbish pit, followed by 68.8 percent in the Central Region and 55.9 percent in the Southern Region. (Table 7.8).

Female-headed households exhibit a lower utilization of rubbish pits at 60.7 percent in comparison to male-headed households, which stand at 64.4 percent. Additionally, a greater proportion of female-headed households (6.5 percent) dispose of rubbish through burning compared to 5.9 percent of male-headed households. (Table 7.8).

7.7 Household Assets

The survey gathered data regarding the ownership of durable goods and agricultural implements.

7.7.1 Proportion of Households Owning Durable Goods and Appliances

The results indicate that the highest proportion of households (41.4 percent) possess chairs, followed by 32.5 percent possessing mortars and 31.4 percent owning bicycles. The lowest proportion of households (0.1 percent) reported ownership of air conditioners. (Table 7.9).

Regarding the place of residence, 62.2 percent of urban households own beds, whereas 24.3 percent of rural households possess them. Conversely, rural households exhibit a higher ownership rate of mortars at nearly 34 percent, in comparison to 26.4 percent among urban households.

At the regional level, 45.1 percent of households in the Northern Region own mortars, compared to 33.6 percent in the Southern Region and 27.9 percent in the Central Region. The Northern Region also has 50.8 percent of households owning beds, whereas the Southern and Central Regions have 31.7 percent and 24.5 percent respectively. (Table 7.9).

Analysis by sex of household heads indicates that 32.4 percent of households headed by males possess beds, whereas 27.0 percent of those headed by females do so. Approximately 38.0 percent of female-headed households own mortars, in comparison to 30.2 percent of male-headed households. (Figure 7.17 and Table 7.9).

7.7.2 Proportion of Households Owning Agricultural Tools and Equipment

The results indicate that, overall, the highest proportion of households (94.2 percent) possess hoes, followed by 87.1 percent owning watering cans and 76.2 percent owning pangas.

Analysis by place of residence indicates that a greater percentage of rural households (95.7 percent) possess hoes in comparison to 83.3 percent of urban households. Conversely, urban areas exhibit a higher proportion (79.9 percent) of households owning pangas compared to 75.7 percent of rural households.

At the regional level, the Central region possessed the highest proportion of households (95.4 percent) owning hoes, followed by the Northern region with 93.9 percent, and the Southern region with 93.1 percent. Additionally, the Central region recorded the highest proportion of households (79.4 percent) owning pangas. (Table 7.10).

A greater proportion (94.5 percent) of female-headed households possess hoes than the 94.0 percent of male-headed households. Approximately 80.7 percent of male-headed households own pangas, in comparison to 63.8 percent of female-headed households. (Figure 7.19 and Table 7.10).

Key messages

- 85.7 percent of households are involved in agricultural pursuits.
- The average plot size measures 0.86 acres, and conventional ridging remains the predominant land preparation technique, employed by 91.2 percent of agricultural households.
- Livestock rearing is a prevalent practice, with 34.0 percent of households engaged in chicken keeping and 15.8 percent involved in goat husbandry.

Agriculture remains the cornerstone of Malawi's economy and is the primary source of livelihood for the majority of households. It significantly contributes to food security, income generation, and rural employment. The Sixth Integrated Household Survey (IHS6) collected extensive data on household involvement in agricultural activities during the 2024/2025 main rainy season and the preceding dry season.

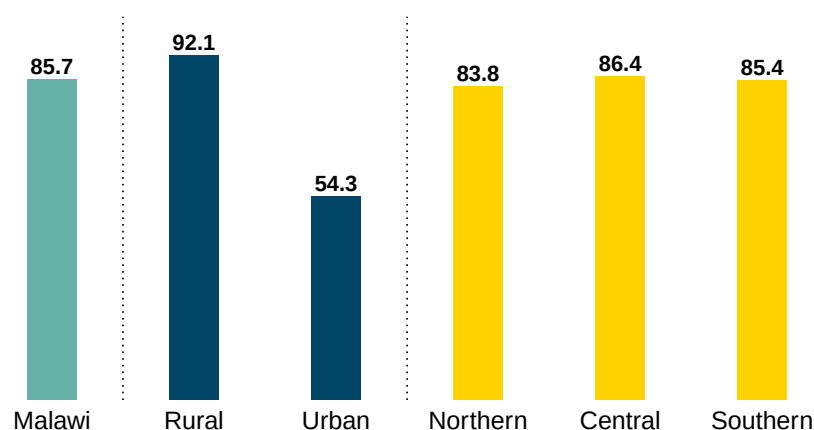
8.1 Households Engaged in Agricultural Activities

Respondents were asked whether their households participated in any of the following agricultural activities: cultivation of crops during the primary rainy season, dry season crop cultivation, tree cultivation, and the rearing of domesticated animals.

The overall results show that 85.7 percent of households participate in agricultural activities. The proportion of households engaged in agriculture is significantly higher in rural areas, at 92.1 percent, compared to urban regions, where the figure is 54.3 percent.

Regional differences are small, with 86.4 percent of households in the Central Region involved in agricultural activities, followed by 85.4 percent in the Southern Region and 83.8 percent in the Northern Region (Figure 8.1 and Table 8.1).

Figure 8.1: Proportion of Households Engaged in Agriculture, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

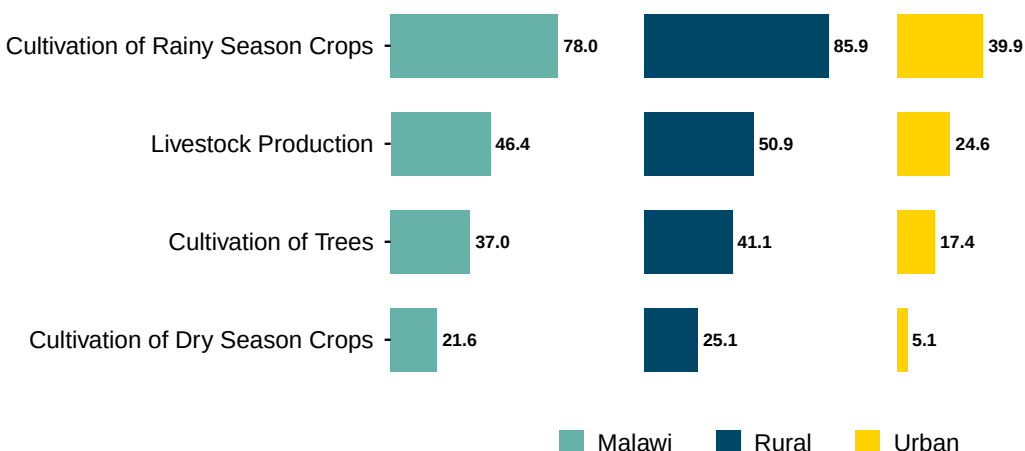
The analysis of results by the sex of the household head indicates that a marginally higher percentage of female-headed households (87.4 percent) are involved in agricultural activities compared to their male counterparts (84.9 percent)(Table 8.1).

8.2 Type of Agricultural Activities Involved

In Malawi, 78.0 percent of households are engaged in crop cultivation during the rainy season, whereas 21.6 percent participate in dry-season cultivation (dimba). Tree cultivation is reported by 37.0 percent of households, and 46.4 percent are involved in livestock production.

A total of 39.9 percent of urban households and households overall engage in rainy-season crop cultivation. Livestock production is conducted by 50.9 percent of rural households and 24.6 percent of urban households. Tree cultivation is reported by 41.1 percent of rural households and 17.4 percent of urban households (Figure 8.2 and Table 8.1).

Figure 8.2: Proportion of Households Engaged in Agricultural Activities by Type and Place of Residence, IHS6 2024-2025

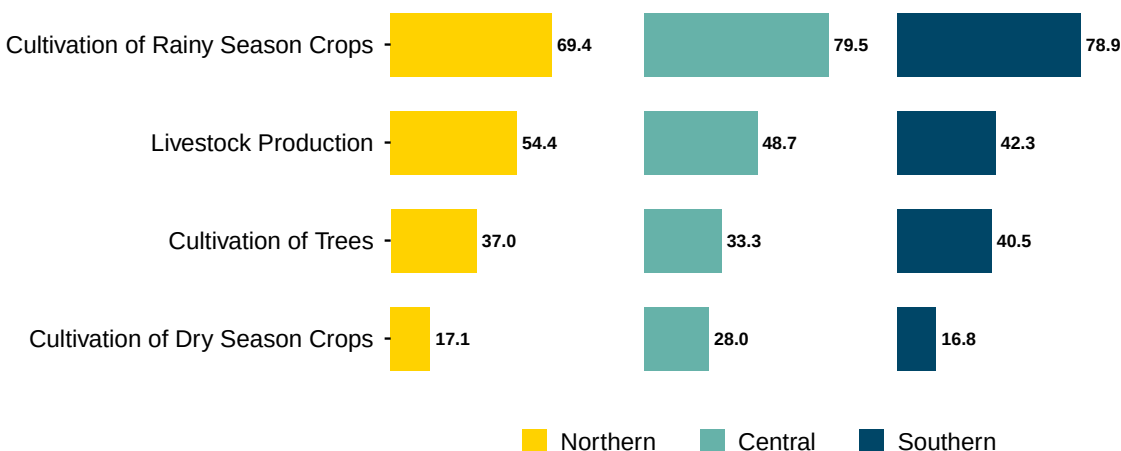


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Across regions, the cultivation of crops during the rainy season is most prominent in the Central Region at 79.5 percent, succeeded by the Southern Region at 78.9 percent, and subsequently the Northern Region at 69.4 percent. Dry-season cultivation is notably lower across all regions, with the highest proportion recorded in the Central Region at 28.0 percent, followed by the Northern Region at 17.1 percent, and the Southern Region at 16.8 percent.

The Southern Region demonstrates the highest proportion of households involved in tree crop cultivation, accounting for 40.5 percent. It is succeeded by the Northern Region at 37.0 percent, and the Central Region at 33.3 percent. Livestock production is more prevalent among households in the Northern Region, at 54.4 percent, in comparison to 48.7 percent in both the Central and Southern Regions (Figure 8.3 and Table 8.1).

Figure 8.3: Proportion of Households Engaged in Various Agricultural Activities by Region, IHS6 2024-2025

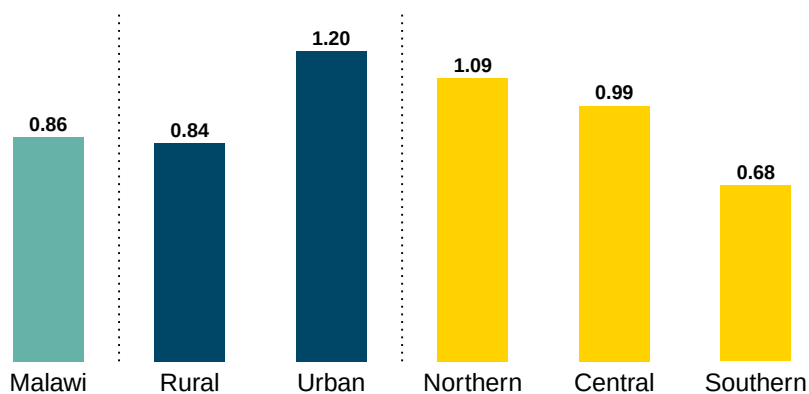


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.3 Plot size

The IHS6 further collected detailed data regarding plot sizes at the individual plot level. The results demonstrate that the average plot size in Malawi is 0.86 acres. Specifically, the mean plot size is 0.84 acres in rural areas and 1.20 acres in urban areas. Regional analysis indicates that the Northern Region has an average plot size of 1.09 acres, the Central Region 0.99 acres, and the Southern Region 0.68 acres (Figure 8.4 and Table 8.3).

Figure 8.4: Average Plots Size (Acres) by Place of Residence and Region, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

The majority of cultivated plots (73.4 percent) are within the size range of 0 to 1 acre. This is followed by plots measuring 1 to 2 acres (20.5 percent) and 2 to 4 acres (4.9 percent). Larger plots are relatively uncommon, accounting for only 0.5 percent of the total, with sizes of 6 acres or more. Based on the place of residence, a marginally greater proportion of plots measuring 0–1 acre are cultivated in rural areas (73.6 percent) compared to urban areas (70.9 percent). Regionally, the Southern Region exhibits

the highest percentage of plots within the 0–1 acre range (82.1 percent), followed by the Central Region (67.4 percent), whereas the Northern Region constitutes 64.9 percent (Figure 8.5 and Table 8.3).

Figure 8.5: Percentage Distribution of Plots by Size (Acres), IHS6 2024–2025



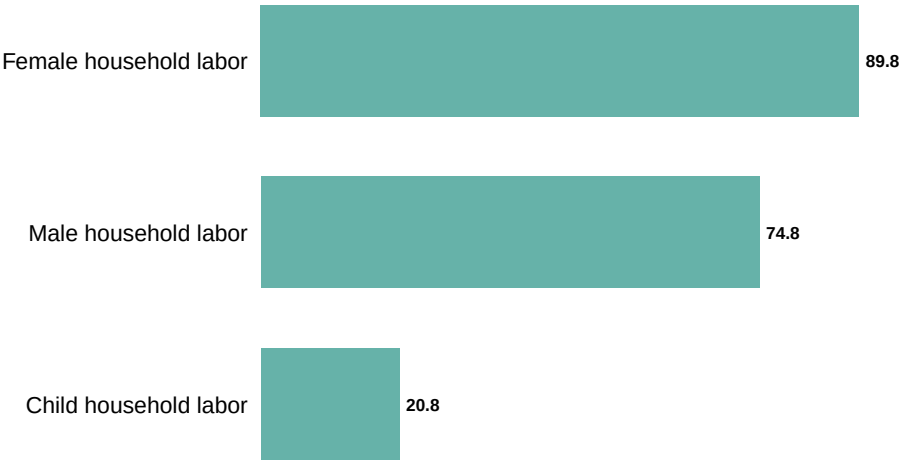
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.4 Labour input used

This section delineates specific details regarding the type of labor employed for various non-harvest agricultural activities. The workforce involved in agricultural tasks comprised household labor, involving members of the household in agricultural operations; hired labor (paid labor); and other forms of freely exchanged labor, which operated on particular plots for various agricultural activities during the 2024/25 agricultural season.

At the national level, a higher proportion of plots (89.8 percent) involve labor from female household members, as opposed to 74.8 percent involving male members. Child household labor is utilized on 20.8 percent of cultivated plots. Moreover, 23.9 percent of plots employ hired labor, while 31.8 percent engage in freely exchanged labor (Figure 8.6 and Table 8.15).

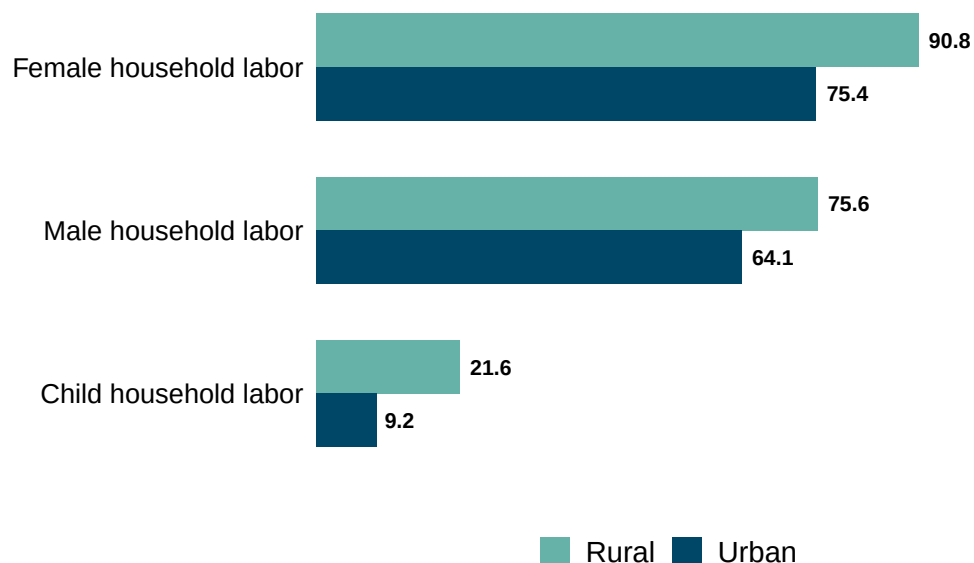
Figure 8.6: Proportion of Plots by Type of Labour Input Used in Various Non-Harvest Agricultural Activities, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: *National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025*

Disaggregation by place of residence shows that female household members are more actively engaged in plot cultivation than their male counterparts in both rural and urban settings. In rural households, 90.8 percent of plots involve female household labour, compared with 75.6 percent involving male household labour. A comparable trend is observed in urban areas, where 75.4 percent of plots involve female household members, compared with 64.1 percent involving male household labour (Figure 8.7 and Table 8.4).

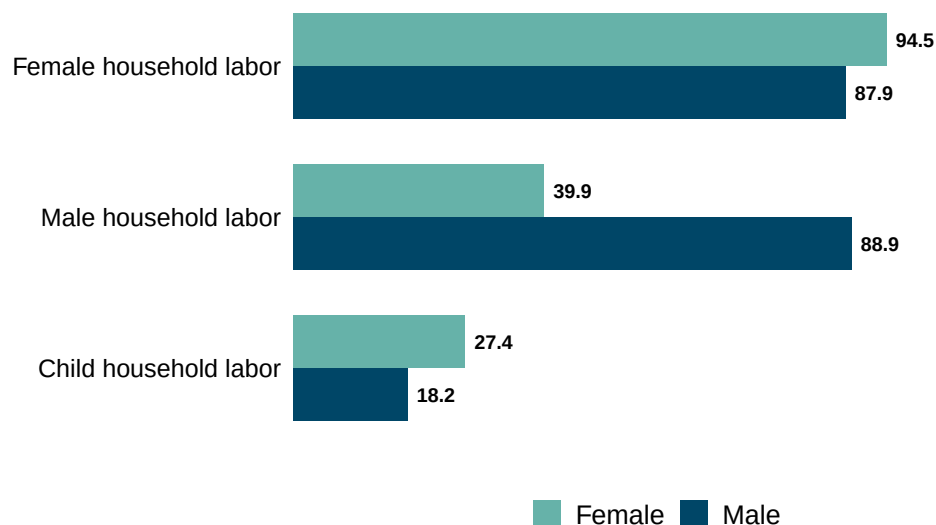
Figure 8.7: Proportion of Plots by Type of Labour Input Used in Various Non-harvest Agricultural Activities by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Regarding household headship, female household labour constitutes the most prevalent form of employment for both female-headed (94.5 percent) and male-headed (87.9 percent) households. Female-headed households exhibit a lower proportion of plots utilizing male household labour (39.9 percent) in comparison to male-headed households (88.9 percent). Additionally, female-headed households report a higher incidence of exchanged labour (36.4 percent versus 30.0 percent), whereas male-headed households demonstrate a greater proportion of hired labour (25.4 percent versus 20.2 percent) (Figure 8.8 and Table 8.4).

Figure 8.8: Proportion of Plots by Type of Labour Input Used in Various Non-harvest Agricultural Activities by Sex of Household Head, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: *National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025*

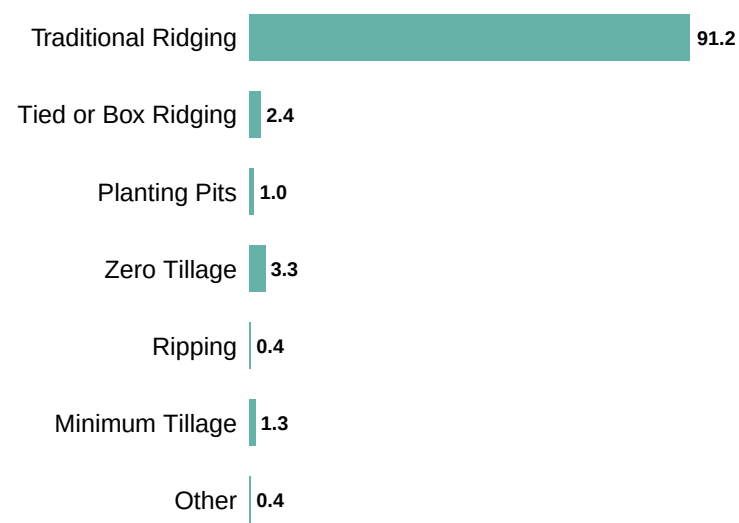
8.5 Household Farming practices

8.5.1 Land Preparation Methods

Households were surveyed regarding the techniques employed for land preparation during the rainy season of 2024/25. The methods examined encompassed traditional ridging, tied or box ridging, planting pits, zero tillage, ripping, and minimum tillage.

The results indicate that the majority of cultivated fields in Malawi are prepared employing traditional ridging, accounting for 91.2 percent. Alternative land preparation techniques are utilized by a relatively small proportion of households, including zero tillage at 3.3 percent, tied or box ridging at 2.4 percent, minimum tillage at 1.3 percent, planting pits at 1.0 percent, and ripping at 0.4 percent (Figure 8.9 and Table 8.5).

Figure 8.9: Percentage Distribution of Plots by Method of Land Preparation during the 2024/2025 Rainy Season, IHS6 2024-2025

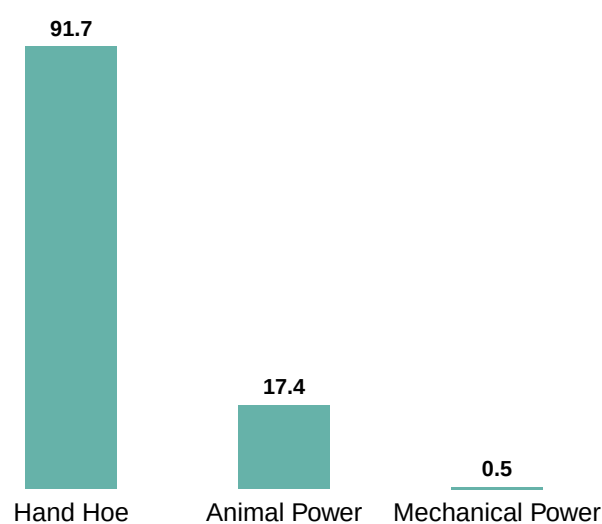


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.5.2 Farm Implements Used in Land Preparations

Respondents were also queried regarding the materials and equipment employed in land preparation on their respective plots. The findings indicate that a greater proportion of plots in Malawi (91.7 percent) are prepared utilizing a hand hoe, whereas 17.4 percent are prepared with the aid of animal power (Figure 8.10 and Table 8.6).

Figure 8.10: Proportion of Plots by Equipment Used for Land Preparation during the 2024/2025 Rainy Season, IHS6 2024-2025

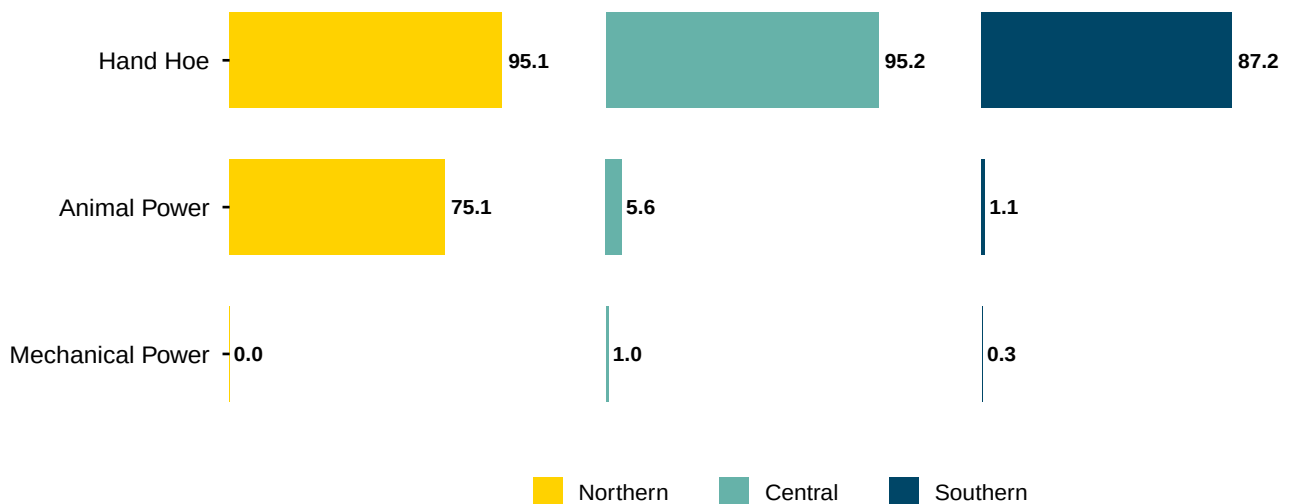


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Across various regions, the Central Region reports the highest proportion of plots prepared manually

with hand-held hoes at 95.2 percent, followed closely by the Northern Region at 95.1 percent. The Southern Region exhibits the lowest utilization of hand-held hoes, at 87.2 percent. Additionally, the data indicate that 75.1 percent of plots in the Northern Region are prepared using animal power (Figure 8.11 and Table 8.6).

Figure 8.11: Proportion of Plots by Equipment Used for Land Preparation during the 2024/2025 Rainy Season by Region, IHS6 2024-2025



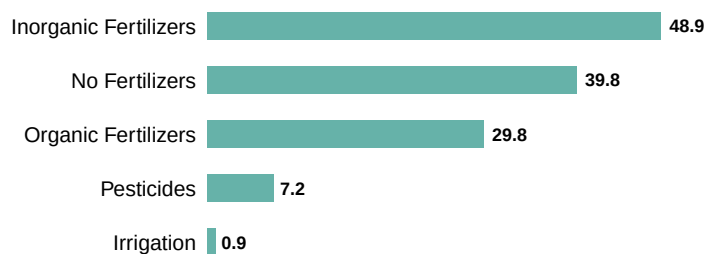
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.5.3 Non Labour Input Use

In Malawi, non-labour inputs such as inorganic and organic fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation are integral to agricultural production. The IHS6 gathered plot-level data from households regarding the utilization of various non-labour inputs during the 2024/25 agricultural season.

The findings indicate that approximately 48.9 percent of the cultivated plots employ inorganic fertilizers. Organic fertilizer application is documented in less than one-third of the plots, accounting for 29.8 percent, while pesticide usage is reported on 7.2 percent of the plots. Irrigation is infrequently utilized, with only about 0.9 percent of the plots being irrigated. Furthermore, 39.8 percent of the plots do not receive any form of fertilization (Figure 8.12 and Table 8.7).

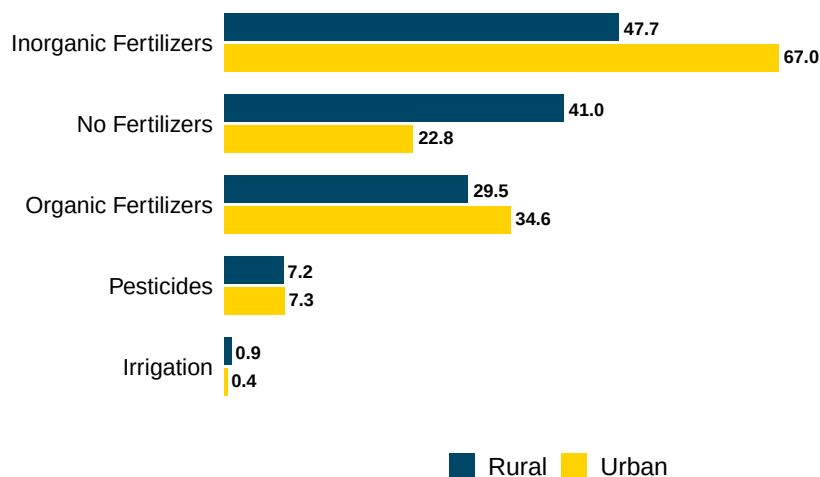
Figure 8.12: Proportion of Plots by Various Non-Labour Input Use, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Disaggregation by place of residence reveals that a greater percentage of plots in urban areas (67.0 percent) employ inorganic fertilizers in comparison to those in rural areas (47.7 percent). Additionally, organic fertilizers are utilized more extensively in urban regions (34.6 percent) than in rural regions (29.5 percent) (Figure 8.13 and Table 8.7).

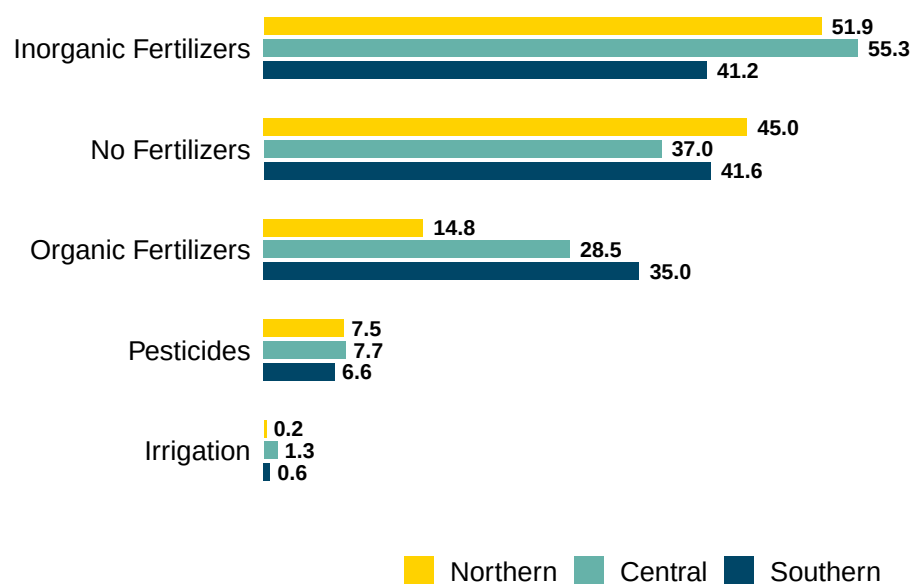
Figure 8.13: Proportion of Plots by Various Non-Labour Input Use by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Regional analysis indicates that a higher proportion of plots in the Southern Region utilize organic fertilizers (35.0 percent) compared to the Central Region (28.5 percent) and the Northern Region (14.8 percent) (Figure 8.14 and Table 8.7)

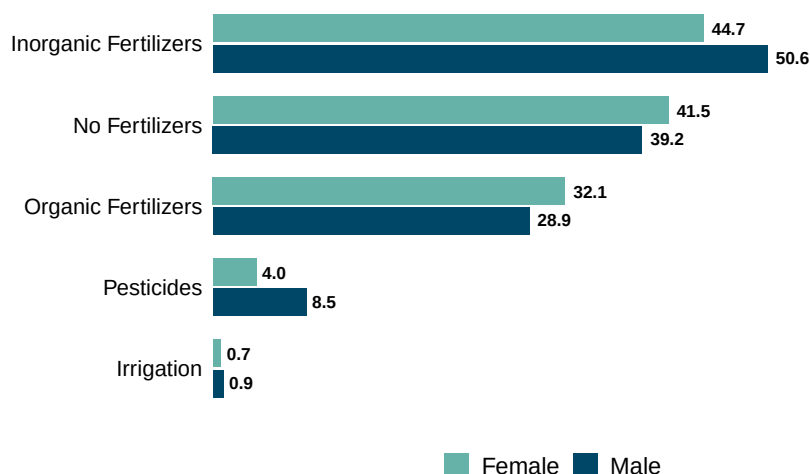
Figure 8.14: Proportion of Plots by Various Non-Labour Input Use by Region, IHS6 2024-2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Regarding the gender of the household head, male-headed households exhibit a greater proportion of plots utilizing inorganic fertilizers (50.6 percent) in comparison to female-headed households (44.7 percent). Conversely, female-headed households demonstrate a higher proportion of plots employing organic fertilizers (32.1 percent) relative to male-headed households (28.9 percent) (Figure 8.15 and Table 8.7).

Figure 8.15: Proportion of Plots by Various Non-Labour Input Use by Sex of Household Head, IHS6 2024-2025



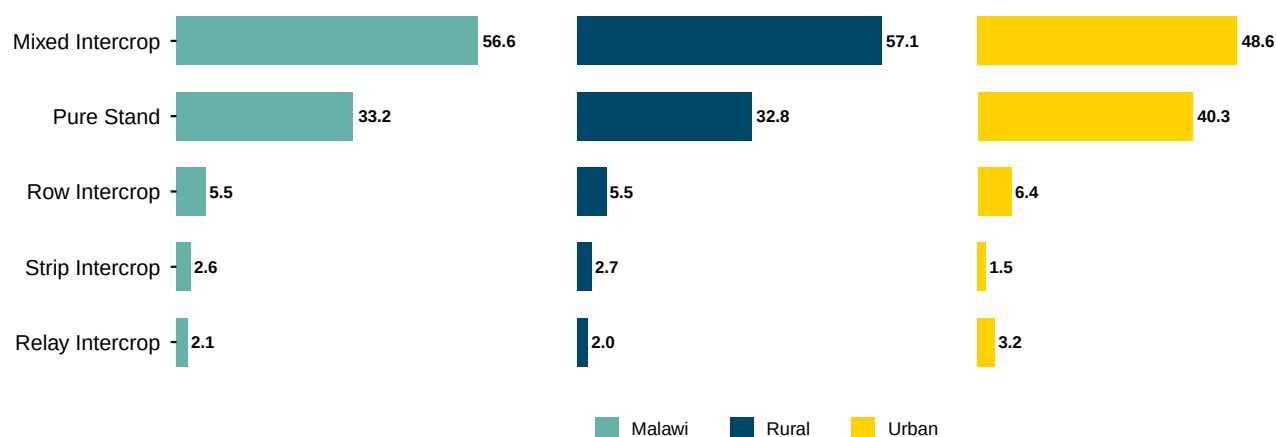
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.5.4 Cropping systems

The IHS6 also collected information from households on the type of crop stand used on each cultivated plot during the 2024/25 agricultural season. Results show that slightly over half of the plots (56.6 percent) are cultivated under mixed intercropping, followed by pure stand (33.2 percent). Row intercropping and strip intercropping are less common, accounting for 5.5 percent and 2.6 percent of plots, respectively. Relay cropping is the least common, accounting for 2.1 percent of plots.

Mixed intercropping is predominantly practiced among rural households, with 57.1 percent of plots engaged in this method, in contrast to 48.6 percent among urban households. Monoculture cultivation is more frequently observed in urban regions (40.3 percent) compared to rural areas (32.8 percent) (Figure 8.16 and Table 8.8).

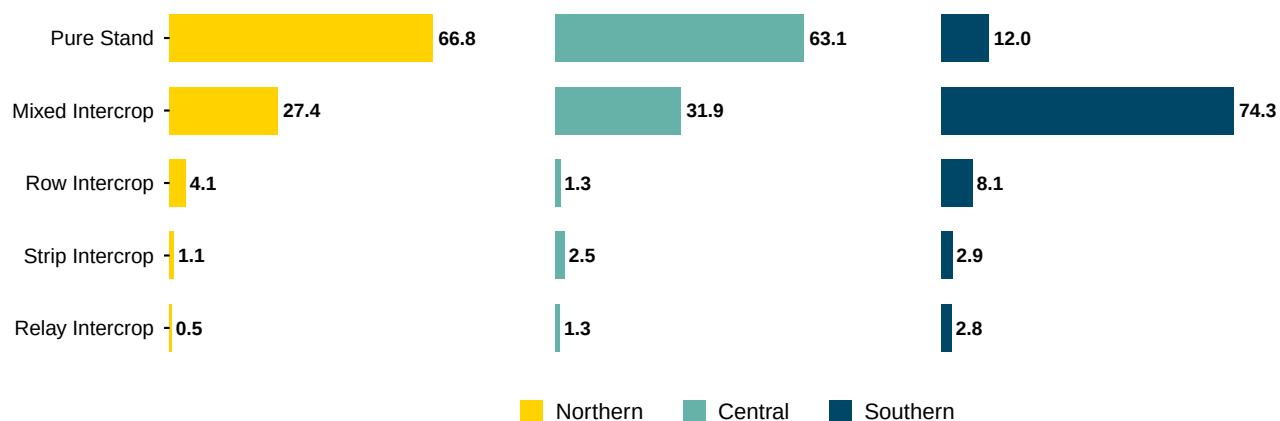
Figure 8.16: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated plots by Type of Crop-stand and Residence, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Across various regions, mixed intercropping is predominantly observed in the Southern Region, where 74.3 percent of plots are cultivated using this system. In contrast, the Central and Northern Regions exhibit significantly lower proportions, at 31.9 percent and 27.4 percent respectively. Additionally, the Southern Region records the smallest proportion of pure stand plots at 12.0 percent, whereas the Central and Northern Regions maintain higher shares of 63.1 percent and 66.8 percent respectively (Figure 8.17 and Table 8.8).

Figure 8.17: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated Plots by Type of Crop-stand and Region, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

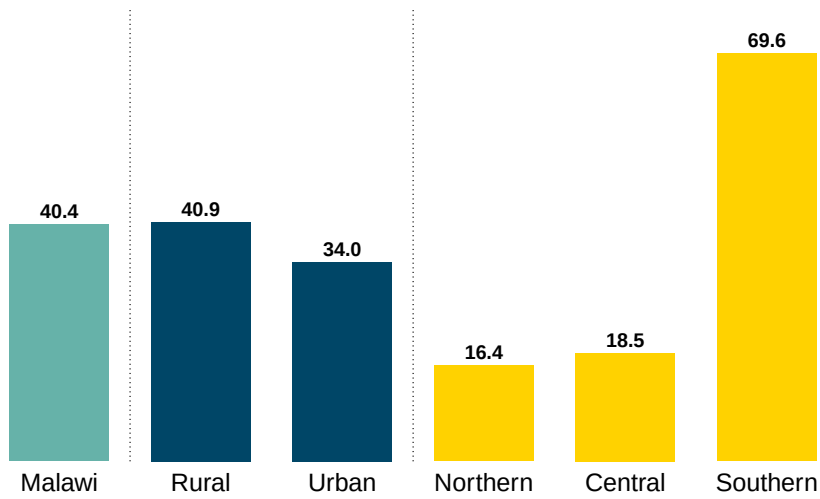
Regarding household headship, female-headed households possess a higher proportion of plots (63.6 percent) with mixed intercropping compared to their male counterparts (53.3 percent) (Table 8.8).

8.5.5 Intercropping

At the national level, approximately 40 percent of cultivated plots are intercropped. Intercropping is more prevalent in rural areas, with 40.9 percent of plots practicing this approach, in contrast to urban areas, where 34.0 percent of plots are intercropped.

Intercropping is most widespread in the Southern Region, where approximately 70 percent of plots are intercropped. Conversely, it is less prevalent in the Central Region, with 18.5 percent of plots, and in the Northern Region, where 16.4 percent of plots are intercropped (Figure 8.18 and Table 8.9).

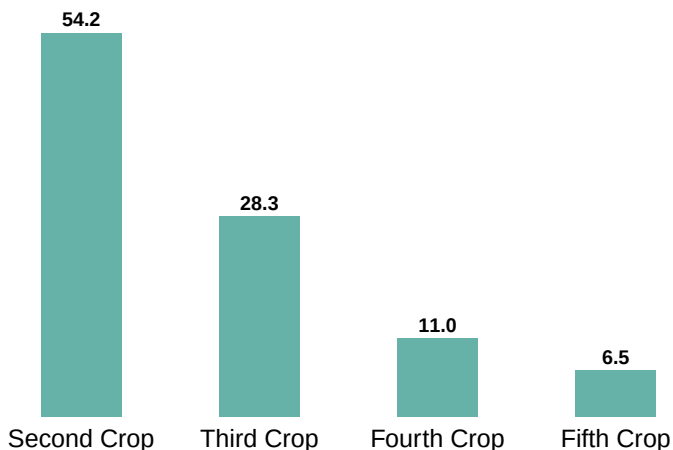
Figure 8.18: Proportion of Intercropped Plots, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Among intercropped plots nationally, slightly more than half comprise two-crop systems (54.2 percent). An additional 28.3 percent include a third crop, 11.0 percent a fourth crop, and the remaining 6.5 percent incorporate a fifth crop. (Figure 8.19).

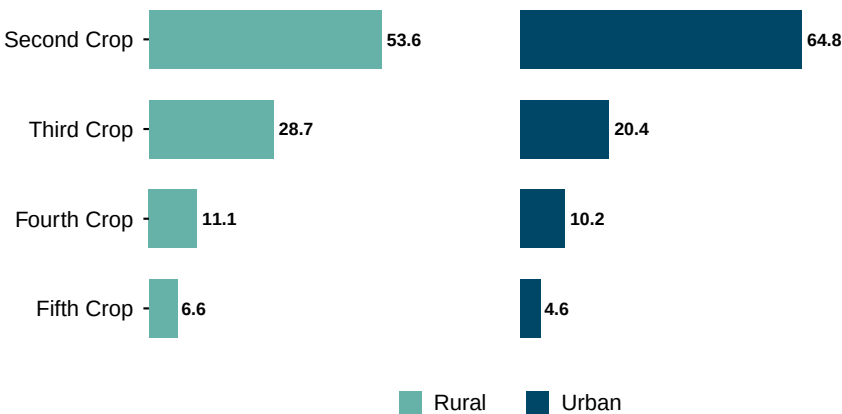
Figure 8.19: Percentage Distribution of Number of Crops Intercropped in a Plot, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Based on the place of residence, intercropped plots in urban areas predominantly consist of two-crop systems, with approximately 64.8 percent of intercropped plots reporting a second crop. An additional 24 percent involve a third crop, and 10.2 percent involve a fourth crop. The remaining 4.6 percent involve a fifth crop. In rural regions, slightly over 53 percent of intercropped plots involve a second crop, 28.7 percent involve a third crop, 11.1 percent involve a fourth crop, and the remaining 6.6 percent involve a fifth crop (Figure 8.20).

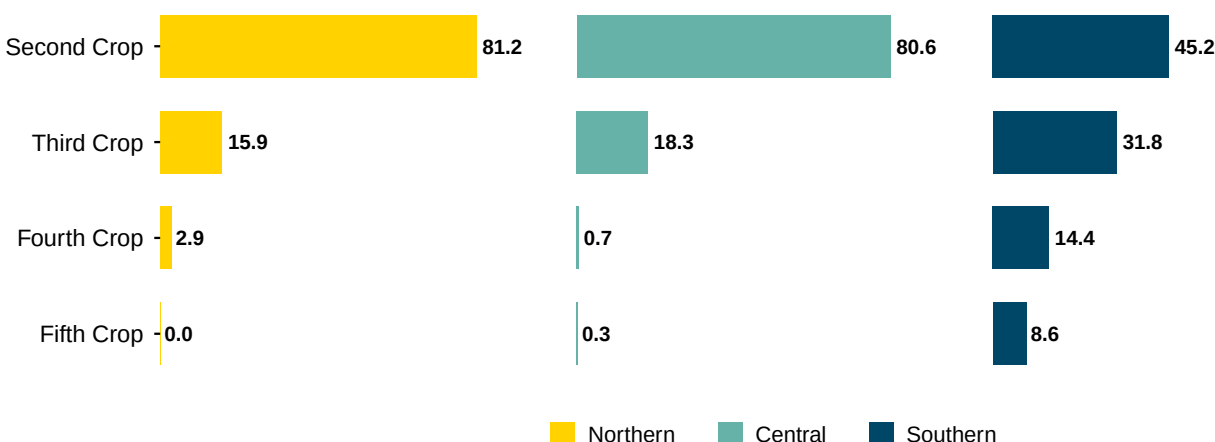
Figure 8.20: Percentage Distribution of Number of Crops Intercropped in a Plot by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Across regions, intercropping systems in the Northern and Central Regions are predominantly limited to two or three crops. In the Northern Region, 81.2 percent of intercropped plots involve a second crop, 15.9 percent a third crop, and 2.9 percent a fourth crop, with no fifth-crop intercropping reported. In the Central Region, the pattern is similar: 80.6 percent involve a second crop, 18.3 percent a third crop, and 0.7 percent a fourth crop, with the remaining 0.3 percent involving a fifth crop. In the Southern Region, intercropping systems are more diversified, with fewer two-crop systems (45.2 percent) and higher proportions of plots involving three crops (31.8 percent), four crops (14.4 percent), and five crops (8.6 percent) (Figure 8.21).

Figure 8.21: Percentage Distribution of Number of Crops Intercropped by Region, IHS6 2024/2025



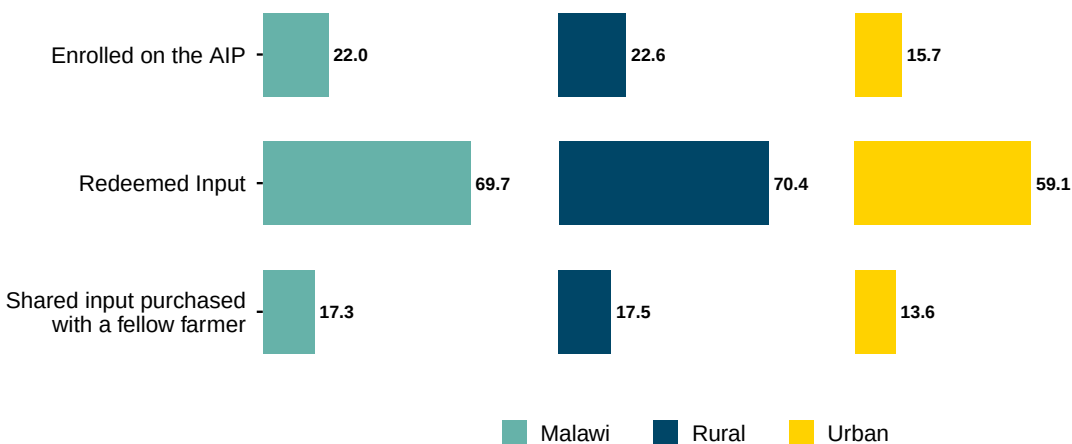
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.6 Farm Input Subsidy Programme

The IHS6 also gathered information from agricultural households regarding enrollment and participation in the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP) during the 2024/25 agricultural rainy season. Findings indicate that less than a quarter of agricultural households (22.0 percent) were enrolled in the programme. Among those enrolled, 69.7 percent redeemed the subsidized inputs, and 17.3 percent reported sharing the purchased inputs with fellow farmers.

Disaggregation based on place of residence shows higher participation among rural households. Approximately 22.6 percent of rural agricultural households were enrolled in the FISP, in comparison to 15.7 percent of urban households. Likewise, input redemption was more prevalent in rural areas, with 70.4 percent redeeming inputs compared to 59.1 percent in urban areas (Figure 8.22 and Table 8.10).

Figure 8.22: Proportion of Households Enrolled on the Affordable Inputs Program and Use Status of Subsidized Agricultural Inputs by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024/2025

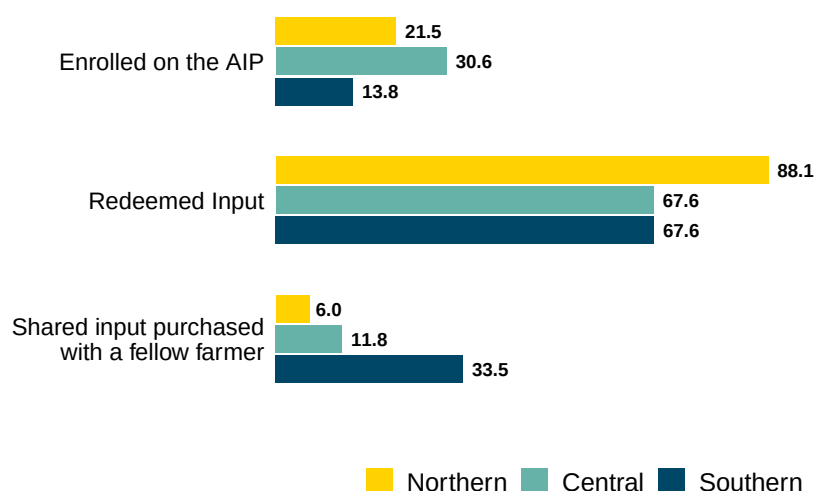


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Across regions, the Central Region reports the highest proportion of households enrolled at 30.6 percent, succeeded by the Northern Region at 21.5 percent and the Southern Region at 13.8 percent. Redemption of subsidised inputs was highest among enrolled households in the Northern Region, at 88.1 percent, compared with 67.6 percent in both the Central and Southern Regions (Figure 8.3 and Table 8.10).

The sharing of inputs is infrequent, documented in fewer than one in thirty households (2.8 percent). Regional variations indicate that the practice is most prevalent in the Southern Region (3.4 percent), with the Central Region following at 2.6 percent. The Northern Region exhibits the lowest occurrence, at approximately 1.2 percent (Figure 8.4; Table 8.9) (Figure 8.23 and Table 8.10).

Figure 8.23: Proportion of Households Enrolled in Affordable Inputs Program and Use Status of Subsidized Agricultural Inputs by Region, IHS6 2024/2025

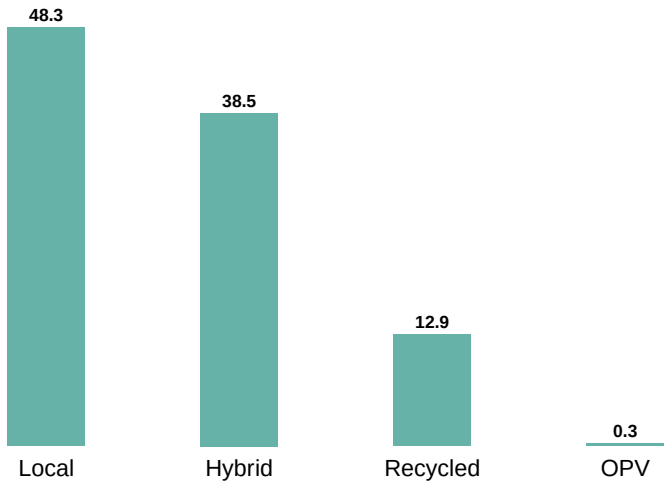


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.7 Plots by Type of Maize Seed

Among maize-cultivated plots at the national level, local seed varieties were the most prevalently utilized, representing just under half of all maize plots (48.3 percent). Hybrid seed varieties were the second most extensively adopted, sown on approximately two in five plots (38.5 percent). Recycled seed varieties accounted for roughly one in eight maize plots (12.9 percent), whereas Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) seed was infrequently used (0.3 percent) (Figure 8.24 and Table 8.11).

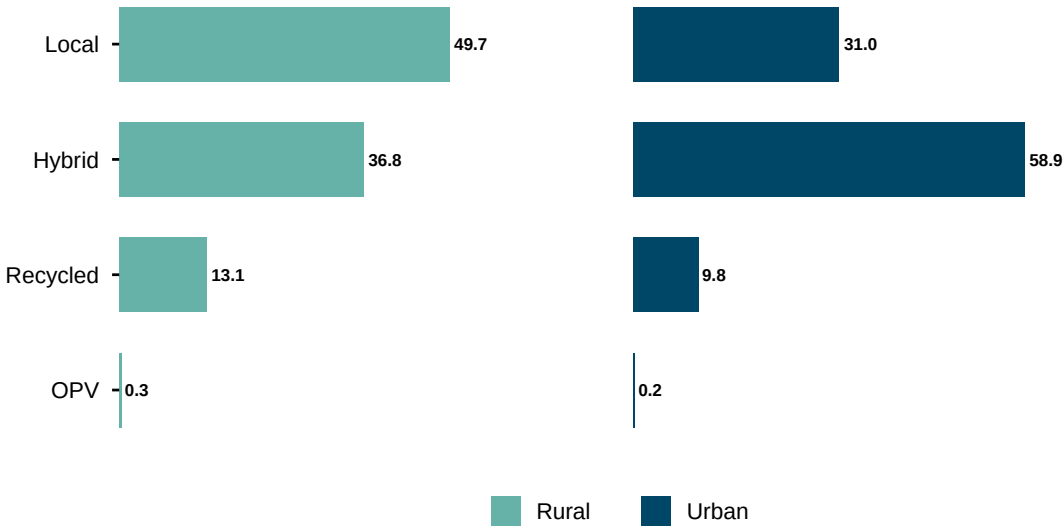
Figure 8.24: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated Plots by Maize Seed Variety in Malawi, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Disaggregation by place of residence reveals significant differences. In urban regions, hybrid seed varieties were predominant, utilized in approximately 58.9 percent of maize plots, whereas local seed varieties comprised about 31.0 percent. Recycled seed was employed in approximately 9.8 percent of urban plots, with OPV seed usage remaining negligible at 0.2 percent. Conversely, in rural areas, local seed varieties were most prevalent, used in approximately 49.7 percent of maize plots. Hybrid seed accounted for about 36.8 percent of rural maize plots, while recycled seeds were present in 13.1 percent of rural plots, and the usage of OPV seed was minimal at 0.3 percent (Figure 8.25 and Table 8.11).

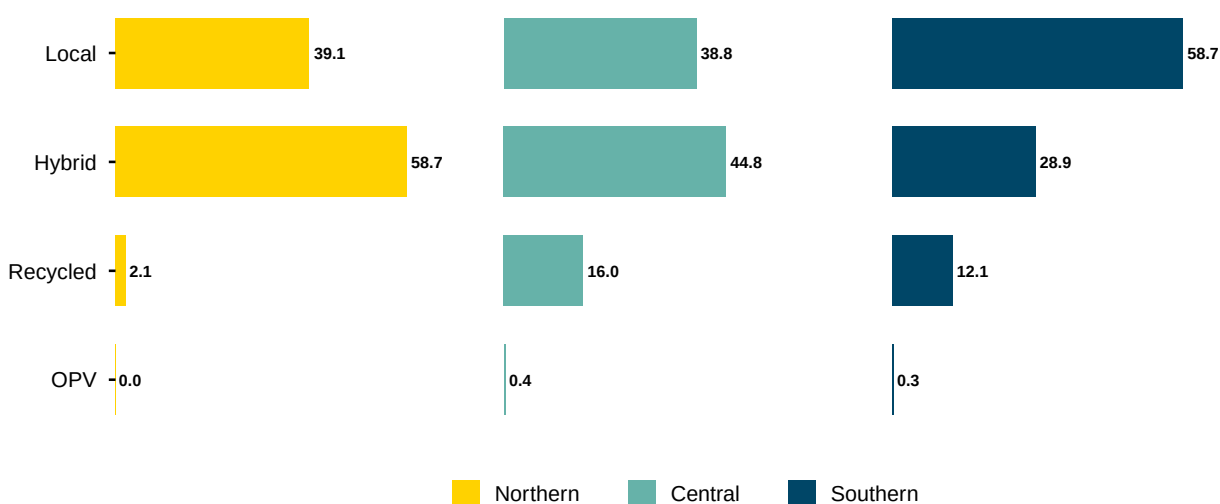
Figure 8.25: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated Plots by Maize Seed Variety and Residence, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

The utilization of hybrid seeds varies across regions, with the Northern Region exhibiting the highest adoption rate at 58.7 percent, followed by local seeds at 39.1 percent. Recycled seeds constitute a minor proportion at 2.1 percent, and there is no reported usage of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV) seeds. In the Central Region, hybrid seeds are predominantly used at 44.8 percent, with local seeds closely following at 38.8 percent. Recycled seeds are relatively more prevalent in this region, accounting for 16.0 percent, whereas OPV seeds are scarcely used at 0.4 percent. In the Southern Region, local seed varieties are predominant, comprising 58.7 percent of usage, succeeded by hybrid seeds at 28.9 percent and recycled seeds at 12.1 percent. The use of OPV seeds remains negligible at 0.3 percent (Figure 8.26 and Table 8.11).

Figure 8.26: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated Plots by Maize Seed Variety and Region, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

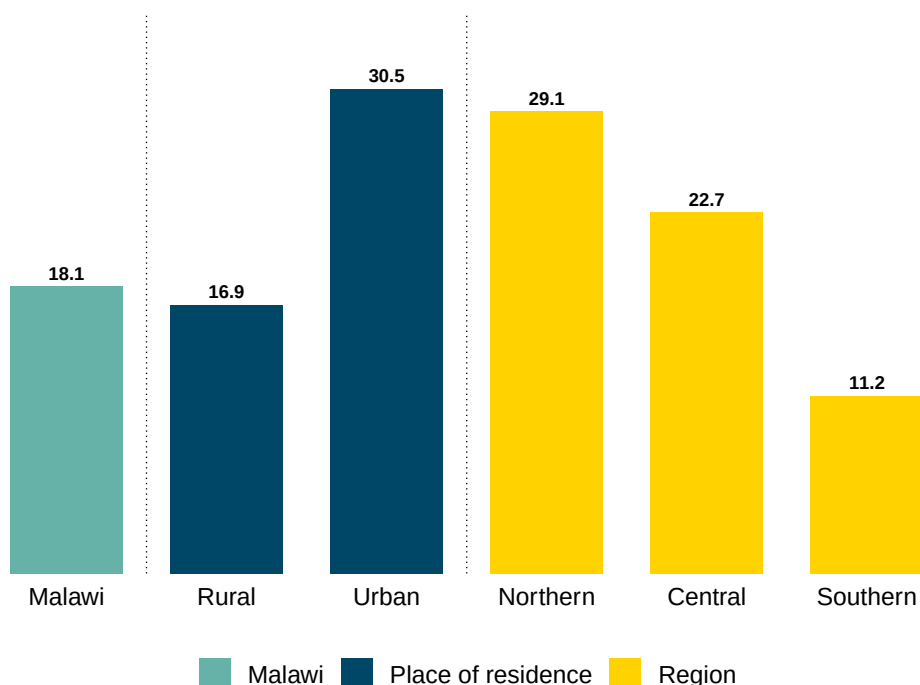
8.8 Harvested Maize Storage

This section delineates findings regarding the storage of harvested maize, emphasizing the proportion of households that possessed maize in storage at the time of the survey, the storage methods employed, and the treatment practices implemented to safeguard maize during storage.

8.8.1 Households with Maize in Storage

Nationwide, approximately 18.1 percent of households report having maize harvested and stored at the time of the survey. The proportion is greater among urban households (30.5 percent) compared to rural households (16.9 percent). Regionally, the Northern Region exhibits the highest proportion at 29.1 percent, followed by the Central Region at 22.7 percent, with the Southern Region recording the lowest at 11.2 percent (Figure 8.27 and Table 8.12).

Figure 8.27: Proportion of Households with Maize in Storage, IHS6 2024/2025



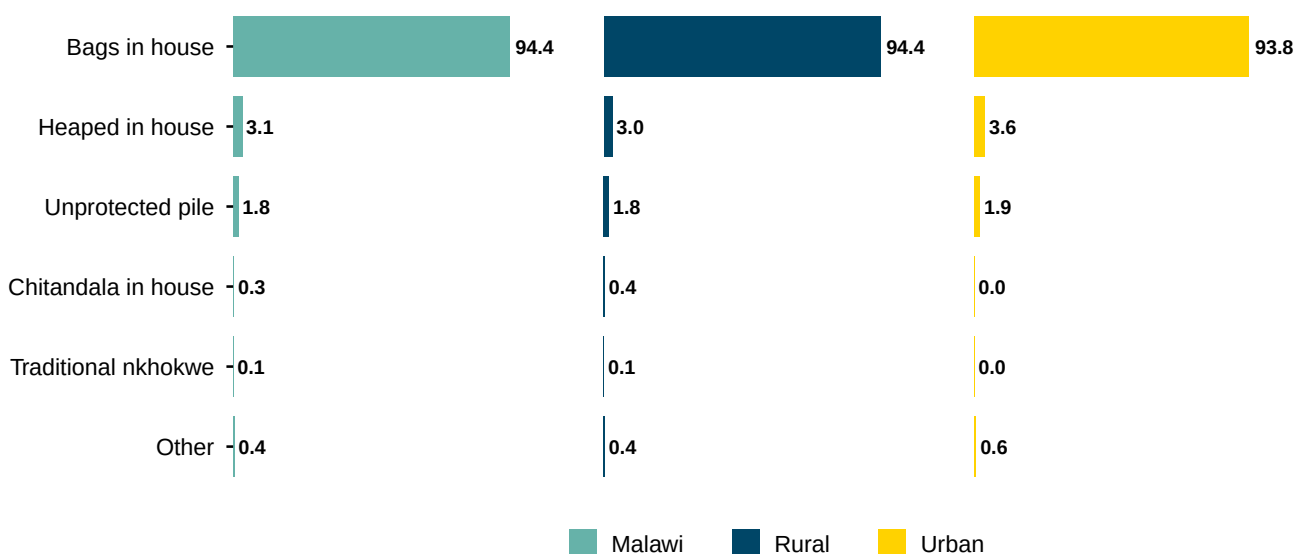
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Households headed by males demonstrate a greater proportion of retaining maize in storage, at 19.8 percent, in comparison to those led by females, which stand at 14.1 percent. Additionally, households led by individuals with tertiary education exhibit the highest proportion at 41.9 percent, whereas those headed by individuals with no formal education at 17.7 percent or only primary education at 15.3 percent display lower proportions (table 8.12).

8.8.2 Storage Methods

The primary method of storage involves the utilization of bags stored within the household premises. Nationwide, a significant majority of households that stored maize (94.4 percent) relied on this method. Alternative practices, such as heaping maize indoors, leaving unprotected piles, or employing extitchitandala and traditional extitnkhokwe, are infrequently observed, each representing less than five percent of households. Comparable patterns are evident across urban and rural regions as well as across various areas (Figure 8.28 and Table 8.12).

Figure 8.28: Percentage Distribution of Maize Storage Methods, IHS6 2024/2025



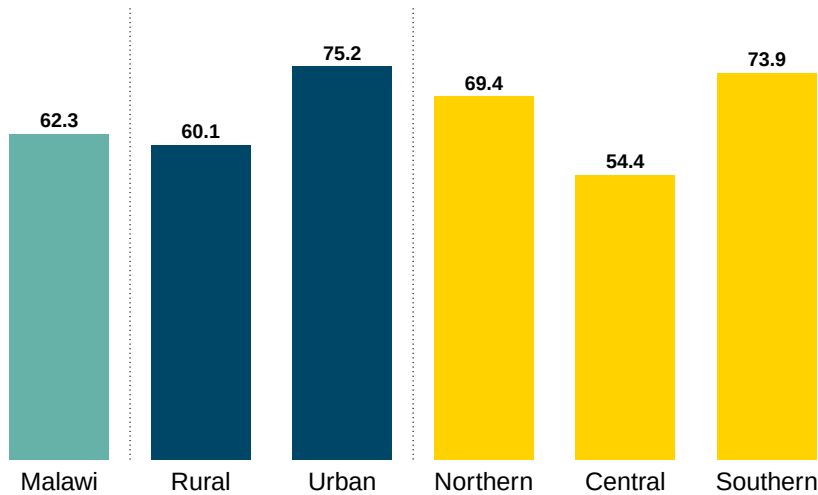
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.8.3 Treatment Methods for Maize under Storage

Use of Storage Pesticides

At the national level, approximately two-thirds of households possessing maize in storage (62.3 percent) report the application of storage pesticides. The proportion is notably higher among urban households, where three out of four households (75.2 percent) utilize pesticides, compared with 60.1 percent among rural households. Among different regions, the Southern Region records the highest usage at 73.9 percent, followed by the Northern Region at 69.4 percent. The Central Region exhibits the lowest proportion, with only slightly over half of households (54.4 percent) indicating pesticide use (Figure 8.29 and Table 8.12).

Figure 8.29: Proportion of households using storage pesticides by place of residence and region, IHS6 2024/2025



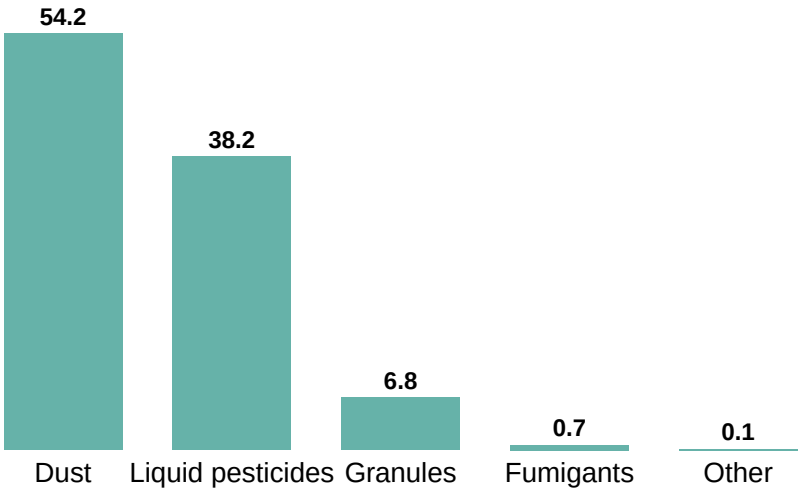
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Male-headed households constitute a larger proportion of storage pesticide utilization (63.8 percent) in comparison to female-headed households (57.6 percent). Similarly, households headed by individuals possessing secondary (68.7 percent) or tertiary education (68.3 percent) demonstrate higher usage rates than those led by individuals with no formal education (63.7 percent) or only primary education (57.3 percent) (table 8.13).

Types of Treatment Methods Used

Among households that utilize pesticides to safeguard maize during storage, dust formulations are the most prevalent method, reported by just over half of the households (54.2 percent). Liquid pesticides are the subsequent most commonly employed, used by approximately two in five households (38.2 percent). The adoption of granules remains minimal at 6.8 percent, while fumigants are infrequently utilized at a mere 0.7 percent. The employment of alternative treatment methods is negligible, accounting for 0.1 percent (Figure 8.30 and Table 8.13).

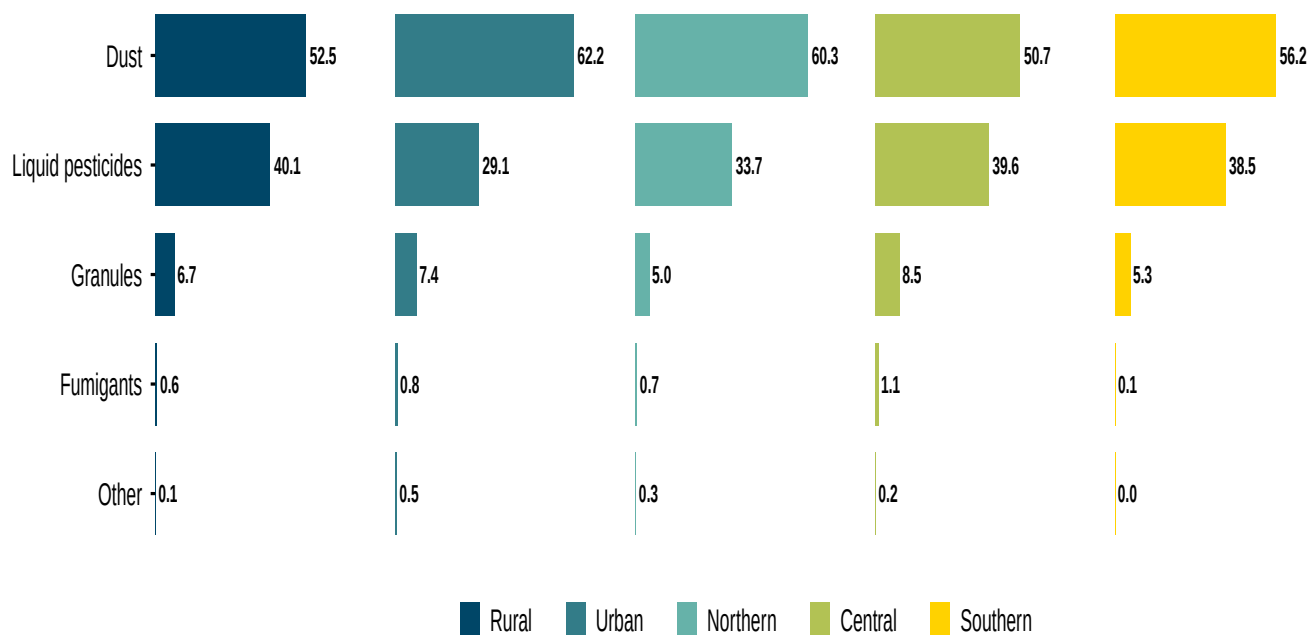
Figure 8.30: Percentage Distribution of Treatment Methods Used for Stored Maize in Malawi, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Urban households report a higher utilization of dust pesticides (62.2 percent) than rural households (52.5 percent). Conversely, liquid pesticides are more prevalent in rural areas (40.1 percent) compared to urban areas (29.1 percent). Geographic variations indicate dust use ranges from 50.7 percent in the Central Region to 60.3 percent in the Northern Region. The Central Region reports granule use at 8.5 percent, whereas fumigant application remains below 1 percent in all regions except the Central Region, where it reaches 1.1 percent (Figure 8.31 and Table 8.13).

Figure 8.31: Percentage Distribution of Treatment Methods Used for Stored Maize by Place of Residence and Region, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

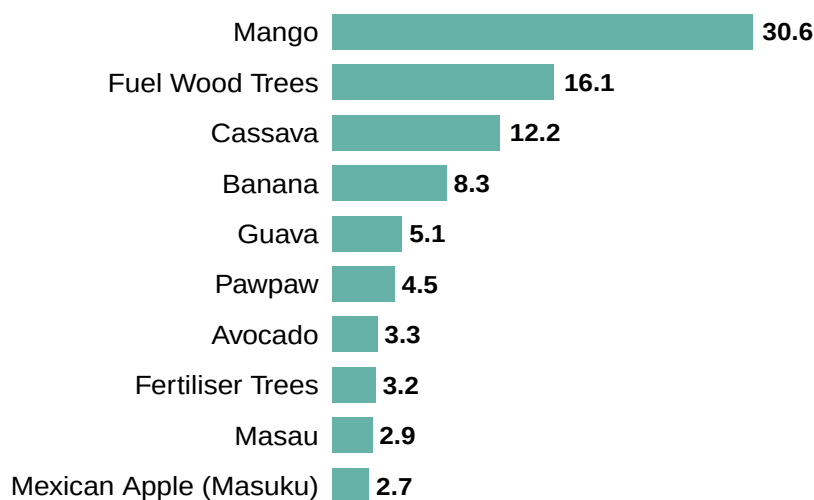
8.9 Cultivation of Tree Crops

This section elucidates the cultivation of tree crops on agricultural plots, emphasizing the varieties of trees cultivated, including fruit trees, fodder trees, soil fertility enhancers, and fuelwood sources. Variations based on place of residence and regional distinctions are explicitly highlighted.

8.9.1 Types of Tree Crops on Plots

At the national level, mango trees are the most commonly cultivated species, appearing on 30.6 percent of plots. Fuelwood trees follow at 16.1 percent, while cassava is grown on 12.2 percent of plots. Banana plantations are present on 8.3 percent of plots, and guava trees are grown on 5.1 percent of plots (Figure 8.32 and Table 8.14).

Figure 8.32: Proportion of Top Ten Types of Tree Crops on Plots in Malawi, IHS6 2024/2025

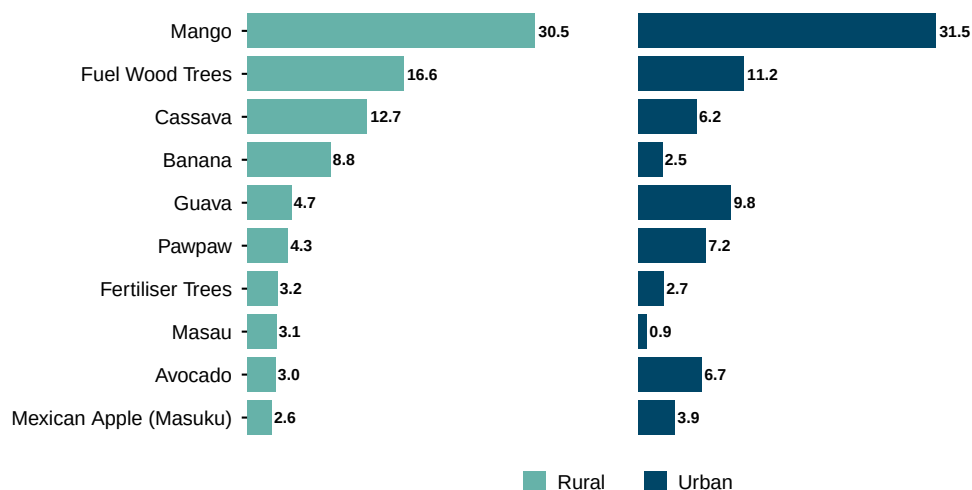


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.9.2 Types of Tree Crops on Plots by Place of Residence

Mango trees are equally common in urban and rural plots, accounting for 31.5 percent and 30.5 percent, respectively. The proportion of plots with avocado and guava is higher in urban areas, at 11.2 percent and 9.8 percent, compared with 4.7 percent and 7.2 percent in rural areas. The proportion of plots with fuelwood trees and cassava is higher in rural areas, at 16.6 percent and 12.7 percent, compared with 3.9 percent and 0.9 percent in urban areas. Banana trees are also more common in rural areas, at 8.8 percent compared with 6.7 percent in urban areas (Figure 8.33 and Table 8.14).

Figure 8.33: Proportion of Top Ten Types of Trees on Plots by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024/2025

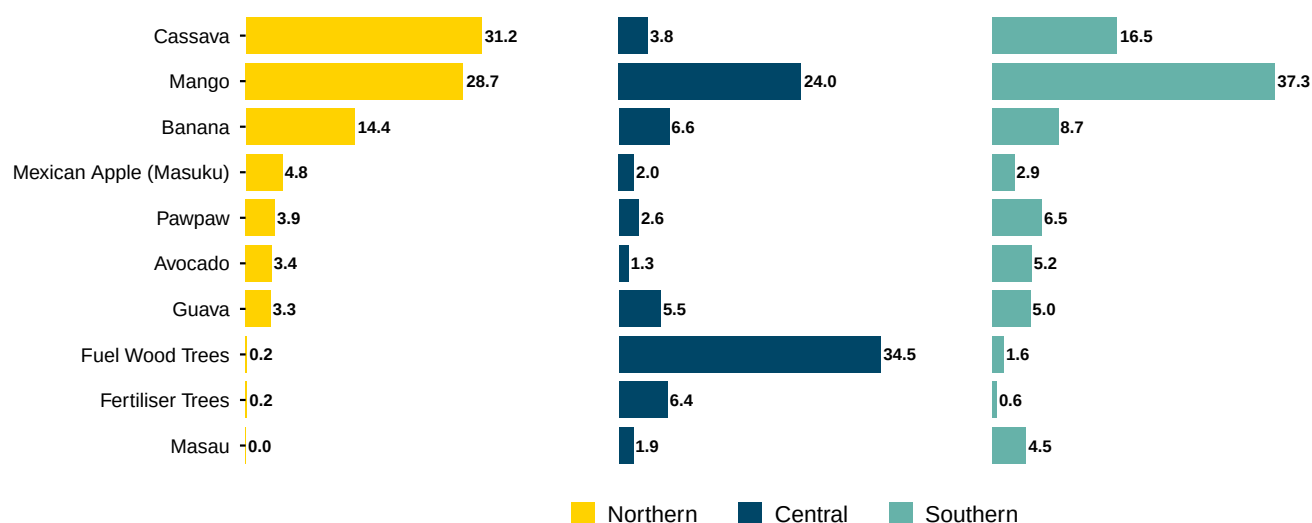


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.9.3 Tree Types on Plots by Region

The Southern Region shows the highest prevalence of mango trees at 37.3 percent, while the Central Region has the highest proportion of plots with fuelwood trees at 34.5 percent. The Northern Region records the highest proportion of plots with cassava and banana trees, at 31.2 percent and 14.4 percent, respectively. Guava and avocado trees are also most prevalent in the Southern Region, at 8.7 percent and 5.0 percent, respectively. Pawpaw and Mexican apple (masuku) are most common in the Central Region, at 6.6 percent and 2.0 percent, respectively. Fertilizer trees are most prevalent in the Northern Region at 3.9 percent, while masau is most common in the Southern Region at 4.5 percent (Figure 8.34 and Table 8.14).

Figure 8.34: Proportion of Top Ten Types of Trees on Plots by Place of Region, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

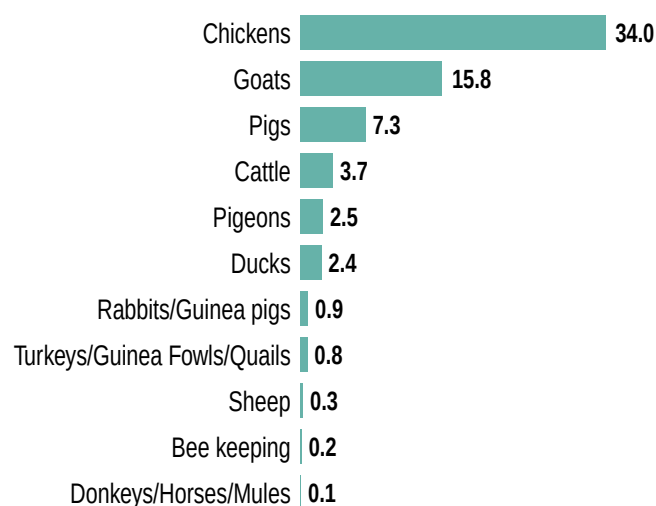
8.10 Livestock Production

This section presents findings on livestock production among households. It examines the types of livestock kept, including poultry and larger animals, and highlights variations by place of residence and region.

8.10.1 Types of Livestock Kept

Nationally, chickens constitute the most prevalent type of livestock kept by households, with approximately 34 percent reporting ownership. Goats are kept by around 15.8 percent of households, while pigs are kept by 7.3 percent. Cattle ownership remains comparatively low at 3.7 percent, and only a minimal proportion of households maintain pigeons at 2.5 percent. Additionally, beekeeping is practiced by 0.2 percent of households (Figure 8.35 and Table 8.16).

Figure 8.35: Proportion of Types of Livestock Kept in Malawi, IHS6 2024/2025

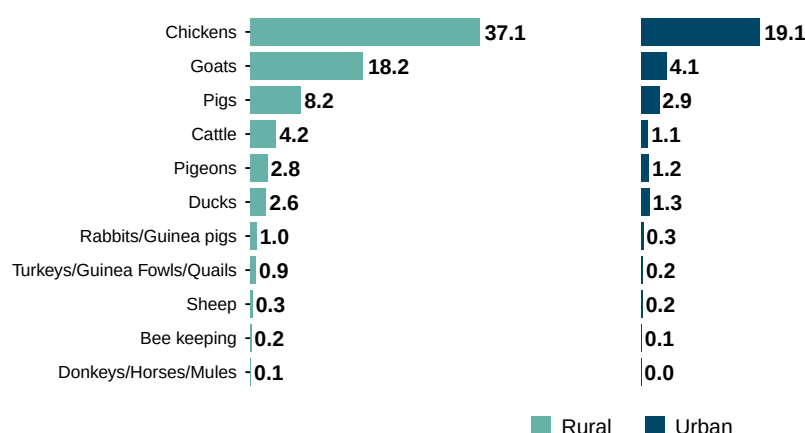


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.10.2 Types of Livestock by Place of Residence

Chickens are the predominant livestock in both urban and rural environments, with 37.1 percent of rural households and 19.1 percent of urban households engaged in keeping chickens. Goats are more frequently kept in rural households (18.2 percent) compared to urban households (4.1 percent). Pigs show a similar distribution, being kept by 8.2 percent of rural households and 2.9 percent of urban households. Cattle are kept by a relatively small proportion of households in both settings but remain more common in rural households (4.2 percent) than in urban households (1.1 percent) (Figure 8.36 and Table 8.16).

Figure 8.36: Proportion of Types of Livestock Kept by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024/2025



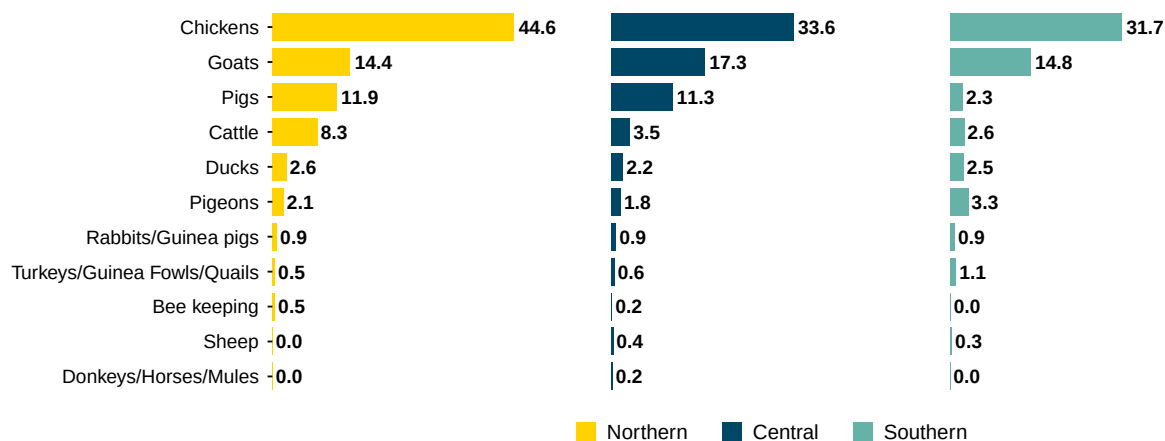
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.10.3 Types of Livestock by Region

At the regional level, chickens are most prevalent in the Northern Region at 44.6 percent, followed by the Central Region at 33.6 percent and the Southern Region at 31.7 percent. Goat ownership is

most common in the Central Region at 17.3 percent, followed by the Southern Region at 14.8 percent and the Northern Region at 14.4 percent. Pig ownership also varies by region, with 11.9 percent of households in the Northern Region keeping pigs, compared with 11.3 percent in the Central Region and 2.3 percent in the Southern Region. Cattle ownership is concentrated in the Northern Region at 8.3 percent (Figure 8.37 and Table 8.16).

Figure 8.37: Proportion of Types of Livestock Kept by Region, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

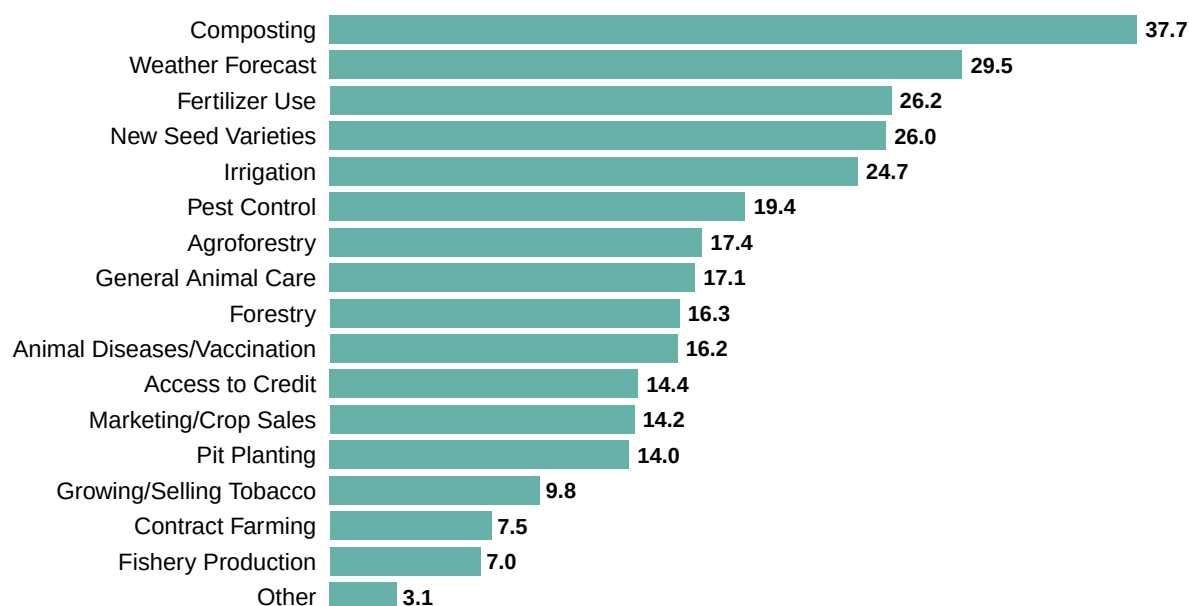
8.11 Extension Services

This section presents information on household access to agricultural extension services. It describes the types of services received by households and shows how access differs by place of residence and region.

8.11.1 Extension Services Received

At the national level, households report receiving extension services related to composting (37.7 percent), weather forecast information (29.5 percent), new seed varieties (26.0 percent), fertilizer use (26.2 percent), irrigation (24.7 percent), and agroforestry (17.4 percent). Smaller proportions of households report receiving services related to tobacco production and marketing, contract farming, and fishery production (Figure 8.38).

Figure 8.38: Proportion of Extension Services Received in Malawi, IHS6 2024/2025

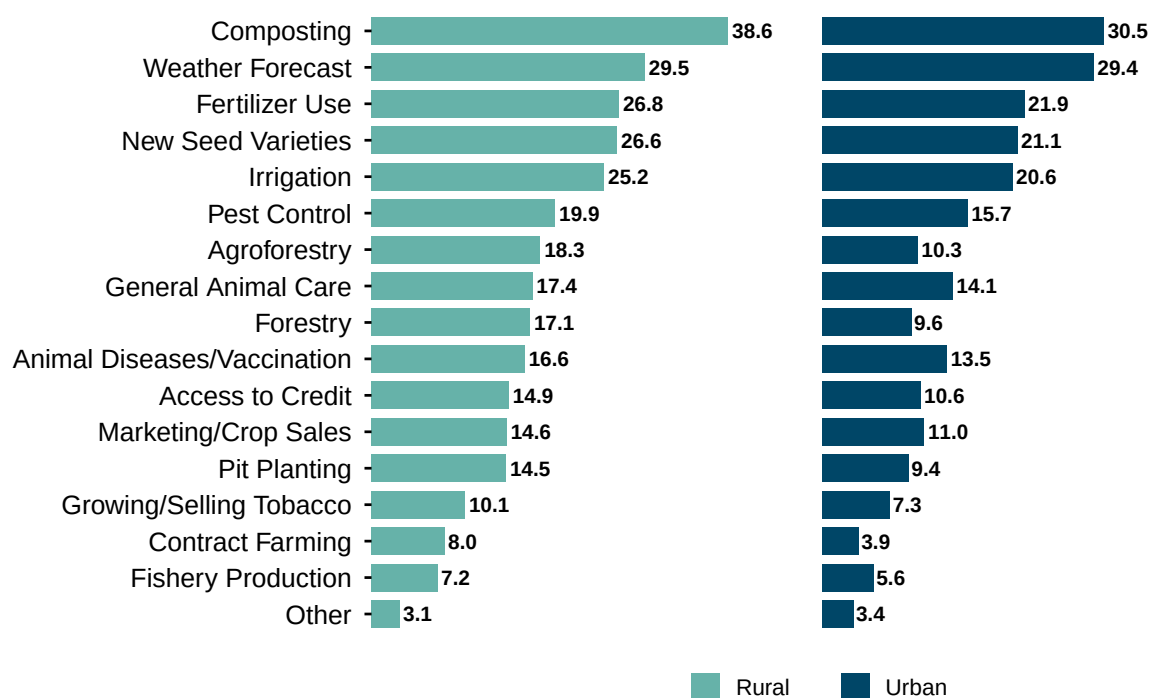


Source: *National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025*

8.11.2 Extension Services by Place of Residence

Access to agricultural extension services varies depending on the place of residence and the type of service. Composting services are accessed by 38.6 percent of rural households and 30.5 percent of urban households. Advice on fertilizer use is provided to 26.8 percent of rural households and 21.9 percent of urban households, whereas irrigation support is reported by 25.2 percent of rural households and 20.6 percent of urban households. Access to weather forecast information remains comparable, with 29.5 percent among rural households and 29.4 percent among urban households. Marketing services are accessed by 14.6 percent of urban households and 11.0 percent of rural households (Figure 8.39).

Figure 8.39: Proportion of Extension Services Received by Place of Residence, IHS6 2024/2025

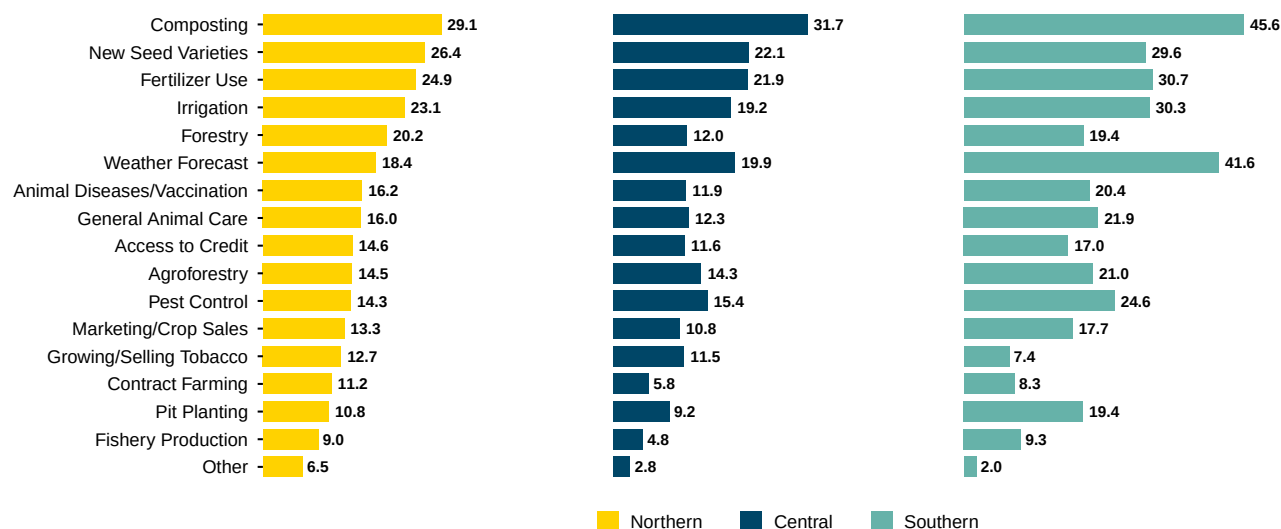


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.11.3 Extension Services by Region

Across regions, the Southern Region reports the highest access to most services, with composting reaching 45.6 percent of households, fertilizer-use advice at 30.7 percent, irrigation support at 30.3 percent, pest control at 24.6 percent, and agroforestry guidance at 21.0 percent. Weather forecast information was also higher in the Southern Region (41.6 percent). The Central Region exhibits comparatively lower access to several services, including pest control (15.3 percent) and irrigation support (19.2 percent), with weather forecast information at 19.9 percent. The Northern Region demonstrates moderate levels, recording 29.1 percent for composting and 23.1 percent for irrigation support, while weather forecast information stands at 18.4 percent (Figure 8.40).

Figure 8.40: Proportion of Extension Services Received by Region, IHS6 2024/2025



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

8.11.4 Extension Services by District

At district level, the distribution of extension services varies across districts. Nsanje recorded the highest proportions for composting (71.3 percent), new seed varieties (65.4 percent), fertilizer use (63.8 percent), irrigation (70.7 percent), pest control (70.6 percent), and general animal care (68.9 percent). Karonga and Chitipa recorded some of the lowest proportions in several of these services, including irrigation (2.3 percent in Karonga), pest control (4.3 percent in Chitipa), and general animal care (0.6 percent in Karonga).

For additional extension services, Nsanje recorded 55.5 percent for animal diseases and vaccination and 54.7 percent for pit planting, while Chikwawa recorded 48.4 percent for agroforestry and Rumphi 57.4 percent for forestry. The lowest proportions for these services were reported in Karonga, Chitipa, Nkhatakota, and Nkhata Bay, including 1.3 percent for pit planting in Karonga, 1.0 percent for agroforestry in Karonga, 1.7 percent for forestry in Karonga, and 0.7 percent for pit planting in Nkhatakota.

For growing and selling tobacco, Rumphi recorded 35.7 percent, followed by Mzimba (19.7 percent) and Kasungu (18.1 percent), while Nkhata Bay and Chitipa recorded 0.3 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. Access to credit was reported at 43.7 percent in Nsanje, 41.2 percent in Rumphi, and 34.9 percent in Chikwawa, compared with 1.8 percent in Chitipa and 2.2 percent in Zomba City.

For marketing and crop sales, Chikwawa and Nsanje each recorded 44.3 percent, while Karonga and Nkhata Bay recorded 1.0 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. Fishery production was reported at 29.8 percent in Nsanje, 22.3 percent in Rumphi, and 20.5 percent in Likoma, compared with 0.4 percent in Karonga and 1.4 percent in Chitipa. Contract farming was reported at 29.1 percent in Rumphi, 20.8 percent in Nsanje, and 17.9 percent in Mzimba. Weather forecast information was highest in Nsanje (84.5 percent), Chikwawa (79.1 percent), and Phalombe (57.4 percent), and lowest in Chitipa (0.7 percent) and Karonga (1.6 percent). Other extension services were reported at 16.6 percent in Likoma, 15.0 percent in Mzuzu City, and 14.4 percent in Mzimba, compared with 0.3 percent in Mulanje and 0.5 percent in Chikwawa.

Key messages

- 75.8 percent of households perceive themselves as “poor” or “very poor.”
- 67.0 percent of households reported inadequate food availability in the month prior to the survey, and eighty-two point eight percent experienced food shortages at some point during the past twelve months.
- Unusually high food prices emerged as the most frequently reported shock, impacting 86.4 percent of households within the past five years.

Welfare refers to the availability of resources and the presence of conditions necessary for a reasonably comfortable, healthy, and secure standard of living. This chapter presents findings on selected general welfare indicators of households, based on households’ subjective assessment of their overall well-being.

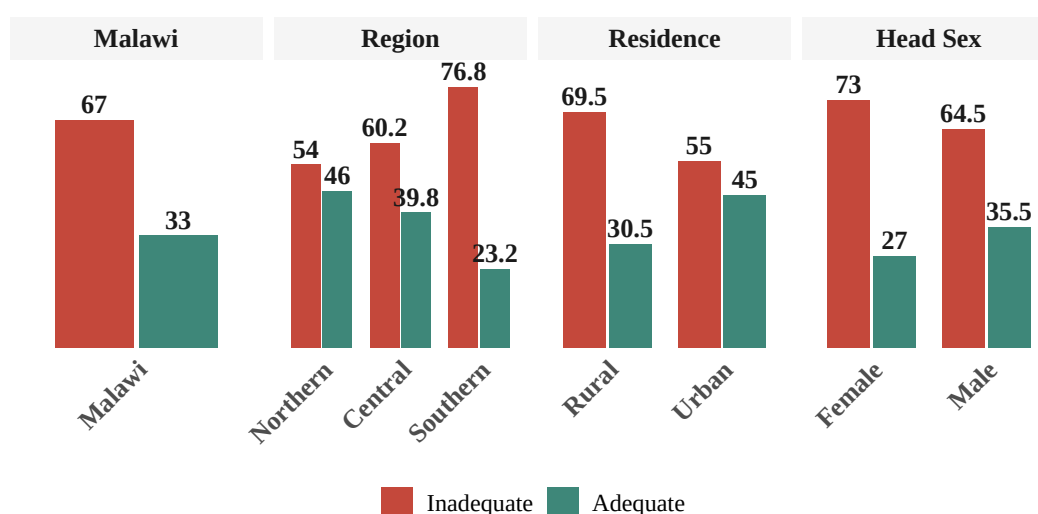
9.1 Basic Needs Inadequacy: Food, Housing and Health

The IHS6 collected data and presents information on subjective food availability, housing, and health inadequacy in the last 30 days prior to the survey.

9.1.1 Food Adequacy

Overall, 67.0 percent of households reported inadequate food availability, whereas 33.0 percent felt they had sufficient food. An analysis based on place of residence indicates that 69.5 percent of households in rural regions reported inadequate food, in contrast to 55.0 percent in urban regions. (Figure 9.1).

Figure 9.1: Adequacy of Food



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

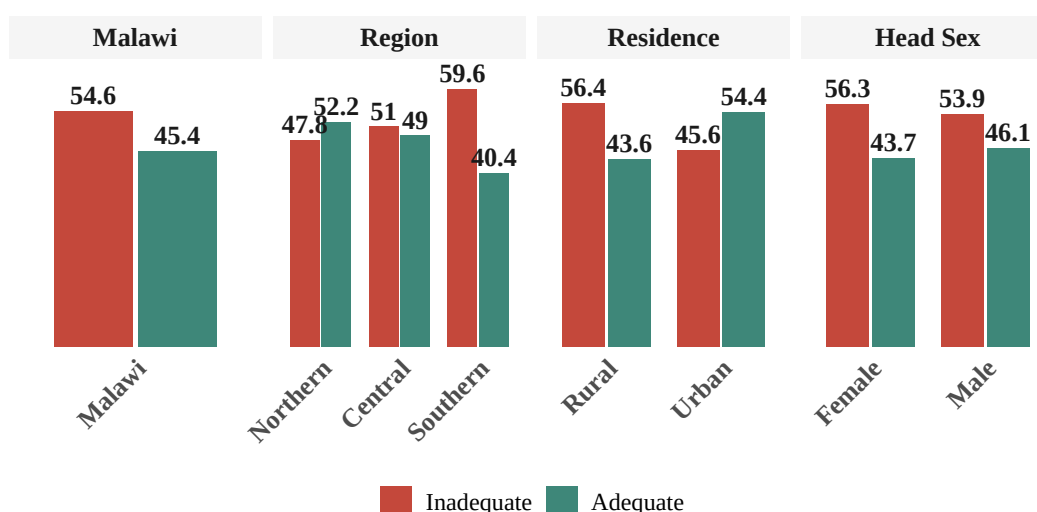
Across regions, the Southern Region reports the highest food challenges, with 76.8 percent of households reporting inadequate food. The Central Region follows with 60.2 percent, while the Northern Region demonstrates comparatively better conditions at 54.0 percent food insufficiency.

Analysis by sex of household heads indicates that female-headed households experience greater food insufficiency (73.0 percent) compared to male-headed households (64.5 percent). At the district level, Chikwawa district reports the highest proportion of households facing food inadequacy at 84.3 percent. (Table 9.1).

9.1.2 Housing Adequacy

At the national level, 54.6 percent of households reported inadequate housing conditions, whereas 45.4 percent reported adequate housing. An analysis by place of residence indicates that rural areas face more significant housing challenges, with 56.4 percent of households reporting inadequate housing, compared to 45.6 percent in urban areas. (Figure 9.2; Table 9.1).

Figure 9.2: Adequacy of Housing



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

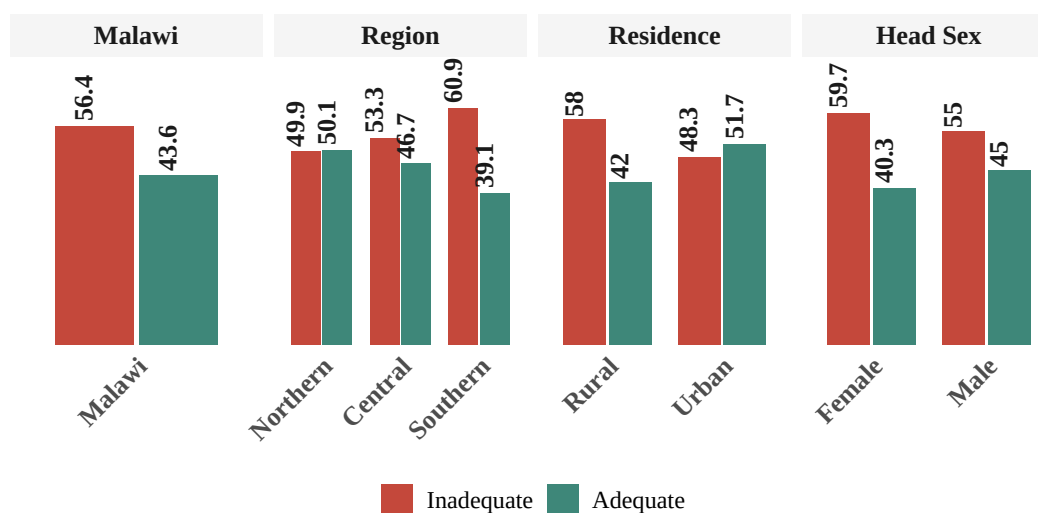
Analysis at the regional level indicates that the Southern Region exhibits the highest proportion of households experiencing inadequacy, accounting for 59.6 percent. This is followed by the Central Region at 51.0 percent and the Northern Region at 47.8 percent. Households headed by females and males reported housing inadequacy at rates of 56.3 percent and 53.9 percent, respectively.

At the district level, Machinga district reported the highest proportion of households experiencing inadequate housing, accounting for 74.7 percent. Conversely, Chitipa district exhibited the lowest rate of housing inadequacy, at 30.3 percent. (Table 9.1).

9.1.3 Health Care Adequacy

At the national level, 56.4 percent of households reported insufficient access to healthcare, whereas 43.6 percent reported sufficient access. An analysis based on place of residence reveals that 58.0 percent of households in rural areas reported inadequate healthcare services, in comparison to 48.3 percent in urban areas. (Figure 9.3; Table 9.1).

Figure 9.3: Adequacy of Health Care



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Across regions, the Southern Region exhibits the greatest level of healthcare inadequacy at 60.9 percent, succeeded by the Central Region at 53.3 percent, and the Northern Region at 49.9 percent. Both female-headed households (59.7 percent) and male-headed households (55.0 percent) reported instances of healthcare inadequacy.

At the district level, Mangochi District reported the highest proportion of households with inadequate healthcare, accounting for 77.5 percent. In contrast, Chitipa District has the lowest proportion, at 21.1 percent. (Table 9.1).

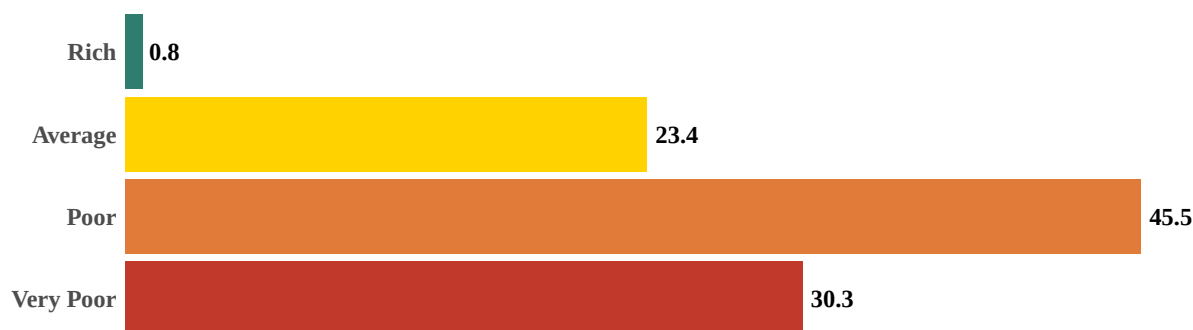
9.2 Assessment on Current Economic Well-Being

The evaluation of perceived economic well-being among households employed three methodologies: self-assessment, comparison with friends, and comparison with neighbors. For assessments involving neighbors and friends, categories specify whether the household perceives itself at the same, lower, or higher level.

9.2.1 Self-Assessment on Current Economic Well-Being

Overall, 30.3 percent of households reported being very poor, while 45.5 percent considered themselves to be poor. Additionally, 23.4 percent perceived themselves as average, and only 0.8 percent regarded themselves as wealthy. (Figure 9.4 and Table 9.2).

Figure 9.4: Percentage Distribution of Households Perceived Current Economic Well-being



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Results disaggregated by place of residence indicate notable differences. In rural areas, 33.1 percent of households perceived themselves as very poor, compared to 17.2 percent in urban areas. A higher proportion of urban households perceived their welfare status as average (38.9 percent) or rich (2.4 percent), compared to 20.2 percent and 0.5 percent of rural households, respectively. (Table 9.2).

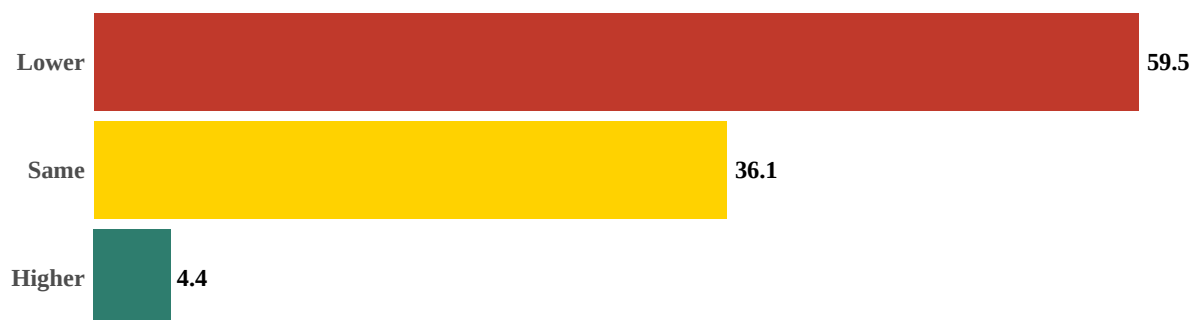
Female-headed households exhibited a higher prevalence of severe poverty, with 37.2 percent perceiving themselves as extremely poor, in contrast to 27.5 percent of male-headed households. (Table 9.2).

Across regions, the Southern Region recorded the highest proportion of households perceiving themselves as very poor (33.2 percent), followed by the Central Region (28.6 percent) and the Northern Region (25.7 percent) (Table 9.2).

9.2.2 Assessment of Own Welfare against Neighbours

The national-level data indicate that 59.5 percent of households perceive themselves as being of a lower socio-economic status compared to their neighbors, 36.1 percent perceive themselves to be on the same level, and 4.4 percent perceive themselves as being on a higher level. (Figure 9.5; Table 9.2).

Figure 9.5: Percentage Distribution of Households Perceived Current Economic Position Compared to Neighbors



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis based on place of residence indicates that 11.2 percent of urban households and 3.0 percent of rural households perceive themselves to be at a higher status than their neighbors. Conversely, the perception of being at a lower status was more prevalent in rural areas (63.9 percent) compared to urban areas (38.6 percent).

Regional analysis indicates that the Southern Region exhibits the highest proportion reporting lower levels than their neighboring regions (60.9 percent), followed by the Central Region at 60.1 percent and the Northern Region at 52.2 percent.

9.2.3 Assessment against Friends

Overall, when comparing themselves to their peers, 57.1 percent of households report being at a lower level, 38.1 percent at the same level, and 4.7 percent at a higher level. An analysis based on place of residence indicates that 9.3 percent of urban households and 3.8 percent of rural households report being at a higher level in comparison to their friends. (Figure 9.6; Table 9.2).

Figure 9.6: Percentage Distribution of Households Perceived Current Economic Position Compared to Friends



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

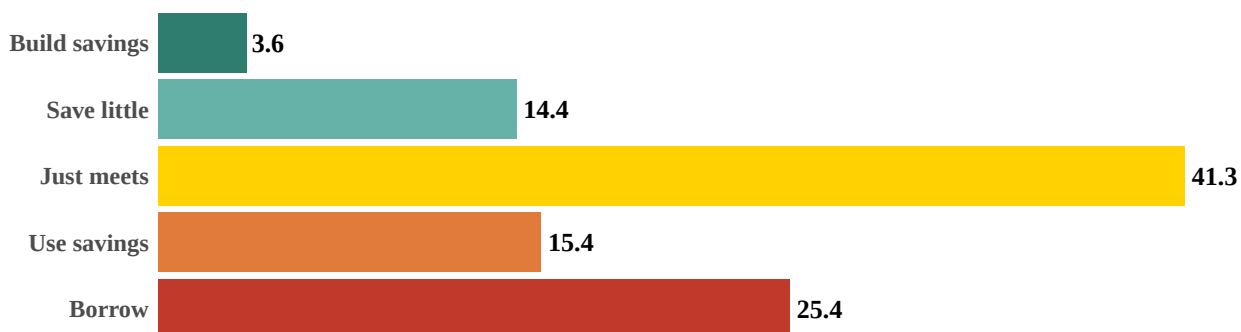
Across various regions, the Central Region reports the highest proportion of households perceiving themselves to be at a higher level than their friends, at 6.2 percent, followed by the Southern Region at 4.1 percent and the Northern Region at 1.8 percent. (Table 9.2).

Analysis by sex of household heads indicates that 60.0 percent of female-headed households and 55.9 percent of male-headed households report being at a lower social level compared to their peers. Conversely, 5.2 percent of male-headed households and 3.6 percent of female-headed households report being at a higher social level. (Table 9.2).

9.3 Adequacy of Households' Current Income

Overall, 41.3 percent of households reported that their income solely covers expenses, while 25.4 percent indicated that their income is insufficient, necessitating borrowing. Approximately 3.6 percent of households stated that their current income enables them to save. (Figure 9.7 and Table 9.3).

Figure 9.7: Percentage Distribution of Households by Perceived Adequacy of Household Income - National



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 40.4 per cent of rural households' current income is sufficient to cover expenses alone, compared with 45.3 per cent of urban households. (Table 9.3). Analysis by region indicates that 31.0 percent of households in the Southern Region report that their current income is insufficient, necessitating borrowing. This is followed by the Central Region at 23.4 percent and the Northern Region at 11.1 percent. Regarding the capacity to save from income, 6.8 percent in the Northern Region indicate that it allows them to do so, compared with 3.8 percent in the Central Region and 3.8 percent in the Southern Region. (Table 9.3).

Analysis by sex of household heads shows that a higher proportion of female-headed households report that their income is insufficient, necessitating borrowing. Regarding the capacity to save, 15.9 percent of male-headed households report being able to save a small amount, compared with 10.7 percent of female-headed households. (Table 9.3).

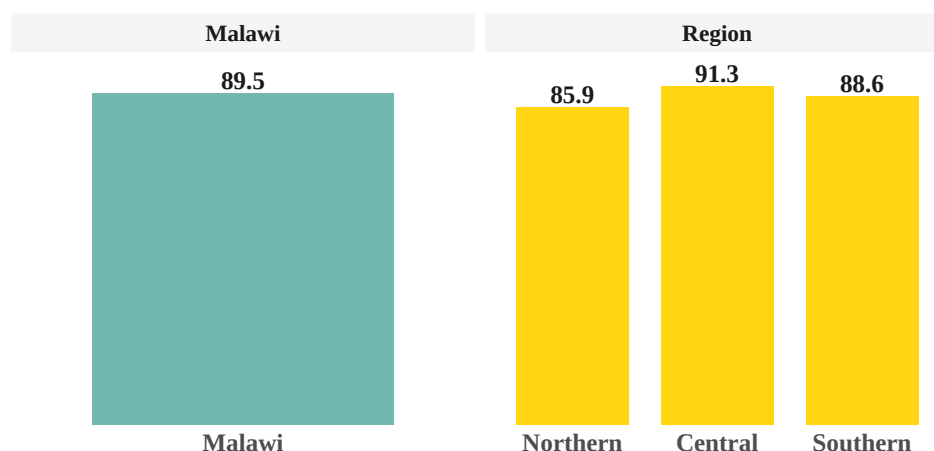
9.4 Welfare in terms of Changes of Clothing and Types of Sleeping Materials

This section summarises findings on basic living conditions, including clothing adequacy and sleeping arrangements. These indicators provide valuable insights into household material wellbeing and standards of living.

9.4.1 Adequacy of Clothing

At the national level, 89.5 per cent of household heads have at least three changes of clothing. An analysis by place of residence shows that 95.8 per cent of urban household heads have at least three changes of clothing, compared with 88.2 per cent of their rural counterparts. Regional disparities show that 91.3 per cent of household heads in the Central region meet this criterion, followed by the Southern region at 88.6 per cent and the Northern region at 85.9 per cent. (Figure 9.8 and Table 9.4).

Figure 9.8: Proportion of Household Heads with At Least Three Changes of Clothes



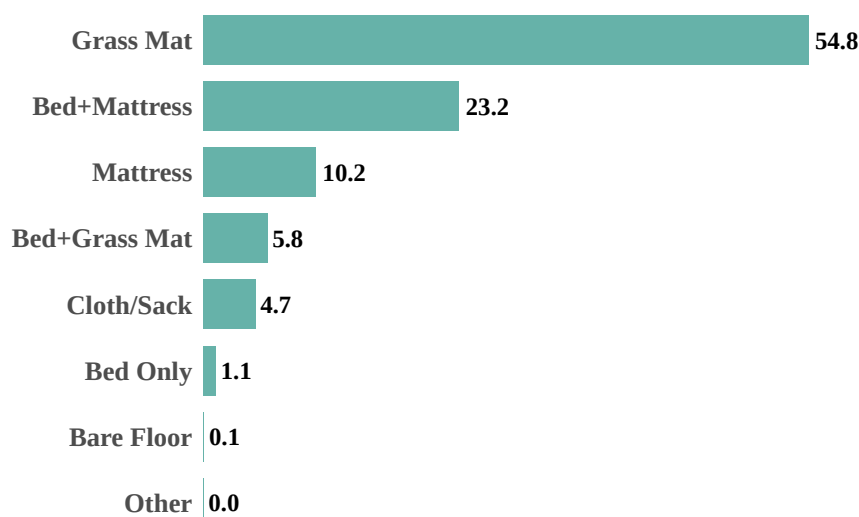
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by gender: 89.2 percent of male-headed households and 90.0 percent of female-headed households possessed at least three changes of clothing. (Table 9.4).

9.4.2 Adequacy of Sleeping on Materials

Overall, 54.8 per cent of household heads sleep on mats on the floor, followed by 23.2 per cent who sleep on mattresses on a bed, and 10.2 per cent who sleep on mattresses directly on the floor. (Figure 9.9 and Table 9.4).

Figure 9.9: Proportion of Household Heads by Sleeping Materials Used



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

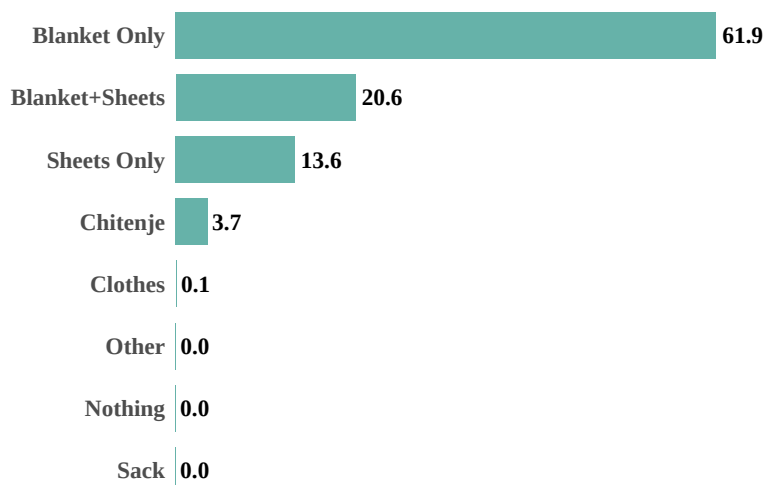
In rural regions, 61.5 per cent of household heads reported sleeping on a grass mat placed directly on the floor, whereas in urban areas this figure was significantly lower. Conversely, sleeping on a bed with a mattress was more prevalent among urban household heads at 55.8 per cent, compared with only 16.4 per cent among rural household heads. (Table 9.4).

Across regions, the Central and Southern areas recorded the highest proportions of household heads

sleeping on grass mats on the floor, at 58.8 per cent and 55.3 per cent, respectively. By gender, sleeping on a grass mat was reported by 53.8 per cent of male household heads and 57.2 per cent of female household heads. (Table 9.4).

9.4.3 Sleeping Materials Used in Cold Season

Figure 9.10: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sleeping Materials for the Head of Household during the Cold seasons



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In rural areas, approximately 61.9 per cent of household heads reported sleeping solely under blankets during the cold season, compared with 55.9 per cent in urban areas. Additionally, sleeping under both blankets and bed sheets was more prevalent among urban household heads (33.3 per cent) than among their rural counterparts (17.9 per cent).

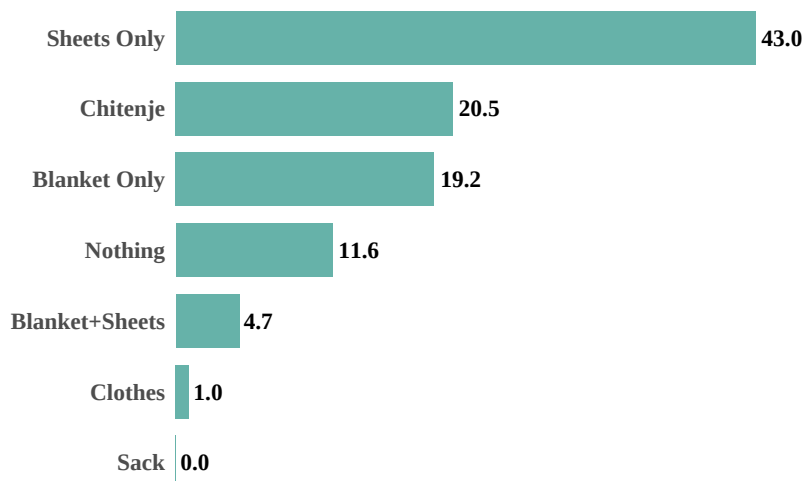
Across regions, the Southern Region reported the highest percentage of individuals sleeping solely under blankets (61.2 percent), closely followed by the Central Region (61.4 percent) and the Northern Region (57.4 percent). (Table 9.5).

Disaggregation by sex of household heads indicates that a greater percentage of male household heads, specifically 21.8 percent, slept under both blankets and bed sheets, compared with 17.5 percent of female household heads. (Table 9.5).

9.4.4 Sleeping Materials used in Hot Season

At the national level, 43.0 per cent of household heads slept solely under sheets during the hot season, followed by 20.5 per cent who used chitenje cloth and 18.6 per cent who used blankets only. (Figure 9.11 and Table 9.6).

Figure 9.11: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sleeping Materials for the Head of Household during the Hot seasons



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

An analysis by place of residence indicates that approximately 60.4 percent of household heads in urban areas used sheets exclusively during the hot season, compared with 39.4 percent in rural areas. Among the regions, the Northern Region had the highest proportion of household heads sleeping under sheets only (54.3 percent), followed by the Central Region (44.4 percent) and the Southern Region (38.6 percent). (Table 9.6).

9.5 Shocks and Mitigation Measures

9.5.1 Households Affected by Shocks

This section presents information on shocks experienced by households over the past five years, offering insights into vulnerability patterns, resilience capacity, and differential impacts across groups.

National-level results indicate that a significant proportion of households (86.4 per cent) were affected by unusually high food prices, followed by 73.6 per cent affected by elevated costs of agricultural inputs and 49.9 per cent by drought. (Table 9.7).

By place of residence, exceptionally high food prices were observed predominantly in both rural (86.0 percent) and urban (88.2 percent) areas. In rural regions, the second most frequent shock was the unusually high costs of agricultural inputs (approximately 78.3 percent), whereas in urban regions, it was the unusually high costs of agricultural inputs (50.6 percent), followed by the unusually high prices of fuel (40.0 percent). (Table 9.7).

Figure 9.12: Unusually High Prices for Food

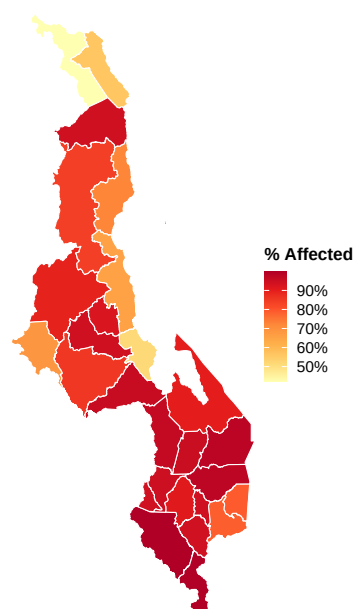
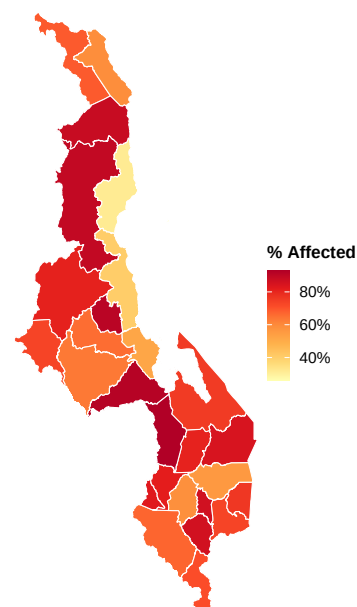


Figure 9.13: Unusually High Costs of Agricultural Inputs



At the regional level, approximately 91.8 per cent of households in the Southern region, 83.7 per cent in the Central region, and 75.0 per cent in the Northern region were affected by exceptionally high food prices. The second most prevalent shock across all regions was the elevated cost of agricultural inputs.(Table 9.7).

Drought shocks were most common in the Southern Region, where 58.3 percent of households reported being affected, compared with 46.6 percent in the Central Region and 29.3 percent in the Northern Region. Cyclone shocks were even more spatially concentrated, affecting 45.8 percent of households in the Southern Region, while the proportions were much lower in the Northern and Central regions, at 4.7 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively. This shows that both drought and cyclone shocks were more pronounced in the Southern Region, although cyclone exposure was especially concentrated there (Table 9.7).

Figure 9.14: Cyclone

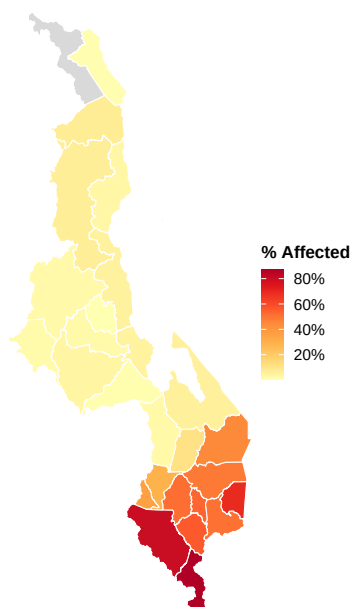
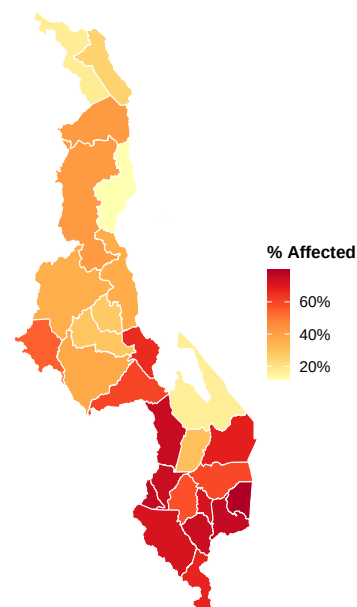


Figure 9.15: Drought

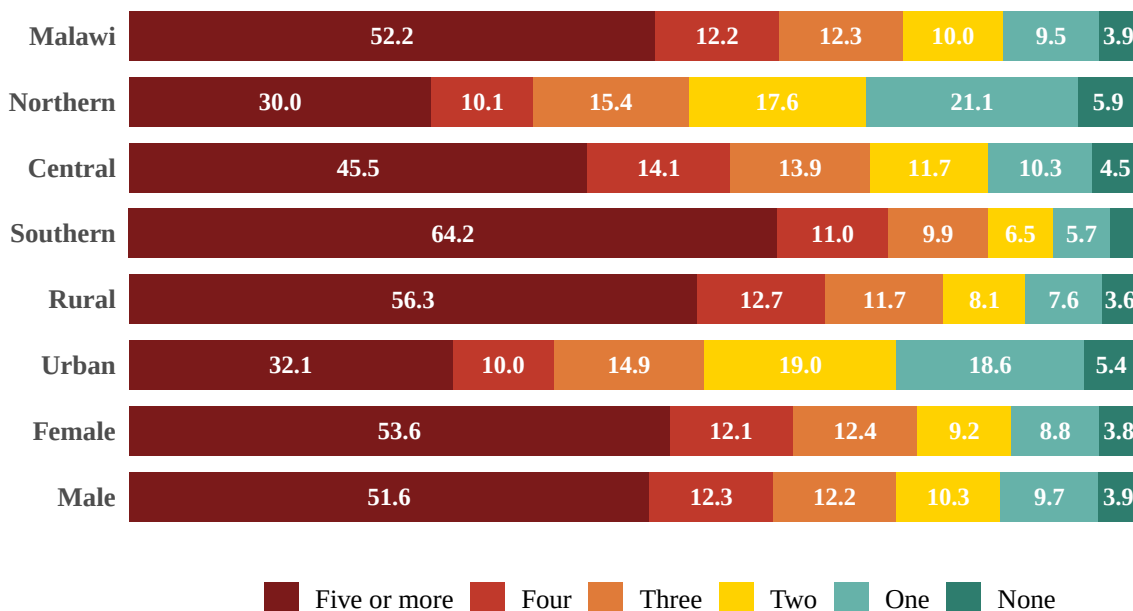


9.5.2 Number Shocks Experienced by Households

The section presents findings on the cumulative burden of shocks experienced by households over the past five years, elucidating patterns of vulnerability and resilience.

The findings indicate that 65.6 percent of households experienced more than five or more shocks in the past five years. Additionally, 19.2 percent experienced three to four shocks, while 13.3 percent experienced one to two shocks. Nearly 2 percent reported no shocks during this period. (Figure 9.16 and Table 9.8).

Figure 9.16: Percentage Distribution of Households by Number of Shock Experienced in the Last 5 Years



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Regarding place of residence, approximately 68.9 percent of rural households encountered five or more shocks. In urban regions, 49.9 percent of households experienced five or more shocks. (Figure 9.16).

Across regions, the Southern region has the highest proportion (75.7 percent) of households experiencing five or more shocks, followed by the Central region at 61.3 percent and the Northern region at 42.3 percent. (Figure 9.16).

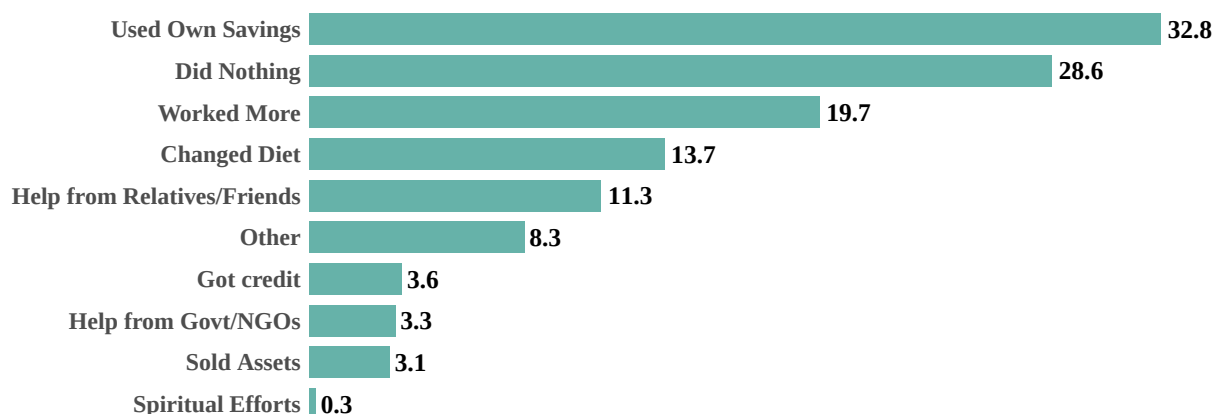
Analysis by sex indicates that a majority of both female- and male-headed households experience five or more shocks, with 68.0 percent and 64.6 percent, respectively. (Figure 9.16).

At the district level, Chikwawa reported the highest proportion (98.5 percent) of households that experienced more than four shocks, followed by 98.2 percent in Nsanje and 91.4 percent in Machinga. (Table 9.8).

9.5.3 Mitigation Measures for Overcoming Shocks by Households

Overall, 31.5 percent of households used their own savings to address various shocks, while 29.8 percent took no action and 15.9 percent resorted to additional work. Additionally, 12.1 percent received support from relatives and friends. (Figure 9.17 and Table 9.9).

Figure 9.17: Percentage Distribution of Households by Mitigation Measures for Overcoming Shocks



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis by place of residence indicates that 31.2 percent of households in rural areas used their own savings to manage various shocks, followed by 29.5 percent who took no action and 16.0 percent who needed to work additional hours. In urban areas, 33.2 percent of households used their own savings to address similar shocks, 31.5 percent took no action, and 15.4 percent worked more. (Table 9.9).

Across regions, in the Southern region, a significant proportion of households (34.0 percent) engaged in no mitigation measures, followed by 23.4 percent who reported increased work necessity and 16.5 percent who indicated changes in dietary patterns as a form of mitigation. In the Central region, 45.9 percent used their own savings, 24.7 percent took no action, and 11.9 percent received assistance from relatives or friends. In the Northern region, approximately 44.4 percent of households used their own savings, 31.2 percent took no mitigation measures, and 9.6 percent received help from relatives or friends. (Table 9.9).

In households headed by females, 32.3 percent were inactive, 26.7 percent relied on their own savings to survive, and 18.6 percent received assistance from relatives or friends. In households headed by males, 33.5 percent relied on their own savings, 28.8 percent were inactive, and 16.0 percent worked additional hours. (Table 9.9).

At the district level, Chitipa has the highest proportion (70.9 percent) of households using their own savings to mitigate various shocks, whereas Salima has the lowest proportion (7.4 percent). (Table 9.9).

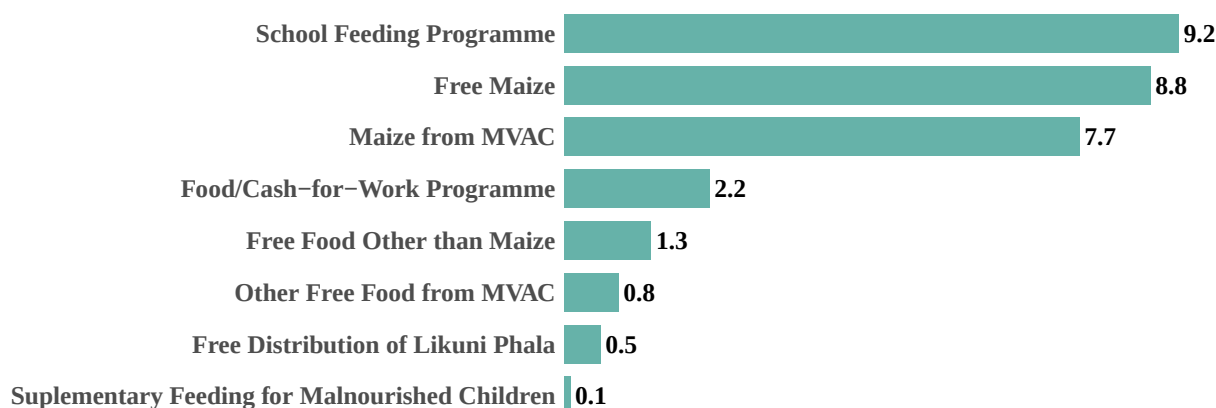
Social Safety Nets

Social safety nets are programs implemented by governments, donors, or private-sector organizations to assist the poorest and most vulnerable populations in overcoming extreme poverty. These social safety nets encompass various forms, including food aid, cash transfers, educational bursaries and scholarships, and healthcare assistance.

9.5.4 Benefits from Food Related Programmes

Overall, 9.2 percent of households benefited from school feeding programs, 8.8 percent from the free maize distribution program, and 7.7 percent from the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) maize distribution program. (Figure 9.18 Table 9.10).

Figure 9.18: Percentage Distribution of Households that received Food Aid



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

An analysis by place of residence shows that 9.6 percent of rural households and 7.0 percent of urban households received benefits from the school feeding program. Maize supplied by MVAC benefited 8.4 percent of rural households and 4.4 percent of urban households. (Table 9.10).

At the regional level, the highest proportions of households are beneficiaries of the school feeding programs, MVAC maize, free maize, and food or cash-for-work programs, with the Southern region accounting for 14.2 percent, 11.7 percent, 11.4 percent, and 3.2 percent, respectively. The Central region has the second-highest share of beneficiary households in the free maize distribution program, MVAC maize, free food other than maize, and other free food from MVAC, comprising 7.0 percent, 4.5 percent, 1.3 percent, and 0.4 percent, respectively. The Northern region has the highest proportion of households benefiting from the free distribution of Likuni Phala. (Table 9.10).

The proportion of female-headed households that benefited from selected social protection programs is higher than that of male-headed households. Specifically, 11.0 percent of female-headed households benefited from the free maize distribution program compared to 7.8 percent of male-headed households. (Table 9.10).

At the district level, Chikwawa recorded the highest proportion (21.3 percent) of households that benefited from free maize distribution, while Rumphi recorded the lowest proportion at 1.5 percent. (Table 9.10).

9.5.5 Benefits from Education Related Programmes

Overall, 0.3 percent benefit from tertiary education scholarships and 0.5 percent benefit from secondary education scholarships. In urban areas, 1.1 percent benefit from tertiary education scholarships and 0.6 percent from secondary education scholarships. (Figure 9.19 and Table 9.11).

Figure 9.19: Percentage Distribution of Households that received Education related Aid



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Throughout the regions, 0.6 percent of households in the Southern region receive scholarships for secondary education, compared to 0.5 percent in the Central region and 0.2 percent in the Northern region. Regarding tertiary education, approximately 0.4 percent of households in the Northern region are beneficiaries, alongside 0.4 percent in the Southern region and 0.2 percent in the Central region.

An analysis by place of residence indicates that in rural regions, 0.5 percent of households are recipients of scholarships for secondary education, while 0.2 percent benefit from tertiary education scholarships. Conversely, in urban areas, 1.1 percent of households receive scholarships for tertiary education, and 0.6 percent benefit from scholarships for secondary education.

Analysis by gender of the household head indicates that, in female-headed households, 0.8 percent benefit from scholarships for secondary education, and 0.3 percent benefit from scholarships for tertiary education. Conversely, in male-headed households, 0.4 percent benefit from scholarships for secondary education, with 0.3 percent of these households benefiting from similar support.

At the district level, Nsanje reported the highest proportion (2.3 percent) of households benefitting from scholarships for secondary education, followed by Blantyre at 1.6 percent and Mchinji at 1.0 percent. Approximately 2.3 percent of households in Likoma received scholarships for tertiary education, with Chiradzulu and Blantyre City each at 1.6 percent.

9.5.6 Benefits from Cash Transfer and Other Programmes

Overall, 4.2 percent of households received direct government cash transfers, while 1.8 percent obtained direct cash transfers from other sources. Cash assistance provided by MVAC reached 1.3 percent at the national level. (Figure 9.20 and Table 9.12).

Figure 9.20: Percentage Distribution of Households that received Cash Transfer and Other Programmes



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Across various regions, the incidence of government direct cash transfers was relatively consistent,

with reported figures of 4.5 percent in the Northern Region, 4.2 percent in the Southern Region, and 4.0 percent in the Central Region. The highest level of MVAC cash assistance was observed in the Southern Region at 2.1 percent.

Female-headed households were more likely to benefit from cash transfer programmes. Among female-headed households, 6.2 percent received government direct cash transfers compared to 3.3 percent of male-headed households.

Key messages

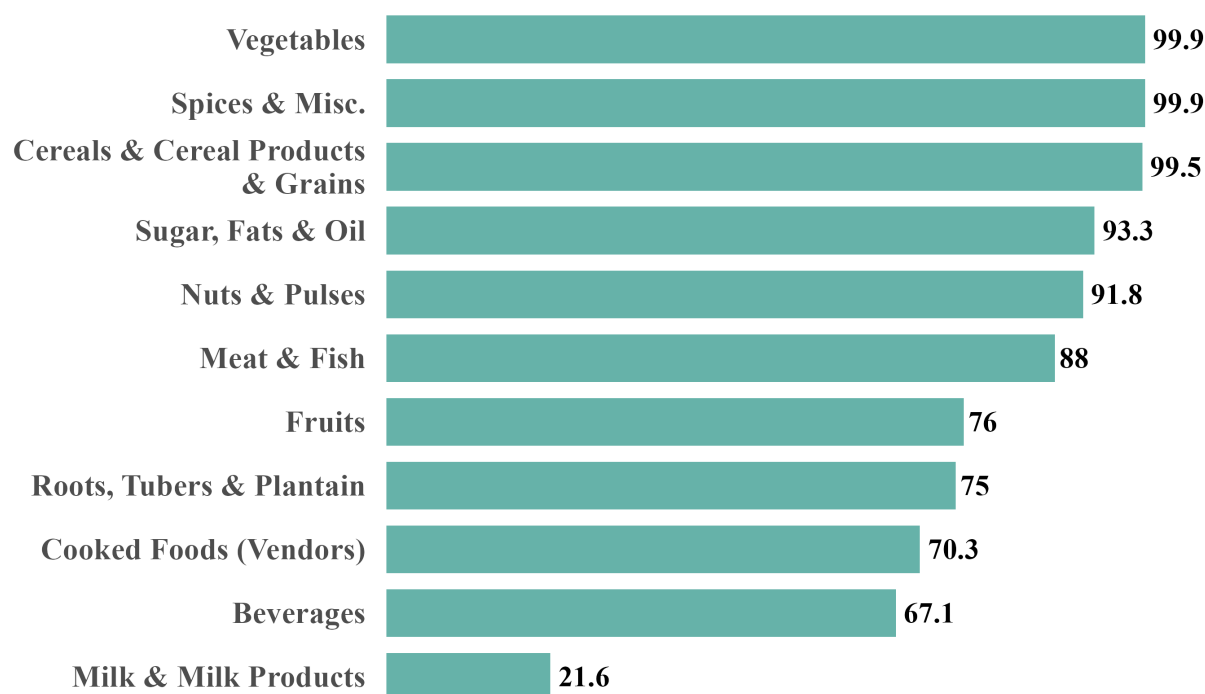
- Approximately 80 percent of households encounter food shortages within the specified reference period.
- High food prices at the market (45.9 percent), drought or poor rains (43.5 percent) and lack of farm inputs (38.5 percent) are the leading causes of food shortages.
- Most households consume vegetables and spices & miscellaneous (99.9 percent) and cereals, grains and cereal products (99.5 percent). On the other hand, consumption of milk and milk products is relatively low at 21.6 percent.

10.1 Household Food Consumption Profile

This section delineates household-level food consumption experience indicators for the seven days prior to the survey. These indicators encapsulate outcomes related to access-related food insecurity, including anxiety regarding food availability, dietary compromises, and extreme deprivation such as abstaining from food for an entire day.

At the national level, the consumption of vegetables and spices/miscellaneous items is nearly universal at 99.9 percent, reflecting a widespread reliance on both cultivated and wild vegetables. This is subsequently followed by cereals, grains, and cereal products, which are consumed by 99.5 percent of households. The consumption of milk and milk products remains relatively low at 21.6 percent. (Figure 10.1 and Table 10.1).

Figure 10.1: Foods Consumed in the Past 7 Days



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Urban households demonstrated higher consumption of the majority of food groups compared to rural households. The intake of roots and tubers is notably greater in urban areas (83.5 percent) than in rural areas (73.2 percent). Additionally, urban households exhibit higher consumption rates of fruits (82.8 percent) and dairy products (40.6 percent) relative to rural households (74.6 percent and 17.7 percent, respectively). (Table 10.1).

Consumption varies by region, especially concerning milk and dairy products. The Southern Region exhibits the lowest consumption rate at 16.1 percent, whereas the Central Region follows at 23.1 percent. Conversely, the Northern Region demonstrates the highest consumption rate at 37.6 percent. (Table 10.1).

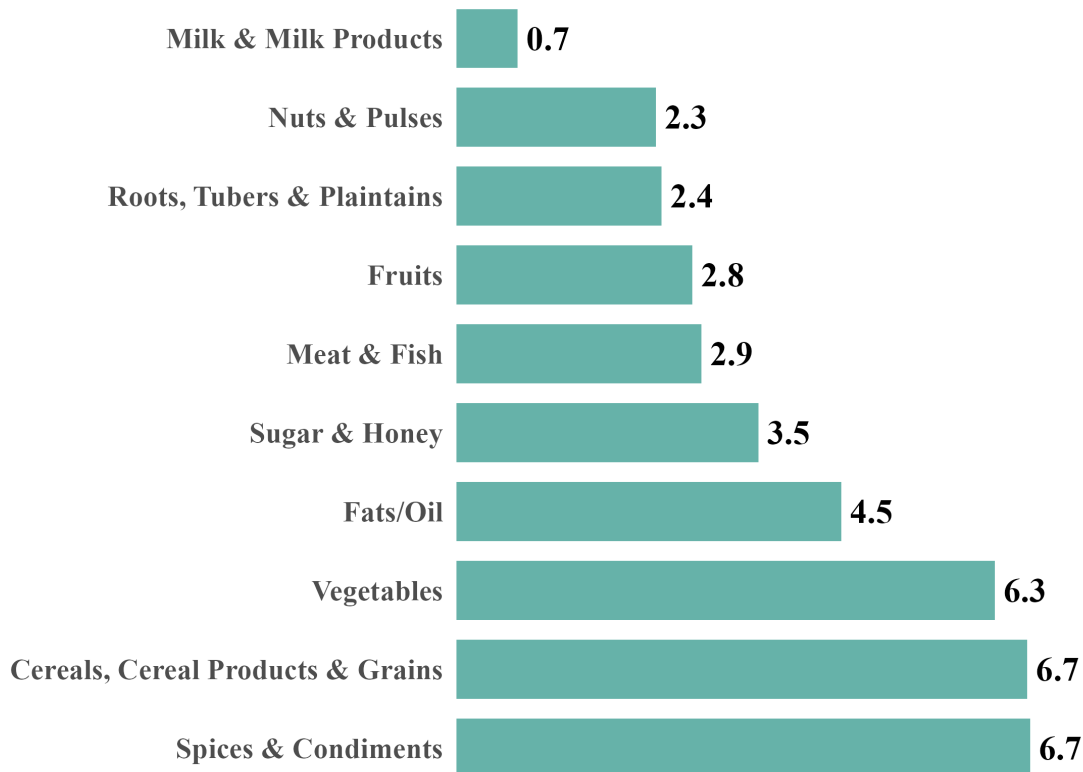
Male-headed households reported higher consumption of most food groups than female-headed households. The proportion of male-headed households consuming milk and milk products is higher at 24.0 percent compared to 15.8 percent for female-headed households (Table 10.1).

At the district level, notable variation is observed in the consumption of different food groups. Consumption of milk and milk products is the lowest in Machinga (6.2 percent) followed by Mulanje (6.4 percent) and Phalombe (7.5 percent) (Table 10.1).

10.2 Dietary Diversity

At the national level, cereals, grains, cereal products, and spices/condiments are ingested on average 6.7 days per week. Vegetables are consumed on an average of 6.3 days per week. Conversely, the food group with the lowest frequency of consumption is milk and milk products, which are consumed on average 0.7 days per week. (Figure 10.2 and Table 10.2).

Figure 10.2: Average Number of Days Per Week with Consumption of Food Groups (Average number of days for all households)



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Analysis indicates that households residing in urban areas tend to consume higher-value food groups with greater frequency. Specifically, urban households typically consume sugar and honey products for 5.5 days per week, meat, fish, and other animal products for 3.7 days, and milk and milk products for 1.7 days. In contrast, rural households average 3.1 days per week for sugar and honey products, 2.7 days for meat, fish, and animal products, and only 0.5 days for milk and milk products. (Table 10.2).

At the regional level, households in the Northern and Southern Regions exhibit comparable average consumption frequencies for meat, fish, and animal products, averaging 2.9 days per week. Conversely, the Central Region demonstrates a lower average, approximately 2.8 days per week. (Table 10.2).

Female-headed households consume meat, fish, and other animal products on an average of 2.5 days per week, compared with 3.0 days per week among male-headed households (Table 10.2).

10.3 Food Security and Food Shortages in the Past 12 Months Prior to the Survey

At the national level, more than 50 percent of households (52.1percent) report abstaining from food for an entire day due to food scarcity. The majority of households also reported encountering food shortages, with 82.8 percent indicating depletion of their food supplies, and 86.1 percent reporting that they have omitted meals due to food scarcity. (Figure 10.3; Table 10.3).

Figure 10.3: Food Security and Food Shortages in the Past 12 Months



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

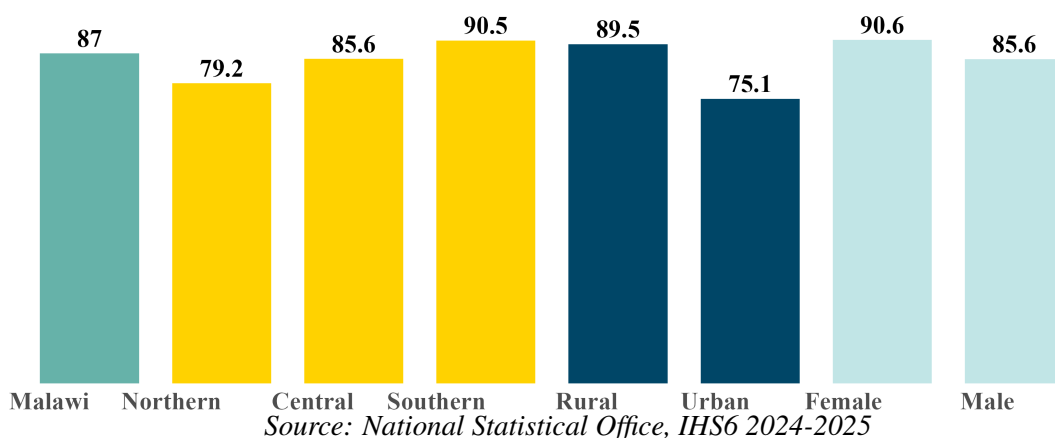
Rural households are more susceptible to food insecurity based on their place of residence. In rural regions, 92.3 percent of households reported consuming only a limited variety of foods, and 91.6 percent indicated their inability to access healthy and nutritious food. (Table 10.3).

At the regional level, a greater proportion of households in the Southern Region (93.7 percent) report consuming only a limited variety of foods, followed by the Central Region at 88.0 percent and the Northern Region at 82.3 percent. (Table 10.3).

According to the sex of household heads, 92.7 percent of female-headed households report consuming only a limited variety of foods. (Table 10.3).

At the district level, a greater proportion of households in Mulanje (98.1 percent) report consuming less food than they thought they should. In Chitipa has less proportion of households skipping a meal with 55.1 percent (Table 10.3).

Figure 10.4: Households Worried About Not Having Enough Food Because of Lack of Money (Share of all households)



10.3.1 Number of Meals Taken by Adults

At the national level, over fifty percent of households (52.1 percent) report that adult members of the household consume two meals per day. An additional 37.3 percent of households consume three or more meals daily, while 10.6 percent indicate that adult household members consume only a single meal per day. (Figure 10.5 and Table 10.4).

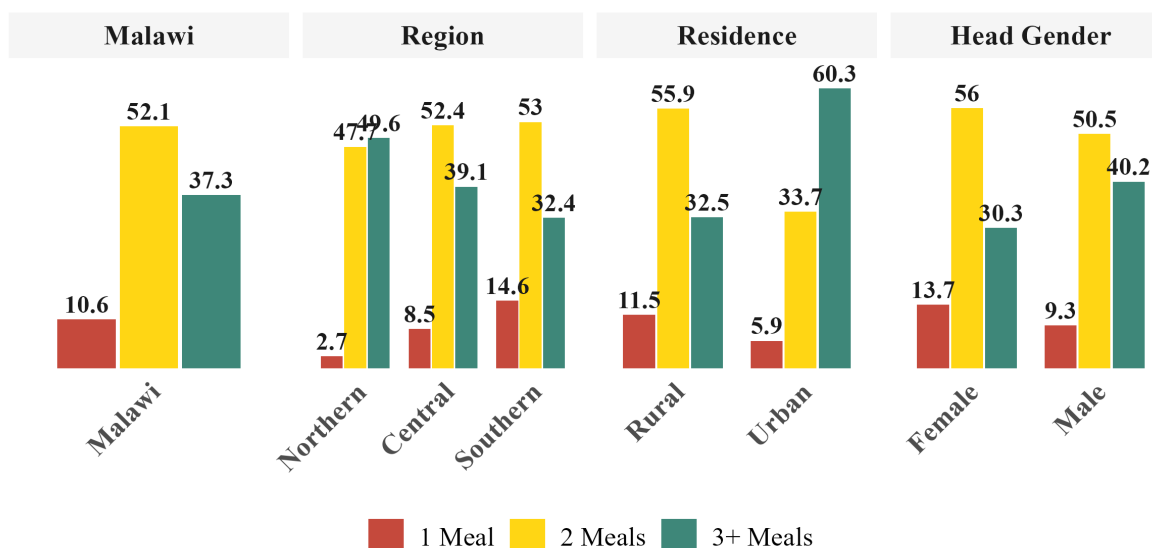
At the regional level, the Northern Region reports the highest proportion (49.6 percent) of households where adults consume three or more meals daily, followed by the Central Region at approximately 39 percent and the Southern Region at 32.4 percent. (Table 10.4).

In urban regions, 60.3 percent of households reported that adults consume three or more meals daily, whereas in rural regions, this figure is 32.5 percent. (Figure 10.5 and Table 10.4).

Households headed by females exhibit a greater proportion of adults who consume only one meal per day (13.7 percent) in comparison to households led by males (9.3 percent). (Figure 10.5 and Table 10.4).

At the district level, Rumphi exhibits the highest proportion (64.7 percent) of households with adults consuming three or more meals daily, followed by Chitipa at 63.8 percent and Blantyre City at 59.1 percent. Conversely, Dzaleka Camp has the lowest proportion (7.8 percent) of households reporting that adults are consuming three or more meals per day. (Table 10.4).

Figure 10.5: Percentage distribution of households by number of Meals Taken by Adults



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

10.3.2 Number of Meals Taken by Children aged 6–59 months

Overall, 65.2 percent of households with children aged 6-59 months report that children consume three or more meals daily; however, 4.3 percent still have only one meal per day (Figure 10.6 and Table 10.4).

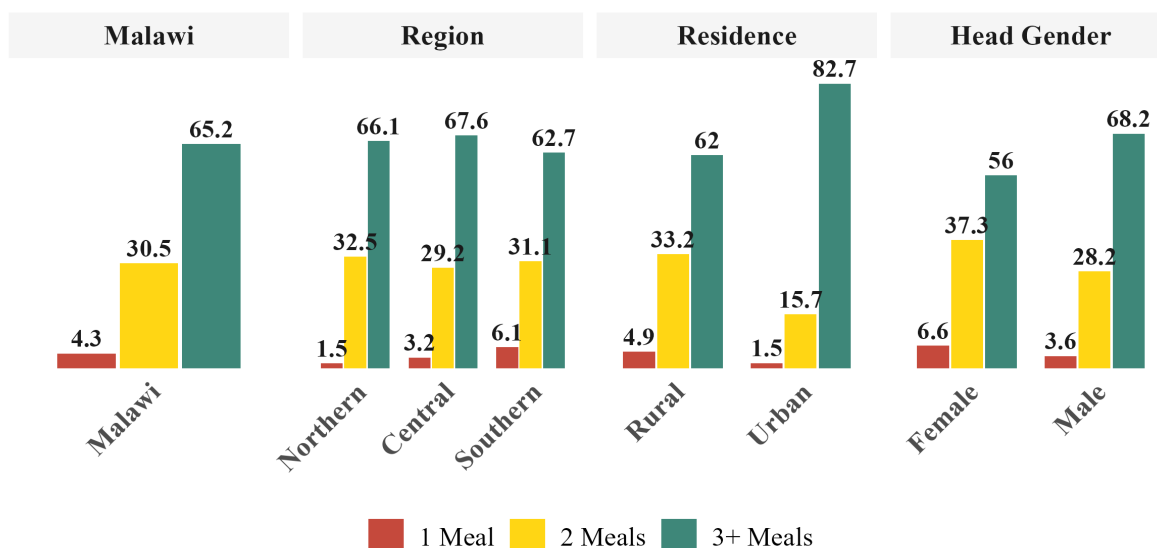
In terms of place of residence, 82.7 percent of households in urban areas reported that children aged 6-59 months consume three or more meals daily, compared to 62 percent in rural areas. (Figure 10.6 and Table 10.4).

The regional results indicate that 67.6 percent of households in the Central region report that children aged 6-59 months are receiving three or more meals per day, followed by the Northern region at 66.1 percent and the Southern region at 62.7 percent. (Table 10.4).

Female-headed households exhibit a higher proportion of children under the age of five consuming only a single meal per day (6.6 percent) in comparison to male-headed households (3.6 percent) (Table 10.4).

At district level, Rumphi has the highest proportion (85.8 percent) of households reporting that children aged 6-59 months were taking three or more meals a day followed by Lilongwe City at 84.1 percent and Blantyre city at 70.6 percent. Dzaleka Camp registered the lowest proportion (24.4 percent) (Table 10.4).

Figure 10.6: Percentage distribution of households by number of Meals Taken by Children (6-59 months)



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

10.4 Food Shortages

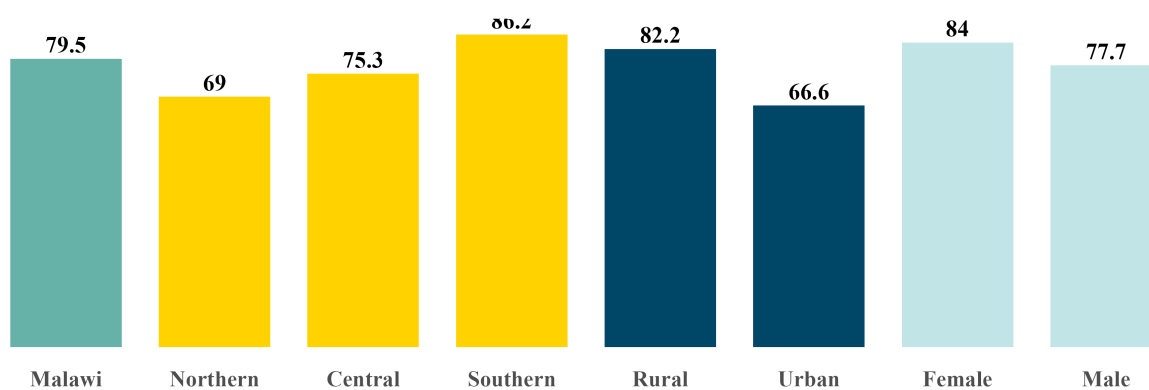
10.4.1 Households that Experience Food Shortages

The findings indicate that 79.5 percent of households encounter food shortages within the specified reference period.

Disaggregation by place of residence indicates that food insecurity is more prevalent in rural areas, where 82.2 percent of households reported not having enough food in the 12 months prior to the interviews compared to 66.6 percent in urban areas (Figure 10.7 and Table 10.5).

Across various regions, the Southern Region exhibits the highest prevalence of food shortages, affecting 86.2 percent of households. This is subsequently followed by the Central Region at 75.3 percent and the Northern Region at 69.0 percent. (Figure 10.7).

Figure 10.7: Proportion of Households that Experienced Food Shortage



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The analysis by gender of the household head indicates that 84.0 percent of households led by females

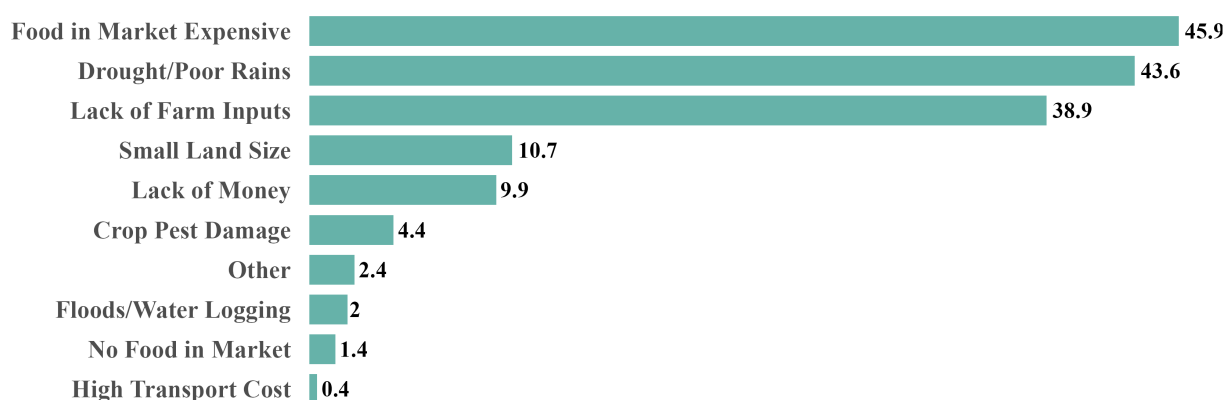
report experiencing food shortages, in comparison to 77.7 percent of households headed by males. (Figure 10.7).

At the district level, it is observed that Machinga exhibits the highest proportion (94.7 percent) of households reporting insufficient food availability, followed by Nsanje (94.0 percent) and Chiradzulu (approximately 92 percent). (Table 10.5).

10.4.2 Causes of Food Shortages

Overall, the most frequently reported reasons for food shortages are elevated food prices in the market (45.9 percent) and drought or inadequate rainfall (43.6 percent), followed by the lack of agricultural inputs (38.9 percent). (Figure 10.8 and Table 10.5).

Figure 10.8: Causes of Food Shortages (Among Affected Households)



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In urban areas, the predominant reported cause is elevated food prices, accounting for 61.2 percent, whereas in rural areas it is 43.3 percent. Conversely, drought or inadequate rainfall is identified as the primary factor in rural areas at 48.8 percent, compared to only 12.3 percent among urban households. Additionally, the scarcity of farm inputs poses a significant issue in rural areas at 42.7 percent, as opposed to 16.1 percent in urban areas. (Table 10.5).

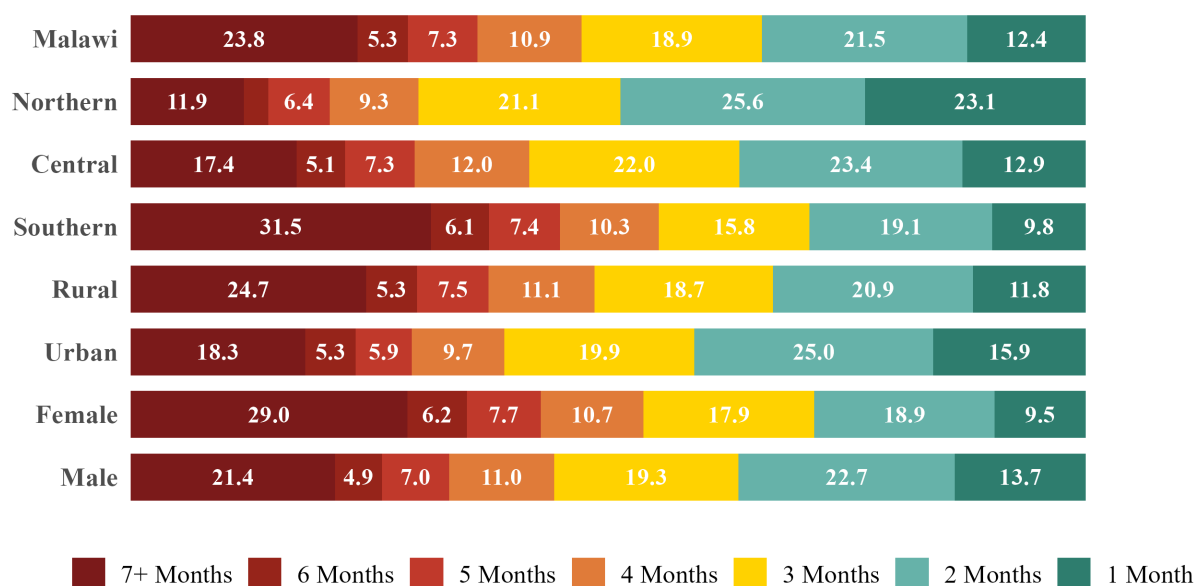
At the regional level, the Southern Region exhibits the highest incidence of food shortages, with 54 percent attributing it to elevated food prices and 51.2 percent to drought or insufficient rainfall. At the district level, Neno is the most impacted by drought or poor rains, accounting for 85.6 percent (Table 10.5).

10.4.3 Number of Months that Households Experienced Food Shortages

At the national level, 23.8 percent of households experience food shortages lasting seven months or more. This is followed by households reporting food shortages for two months (21.5 percent) and three months (18.9 percent) (Figure 10.9; Table 10.6).

The Southern Region has the highest proportion (31.5 percent) of households experiencing chronic food shortages for seven or more months, followed by the Central Region at 17.4 percent and the Northern Region at 11.9 percent. (Figure 10.9).

Figure 10.9: Months Households Experienced Food Shortage (Past 12 Months)



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Female-headed households demonstrate a higher incidence of food insecurity, with 29.0 percent experiencing food shortages lasting seven months or more, compared to 21.4 percent of male-headed households. (Figure 10.9).

At the district level, Chiradzulu exhibits the highest proportion (53.3 percent) of households experiencing food shortages for seven or more months, followed by Thyolo at 47.5 percent and Neno at 44.8 percent. (Table 10.6).

Key messages

- Stunting (low height-for-age) affects 34.0 percent of children aged 0–59 months.
- Underweight prevalence stands at 11.7 percent, while wasting (low weight-for-height) affects 4.1 percent of young children.

The nutritional status of children is a crucial indicator of their overall health and development. When children have access to adequate nourishment, are safeguarded from frequent illnesses, and receive appropriate care, they demonstrate healthy growth and achieve their full potential.

This report utilizes data from the IHS6 to evaluate the nutritional status of children aged 0 to 59 months. Three internationally recognized indicators are employed: stunting, wasting, and underweight. These indicators are based on growth standards established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and are categorized into moderate and severe levels depending on the extent to which a child's measurements deviate below the expected range.

Stunting denotes a condition where a child's stature is significantly below the standard for their age, indicative of prolonged malnutrition often resulting from sustained inadequate nutritional intake. Wasting describes a state where a child exhibits a weight significantly lower than expected for their height, signifying acute malnutrition typically associated with recent illness or food scarcity. Underweight refers to a child's weight being insufficient for their age, which may stem from either chronic or acute malnutrition.

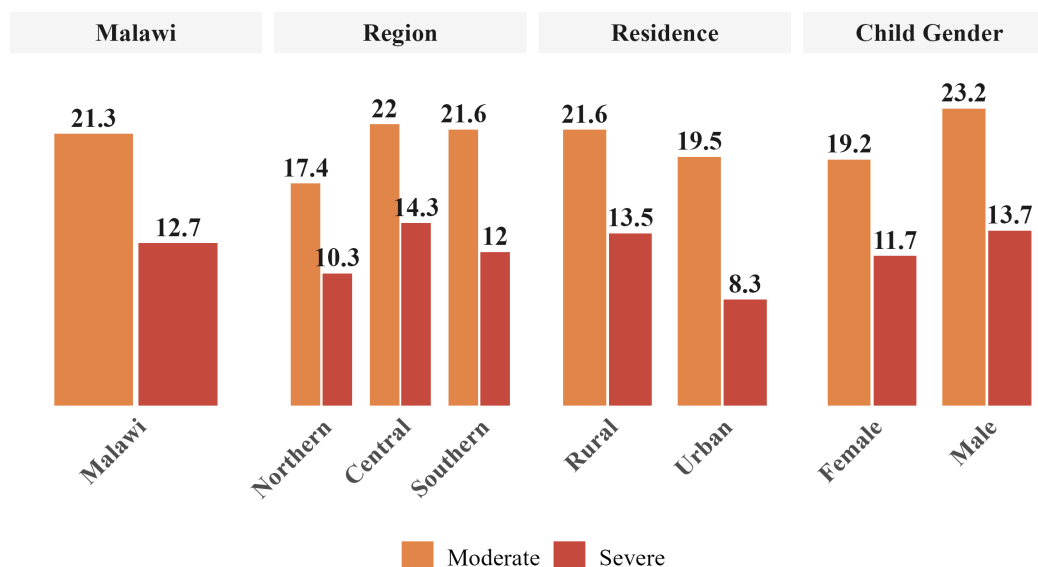
11.1 Extent and Distribution of Malnutrition

11.1.1 Incidence of Stunting Among Children Aged 0-59 Months

At the national level, stunting is the most prevalent form of undernutrition, affecting 34.0 percent of children aged 0-59 months, with 12.7 percent classified as severe and 21.3 percent as moderate. Stunting is higher in rural areas at 35.1 percent, with 13.5 percent classified as severe and 21.6 percent as moderate, compared with 27.8 percent in urban areas, where 19.5 percent are moderately stunted and 8.3 percent are severely stunted.

Stunting is most prevalent in the Central Region, where 36.3 percent of children are affected, followed by the Southern Region at 33.6 percent and the Northern Region at 27.7 percent. Stunting is 36.9 percent among boys compared to 30.9 percent among girls (Figure 11.1 and Table 11.1).

Figure 11.1: Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Stunting (Height-for-Age) Among Children Aged 0-59 Months



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

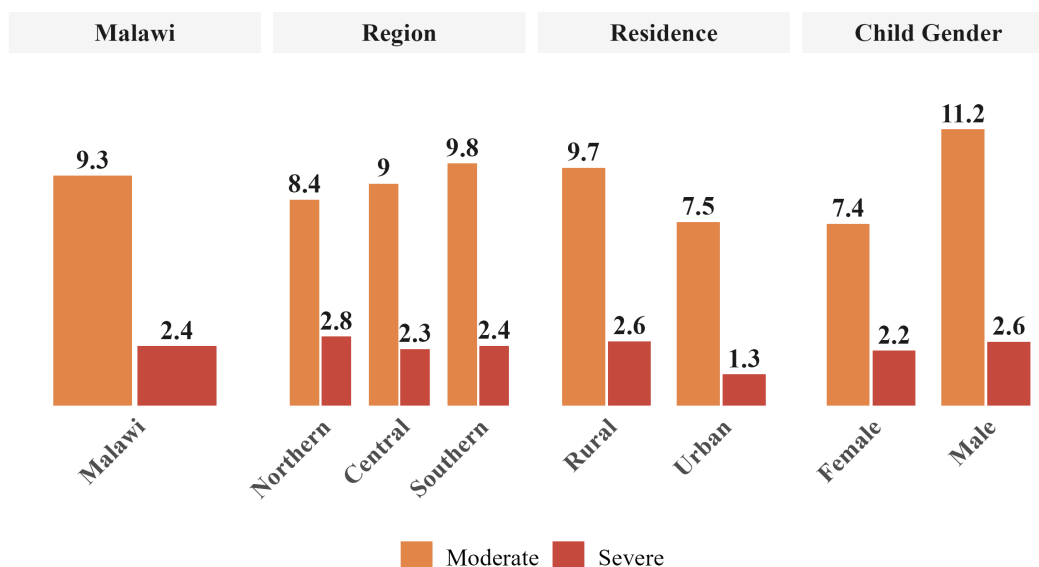
11.1.2 Extent and distribution of underweight of Children Aged 0-59 Months

At the national level, the prevalence of underweight children is recorded at 9.3 percent for moderate cases and 2.4 percent for severe cases. The prevalence of underweight is notably higher in rural areas, with 9.7 percent for moderate cases and 2.6 percent for severe cases, compared to urban areas, which experience prevalence rates of 7.5 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively.

Regionally, the Southern Region exhibits the highest prevalence of underweight children, with 9.8 percent classified as moderate and 2.4 percent as severe. The Central Region follows with 9.0 percent moderate and 2.3 percent severe underweight cases, whereas the Northern Region records the lowest moderate underweight prevalence at 8.4 percent. Nonetheless, it presents the highest rate of severe underweight among the three regions at 2.8 percent.

Regarding the sex of the child, the prevalence of underweight is higher among males (11.2 percent moderate and 2.6 percent severe) compared to females (7.4 percent moderate and 2.2 percent severe). (Figure 11.2).

Figure 11.2: Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Underweight (Weight-for-Age) Among Children Aged 0-59 Months

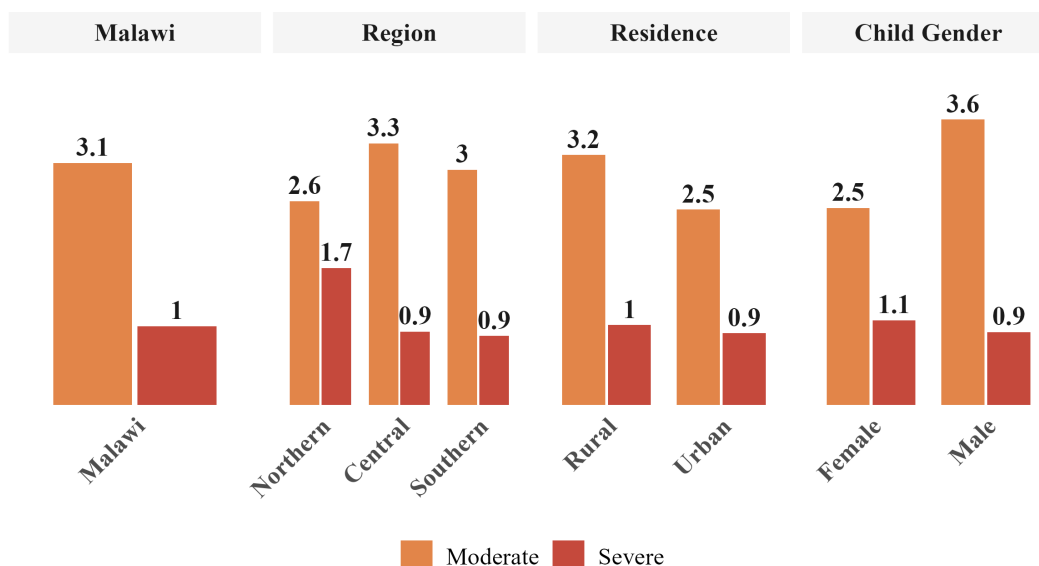


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

11.1.3 Incidence of Wasting Among Children Aged 0-59 Months

Wasting is less prevalent than both underweight and stunting, affecting 4.1 percent of children (1.0 percent severe and 3.1 percent moderate). An analysis based on place of residence indicates that wasting is more prevalent in rural areas at 4.2 percent, compared to 3.4 percent in urban areas. Regionally, the prevalence of wasting is higher in the Northern Region at 4.3 percent, relative to 4.2 percent in the Central Region and 3.9 percent in the Southern Region. By sex, wasting affects 4.5 percent of boys in contrast to 3.6 percent of girls. (Figure 11.3 and Table 11.1).

Figure 11.3: Prevalence of Moderate and Severe Wasting (Weight-for-Height) Among Children Aged 0-59 Months



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

11.2 Nutritional and Under Five Clinic Programmes

Nutritional programmes in Malawi were introduced to address the high levels of morbidity and mortality among malnourished children under the age of five. These programmes aim to enhance the nutritional status of affected children through appropriate and sustainable rehabilitation strategies. Rapid catch-up growth is achieved by adhering to a standardized diet protocol combined with the provision of essential micronutrients. Conversely, under-five clinics constitute an essential component of comprehensive child health care services. These clinics were established to monitor the growth and development of children from birth to five years of age and to identify factors that may impede their growth potential. Regular attendance at these clinics enables health workers to monitor physical development, administer immunizations, and offer guidance on nutrition and child care practices. By identifying growth problems at an early stage, under-five clinics play a vital role in preventing malnutrition and promoting healthy development during the most vulnerable years of life.

The IHS6 gathered information on the participation of children aged 0 to 59 months in these nutritional programmes to assess the extent to which households utilize these services. Understanding participation levels is essential for evaluating programme coverage and identifying gaps that must be addressed to enhance child health and nutrition outcomes.

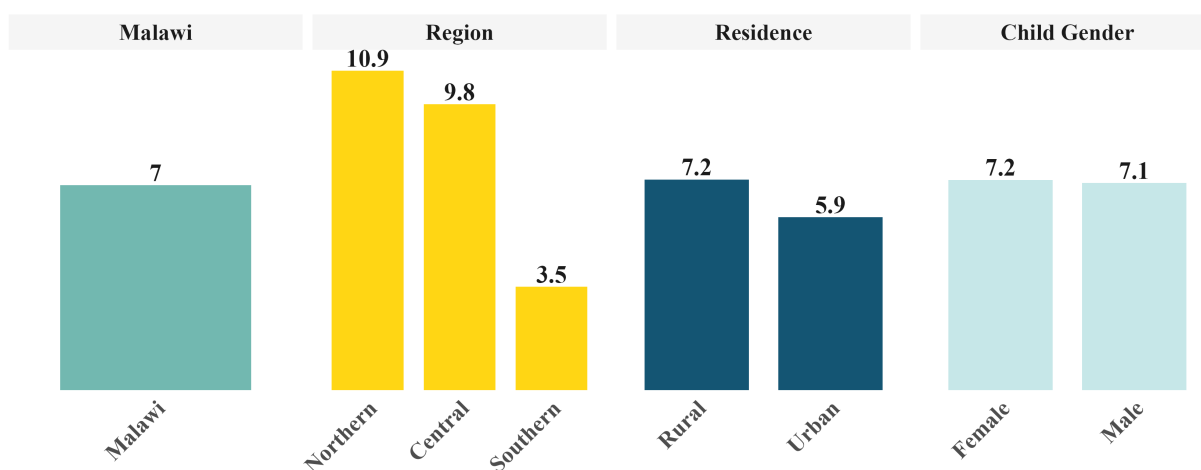
11.2.1 Nutritional Programmes

At the national level, 7.0 percent of children participated in nutrition programmes. Rural areas have a higher proportion of children participating in nutritional programs at 7.2 percent compared to 5.9 percent in urban areas.

The Northern Region exhibit the highest participation in nutritional programmes at 10.9 percent, followed by the Central Region with 9.8 percent, whereas the Southern Region demonstrate the lowest participation at 3.5 percent.

Analysis by sex of the child indicates that male children have a lower participation rate in nutritional programs at 7.1 percent, compared to 7.2 percent for female children. (Figure 11.4 and Table 11.2).

Figure 11.4: Proportion of Children Aged 0-59 months who participated in Nutrition Programmes

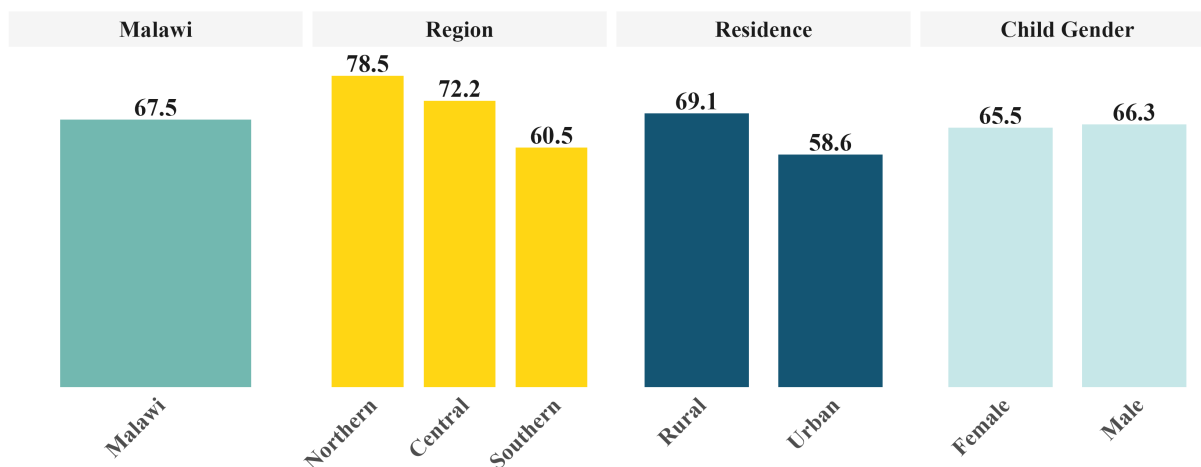


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

11.2.2 Under-Five Clinic Participation

Overall, the results indicate that 67.5 percent of children attend under-five clinics. Attendance at under-five clinics is higher in rural areas at 69.1 percent compared to 58.6 percent in urban areas. The Northern Region recorded the highest participation, with 78.5 percent of children attending under-five clinics, followed by 72.2 percent in the Central Region and 60.5 percent in the Southern region. By sex, among male children, 66.3 percent attend under-five clinics, while female children account for 65.5 percent. (Figure 11.5 and Table 11.2).

Figure 11.5: Proportion of Children Aged 0-59 months who participated in Under-Five Clinic Programmes



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

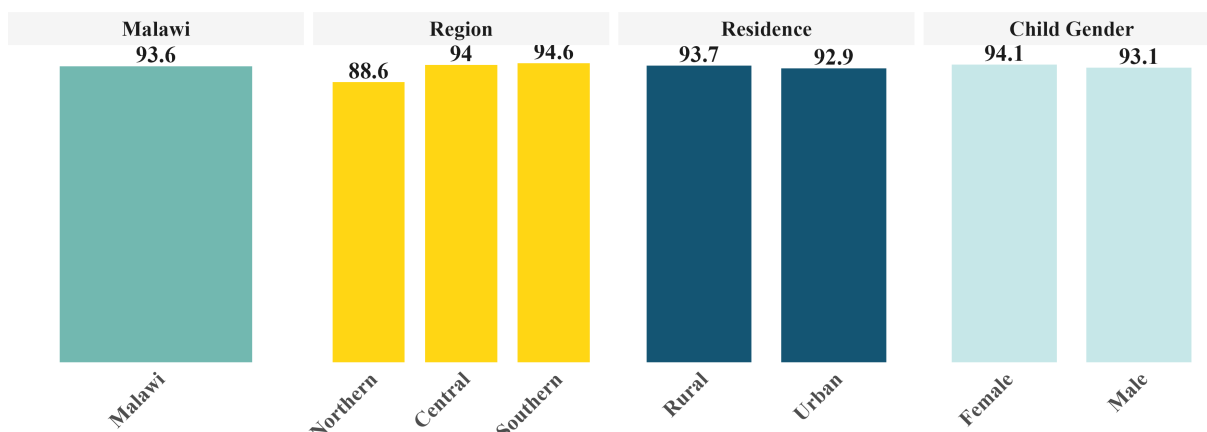
11.2.3 Measles Immunization Coverage

The IHS6 collected information on measles vaccine coverage among children aged nine months and older to assess progress towards universal immunisation.

At the national level, 93.6 per cent of children had received a measles vaccine. Analysis by place of residence indicates that measles vaccination coverage is higher in rural areas at 93.7 per cent compared with 92.9 per cent in urban areas.

The Northern Region recorded the lowest measles vaccination coverage at 88.6 per cent. The Central Region reported 94.0 per cent, while the Southern Region had the highest at 94.6 per cent. Measles vaccination coverage was similar by sex of the child: 93.1 per cent for males and 94.1 per cent for females. (Figure 11.6 and Table 11.3).

Figure 11.6: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months who received Measles Vaccine



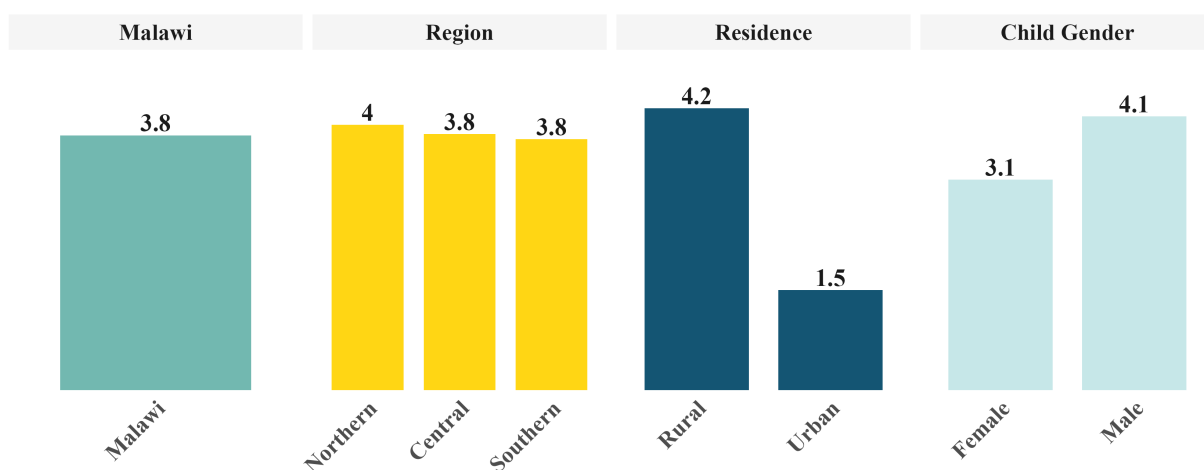
Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

11.2.4 Prevalence of Oedema

The survey also examined the prevalence of oedema among children aged 0–59 months. Oedema, which is characterized by swelling caused by fluid retention, serves as a clinical indicator of severe malnutrition and necessitates prompt medical intervention.

At the national level, 3.8 percent of children are reported as exhibiting oedema. Variations based on place of residence indicate that oedema was more prevalent among children in rural areas, accounting for 4.2 percent, as compared to 1.5 percent in urban regions. The Northern Region reports the highest prevalence at 4.0 percent. Regarding gender, oedema is more commonly observed among male children, at a rate of 4.1 percent, in contrast to 3.1 percent among female children. (Figure 11.7 and Table 11.3).

Figure 11.7: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months who were Oedematic



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Key messages

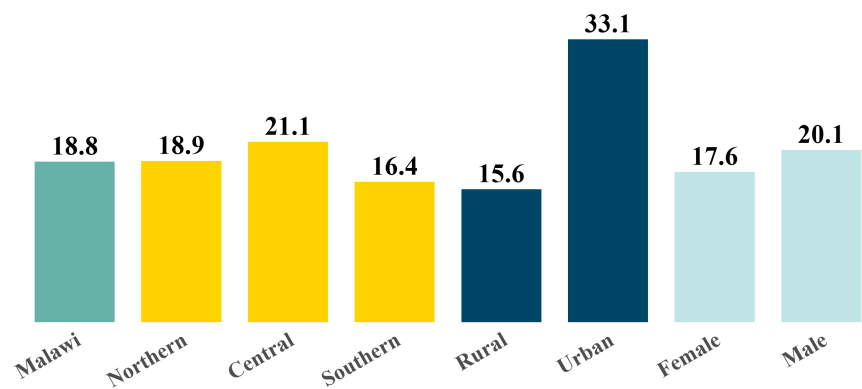
- 18.8 percent of individuals aged 15 and older own a financial account.
- 26.9 percent of individuals save money in formal institutions such as banks, microfinance organizations, or SACCOs.
- 58.7 percent of individuals utilize informal methods as the way of saving money.

12.1 Account Ownership

This section offers information regarding whether individuals aged fifteen years and above possess accounts with commercial banks, credit unions, microfinance institutions, village savings organizations, and other financial entities.

The findings indicate that merely 18.8 percent of individuals aged 15 years and older possess a financial account. The data further reveal that 33.1 percent of residents in urban areas have financial accounts, in contrast to 15.6 percent of rural inhabitants. (Figure 12.1 and Table 12.1).

Figure 12.1: Proportion of Individuals 15 Years and Older Who Own a Financial Account



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

At the regional level, financial account ownership attains its maximum in the Central Region at 21.1 percent, followed by the Northern Region at 18.9 percent and the Southern Region at 16.4 percent. An analysis by gender indicates that account ownership is higher among males at 20.1 percent compared to females at 17.6 percent. (Table 12.1).

Major urban centers exhibit high account ownership rates, with Lilongwe City at 38.7 percent, followed by Blantyre City at 32.3 percent, and Mzuzu City at 32.1 percent. Dzaleka Camp reports that 45.5 percent of its residents possess financial accounts. (Table 12.1).

12.2 Usage of Digital Financial Services

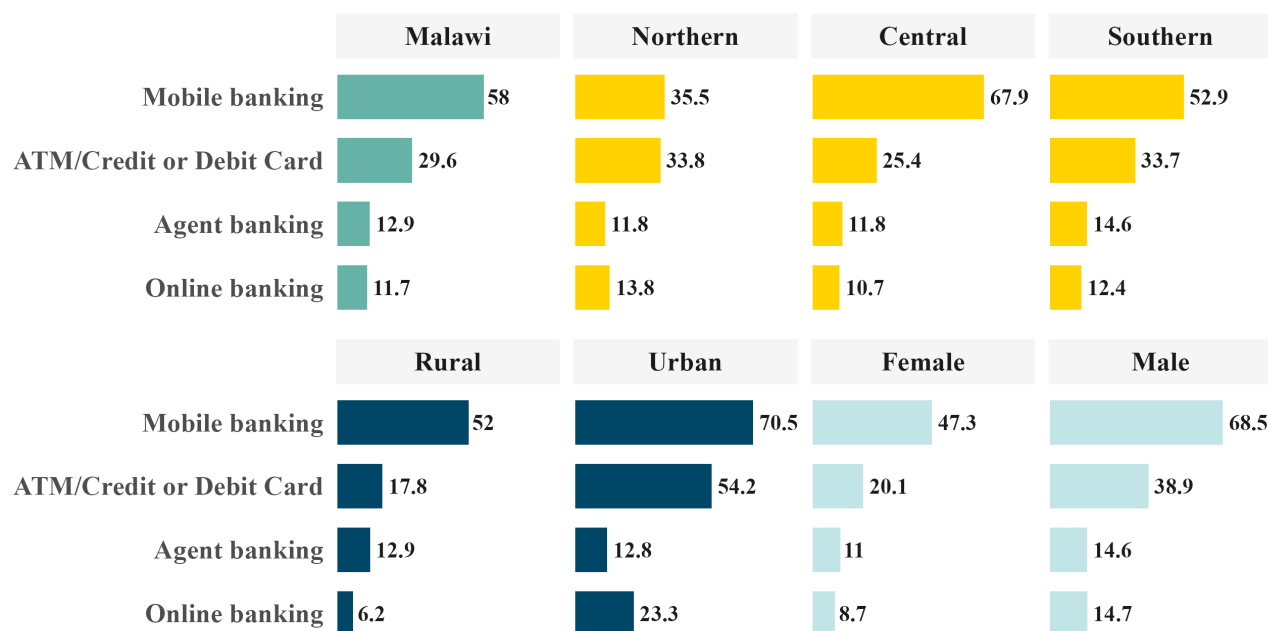
Mobile banking constitutes the primary platform utilized by 58.0 percent of users, followed by ATM/debit or credit cards at 29.6 percent, agent banking at 12.9 percent, and online banking at 11.7 percent. (Figure 12.2; (Table 12.2).

Digital financial services are more prevalent in urban areas, with ATM/debit or credit cards used by 54.2 percent of the population and online banking accessed by 23.3 percent. In contrast, rural areas exhibit lower engagement, with 17.8 percent and 6.2 percent, respectively. Mobile banking penetration remains substantial across both environments, at 70.5 percent in urban areas and 52.0 percent in rural areas. (Figure 12.2).

An analysis by sex shows variation across all categories of financial services. The proportion of males using ATM/debit or credit cards is 38.9 per cent, compared with 20.1 per cent among females, and online banking usage is 14.7 per cent among males compared with 8.7 per cent among females. (Figure 12.2).

The regional analysis indicates that the Central Region predominantly depends on mobile banking, with a utilization rate of 67.9 percent. The Southern Region exhibits the highest adoption of agent banking, at 14.6 percent. The Northern Region leads in the usage of ATM/debit or credit cards, at 33.8 percent, as well as online banking, at 13.8 percent; however, it demonstrates the lowest engagement with mobile banking, at 35.5 percent. (Figure 12.2).

Figure 12.2: Proportion of Individuals using Digital Financial Services by Background Characteristics



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

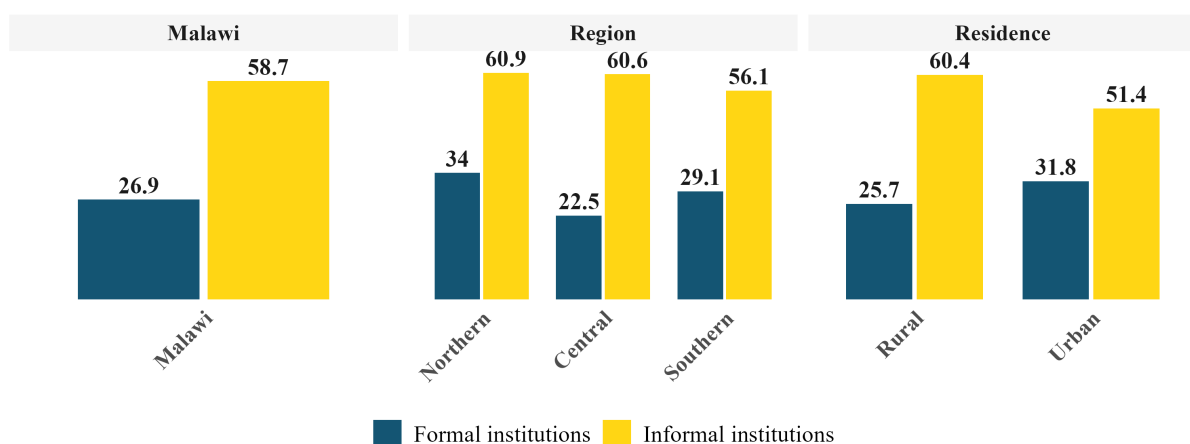
12.3 Formal and Informal Saving Methods

At the national level, 26.9 percent of individuals save money in formal institutions such as banks, microfinance organizations, or SACCOs. The proportion of those utilizing informal methods exceeds this,

accounting for 58.7 percent. Urban residents are more inclined to utilize formal financial institutions, with a usage rate of 31.8 percent, compared to 25.7 percent among rural dwellers. Conversely, informal savings are more prevalent in rural communities at 60.4 percent, in contrast to 51.4 percent in urban areas.

The Northern Region demonstrates the highest reliance on formal savings at 34.0 percent, whereas the Central Region (60.6 percent) and the Southern Region (56.1 percent) primarily utilize informal methods. (Figure 12.3 and Table 12.3).

Figure 12.3: Proportion of individuals 15 years and older who saved money in the last 12 months by formal and informal institutions

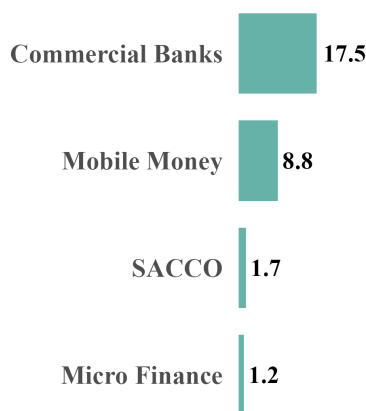


Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

12.3.1 Formal Savings

At the national level, the most prevalent formal savings mechanism is via commercial banks, with 17.5 percent of individuals utilizing this method. Mobile money services are the second most common at 8.8 percent, whereas microfinance institutions (1.2 percent) and Savings and Credit Co-operative Organizations (SACCOs) (1.7 percent) are comparatively less frequently used.

Figure 12.4: Percentage of individuals by type of formal financial service



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In urban regions, 43.7 percent of individuals engage in savings activities with commercial banks, a figure that exceeds fourfold the 10.2 percent observed in rural regions. Additionally, savings through mobile money are more prevalent in urban areas (17.3 percent) than in rural areas (6.4 percent). (Table 12.4).

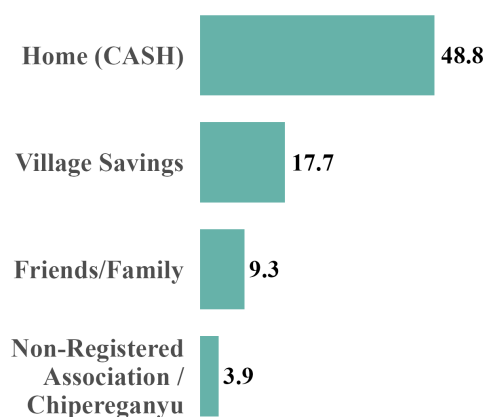
Across various regions, the Central Region exhibits the highest utilization of commercial banks at 19.7 percent, succeeded by the Northern Region with 17.2 percent and the Southern Region with 15.8 percent. (Table 12.4).

Analysis by sex indicates that a higher proportion of males utilize commercial banks (24.5 percent) in comparison to 11.1 percent of females. Mobile money savings exhibit a similar trend, with 11.1 percent of males using the service compared to 6.7 percent of females (Table 12.4).

12.3.2 Informal Savings

At the national level, the most prevalent informal savings method is maintaining cash at home, as reported by 48.8 percent of individuals. Village savings groups are the second most common at 17.7 percent, while saving with friends or family accounts for 9.3 percent. Non-registered associations or chipereganyu represent only 3.9 percent. (Figure 12.5 and Table 12.5).

Figure 12.5: Percentage of individuals by type of informal financial mechanism)



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

In rural regions, a greater proportion of individuals retain cash at home (50.4 percent) than in urban regions (41.7 percent). Village savings groups are more prevalent in rural areas (18.8 percent) as opposed to urban areas (12.4 percent). (Table 12.5).

Analysis by gender indicates that 51.2 percent of males save money at home, whereas 46.7 percent of females do the same. Conversely, 26.1 percent of females participate in village savings groups in contrast to 8.2 percent of males. (Table 12.5).

Key messages

- One in five households (20.0 percent) undertook an overnight trip in the reference period, primarily to visit friends and relatives or to attend funerals.

This chapter explores the phenomenon of individuals traveling outside their customary environment for various purposes, where the primary motive of the trip does not involve engaging in remunerated activities within the visited location. Such travel occurrences typically involve journeys of at least 30 kilometers from the usual place of residence and are broadly classified under the term 'tourism.'

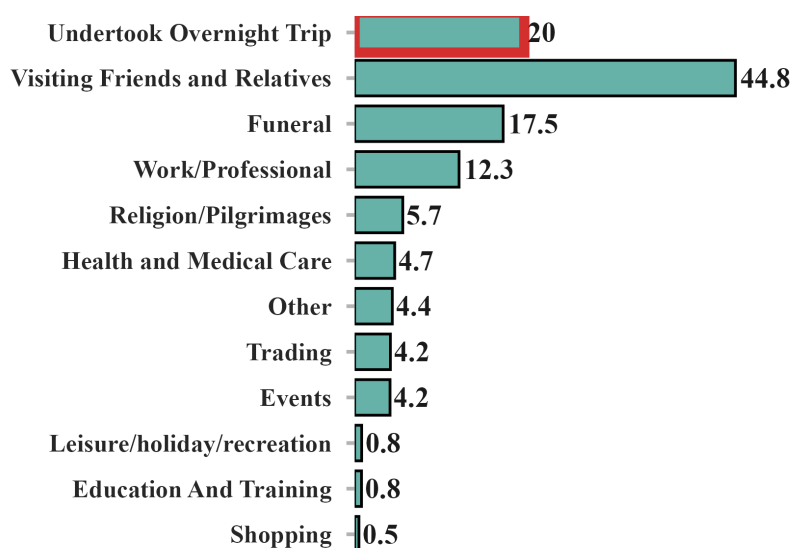
Tourism includes both overnight excursions, where travelers remain away from their residence for a minimum of one night, and day trips, where individuals travel and return within the same calendar day without staying overnight.

13.1 Participation and Purpose of Overnight Trips

The analysis indicates that 20.0 percent of households undertake overnight trips, whereas 80.0 percent do not participate in overnight travel. (Figure 13.1 and Table 13.2).

Visiting friends and relatives constitutes the largest proportion of trips, accounting for 44.8 percent, followed by funerals at 17.5 percent and work-related travel at 12.3 percent. An analysis based on place of residence reveals that 33.2 percent of households in urban areas undertake overnight trips to visit friends and relatives, compared to 48.6 percent of households in rural areas. ((Figure 13.1 and Table 13.2).

Figure 13.1: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook an overnight trip and Purpose of Trip



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

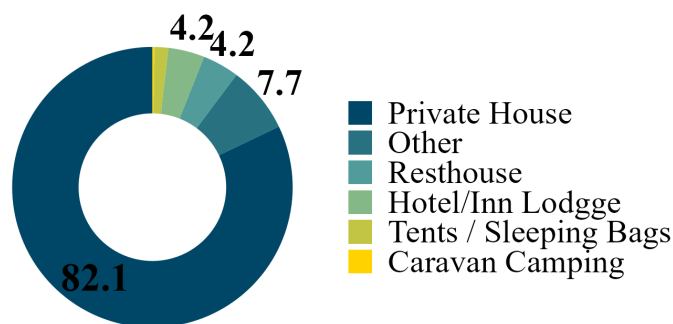
13.1.1 Mode of transport for Overnight trips

The distribution of transportation modes utilized for overnight journeys indicates that road transport is the predominant mode, accounting for 98.0 percent. Railway transport constitutes 1.0 percent. Water and railway transportation are the least utilized modes, representing 0.9 percent and 0.1 percent respectively. (Table 13.3).

13.1.2 Accommodation for Overnight Trips

An analysis of various types of accommodation facilities utilized during overnight domestic trips reveals that approximately 82.1 percent of travelers prefer private residences, while the least utilized form of accommodation is caravan/camping, accounting for 0.2 percent. (Figure 13.2 and Table 13.4).

Figure 13.2: Accomodation Used for Overnight Trips



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

According to place of residence, 11.3 percent of urban households utilize hotels, lodges, or inns, in contrast to 1.9 percent of rural households.

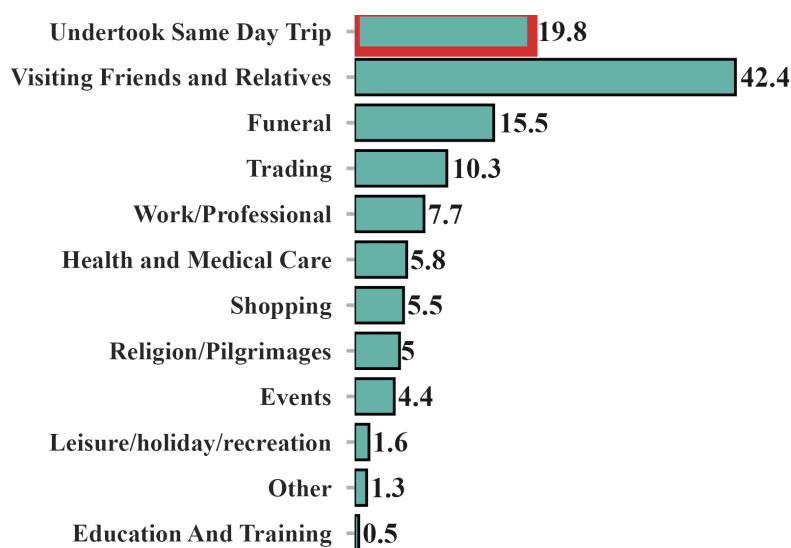
The analysis further delineates various types of accommodation facilities utilized by the sex of the household head. Approximately 85.2 percent of travelers from female-headed households stayed in private residences, in comparison to 81.1 percent from male-headed households.

13.2 Participation and Purpose of Same-Day Trip

Analysis indicates that 19.8 percent of households engage in same-day trips, whereas 80.2 percent of households do not undertake such trips. (Figure 13.3 and Table 13.2).

Visiting friends and relatives constitutes the largest proportion of same-day trips at 42.4 percent, followed by funerals at 15.5 percent and trading at 10.3 percent. (Figure 13.3 and Table 13.2).

Figure 13.3: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook a same-day trip and Purpose of Trip



Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

The findings of the Sixth Integrated Household Survey (IHS6) provide substantial empirical evidence supporting the strategic priorities outlined in the National Economic Recovery Plan (NERP). Collectively, the survey underscores the need to accelerate agricultural transformation, enhance climate resilience, invest in human capital, and expand economic inclusion while creating productive employment opportunities. These key focus areas are explicitly addressed in the NERP as the Government strives to restore macroeconomic stability and steer Malawi towards inclusive and sustainable growth. The following sections detail the principal policy issues arising from the IHS6 findings and present corresponding strategic recommendations for action.

14.1 Youth Empowerment and Job Creation

The IHS6 confirms that Malawi's population remains predominantly youthful, with approximately 61 per cent aged 24 years or under, and more than half within the working-age demographic. This demographic profile presents both a significant opportunity and a considerable policy challenge. The findings reaffirm that Malawi's most valuable asset is its young population, and the imperative for the Government is to transform this demographic dividend into productive employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

To effectively leverage this potential, policy initiatives must be designed to accelerate employment opportunities across all sectors of the economy, with particular focus on labour-intensive growth sectors capable of absorbing large numbers of young workers. Equally crucial is the enhancement of Technical, Entrepreneurship, and Vocational Education and Training (TEVET), along with broader skills development programmes, to equip young individuals with competencies aligned with market demands. In addition to promoting formal employment, the Government should increase support for youth entrepreneurship by facilitating access to finance, mentorship, and business development services, enabling young Malawians to establish and expand their own enterprises.

14.2 Food Security and Rural Transformation

The survey indicates that Malawi remains predominantly a rural society, with more than 83 percent of the population residing in rural areas. Several findings highlight ongoing reliance on hand hoes, low irrigation productivity, and limited adoption of modern agricultural technologies, with only a small proportion of cultivated plots being irrigated. These structural constraints substantially hinder agricultural yields and rural household incomes, thereby perpetuating intergenerational poverty within rural communities.

Therefore, sustainable poverty alleviation is contingent upon a comprehensive transformation of rural livelihoods, agriculture, and rural enterprises. Key policy measures should prioritise agricultural mechanisation to enhance productivity and reduce manual labour, the expansion of irrigation systems to mitigate dependence on rainfall, and improved market access to connect smallholder farmers with profitable buyers. The development of rural infrastructure, including roads, storage facilities, and energy supply, is essential for enabling agricultural commercialisation and rural industrialisation. Additionally,

the Government should leverage the implementation of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to direct investments into productive rural capacity, ensuring that the benefits of agricultural growth are broadly distributed across communities.

14.3 Climate Resilience

A dedicated section of the IHS6 examines household exposure to shocks, documenting the prevalence and impact of droughts, cyclones, food price increases, and volatility in agricultural input costs. The evidence is unequivocal: climate-related shocks are no longer isolated incidents but have become an ongoing challenge with serious repercussions for household welfare, food security, and economic resilience across Malawi. In response, the Government should integrate climate resilience into all development planning and investment decisions. Priority areas for intervention include establishing robust disaster risk financing mechanisms that enable rapid response to climate shocks, enhancing social protection programmes to support the most vulnerable households, and promoting climate adaptation strategies at the community level. The adoption of resilient agricultural systems — including drought-tolerant and flood-resistant crop varieties — should be accelerated, and the capacity of early warning systems should be substantially strengthened to ensure that households and local authorities can anticipate and prepare for extreme weather events.

14.4 Human Capital Development

The IHS6 encompasses a comprehensive array of human capital indicators, including education, literacy, school attendance, health outcomes, nutrition, and child welfare. The findings highlight that these dimensions remain fundamental determinants of long-term productivity and inclusive growth, and that advances in these areas are intrinsically linked to Malawi's economic transformation agenda. Investments in human capital are, fundamentally, investments in economic growth and national development. Policy must therefore intensify efforts to enhance school retention rates, particularly among girls and children from impoverished rural households who are most at risk of dropping out. Improving learning outcomes requires investment not only in school infrastructure but also in teacher quality, instructional materials, and school feeding programmes. On the health front, sustained investment in accessible, high-quality health services is imperative, with particular emphasis on maternal and child health. Nutrition programmes targeting children within the first 1,000 days of life should be expanded to address stunting and other forms of malnutrition that cause permanent impairments in cognitive and physical development.

14.5 Economic Inclusion and Private Sector Growth

The IHS6 indicates that only 18.8 percent of adults in Malawi possess a financial account, with access in rural areas remaining notably limited. Consequently, a significant portion of the population remains excluded from the formal financial system, thereby limiting their ability to save, invest, access credit, and enhance economic resilience to shocks. Financial inclusion is therefore a critical and urgent policy priority if comprehensive economic growth is to be realized.

The government and its development partners should focus on expanding digital finance and mobile money platforms as cost-effective means of reaching underserved populations, particularly in rural regions where physical banking infrastructure is limited. Enhancing rural banking infrastructure and promoting agent banking models can further bridge the access gap. Particular attention should be paid to SME finance, including the development of credit guarantee schemes and tailored financial products

that enable small and medium enterprises to access the capital needed for growth, job creation, and formalization.

14.6 Conclusion

The IHS6 provides a comprehensive and timely overview of living conditions, livelihoods, and vulnerabilities across Malawi. Its evidence-based foundation offers the Government a solid basis for designing, prioritising, and implementing policies to address the most urgent development challenges facing Malawian households. The five policy priority areas outlined in this chapter—youth empowerment and employment, food security and rural development, climate resilience, human capital development, and economic inclusion—are closely interconnected and mutually supportive. Progress in any one area will generate positive ripple effects across the others. What is needed is sustained political commitment, coordinated institutional efforts, and strategic public and private investments to translate the IHS6’s insights into concrete improvements in the lives of all Malawians.

PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE 2024-2025 INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

This report was prepared by a multidisciplinary team of specialists from the National Statistical Office (NSO), with support from the World Bank.

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Table 2.1: Percentage Distribution of Population by Five-Year Age Groups

Age Group	Place of Residence		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-4	12.9	14.8	14.5
5-9	11.5	13.8	13.4
10-14	10.4	12.7	12.3
15-19	11.4	11.2	11.3
20-24	11.9	9.4	9.8
25-29	10.5	7.7	8.2
30-34	8.4	6.4	6.8
35-39	7.0	5.2	5.5
40-44	5.3	4.3	4.5
45-49	3.6	3.6	3.6
50-54	2.6	2.9	2.8
55-59	1.9	2.2	2.2
60-64	1.2	1.7	1.6
65-69	0.6	1.3	1.2
70-74	0.5	0.9	0.9
75-79	0.2	0.7	0.6
80+	0.2	1.0	0.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.2: Percentage Distribution of Population by Five-Year Age Groups

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-4	15.1	13.9	14.5
5-9	13.9	13.0	13.4
10-14	12.8	11.9	12.3
15-19	11.3	11.2	11.3
20-24	9.6	10.0	9.8
25-29	8.0	8.4	8.2
30-34	6.6	6.9	6.8
35-39	5.3	5.7	5.5
40-44	4.3	4.7	4.5
45-49	3.5	3.7	3.6
50-54	2.8	2.9	2.8
55-59	2.1	2.2	2.2
60-64	1.6	1.6	1.6
65-69	1.2	1.3	1.2
70-74	0.9	0.8	0.9
75-79	0.5	0.7	0.6
80+	0.6	1.1	0.8

Table 2.3: Mean Household Size and Percentage Distribution of Usual Household Members

	Mean Household Size	Household size Composition				Total
		1 Member	2 to 3 Members	4 to 5 members	6+ Members	
Malawi	4.2	6.1	31.5	40.4	22.0	100.0
Place of Residence						
Urban	4.1	8.9	31.3	37.4	22.4	100.0
Rural	4.2	5.5	31.5	41.1	21.9	100.0
Region						
Northern	4.6	5.5	26.9	38.5	29.1	100.0
Central	4.2	5.4	31.1	41.5	21.9	100.0
Southern	4.1	6.9	33.0	39.9	20.2	100.0
Sex of Household Head						
Male	4.3	5.4	28.5	41.8	24.3	100.0
Female	3.9	7.7	38.8	37.1	16.4	100.0
Education of Household Head						
None	4.1	9.8	31.4	36.8	22.0	100.0
Primary	4.3	4.9	31.5	40.8	22.9	100.0
Secondary	4.2	5.9	31.3	42.2	20.6	100.0
Tertiary	3.8	12.3	33.6	36.2	17.9	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	2.0	45.6	42.4	10.6	1.4	100.0
Married	4.6	0.9	28.7	44.4	26.0	100.0
Divorced/Separated	3.4	16.6	37.8	33.4	12.2	100.0
Widow/Widower	3.7	12.7	37.6	33.5	16.1	100.0
District						
Chitipa	4.3	5.0	31.8	40.6	22.6	100.0
Karonga	4.7	2.9	25.9	38.2	32.9	100.0
Nkhatabay	4.6	8.6	24.2	37.0	30.2	100.0
Rumphi	4.9	5.3	20.6	40.5	33.7	100.0
Mzimba	4.6	5.2	27.1	38.5	29.1	100.0
Likoma	4.5	9.7	24.9	33.6	31.8	100.0
Mzuzu City	4.3	7.5	30.9	36.8	24.8	100.0
Kasungu	4.5	4.9	30.1	35.8	29.2	100.0
Nkhotakota	4.4	6.4	27.7	40.8	25.1	100.0
Ntchisi	4.2	5.2	31.7	43.1	20.0	100.0
Dowa	4.4	5.4	28.9	38.0	27.7	100.0
Salima	4.2	5.1	31.6	43.7	19.5	100.0
Lilongwe	4.2	3.9	30.6	45.4	20.2	100.0
Mchinji	4.1	7.5	33.4	39.1	20.1	100.0
Dedza	4.1	2.8	36.3	43.9	16.9	100.0
Ntcheu	4.1	4.1	31.6	48.0	16.4	100.0
Lilongwe City	4.2	9.9	29.3	36.3	24.6	100.0
Mangochi	4.5	5.9	28.7	37.2	28.2	100.0
Machinga	4.3	3.2	31.3	44.3	21.3	100.0
Zomba Non-City	4.1	8.1	36.0	34.6	21.3	100.0
Chiradzulu	3.8	6.1	40.7	41.0	12.2	100.0
Blantyre	3.8	11.3	34.6	38.1	16.0	100.0
Mwanza	3.9	5.7	37.4	39.4	17.6	100.0
Thyolo	3.7	8.0	36.9	42.0	13.0	100.0
Mulanje	4.1	6.5	31.5	40.7	21.3	100.0
Phalombe	4.2	4.6	30.6	46.0	18.7	100.0
Chikwawa	4.3	3.4	29.0	44.1	23.5	100.0
Nsanje	4.5	5.4	28.3	38.4	27.9	100.0

Balaka	4.0	8.0	34.3	37.5	20.3	100.0
Neno	4.1	6.9	33.6	40.2	19.3	100.0
Zomba City	4.2	7.0	33.3	34.1	25.6	100.0
Blantyre City	3.8	11.0	34.9	39.1	15.0	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	5.9	6.0	17.1	26.7	50.3	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.4: Percentage distribution of households by sex of household head

	Sex of Household Head		
	Male	Female	Total
Malawi	70.7	29.3	100.0
Place of Residence			
Urban	75.7	24.3	100.0
Rural	69.7	30.3	100.0
Region			
Northern	74.5	25.5	100.0
Central	74.6	25.4	100.0
Southern	66.0	34.0	100.0
Age of Household Head			
15 to 24	71.2	28.8	100.0
25 to 34	77.4	22.6	100.0
35 to 44	71.9	28.1	100.0
45 to 54	69.3	30.7	100.0
55 to 64	62.6	37.4	100.0
65+	58.9	41.1	100.0
Education of Household Head			
None	53.0	47.0	100.0
Primary	69.0	31.0	100.0
Secondary	81.6	18.4	100.0
Tertiary	79.5	20.5	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	64.9	35.1	100.0
Married	92.3	7.7	100.0
Divorced/Separated	17.8	82.2	100.0
Widow/Widower	7.0	93.0	100.0
District			
Chitipa	78.5	21.5	100.0
Karonga	75.4	24.6	100.0
Nkhatabay	72.7	27.3	100.0
Rumphi	76.0	24.0	100.0
Mzimba	73.7	26.3	100.0
Likoma	71.4	28.6	100.0
Mzuzu City	73.4	26.6	100.0
Kasungu	80.8	19.2	100.0
Nkhotakota	75.3	24.7	100.0
Ntchisi	70.1	29.9	100.0
Dowa	75.8	24.2	100.0
Salima	72.3	27.7	100.0
Lilongwe	75.2	24.8	100.0
Mchinji	76.2	23.8	100.0
Dedza	69.6	30.4	100.0
Ntcheu	66.8	33.2	100.0
Lilongwe City	78.9	21.1	100.0
Mangochi	64.2	35.8	100.0
Machinga	60.7	39.3	100.0

Zomba Non-City	63.0	37.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	64.6	35.4	100.0
Blantyre	64.8	35.2	100.0
Mwanza	68.6	31.4	100.0
Thyolo	61.8	38.2	100.0
Mulanje	66.0	34.0	100.0
Phalombe	66.4	33.6	100.0
Chikwawa	73.0	27.0	100.0
Nsanje	71.3	28.7	100.0
Balaka	62.3	37.7	100.0
Neno	67.3	32.7	100.0
Zomba City	74.3	25.7	100.0
Blantyre City	74.9	25.1	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	70.2	29.8	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.5: Total Dependency ratio

Malawi	0.9
Place of Residence	
Urban	0.7
Rural	0.9
Region	
Northern	0.9
Central	0.8
Southern	0.9
Sex of Household Head	
Male	0.8
Female	1.2
Education of Household Head	
None	1.0
Primary	0.9
Secondary	0.8
Tertiary	0.5
Marital Status of Household Head	
Never married	0.2
Married	0.9
Divorced/Separated	1.1
Widow/Widower	1.0
District	
Chitipa	0.8
Karonga	0.9
Nkhatabay	0.9
Rumphi	0.9
Mzimba	0.9
Likoma	0.7
Mzuzu City	0.6
Kasungu	0.8
Nkhotakota	0.9
Ntchisi	0.9
Dowa	0.8
Salima	1.0
Lilongwe	0.9
Mchinji	0.9
Dedza	0.9
Ntcheu	0.9

Lilongwe City	0.6
Mangochi	1.2
Machinga	1.1
Zomba Non-City	0.9
Chiradzulu	0.9
Blantyre	0.8
Mwanza	0.9
Thyolo	0.9
Mulanje	0.9
Phalombe	1.0
Chikwawa	1.0
Nsanje	1.0
Balaka	1.0
Neno	1.0
Zomba City	0.6
Blantyre City	0.6
Dzaleka Camp	1.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.6: Proportion of Orphans by Place of Residence, Sex, Education Level and Marital Status of Household Head

	IHS5	IHS6
Malawi		
Place of Residence		
Urban	7.9	7.6
Rural	9.3	6.5
Region		
Northern	8.9	7.5
Central	8.4	5.9
Southern	9.7	7.2
Sex of Household Head		
Male	4.9	3.4
Female	18.6	14.5
Education of Household Head		
None	8.9	9.7
Primary	8.0	7.0
Secondary	9.5	5.0
Tertiary	9.1	2.7
Marital Status of Household Head		
Never married	19.6	12.0
Married	4.7	3.4
Divorced/Separated	7.5	6.3
Widow/Widower	45.0	35.8
Age group (0-17)		
0-4	2.5	1.7
5-9	7.3	5.3
10-15	13.4	10.5
16-17	18.4	14.6
District		
Chitipa	7.6	4.9
Karonga	9.9	9.4
Nkhatabay	10.0	8.9
Rumphi	8.4	7.5
Mzimba	8.8	7.1

Likoma	7.5	6.4
Mzuzu City	8.3	7.2
Kasungu	7.9	5.6
Nkhotakota	8.8	7.8
Ntchisi	5.5	3.9
Dowa	7.4	7.2
Salima	16.1	6.0
Lilongwe	8.3	4.8
Mchinji	4.7	6.2
Dedza	7.6	5.3
Ntcheu	11.2	7.0
Lilongwe City	7.7	6.3
Mangochi	9.4	5.3
Machinga	9.6	5.3
Zomba Non-City	9.8	5.0
Chiradzulu	9.8	8.6
Blantyre	9.8	12.6
Mwanza	12.6	6.5
Thyolo	8.7	7.6
Mulanje	12.7	6.4
Phalombe	8.1	6.5
Chikwawa	10.5	9.0
Nsanje	10.3	10.9
Balaka	10.8	6.4
Neno	9.0	6.0
Zomba City	14.5	10.4
Blantyre City	6.9	9.8
Dzaleka Camp		11.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.7: Orphan Hood Status by Place of Residence and Sex, Education Level and Marital Status of Household Head

	Father died		Mother died		Both parents died	
	IHS5	IHS6	IHS5	IHS6	IHS5	IHS6
Malawi	66.7	67.5	22.0	24.6	11.3	7.9
Place of Residence						
Urban	71.7	63.5	20.1	23.1	8.3	13.5
Rural	66.0	68.3	22.3	25.0	11.7	6.8
Region						
Northern	64.1	73.7	25.3	18.1	10.6	8.2
Central	68.8	66.0	20.5	27.0	10.7	7.0
Southern	65.7	66.8	22.4	24.7	12.0	8.5
Sex of Household Head						
Male	50.1	49.5	34.9	39.9	15.0	10.6
Female	76.7	77.3	14.2	16.3	9.1	6.4
Education of Household Head						
None	66.9	70.6	22.8	22.2	10.3	7.2
Primary	65.8	71.1	19.1	23.0	15.1	5.9
Secondary	77.9	52.7	16.5	32.5	5.6	14.7
Tertiary	40.8	66.7	21.7	21.8	37.5	11.5
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	67.3	33.7	13.8	40.1	18.9	26.2
Married	54.6	51.1	32.1	36.3	13.3	12.5
Divorced/Separated	60.6	63.6	24.0	29.7	15.4	6.7

Widow/Widower	78.2	83.6	13.5	12.7	8.3	3.8
Sex of the orphan						
Male	66.7	66.6	21.7	26.3	11.6	7.1
Female	66.8	68.4	22.3	23.0	11.0	8.7
Age group (0-17)						
0-4	69.5	72.5	28.5	26.0	2.0	1.4
5-9	67.2	66.5	23.3	26.5	9.4	7.0
10-15	66.9	66.3	21.4	25.8	11.7	7.9
16-17	64.2	69.3	19.1	19.4	16.7	11.3
0-4	69.5	72.5	28.5	26.0	2.0	1.4
5-9	67.2	66.5	23.3	26.5	9.4	7.0
10-15	66.9	66.3	21.4	25.8	11.7	7.9
16-17	64.2	69.3	19.1	19.4	16.7	11.3
District						
Chitipa	76.8	85.0	16.7	10.5	6.5	4.6
Karonga	64.2	77.4	23.2	9.5	12.6	13.1
Nkhatabay	51.4	70.2	36.0	19.9	12.7	9.9
Rumphi	71.9	65.5	22.2	30.6	6.0	3.9
Mzimba	62.0	76.0	27.5	21.3	10.5	2.6
Likoma	56.4	79.0		15.3	43.6	5.7
Mzuzu City	76.0	61.9	13.8	12.6	10.2	25.4
Kasungu	70.9	53.9	20.7	42.3	8.4	3.8
Nkhotakota	56.8	68.7	39.0	25.1	4.2	6.2
Ntchisi	79.9	83.5	13.9	16.5	6.2	
Dowa	79.1	71.4	19.2	25.2	1.6	3.4
Salima	63.4	60.9	14.5	22.0	22.1	17.0
Lilongwe	65.9	60.9	22.9	34.2	11.2	4.9
Mchinji	66.8	73.3	21.3	23.9	11.9	2.8
Dedza	88.1	81.3	6.3	12.3	5.6	6.4
Ntcheu	59.3	58.6	25.3	21.4	15.4	20.0
Lilongwe City	67.9	64.5	22.9	30.4	9.2	5.2
Mangochi	62.1	54.8	22.0	40.5	16.0	4.7
Machinga	62.9	77.9	32.4	14.0	4.7	8.0
Zomba Non-City	62.2	74.9	25.5	25.1	12.3	
Chiradzulu	53.3	85.2	33.4	8.9	13.2	5.9
Blantyre	61.2	71.7	21.4	22.3	17.4	5.9
Mwanza	69.5	69.8	23.4	25.6	7.1	4.6
Thyolo	70.5	73.0	24.3	22.6	5.2	4.4
Mulanje	63.0	63.7	17.4	27.4	19.6	8.9
Phalombe	61.7	56.4	15.2	35.5	23.1	8.1
Chikwawa	74.6	61.7	16.8	29.0	8.6	9.3
Nsanje	84.6	81.4	8.6	10.5	6.8	8.1
Balaka	71.4	76.7	18.1	15.5	10.5	7.9
Neno	77.0	59.5	21.0	33.8	2.0	6.7
Zomba City	72.4	53.2	16.0	32.6	11.6	14.3
Blantyre City	63.4	51.6	29.5	24.5	7.0	23.8
Dzaleka Camp		70.0		10.0		20.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.8: Proportion of In-migrants by Place of Residence, and Sex, Education level and Marital Status of Household Head

	IHS5	IHS6
Malawi	8.3	12.4
Place of Residence		
Urban	17.0	23.2
Rural	6.7	10.1

Region		
Northern	13.0	11.4
Central	8.4	12.5
Southern	6.8	12.5
Sex of Household Head		
Male	9.2	13.6
Female	6.0	9.0
Education of Household Head		
None	6.8	4.9
Primary	12.3	10.1
Secondary	15.5	17.9
Tertiary	23.0	33.0
Marital Status of Household Head		
Never married	19.8	29.7
Married	8.9	13.0
Divorced/Separated	5.8	10.8
Widow/Widower	5.3	6.0
District		
Chitipa	7.5	5.4
Karonga	9.6	7.0
Nkhatabay	15.5	10.9
Rumphi	15.7	10.0
Mzimba	11.1	12.0
Likoma	3.5	8.7
Mzuzu City	26.6	22.6
Kasungu	8.9	13.0
Nkhotakota	8.7	7.0
Ntchisi	6.8	7.5
Dowa	7.2	15.1
Salima	8.5	2.5
Lilongwe	8.4	16.4
Mchinji	5.3	12.1
Dedza	5.6	7.5
Ntcheu	5.1	2.9
Lilongwe City	15.4	22.9
Mangochi	7.5	13.5
Machinga	6.1	9.1
Zomba Non-City	7.5	11.3
Chiradzulu	9.9	12.0
Blantyre	5.6	13.1
Mwanza	3.9	5.0
Thyolo	3.8	10.7
Mulanje	2.1	9.1
Phalombe	1.5	8.7
Chikwawa	3.1	7.8
Nsanje	4.1	10.4
Balaka	8.9	11.5
Neno	5.4	4.0
Zomba City	23.6	27.3
Blantyre City	15.9	27.7
Dzaleka Camp		16.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.9: Proportion of Migrants by Movement Pattern by Place of Residence, Sex, Age, Marital Status and Reasons for Migrating

	Movement pattern of migrants				Outside	Outside
	Rural to rural	Rural to urban	Urban to urban	Urban to rural	Malawi to rural	Malawi to urban
Malawi	61.6	27.2	4.4	4.8	1.8	0.2
Place of Residence						
Urban		85.5	13.8			0.7
Rural	90.3			7.1	2.6	
Region						
Northern	57.3	23.4	10.7	7.0	1.2	0.3
Central	63.9	28.2	2.1	4.2	1.3	0.3
Southern	60.5	27.1	4.9	4.9	2.4	0.2
Sex of migrant						
Male	61.2	26.2	4.3	5.7	2.4	0.3
Female	62.0	28.0	4.5	4.1	1.3	0.1
Age group of migrant						
15-24	63.0	28.7	3.9	4.0	0.4	0.2
25-34	58.5	30.6	4.6	4.7	1.5	0.1
35-44	57.9	27.4	6.3	5.3	2.5	0.5
45-54	67.9	18.7	2.9	7.0	3.4	
55-64	63.9	26.8	4.7	2.9	1.7	
65+	64.5	23.3		11.3	0.9	
Education Level of migrant						
None	72.3	18.1	2.3	3.7	3.6	
Primary	66.6	23.5	3.2	4.7	1.8	0.1
Secondary	53.3	34.4	5.9	4.8	1.1	0.5
Tertiary	28.9	49.6	13.1	8.4		
Marital status of migrant						
Never married	58.1	29.3	5.3	5.1	2.0	0.3
Married	66.3	24.0	3.4	4.5	1.5	0.2
Divorced/Separated	54.1	34.1	3.9	5.5	2.4	
Widow/Widower	60.2	26.3	4.9	3.4	4.0	1.2
Reasons for migrating						
Live with family/relatives	60.2	27.4	4.7	5.2	2.2	0.3
Marriage	74.5	18.6	2.3	3.1	1.3	0.1
Start business/work/farming	48.2	40.6	4.9	4.4	1.6	0.3
Return from work/Job	57.7	20.2	11.4	8.6	1.8	0.2
Transfer						
Other	54.2	32.1	4.2	8.6	0.9	0.1
District						
Chitipa	75.9	15.7	1.3	4.6	2.4	
Karonga	52.7	40.9	3.4	2.9		
Nkhatabay	75.4	6.6	10.1	5.7	2.1	
Rumphi	63.5	12.6	5.5	17.8	0.6	
Mzimba	80.3	4.5	3.3	10.1	1.8	
Likoma	77.8	10.2		9.5	2.5	
Mzuzu City		66.1	32.6			1.3
Kasungu	81.7	5.2		11.6	0.8	0.8
Nkhotakota	78.3	10.1	6.7	4.3	0.6	
Ntchisi	93.8			4.9	1.3	
Dowa	82.1	6.6	0.3	10.3	0.7	
Salima	75.8	5.0	5.6	12.8	0.9	
Lilongwe	97.6			1.7	0.8	
Mchinji	85.8	5.6		4.7	3.5	0.4
Dedza	60.9	27.9	2.6	2.4	6.1	
Ntcheu	46.8	33.4		10.6	9.3	
Lilongwe City		93.0	6.4			0.5
Mangochi	73.7	14.5	0.7	5.2	6.0	

Machinga	56.1	25.5	6.8	6.4	5.2	
Zomba Non-City	84.6			12.3	3.1	
Chiradzulu	84.4			15.6		
Blantyre	97.4			2.6		
Mwanza	63.7	8.0	21.4	1.2	5.7	
Thyolo	93.2	4.6	0.5	1.0	0.4	0.3
Mulanje	84.1			10.5	5.4	
Phalombe	93.8			3.6	2.6	
Chikwawa	88.6	8.0		2.7	0.7	
Nsanje	84.6	9.5	2.3	1.7	1.9	
Balaka	66.7	21.0	0.9	8.4	3.0	
Neno	77.1			22.3	0.6	
Zomba City		92.3	7.2			0.4
Blantyre City		82.0	17.4			0.7
Dzaleka Camp	15.1			0.3	84.6	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.1: Literacy Rate for Population Aged 5 Years and Above

	Total	Male	Female
Malawi	71.1	72.9	69.4
Place of Residence			
Urban	87.1	87.9	86.2
Rural	67.8	69.7	66.0
Region			
Northern	79.3	79.4	79.2
Central	70.1	72.0	68.3
Southern	69.7	72.0	67.7
Sex of Household Head			
Male	72.8	74.5	70.9
Female	66.5	66.7	66.4
Education of Household Head			
None	41.6	42.1	41.2
Primary	69.3	71.2	67.5
Secondary	86.2	86.8	85.6
Tertiary	96.6	97.3	95.9
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	82.3	85.7	77.1
Married	72.4	73.8	70.9
Divorced/Separated	66.7	66.1	67.1
Widow/Widower	65.4	70.7	62.4
District			
Chitipa	84.5	86.9	82.3
Karonga	82.4	82.3	82.5
Nkhatabay	75.9	75.7	76.1
Rumphi	79.7	77.8	81.5
Mzimba	74.7	75.2	74.3
Likoma	82.4	82.1	82.7
Mzuzu City	88.9	88.3	89.4
Kasungu	72.4	71.2	73.7
Nkhotakota	65.7	69.7	61.9
Ntchisi	74.1	73.9	74.2
Dowa	73.2	76.1	70.5
Salima	58.9	61.7	56.4
Lilongwe	65.4	66.4	64.4
Mchinji	65.8	68.4	63.4
Dedza	61.2	66.9	56.1
Ntcheu	70.8	72.4	69.3
Lilongwe City	87.4	88.1	86.7
Mangochi	56.3	56.8	55.9
Machinga	62.4	65.5	59.6
Zomba Non-City	70.8	71.8	69.9
Chiradzulu	71.5	72.3	70.8
Blantyre	74.0	75.5	72.6
Mwanza	68.2	72.0	64.7
Thyolo	70.7	73.3	68.3

Mulanje	73.8	75.3	72.4
Phalombe	72.4	76.0	69.0
Chikwawa	64.1	71.3	57.4
Nsanje	66.9	72.1	62.3
Balaka	70.7	71.3	70.1
Neno	73.4	73.7	73.2
Zomba City	89.6	89.8	89.4
Blantyre City	88.2	89.4	87.0
Dzaleka Camp	79.8	82.9	76.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.2: Literacy Rates for Population Aged 15 Years and Above

	Total	Male	Female
Malawi	79.3	84.2	74.9
Place of Residence			
Urban	93.7	95.6	91.8
Rural	76.1	81.5	71.3
Region			
Northern	86.5	89.0	84.3
Central	78.3	82.8	74.1
Southern	78.2	84.2	73.0
Sex of Household Head			
Male	80.8	84.2	76.9
Female	75.0	84.4	71.1
Education of Household Head			
None	41.6	43.6	40.1
Primary	78.7	84.4	73.6
Secondary	95.5	98.1	92.8
Tertiary	98.9	99.0	98.8
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	87.3	89.7	83.3
Married	80.7	84.3	77.0
Divorced/Separated	76.2	83.3	72.5
Widow/Widower	70.4	82.5	64.7
District			
Chitipa	89.9	94.0	86.2
Karonga	86.8	90.3	83.8
Nkhatabay	84.1	85.3	83.1
Rumphi	89.1	89.4	88.7
Mzimba	82.9	86.0	80.2
Likoma	89.8	91.3	88.3
Mzuzu City	95.1	96.1	94.2
Kasungu	82.3	84.1	80.6
Nkhotakota	74.6	81.6	68.2
Ntchisi	81.9	85.1	78.9
Dowa	79.4	84.1	75.1
Salima	69.0	77.0	61.9
Lilongwe	73.6	78.1	69.5
Mchinji	74.5	78.0	71.2
Dedza	66.9	76.1	59.0
Ntcheu	80.0	83.0	77.2
Lilongwe City	94.2	96.1	92.3
Mangochi	64.9	71.4	59.6
Machinga	74.3	79.8	69.6
Zomba Non-City	80.7	86.4	75.9

Chiradzulu	77.5	80.2	75.2
Blantyre	81.2	85.3	77.6
Mwanza	78.3	86.1	71.1
Thyolo	78.7	87.2	71.8
Mulanje	80.8	86.7	75.8
Phalombe	77.8	83.9	72.4
Chikwawa	72.5	84.6	61.4
Nsanje	75.2	86.1	66.0
Balaka	79.6	84.5	75.6
Neno	83.4	86.1	81.0
Zomba City	95.3	96.5	94.2
Blantyre City	94.1	95.2	93.1
Dzaleka Camp	86.3	91.9	80.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.3: Proportion of Individuals that Never Attended School and Reasons for Not Attending School for Population Aged 5 Years and Above

	Never Attended School	Main Reason for Not Attending School						
		No money for fees, uniform	Still too young to attend school	Not interested, lazy	Parents did not let me	Illness or Disability	School too far from home	Other
Malawi	10.6	36.0	18.6	19.2	12.4	5.9	4.0	3.8
Place of Residence								
Urban	3.7	25.4	28.4	13.9	13.5	10.2	3.3	5.3
Rural	12.0	36.7	18.0	19.5	12.3	5.6	4.0	3.7
Region								
Northern	8.2	23.0	27.6	19.1	7.2	9.3	6.5	7.3
Central	10.5	39.0	17.0	20.5	10.6	5.6	3.8	3.5
Southern	11.3	36.1	18.2	18.1	15.2	5.4	3.7	3.4
Sex of Household Head								
Male	9.9	35.6	19.3	20.0	11.9	5.2	3.9	4.1
Female	12.4	36.9	17.2	17.5	13.5	7.3	4.3	3.2
Education of Household Head								
None	44.1	43.9	6.1	22.6	14.0	4.3	4.0	5.1
Primary	7.1	28.2	31.7	16.3	10.0	7.6	3.9	2.2
Secondary	2.8	16.5	45.5	9.3	13.4	8.7	4.3	2.3
Tertiary	0.7	39.5	27.4		5.5	22.7		4.8
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	7.1	45.9	12.7	27.2	5.8	5.6		2.9
Married	9.7	35.0	20.2	19.4	12.0	5.3	4.0	4.0
Divorced/Separated	11.3	37.5	18.0	17.7	14.0	7.2	3.2	2.4
Widow/Widower	17.2	38.9	12.1	19.2	13.2	7.2	5.0	4.4
District								
Chitipa	1.8	0.6	1.8	4.2	0.7	1.8	1.0	5.5
Karonga	2.9	1.9	2.7	3.8	1.2	4.5	3.9	9.9
Nkhatabay	1.2	1.1	2.1	0.5	0.6	0.3	5.0	0.4
Rumphi	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.4	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.6
Mzimba	3.2	2.2	6.1	0.9	3.0	7.1	6.2	1.8
Likoma	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Mzuzu City	0.4	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.1	1.0	0.1	0.5
Kasungu	3.9	2.6	4.0	4.7	4.6	3.8	5.1	8.7

Nkhotakota	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.4	1.9	2.4	6.3	1.5
Ntchisi	2.0	1.2	2.1	2.9	2.2	2.4	1.0	4.6
Dowa	3.3	4.6	2.2	2.8	1.9	6.7	0.2	1.8
Salima	4.5	4.0	3.6	9.7	0.8	2.8	6.5	0.8
Lilongwe	8.9	10.7	7.3	8.5	10.4	7.6	2.0	5.0
Mchinji	2.3	3.1	2.7	0.9	0.9	3.3	4.2	1.2
Dedza	8.2	9.6	6.8	7.1	9.3	3.8	10.4	9.4
Ntcheu	5.7	6.8	5.7	5.7	3.5	5.2	4.0	4.1
Lilongwe City	1.7	1.3	2.6	1.4	1.3	3.3	1.2	2.4
Mangochi	11.1	4.2	7.3	20.7	20.8	10.1	18.8	8.1
Machinga	4.8	5.6	5.5	3.2	5.9	2.9	3.1	2.7
Zomba Non-City	3.1	3.3	4.0	2.8	2.1	3.8		3.0
Chiradzulu	1.6	3.1	1.0	0.6	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.5
Blantyre	2.1	2.2	2.1	1.3	3.7	0.7	1.2	1.7
Mwanza	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.2	1.8	2.0	1.5	5.3
Thyolo	4.1	6.6	4.2	1.7	2.4	3.0	3.2	0.9
Mulanje	3.0	4.0	2.0	3.1	1.5	4.3	0.3	4.3
Phalombe	2.3	2.7	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.9	1.0	3.6
Chikwawa	5.1	5.3	7.0	1.9	5.9	3.6	10.5	3.3
Nsanje	2.3	2.7	3.0	1.3	3.1	1.2	0.7	1.2
Balaka	2.3	1.8	2.5	2.2	4.1	2.7	1.4	1.5
Neno	1.5	1.8	0.7	1.2	1.3	1.4	0.6	4.9
Zomba City	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Blantyre City	1.4	1.2	2.7	0.7	1.9	2.1		
Dzaleka Camp	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2		0.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.4: Proportion of Individuals that Never Attended School and Reasons for Not Attending School for Population Aged 15 Years and Above

	Never Attended School	Main Reason for Not Attending School						
		No money for fees, uniform	Still too young to attend school	Not interested, lazy	Parents did not let me	Illness or Disability	School too far from home	Other
Malawi	11.1	45.9	22.4	16.2	5.5	4.4	3.7	1.8
Place of Residence								
Urban	3.2	32.9	21.0	20.9	11.3	5.0	7.9	1.0
Rural	12.9	46.7	22.5	15.9	5.2	4.3	3.5	1.8
Region								
Northern	7.8	33.4	27.2	10.4	9.9	7.7	8.3	3.2
Central	11.0	49.2	22.7	13.5	5.2	4.3	4.0	1.1
Southern	12.1	45.3	21.3	19.9	5.0	3.8	2.6	2.2
Sex of Household Head								
Male	10.2	45.6	24.1	15.7	4.5	4.1	4.3	1.7
Female	13.6	46.6	18.8	17.3	7.7	4.9	2.6	2.1
Education of Household Head								
None	57.7	47.5	23.0	15.3	3.7	4.3	4.0	2.1
Primary	5.7	44.5	22.3	16.5	8.6	4.2	2.9	1.1
Secondary	1.7	30.5	15.6	29.3	12.4	6.6	4.7	0.9
Tertiary	0.7	49.8		7.0	28.7		6.1	8.4
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	6.2	54.9	26.5	7.5	7.4		3.8	

Married	10.1	45.5	23.6	16.0	4.7	4.3	4.2	1.7
Divorced/Separated	11.7	48.2	19.5	18.2	7.1	3.5	1.7	1.7
Widow/Widower	19.8	45.4	19.7	16.0	7.8	5.6	3.4	2.2
District								
Chitipa	17.2	15.8	53.7	6.0	6.7	2.7	9.7	5.3
Karonga	16.8	30.8	29.7	6.3	9.3	6.4	14.2	3.2
Nkhatabay	7.4	51.7	12.2	9.8	0.6	23.4	2.2	
Rumphi	3.1	32.2	28.6	9.9	19.9	1.1	2.7	5.6
Mzimba	5.2	45.3	10.2	19.8	13.2	8.1	2.8	0.6
Likoma	5.0	36.8	15.3	12.7	15.2	1.3	9.0	9.6
Mzuzu City	1.3	12.9	3.0	6.8	40.1	3.1	9.7	24.3
Kasungu	8.6	33.3	29.9	18.2	4.1	2.0	10.3	2.2
Nkhotakota	13.6	48.4	16.6	12.5	6.7	13.1	2.7	
Ntchisi	11.6	29.8	36.4	18.7	1.8	1.3	12.0	
Dowa	8.9	59.8	16.9	8.8	12.1	0.4	1.4	0.6
Salima	17.8	42.8	39.3	3.2	3.2	8.0	0.2	3.4
Lilongwe	10.9	53.3	20.6	17.6	4.9	0.7	2.4	0.5
Mchinji	7.4	65.8	10.0	5.1	7.1	8.3	1.9	1.8
Dedza	20.9	49.8	18.8	17.6	1.7	6.2	5.2	0.7
Ntcheu	15.7	54.6	21.6	10.3	5.5	3.7	2.9	1.4
Lilongwe City	2.7	36.9	22.5	13.6	15.3	4.0	7.6	
Mangochi	21.6	16.6	41.7	26.6	4.5	7.9	2.1	0.6
Machinga	12.3	53.5	13.7	22.2	1.7	3.8	1.3	3.8
Zomba Non-City	7.6	56.1	16.7	11.6	8.3		2.6	4.6
Chiradzulu	10.6	77.1	6.3	6.1	7.9	1.1	0.7	0.7
Blantyre	8.7	47.3	15.7	30.4	1.4	0.9	1.3	3.0
Mwanza	28.2	46.8	15.9	14.8	6.7	1.5	4.2	10.1
Thyolo	11.5	74.8	10.3	10.1	3.1	0.6	1.1	
Mulanje	9.3	53.7	19.7	8.1	8.6	0.4	5.7	3.7
Phalombe	11.5	52.9	18.1	13.4	5.5	2.3	7.8	
Chikwawa	16.8	54.5	8.5	21.3	4.4	7.4	3.8	
Nsanje	15.1	56.3	12.2	25.0	1.8	1.8	1.0	1.9
Balaka	10.4	36.5	20.8	29.3	7.5	3.3	1.6	1.0
Neno	26.0	50.5	16.8	12.2	4.3	1.2	3.3	11.5
Zomba City	1.3	55.3	4.8	31.8	8.1			
Blantyre City	2.6	40.8	15.2	28.8	15.2			
Dzaleka Camp	12.2	72.2	4.9	9.0	4.2			9.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.5: Enrolment Rates at Primary School

	Gross Enrollment			Net Enrollment		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Malawi	108.7	107.4	108.0	89.3	91.1	90.2
Place of Residence						
Urban	110.2	110.1	110.1	93.3	92.8	93.0
Rural	108.4	106.9	107.7	88.6	90.9	89.7
Region						
Northern	112.1	113.2	112.7	90.0	93.3	91.6
Central	109.3	106.9	108.1	88.9	90.0	89.4
Southern	107.1	106.4	106.8	89.5	91.7	90.6
Sex of Household Head						
Male	110.2	108.3	109.3	90.1	91.7	90.9
Female	105.1	105.2	105.2	87.5	89.8	88.7
Education of Household Head						
None	99.8	100.1	100.0	82.7	85.8	84.3
Primary	108.5	108.7	108.6	88.8	90.5	89.7

Secondary	114.9	108.5	111.7	93.6	95.3	94.5
Tertiary	100.9	106.3	103.6	93.2	93.0	93.1
District						
Chitipa	113.4	111.3	112.4	90.8	96.5	93.6
Karonga	112.8	112.8	112.8	92.2	92.0	92.1
Nkhatabay	111.0	115.2	113.1	89.0	94.6	91.7
Rumphi	121.6	112.0	116.8	92.4	93.0	92.7
Mzimba	108.9	113.7	111.3	88.3	92.4	90.4
Likoma	107.6	109.3	108.5	86.6	93.0	89.9
Mzuzu City	114.6	112.6	113.5	91.2	94.9	93.1
Kasungu	115.3	110.4	112.7	88.8	92.6	90.8
Nkhotakota	112.4	99.1	105.7	88.3	84.4	86.3
Ntchisi	112.5	105.2	108.7	92.6	92.1	92.3
Dowa	114.8	109.0	111.9	91.7	93.7	92.7
Salima	98.7	106.7	102.8	80.7	83.8	82.3
Lilongwe	109.1	107.0	108.1	90.4	91.7	91.0
Mchinji	107.0	108.3	107.7	93.3	89.5	91.4
Dedza	105.6	106.9	106.2	83.6	90.3	86.9
Ntcheu	102.8	96.7	99.8	84.7	84.6	84.6
Lilongwe City	113.8	112.5	113.2	92.8	90.7	91.7
Mangochi	102.4	104.1	103.2	87.4	90.7	89.1
Machinga	108.0	103.0	105.4	88.2	89.9	89.1
Zomba Non-City	105.9	105.7	105.8	90.7	93.5	92.1
Chiradzulu	104.4	109.9	106.9	93.0	92.8	92.9
Blantyre	116.6	108.7	112.6	93.9	94.8	94.4
Mwanza	104.3	101.7	102.9	83.7	90.1	87.0
Thyolo	112.6	110.1	111.3	90.5	92.1	91.3
Mulanje	110.0	107.5	108.7	92.4	90.3	91.3
Phalombe	106.8	112.1	109.3	93.4	93.0	93.2
Chikwawa	105.6	98.2	101.8	81.9	86.0	84.0
Nsanje	109.7	103.6	106.5	87.6	91.2	89.5
Balaka	103.4	108.7	106.0	83.6	92.3	87.9
Neno	110.9	101.8	106.3	90.6	92.0	91.3
Zomba City	104.2	112.6	108.4	91.3	92.0	91.7
Blantyre City	107.1	111.8	109.5	94.2	96.4	95.3
Dzaleka Camp	109.4	104.8	107.1	86.7	85.9	86.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.6: Enrolment Rates at Secondary School

	Gross Enrollment			Net Enrollment		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Malawi	20.6	23.7	22.1	13.7	16.7	15.2
Place of Residence						
Urban	42.2	52.4	47.3	32.6	38.1	35.3
Rural	16.4	17.9	17.2	10.0	12.5	11.2
Region						
Northern	21.5	32.8	27.3	13.6	21.8	17.8
Central	18.4	22.1	20.2	11.4	15.0	13.1
Southern	22.5	22.3	22.4	16.0	16.9	16.4
Sex of Household Head						
Male	21.5	26.1	23.7	14.8	18.3	16.5
Female	18.6	19.5	19.1	11.3	14.0	12.7
Education of Household Head						
None	9.7	5.7	7.7	3.3	4.3	3.8
Primary	13.4	15.4	14.4	8.1	10.2	9.1
Secondary	37.9	51.7	44.4	27.3	37.4	32.1

Tertiary	71.3	79.2	74.7	59.5	63.6	61.3
District						
Chitipa	24.9	32.2	28.5	13.0	18.7	15.8
Karonga	19.3	27.1	23.5	10.6	17.1	14.1
Nkhatabay	23.8	26.0	25.0	13.4	17.1	15.3
Rumphi	35.1	41.8	38.6	27.0	31.3	29.2
Mzimba	14.3	22.7	18.3	8.8	12.8	10.7
Likoma	26.8	52.2	40.1	18.8	38.9	29.4
Mzuzu City	32.1	67.4	52.4	24.5	51.6	40.1
Kasungu	11.2	32.8	22.9	4.6	21.9	13.9
Nkhotakota	24.8	18.9	22.0	16.0	8.4	12.4
Ntchisi	15.3	20.5	17.8	7.4	17.5	12.2
Dowa	19.3	21.5	20.3	12.6	16.8	14.6
Salima	13.7	9.6	11.6	7.8	6.6	7.2
Lilongwe	15.4	15.8	15.6	8.3	9.4	8.8
Mchinji	26.2	7.5	17.2	18.6	6.0	12.5
Dedza	9.2	6.6	7.9	8.7	5.4	7.0
Ntcheu	13.3	18.4	15.9	6.0	12.3	9.2
Lilongwe City	35.4	50.1	43.1	23.6	33.5	28.7
Mangochi	11.0	12.4	11.7	7.2	10.8	8.9
Machinga	6.8	9.9	8.2	4.3	6.6	5.4
Zomba Non-City	26.9	34.5	30.3	19.2	19.1	19.2
Chiradzulu	33.7	22.4	27.5	21.5	15.6	18.2
Blantyre	29.0	29.9	29.4	22.1	25.0	23.5
Mwanza	8.8	17.2	12.5	4.9	13.8	8.8
Thyolo	18.3	13.1	15.6	12.1	12.6	12.4
Mulanje	31.2	25.4	28.4	19.7	19.9	19.8
Phalombe	13.5	15.7	14.7	7.4	10.6	9.1
Chikwawa	20.7	9.4	15.6	13.5	9.4	11.7
Nsanje	14.8	21.5	18.1	8.1	15.3	11.7
Balaka	13.1	23.1	18.3	9.1	16.1	12.7
Neno	31.0	15.9	24.3	19.8	12.1	16.4
Zomba City	38.7	43.9	41.6	27.6	32.3	30.2
Blantyre City	56.8	55.0	55.9	49.3	43.8	46.7
Dzaleka Camp	27.4	29.0	28.1	15.6	19.4	17.2

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.7: Type of School Attended by Pupils

	Primary School			Secondary School		
	Public	Private	Religious	Public	Private	Religious
Malawi	87.7	3.7	8.6	70.4	22.9	6.7
Place of Residence						
Urban	71.6	16.1	12.2	55.8	33.9	10.3
Rural	90.4	1.6	7.9	77.6	17.4	5.0
Region						
Northern	91.1	2.4	6.5	77.9	16.5	5.6
Central	91.8	3.9	4.3	75.3	18.1	6.6
Southern	82.8	4.0	13.2	63.1	29.6	7.3
Sex of Household Head						
Male	87.6	4.1	8.3	71.9	21.4	6.8
Female	88.0	2.8	9.1	66.5	26.8	6.7
Education of Household Head						
None	91.0	0.7	8.3	74.3	24.0	1.7
Primary	90.2	1.6	8.1	76.5	18.4	5.2
Secondary	83.0	8.0	9.0	68.1	24.9	7.0
Tertiary	57.4	27.6	15.0	51.5	32.7	15.8

Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	70.5	14.9	14.6	62.9	31.2	5.9
Married	87.5	4.0	8.5	71.2	22.1	6.8
Divorced/Separated	89.3	2.5	8.2	65.2	28.4	6.3
Widow/Widower	88.1	2.6	9.3	72.4	20.6	6.9
District						
Chitipa	93.5	1.5	5.0	92.8	3.8	3.4
Karonga	86.2	1.2	12.6	78.8	16.9	4.3
Nkhatabay	90.4	1.7	8.0	69.6	25.4	5.0
Rumphi	90.1	3.7	6.2	89.4	6.2	4.4
Mzimba	94.6	1.5	3.9	83.3	10.6	6.1
Likoma	85.4	5.3	9.3	69.1	21.9	9.1
Mzuzu City	84.1	9.6	6.3	60.5	31.8	7.7
Kasungu	95.7	0.6	3.7	84.9	8.7	6.4
Nkhotakota	95.0	1.0	4.0	88.1	7.5	4.4
Ntchisi	99.0		1.0	88.2	3.0	8.8
Dowa	87.6	2.4	10.1	91.1	3.9	5.0
Salima	99.3	0.4	0.3	75.0	24.2	0.8
Lilongwe	93.2	4.1	2.7	73.8	22.2	3.9
Mchinji	85.1	4.9	10.0	77.7	15.7	6.5
Dedza	96.3	0.9	2.8	88.2	11.8	
Ntcheu	98.3	0.4	1.3	79.6	20.4	
Lilongwe City	77.4	17.0	5.6	58.3	29.0	12.7
Mangochi	63.4	3.7	32.9	43.7	47.3	8.9
Machinga	93.7	0.7	5.6	82.9	15.8	1.3
Zomba Non-City	95.1	1.5	3.4	60.3	23.4	16.3
Chiradzulu	74.2	3.4	22.4	69.1	27.6	3.2
Blantyre	88.5	2.3	9.2	66.2	27.8	6.0
Mwanza	94.2	3.9	2.0	67.3	32.7	
Thyolo	78.2	4.1	17.7	82.3	16.0	1.7
Mulanje	95.4	1.0	3.6	74.2	20.5	5.3
Phalombe	97.6	0.7	1.7	76.9	23.1	
Chikwawa	93.6	0.9	5.5	74.5	16.4	9.1
Nsanje	93.6	0.5	5.9	73.7	26.3	
Balaka	73.8	2.0	24.2	58.3	27.7	14.0
Neno	98.1	0.6	1.3	50.8	36.3	12.9
Zomba City	85.3	9.4	5.2	70.1	23.4	6.5
Blantyre City	58.5	24.8	16.7	41.5	48.8	9.8
Dzaleka Camp	66.9	25.8	7.3	75.3	20.4	4.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.8: Proportion of Population Aged 5 Years and Above by Highest Education Qualification Acquired

	None	PSLC	JCE	MSCE	Tertiary
Malawi	75.7	9.9	6.6	5.7	2.1
Place of Residence					
Urban	52.4	12.7	11.9	14.7	8.3
Rural	80.5	9.3	5.5	3.9	0.8
Region					
Northern	70.4	12.2	8.5	6.8	2.1
Central	76.3	9.7	6.3	5.9	1.9
Southern	76.6	9.4	6.4	5.3	2.2
Sex of Household Head					
Male	74.1	10.4	7.0	6.3	2.2
Female	80.0	8.6	5.5	4.3	1.6
Education of Household Head					

None	93.6	4.1	1.8	0.5	0.1
Primary	87.3	8.1	2.8	1.5	0.2
Secondary	48.7	16.9	16.8	15.9	1.7
Tertiary	27.1	7.7	9.2	16.2	39.9
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	45.1	12.1	10.3	19.1	13.4
Married	74.8	10.2	6.9	6.0	2.1
Divorced/Separated	81.2	8.5	5.3	3.8	1.1
Widow/Widower	79.9	8.7	5.7	4.3	1.5
District					
Chitipa	72.6	15.4	6.5	4.2	1.3
Karonga	74.7	12.3	6.8	5.3	1.1
Nkhatabay	75.8	8.8	8.3	5.3	1.7
Rumphi	62.5	13.0	11.7	9.9	3.0
Mzimba	74.8	12.7	7.3	3.9	1.3
Likoma	59.5	10.9	14.9	11.7	3.0
Mzuzu City	48.8	10.7	14.2	19.6	6.7
Kasungu	76.4	9.8	6.5	6.3	0.9
Nkhotakota	80.2	8.8	6.0	4.1	0.8
Ntchisi	82.7	9.9	4.3	2.6	0.5
Dowa	78.1	10.5	6.1	4.4	1.0
Salima	83.0	9.4	3.1	4.4	0.1
Lilongwe	78.9	9.1	5.9	5.3	0.8
Mchinji	78.2	9.1	6.5	4.8	1.4
Dedza	86.6	6.1	3.6	2.5	1.2
Ntcheu	82.2	8.4	5.4	3.5	0.5
Lilongwe City	51.8	13.9	11.6	14.4	8.3
Mangochi	82.9	7.2	4.9	3.9	1.0
Machinga	83.1	7.9	4.6	3.3	1.1
Zomba Non-City	77.0	9.4	7.1	4.6	1.9
Chiradzulu	77.6	8.9	7.5	4.8	1.3
Blantyre	72.2	11.7	8.8	6.1	1.2
Mwanza	84.6	7.3	4.6	3.0	0.5
Thyolo	80.4	10.0	5.0	3.4	1.3
Mulanje	78.3	10.8	5.3	4.8	0.7
Phalombe	84.3	7.3	4.8	3.3	0.3
Chikwawa	81.2	9.4	5.1	4.0	0.3
Nsanje	81.8	8.8	5.5	3.1	0.9
Balaka	77.7	10.6	5.8	4.8	1.0
Neno	80.4	9.4	4.3	3.6	2.3
Zomba City	51.9	9.6	12.3	15.7	10.5
Blantyre City	49.3	12.5	12.1	14.7	11.4
Dzaleka Camp	74.1	5.9	6.0	7.2	6.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.9: Proportion of Highest Education Qualification Acquired by Population Aged 15 years and above

	None	PSLC	JCE	MSCE	Tertiary
Malawi	66.0	13.6	9.5	8.2	2.8
Place of Residence					
Urban	38.0	16.0	15.9	19.8	10.3
Rural	72.2	13.0	8.0	5.7	1.1
Region					
Northern	60.1	15.5	12.0	9.5	2.9
Central	67.0	13.3	8.9	8.3	2.5
Southern	66.7	13.2	9.2	7.8	3.1
Sex of Household Head					

Male	64.5	13.9	9.8	8.8	2.9
Female	70.3	12.4	8.4	6.6	2.4
Education of Household Head					
None	91.4	5.1	2.6	0.8	0.1
Primary	81.9	11.5	4.1	2.2	0.3
Secondary	29.4	22.7	23.3	22.2	2.4
Tertiary	10.7	7.8	11.9	21.3	48.3
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	38.5	13.8	11.9	22.0	13.8
Married	65.0	13.9	9.8	8.5	2.8
Divorced/Separated	71.5	12.8	8.2	5.9	1.6
Widow/Widower	72.2	11.7	8.0	6.1	2.0
District					
Chitipa	65.5	17.5	9.2	5.9	1.9
Karonga	67.8	13.6	9.6	7.5	1.5
Nkhatabay	66.1	12.1	11.7	7.6	2.5
Rumphi	48.6	17.0	16.3	13.9	4.1
Mzimba	65.0	17.3	10.4	5.5	1.9
Likoma	47.1	13.7	19.7	15.5	4.0
Mzuzu City	34.3	12.7	18.5	25.8	8.6
Kasungu	66.2	13.9	9.4	9.1	1.3
Nkhotakota	71.8	12.4	8.8	6.0	1.1
Ntchisi	75.4	14.0	6.2	3.7	0.7
Dowa	69.7	14.3	8.6	6.2	1.2
Salima	75.8	13.1	4.5	6.4	0.2
Lilongwe	70.1	12.9	8.4	7.5	1.1
Mchinji	68.9	12.7	9.3	6.9	2.1
Dedza	81.0	8.6	5.1	3.6	1.6
Ntcheu	74.9	11.8	7.7	5.0	0.7
Lilongwe City	37.9	17.4	15.6	19.3	9.9
Mangochi	74.5	10.6	7.4	5.9	1.6
Machinga	74.3	11.9	7.0	5.1	1.6
Zomba Non-City	66.8	13.5	10.3	6.8	2.7
Chiradzulu	69.0	12.0	10.4	6.8	1.8
Blantyre	62.1	15.2	12.4	8.6	1.7
Mwanza	78.1	10.4	6.5	4.2	0.8
Thyolo	71.9	14.1	7.2	4.9	1.9
Mulanje	68.9	15.3	7.7	7.0	1.0
Phalombe	76.8	10.6	7.2	5.0	0.3
Chikwawa	73.2	13.1	7.5	5.8	0.4
Nsanje	73.2	12.8	8.1	4.6	1.3
Balaka	68.0	14.6	8.7	7.1	1.6
Neno	72.0	13.4	6.0	5.2	3.3
Zomba City	37.4	11.8	16.3	21.2	13.3
Blantyre City	34.0	16.0	16.1	19.8	14.0
Dzaleka Camp	59.7	8.7	9.4	11.4	10.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.10: Dropout and Reasons for Dropout at Primary School, IHS6 2024-2025

	Dropout rate Primary	Reason for dropping out at Primary School										
		No Money For Fees Or Uniform	Not Interested, Lazy	Married / Became Pregnant	Acquired All Education Wanted	Illness Or Disability	Too Old To Continue	School Too Far From Home	Parents Told Me To Stop	Failed Promotion Exam	Dismissed	Other*
Malawi	1.72	50.48	26.99	11.65	0.02	1.27	2.34	2.45	1.19	0.51	1.21	1.88
Place of Residence												
Urban	1.34	42.80	43.12	9.87								4.21
Rural	1.79	51.38	25.09	11.86	0.02	1.42	2.62	2.74	1.33	0.57	1.35	1.60
Region												
Northern	1.33	57.12	7.28	9.53	0.13		7.24	11.98		0.07		6.65
Central	2.31	57.18	21.70	9.59		2.17	1.87	0.99	2.17	0.24	2.20	1.88
Southern	1.29	36.49	43.74	15.98		0.25	1.21	1.19		1.15		
Male	1.43	44.94	34.99	0.79		2.27	3.76	5.84	2.45	0.44	3.06	1.46
Female	2.02	54.10	21.76	18.76	0.03	0.61	1.41	0.24	0.37	0.56		2.15
District												
Chitipa	1.02		6.08	68.73			15.20					9.99
Karonga	1.54	64.12	11.46				24.42					
Nkhatabay	1.85	39.48	7.67	4.41			9.87	6.70				31.88
Rumphi	1.46	26.43	34.29	31.90								7.38
Mzimba	1.40	77.13						22.87				
Likoma	0.74				65.88					34.12		
Mzuzu City	0.20		34.50	37.92								27.59
Kasungu	1.17	61.00	22.68									16.32
Nkhotakota	2.80	23.99	42.64	14.01			19.36					
Ntchisi	0.88	25.67	54.54						19.79			
Dowa	5.99	64.27	10.48	1.55		7.56	2.27		6.16		7.70	
Salima	2.97	45.72	29.70	21.67						2.90		
Lilongwe	2.85	47.77	33.79	14.65				3.80				
Mchinji	2.48	67.80	10.58	21.62								
Dedza	0.68	100.00										
Ntcheu	0.78	61.06	10.01	28.93								
Lilongwe City	1.43	79.21	10.94									9.86
Mangochi	1.53	31.42	35.96	32.62								
Machinga	1.16	25.62	74.38									
Zomba Non-City	0.87	14.16	20.47	65.37								
Chiradzulu	1.90	63.49	36.51									
Blantyre	1.29	17.93	35.81				23.71			22.54		
Mwanza	0.54	32.60		67.40								
Thyolo	1.27	34.06	56.76	9.18								
Mulanje	0.94		72.57	27.43								
Phalombe	1.81	54.84	34.03	11.13								
Chikwawa	1.64	70.65	19.33					10.02				

Nsanje	1.23	56.28	38.30	5.42										
Balaka	2.00	27.02	58.74	14.24										
Neno	1.10	85.78						14.22						
Zomba City	0.82	48.26	51.74											
Blantyre City	0.59		100.00											
Dzaleka Camp	3.97	72.00										8.00		20.00

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.11: Dropout and Reasons for Dropout at Secondary School, IHS6 2024-2025

	Dropout rate	Reason for dropping out at Secondary School												
		No Money For Fees Or Uniform	Not Interested, Lazy	Married / Became Pregnant	Acquired All Education Wanted	Illness Or Disability	Had To Work Or Help At Home	Too Old To Continue	Found Work	Parents Told Me To Stop	Failed Promotion Exam	Dismissed	Poor School Facilities	Other
Malawi	10.9	58.1	8.8	12.8	8.9	0.2	2.0	0.3	0.8		0.8	0.5	0.8	
Place of Residence														
Urban	7.6	62.7	3.3	6.8	4.7	0.7	6.6		0.8		1.4			
Rural	12.6	56.7	10.5	14.7	10.2		0.5	0.4	0.7		0.6	0.6	1.0	
Region														
Northern	6.4	56.1	8.9	8.3	1.6	1.7	6.3	3.2	4.1					
Central	12.5	71.1	4.8	8.9	3.2		1.9				1.8	1.0	1.7	
Southern	11.1	45.4	12.8	17.8	16.2		1.1		0.8					
Male	11.0	63.6	8.3	3.8	7.8	0.3	3.2	0.6	1.4			0.9	1.5	
Female	10.8	52.0	9.2	22.8	10.1		0.6				1.7			
District														
Chitipa	3.2	18.8			31.1				50.1					
Karonga	5.8	41.9		22.9				21.6	13.6					
Nkhatabay	8.3	58.3												
Rumphi	8.8	22.0	29.7	13.4			34.9							
Mzimba	4.2	100.0												
Likoma	8.2	14.3	29.9	33.9	21.9									
Mzuzu City	8.5	61.3	11.1	7.3		6.3								
Kasungu	13.9	59.1	7.6	4.9										
Nkhotakota	14.5	74.9	25.1											
Ntchisi	6.9	100.0												
Dowa	34.3	86.4	8.0	3.4							2.2			
Salima	14.7	58.3		9.3	22.4						10.0			
Lilongwe	11.8	81.0		19.0										
Mchinji	8.4	60.8			9.0							20.5		
Dedza	13.7	56.4		13.4									30.2	
Ntcheu	12.5	54.0		25.5	20.5									
Lilongwe City	5.0	53.2		7.8	4.0		17.4				6.8			

Mangochi	23.6	17.5	18.4	28.7	35.3			
Machinga	8.8	100.0						
Zomba Non-City	6.0	60.1		19.2				
Chiradzulu	12.5	23.9	16.0		60.1			
Blantyre	3.3	17.5				48.4	34.1	
Mwanza	3.9		100.0					
Thyolo	5.3	53.9			46.1			
Mulanje	13.2	28.5	35.7	35.7				
Phalombe	15.9	45.7	54.3					
Chikwawa	11.9	57.5		42.5				
Nsanje	11.6	58.0		42.0				
Balaka	8.0	100.0						
Neno	5.7	48.3	31.2				20.6	
Zomba City	5.3	48.2			35.3	16.5		
Blantyre City	12.1	64.2		6.0	7.2			
Dzaleka Camp	40.4	75.0			4.5		2.3	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 3.12: Proportion of Population Aged 15 Years and Access to Technical and Vocational Skills

	Has Technical/Artisan/ Hands-on Skill	Participation in TEVET	Participation in TEVET of youth (aged 15-24 years) Participation in TEVET	Out of School
Malawi	45.8	4.8	2.6	42.4
Place of Residence				
Urban	43.0	13.6	7.2	51.1
Rural	46.4	2.9	1.7	40.4
Region				
Northern	40.7	8.1	3.6	50.5
Central	49.6	3.5	1.8	40.7
Southern	43.4	5.2	3.1	41.6
Male	51.9	5.6	2.4	46.9
Female	40.3	3.8	2.7	38.2
Age group of Individuals				
15-24	37.5	2.6	2.6	42.4
25-34	49.9	6.8		
35-44	51.1	5.6		
45-54	51.8	4.5		
55-64	52.1	5.7		
65+	44.5	2.7		
Marital Status of Household Head				
Never married	50.7	7.8	3.2	34.9
Married	46.8	4.7	2.2	42.0
Divorced/Separated	43.0	3.5	2.1	41.6
Widow/Widower	40.3	5.9	6.2	48.3
Education of Household Head				
None	41.6	0.5	0.9	47.9
Primary	45.9	2.3	1.8	37.6
Secondary	47.7	7.5	4.1	47.1
Tertiary	45.0	30.7	9.8	66.6
District				
Chitipa	56.7	2.1	0.6	59.8
Karonga	51.4	2.8	1.5	56.3
Nkhatabay	24.4	4.4		47.0
Rumphi	36.5	12.9	3.3	56.4
Mzimba	40.7	7.9	2.8	43.3
Likoma	23.4	6.3	4.1	54.1
Mzuzu City	34.2	26.1	28.6	56.4
Kasungu	36.1	2.8	0.8	43.1
Nkhotakota	32.9	2.6	2.5	41.8
Ntchisi	38.0	0.9	0.2	38.3
Dowa	62.4	1.4	0.4	37.7
Salima	62.5	1.3	0.3	35.4
Lilongwe	51.2	2.8	1.4	39.4
Mchinji	19.3	8.0	9.8	38.4
Dedza	63.5	1.8	0.6	39.2
Ntcheu	60.5	0.8	1.0	35.0
Lilongwe City	50.7	11.3	6.2	51.4
Mangochi	19.6	9.6	15.2	39.3
Machinga	45.3	3.9	3.8	34.3
Zomba Non-City	36.7	7.7	7.4	39.7
Chiradzulu	44.9	2.0		44.4
Blantyre	42.7	3.7	1.9	40.8
Mwanza	53.2	0.3	0.4	52.0

Thyolo	43.6	2.3	0.5	44.7
Mulanje	41.4	6.2	5.6	45.0
Phalombe	42.9	3.8	0.7	38.6
Chikwawa	93.7	1.7	1.0	42.0
Nsanje	96.4	0.4	1.1	41.5
Balaka	26.8	5.6	1.6	35.2
Neno	52.4	5.3	1.9	52.0
Zomba City	28.9	19.2	12.7	56.5
Blantyre City	38.1	15.9	3.4	45.5
Dzaleka Camp	58.6	14.9	10.3	46.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.1: Proportion of Persons Reporting Illness/Injury and Percentage Distribution of Top Most Reported Diseases in Malawi

	Proportion who suffered	Malaria and Fever	Diarrhoea	Respir- atory Infection	Head- ache	Sore throat and Flu	Stomach Ache	Vomiting	Body and Joint Pains	Other
Malawi	35.3	39.3	0.4	0.9	7.6	22.1	8.2	0.4	5.6	2.4
Place of Residence										
Urban	31.4	23.7	0.3	0.9	8.6	29.6	10.5	0.6	6.4	2.3
Rural	36.1	42.0	0.4	0.9	7.5	20.8	7.7	0.4	5.5	2.4
Region										
Northern	36.6	36.0	1.8	2.1	8.8	24.9	10.5	0.5	5.4	1.7
Central	33.3	43.8	0.2	0.7	6.0	21.5	7.8	0.5	5.2	2.3
Southern	37.0	36.3	0.2	0.6	8.7	21.9	7.8	0.3	6.1	2.6
District										
Chitipa	20.7	40.5		0.2	15.1	19.7	8.3	1.2	5.1	2.5
Karonga	24.6	43.4			10.1	20.9	7.5	1.1	6.1	3.2
Nkhatabay	25.8	46.9		0.5	3.5	15.5	11.5		3.5	2.1
Rumphi	44.2	33.0	6.0	6.1	9.7	24.8	10.3	0.5	5.2	1.4
Mzimba	47.5	36.2	1.8	2.4	8.8	26.2	10.5	0.4	5.7	1.4
Likoma	31.3	20.8	2.6	2.8	8.6	33.2	10.1	0.6	7.2	5.6
Mzuzu City	34.1	20.3	0.6	0.7	7.3	33.0	14.0	0.5	5.5	0.6
Kasungu	33.0	51.2		0.4	4.6	24.3	5.1	0.4	4.4	1.1
Nkhotakota	25.4	47.5	0.1	1.1	4.4	21.7	6.2	0.6	4.0	3.9
Ntchisi	39.6	59.2	0.2	0.6	4.8	26.2	6.1	0.4	3.3	1.6
Dowa	45.3	44.3	0.2	1.0	6.1	24.6	6.8	0.1	4.9	1.4
Salima	24.9	41.1	0.2	0.9	7.5	17.3	9.6	1.6	4.9	6.0
Lilongwe	37.3	44.8	0.2	0.8	6.7	15.8	8.8	0.3	4.8	2.9
Mchinji	28.0	50.9	2.1	2.3	5.8	16.9	8.5	0.9	7.0	1.2
Dedza	36.0	41.3		0.2	5.9	20.8	6.9	1.0	7.6	1.2
Ntcheu	22.8	46.3		0.5	5.1	18.2	5.0	0.2	6.4	4.2
Lilongwe City	30.8	26.0		0.4	6.8	30.3	11.6	0.6	4.7	2.3
Mangochi	27.2	34.4	1.0	1.5	6.1	21.1	6.9	0.5	2.9	4.9
Machinga	41.4	41.2	0.1	0.8	6.0	24.7	7.4	0.1	6.2	2.1
Zomba Non-City	45.2	41.8		0.7	9.0	22.6	6.5	0.1	7.2	1.6
Chiradzulu	31.9	28.1	0.3	1.2	8.9	26.3	9.1	0.4	5.8	1.0
Blantyre	46.4	40.4		0.3	9.3	21.9	8.4	0.3	5.9	2.1
Mwanza	37.8	48.4	0.2	0.8	12.2	11.7	6.7	0.6	5.7	2.3
Thyolo	29.1	33.7		1.0	9.7	20.3	8.5	0.2	5.6	2.1
Mulanje	46.5	43.0	0.1	0.3	5.6	21.3	7.8	0.3	5.4	1.2
Phalombe	45.9	33.7		0.3	5.0	25.2	8.7	0.2	5.8	2.2
Chikwawa	38.6	37.3		0.1	17.1	10.8	7.6		9.5	3.7
Nsanje	39.8	33.9		0.8	17.8	11.0	8.2	0.4	7.9	7.2
Balaka	29.2	36.5		0.6	6.2	22.7	6.8	0.5	4.6	3.7
Neno	39.4	51.8	0.3	0.3	7.0	14.1	5.8	0.1	4.2	4.0
Zomba City	43.6	23.0	0.2	0.6	8.0	36.9	11.3		5.7	2.7
Blantyre City	31.6	16.8		0.2	10.9	31.2	9.6	1.2	7.8	1.0
Dzaleka Camp	40.4	26.6	0.1	0.7	9.3	30.0	15.9	0.9	3.6	1.3
Sex										
Male	34.1	39.2	0.4	0.9	7.3	23.1	6.8	0.4	4.4	2.6

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.2: Actions Taken in Face of Illness/Injury

	Did nothing not serious	Did nothing, no money	Had medicine, known remedies	Sought treatment at govt health facility	Sought treatment at other facility	Local pharmacy or grocery	Other
Malawi	6.9	3.4	6.6	28.3	6.9	46.3	2.5
Place of Residence							
Urban	10.4	2.0	9.1	22.3	5.5	50.6	1.0
Rural	6.1	3.6	6.0	29.5	7.2	45.4	2.8
Region							
Northern	5.9	4.7	3.8	43.1	7.3	35.1	0.8
Central	9.2	3.6	6.9	16.3	5.0	57.4	2.6
Southern	5.7	2.8	7.1	31.9	7.9	42.3	2.9
Sex							
Male	7.5	2.8	6.6	25.4	6.6	48.8	2.7
Female	6.3	3.8	6.5	31.1	7.2	43.9	2.3
District							
Chitipa	2.9	4.0	1.4	61.3	9.7	20.7	
Karonga	2.3	0.8	2.4	74.0	5.7	15.7	
Nkhatabay	2.1	2.8	1.3	60.7	6.0	25.9	1.6
Rumphi	6.6	1.4	3.4	53.1	11.0	25.0	0.7
Mzimba	5.5	7.5	4.5	30.8	7.2	44.1	1.1
Likoma	4.2	0.9	4.0	35.8	34.9	20.2	0.2
Mzuzu City	15.0	2.8	5.9	29.3	3.3	43.9	
Kasungu	5.8	3.0	6.6	7.8	6.2	65.9	4.7
Nkhotakota	5.3	2.7	1.5	49.9	5.3	33.1	2.9
Ntchisi	11.8	7.2		19.2	3.6	61.4	0.7
Dowa	16.1	3.6	3.7	18.8	6.2	48.0	4.0
Salima	14.9	3.2	18.0	50.5	6.2	7.1	
Lilongwe	6.6	2.9	8.2	11.2	5.8	63.8	2.9
Mchinji	3.7	2.8	3.5	23.9	6.8	56.0	4.3
Dedza	10.3	8.0	9.8	8.9	3.9	59.8	0.6
Ntcheu	9.6	3.7	6.1	18.2	1.3	61.1	
Lilongwe City	9.7	2.2	6.7	13.5	3.5	63.7	2.1
Mangochi	2.7	2.1	8.6	38.5	11.5	34.2	2.9
Machinga	6.4	2.3	8.6	23.8	9.9	44.0	6.7
Zomba Non-City	6.0	3.2	9.0	26.1	5.6	46.6	3.7
Chiradzulu	5.7	0.8	6.7	44.5	9.1	31.7	2.3
Blantyre	4.3	1.5	9.7	39.2	4.6	37.5	3.2
Mwanza	7.2	1.9	5.5	41.8	3.7	40.1	2.0
Thyolo	7.2	1.8	6.5	39.2	9.3	33.0	3.0
Mulanje	7.7	4.5	1.8	52.1	6.6	26.3	2.4
Phalombe	2.9	5.3	4.4	38.7	12.5	35.0	2.2
Chikwawa	2.9	6.2	1.5	9.4	2.4	75.2	2.4
Nsanje	1.3	4.8	2.3	3.1	2.4	85.6	0.6
Balaka	7.7	0.1	9.3	33.2	14.0	32.4	4.4
Neno	7.3	1.8	6.4	41.1	8.4	33.3	2.4
Zomba City	14.7	0.9	10.8	21.1	5.4	47.1	0.1
Blantyre City	9.5	2.1	12.5	24.0	8.6	43.4	0.4
Dzaleka Camp	9.2	3.2	16.6	26.7	3.2	39.6	2.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.3: Proportion of Persons Reporting Cleaned Chronic Illnesses

	Proportion with chronic illness	Tuberculosis	HIV/ AIDS	Diabetes	Asthma/ Chronic Respiratory Disease	Bilharzia/ Schistosomiasis	Arthritis/ Rheumatism/ Musculoskeletal Condition	Nerve Disorder	Ulcers/ Chronic Gastrointestinal Disorder	Cancer	Epilepsy
Malawi	8.1	1.5	27.3	3.7	25.6	2.4	3.4	2.0	9.5	0.2	7.6
Place of Residence											
Urban	7.9	1.6	22.8	4.8	29.7	1.3	2.3	1.1	12.8	0.3	3.6
Rural	8.1	1.4	28.2	3.5	24.7	2.6	3.6	2.2	8.8	0.2	8.4
Region											
Northern	7.2	1.4	17.3	5.4	20.4	0.0	3.2	1.4	12.1	0.1	8.8
Central	6.0	2.4	17.9	2.6	28.7	1.6	3.4	1.5	13.1	0.2	10.2
Southern	10.3	0.9	34.8	4.0	24.8	3.3	3.5	2.4	6.9	0.3	5.9
Sex											
Male	7.4	1.5	21.2	3.2	29.2	3.8	2.7	2.0	9.8	0.3	9.9
Female	8.7	1.5	32.3	4.1	22.6	1.3	4.0	2.0	9.3	0.2	5.7
District											
Chitipa	4.2	1.2	25.6	1.4	25.7		3.0	1.4	4.3		6.7
Karonga	5.7	3.4	22.2	1.8	32.0	0.3	3.8	2.4	0.8		10.7
Nkhatabay	6.7	0.8	19.3	3.5	39.2		2.3		17.2		5.8
Rumphi	8.8	0.3	13.3	9.0	17.2		3.4	2.0	19.2	1.1	1.9
Mzimba	7.8	1.2	16.4	6.9	12.8		3.8	1.2	11.0		12.3
Likoma	8.2		7.8	4.6	56.3		0.2	0.5	2.4		2.7
Mzuzu City	9.1	1.7	14.5	4.0	17.1		1.3	2.0	19.0		6.0
Kasungu	6.1	2.9	18.2	1.6	23.6	0.6			22.1		11.9
Nkhotakota	5.6	3.8	16.3	1.4	45.3		6.0	2.5	11.0		5.3
Ntchisi	7.0	0.8	15.9	2.2	25.6	2.2	8.1	0.4	11.7	1.7	11.4
Dowa	6.1	3.1	18.1		23.9	2.1	6.1	0.7	15.4		10.8
Salima	3.0	3.1	21.6	1.5	43.5		4.8	1.6	5.4		15.9
Lilongwe	5.3	1.0	9.8	1.5	35.4	4.2	4.1	1.7	11.8		10.7
Mchinji	7.6	2.1	26.9	0.9	15.9		1.5	3.9	11.4	1.6	18.7
Dedza	7.1	3.0	14.6	6.4	20.9	2.3	3.8	4.1	19.6		10.1
Ntcheu	5.6	2.8	29.7	9.2	29.9		3.5		6.1		7.1
Lilongwe City	7.1	2.8	18.5	1.4	34.4	1.0	1.3		8.9		4.7
Mangochi	8.8	2.0	32.8	2.9	33.4	6.9	0.8	1.1	2.7		7.6
Machinga	9.9	1.2	28.6	4.0	25.0	9.9	3.0	5.4	5.4	0.4	7.0
Zomba Non-City	9.3	1.1	43.5	5.2	21.4	4.2	0.8	3.3	3.1		6.5
Chiradzulu	7.2	1.0	42.1	1.8	17.8		2.0	0.8	5.1		6.6
Blantyre	14.4		31.7	2.6	23.6	1.2	9.5	4.4	11.9		4.3
Mwanza	7.1	1.1	18.3	5.9	30.9	0.7	2.5	5.2	12.6		8.3
Thyolo	9.4	0.9	50.2	1.2	19.5	0.4	3.4	0.3	5.7	0.6	6.7
Mulanje	14.2	0.5	46.2	8.8	10.3	0.8	5.2	0.8	4.1	0.2	4.4
Phalombe	11.8		33.1	5.5	17.9	0.6	5.4	0.2	7.1		5.2
Chikwawa	13.9	0.7	35.0	1.0	27.2	6.0	2.6	2.6	8.0	0.4	4.1
Nsanje	12.6	3.5	19.4	1.9	42.7	4.1	3.1	3.8	5.6		1.6

Balaka	10.2		30.8	2.5	34.0	0.4	1.2	4.6	4.1	0.7	10.0
Neno	7.5	1.4	23.8	6.1	22.9	0.7	2.5	4.5	6.8		10.9
Zomba City	8.9	1.0	25.9	6.9	42.4	0.7	1.3	0.6	3.7		2.5
Blantyre City	7.4	0.3	20.0	6.9	27.6		5.5	2.2	24.4	0.9	4.5
Dzaleka Camp	4.6		2.9	6.7	26.0		3.8	1.9	21.2	1.0	7.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025.

Table 4.4: Proportion of Persons Reporting Chronic Illnesses

	Mental Illness / Schizophrenia	Hypertension/ High Blood Pressure	Stroke/ Cardiovascular Disease	Anaemia/ Blood Disorders	Sickle Cell Disease	Hernia	Kidney/ Urinary Condition	Liver/ Hepatitis/ Spleen Condition	Reproductive/ Urogenital Condition
Malawi	3.8	8.2	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.1
Place of Residence									
Urban	3.3	10.6	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.0
Rural	3.9	7.8	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.1
Region									
Northern	7.0	14.1	0.7	0.3	1.6		0.3	0.4	0.3
Central	3.4	9.4	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.9		0.1
Southern	3.4	6.4	0.3	0.2		0.5	0.2		0.1
Sex									
Male	5.8	5.4	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.1
Female	2.2	10.5	0.5	0.3	0.3		0.2	0.0	0.1
District									
Chitipa	13.2	14.1						1.5	
Karonga	3.5	11.3			3.6		1.8	1.0	
Nkhatabay		9.4		0.7					1.8
Rumphi	3.9	19.8	0.7	1.4	1.5		0.4		0.5
Mzimba	9.7	13.3	1.4		1.3				
Likoma	1.8	22.1	0.7						
Mzuzu City	7.5	17.1			2.9			1.1	
Kasungu	2.1	12.3			0.4		1.4		
Nkhotakota	1.2	5.5	0.8		0.6				
Ntchisi	11.4	5.1	0.3				1.0		0.9
Dowa	5.4	6.2		0.9					0.9
Salima		0.7				1.9			
Lilongwe	2.2	9.2	2.4		0.3		0.5		
Mchinji	3.0	13.0							
Dedza	2.3	6.9	2.2				2.7		
Ntcheu	6.5	4.3	0.4						
Lilongwe City	2.7	16.0	1.7	1.5	0.8		1.4		
Mangochi	4.1	4.9					0.7		
Machinga	1.6	5.3				1.0			0.5
Zomba Non-City	3.9	6.5							

Chiradzulu	4.8	11.3	1.6				
Blantyre	2.9	6.5		0.8			
Mwanza	4.6	6.4					0.2
Thyolo	3.2	3.4			0.4		
Mulanje	3.6	10.1		1.1	1.3		
Phalombe	2.1	9.2	0.9		2.8	0.8	
Chikwawa	3.4	6.4	0.2			0.2	
Nsanje	2.8	5.8	1.3		0.7		
Balaka	4.3	5.1	1.4				
Neno	5.6	12.4	0.7				
Zomba City	3.9	7.7					
Blantyre City	4.2	2.9					
Dzaleka Camp	6.7	9.6		1.9			1.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025.

Table 4.5: Proportion of Persons Reporting Chronic Illnesses

	Neurological/ Developmental Condition	Dental/ Oral Disease	Goitre/ Thyroid Disease	Ear/ Hearing Condition	Eye/ Vision Condition	Allergic Condition
Malawi	0.3	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.6	0.0
Place of Residence						
Urban	0.2			1.5	1.0	0.2
Rural	0.3	0.0	0.1	1.8	0.6	
Region						
Northern	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.6	
Central	0.1	0.0		1.8	0.8	0.1
Southern	0.3	0.0	0.1	1.5	0.2	0.0
Sex						
Male	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.5	
Female	0.4	0.0	0.1	1.7	0.7	0.1
District						
Chitipa			0.7		1.1	
Karonga	1.2					
Rumphi		0.4		1.3	2.8	
Mzimba				4.0	4.7	
Likoma				1.0		
Mzuzu City	1.0			3.9	0.9	
Kasungu					2.8	
Nkhotakota					0.3	
Ntchisi		0.4		0.8		
Dowa	1.0			3.2	2.1	
Lilongwe				5.3		
Mchinji				0.6	0.7	
Dedza				1.1		

Ntcheu					0.6	
Lilongwe City				1.7	0.7	0.5
Machinga				1.5		
Zomba Non-City				0.5		
Chiradzulu	4.0			1.0		
Blantyre				0.6		
Mwanza				3.1		
Thyolo	1.1		1.1	1.9		
Mulanje			0.4	2.1	0.3	
Phalombe	1.8	0.7		6.7		
Chikwawa				1.9	0.3	
Nsanje				1.3	2.2	
Balaka				0.9		
Neno				1.7		
Zomba City	0.5			1.8		1.1
Blantyre City				0.6		
Dzaleka Camp	1.0		1.0	3.8	2.9	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025.

Note: Open-ended chronic illness responses were cleaned before tabulation. Malaria/fever, pneumonia, acute infections, STIs, nutritional conditions, symptoms, signs, functional limitations, and unspecified responses are excluded from the main chronic-condition categories

Table 4.6: Percentage Distribution of those who Diagnosed Chronic Illnesses

	Medical worker at hospital	Medical worker at other health facility	Traditional healer	Self	Other
Malawi	64.4	22.5	1.8	4.8	6.5
Place of Residence					
Urban	76.0	13.6	0.8	4.6	5.0
Rural	62.1	24.3	2.0	4.9	6.8
Region					
Northern	67.7	25.5	2.2	2.5	2.1
Central	65.0	22.3	1.8	4.1	6.9
Southern	63.5	22.0	1.7	5.7	7.1
District					
Chitipa	49.5	43.2	1.4	3.9	1.9
Karonga	55.4	40.6	4.0		
Nkhatabay	68.3	30.4	0.3	1.0	
Rumphi	77.0	17.7	1.0	2.6	1.7
Mzimba	67.6	22.8	3.3	2.7	3.6
Likoma	69.5	28.7		1.8	
Mzuzu City	78.5	15.3	0.3	4.5	1.5
Kasungu	51.1	40.3	1.7		6.9
Nkhotakota	76.0	16.6		1.2	6.2
Ntchisi	34.8	59.1	1.1	1.7	3.3
Dowa	65.0	21.1		10.6	3.2
Salima	76.5	16.1	3.1	2.0	2.3
Lilongwe	63.1	21.4	2.5	3.1	9.9
Mchinji	56.4	36.3	1.7	2.5	3.1
Dedza	62.6	9.7	3.0	11.5	13.1
Ntcheu	78.0	13.7	3.0		5.3
Lilongwe City	80.1	9.9	1.0	3.1	5.8
Mangochi	56.7	30.2	1.8	3.2	8.0
Machinga	67.5	20.0	3.1	1.7	7.8
Zomba Non-City	64.1	23.9	1.5	2.2	8.5
Chiradzulu	83.7	5.2		9.2	1.8
Blantyre	59.3	24.1	1.3	9.4	5.9
Mwanza	32.1	41.5	2.7	7.7	16.1
Thyolo	87.4	2.8		6.1	3.7
Mulanje	60.8	25.3	2.4	4.1	7.3
Phalombe	56.5	29.1	1.3	6.4	6.7
Chikwawa	54.4	24.9	2.3	8.2	10.2
Nsanje	53.7	25.2	1.4	10.5	9.3
Balaka	70.9	18.4	2.6	3.3	4.9
Neno	47.5	34.7	0.8	7.2	9.8
Zomba City	61.1	32.0		1.4	5.5
Blantyre City	71.7	11.3	1.5	11.3	4.2
Dzaleka Camp	54.8	32.5		10.3	2.4

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.7: Place of delivery for a child less than 5 years

	Place of delivery for the child born in the last 24 months		
	Hospital	Home	Other
Malawi	96.9	3.0	0.1
Place of Residence			
Urban	98.4	1.6	0.1
Rural	96.6	3.3	0.1
Region			
Northern	97.8	2.2	
Central	97.9	2.0	0.2
Southern	95.8	4.2	0.0
District			
Chitipa	99.0	1.0	
Karonga	97.3	2.7	
Nkhatabay	99.7	0.3	
Rumphi	97.5	2.5	
Mzimba	96.9	3.1	
Likoma	96.4	3.6	
Mzuzu City	98.6	1.4	
Kasungu	99.1	0.9	
Nkhotakota	97.0	3.0	
Ntchisi	94.3	5.7	
Dowa	97.6	1.8	0.6
Salima	94.7	5.3	
Lilongwe	97.5	2.0	0.5
Mchinji	98.9	1.1	
Dedza	98.1	1.9	
Ntcheu	99.5	0.5	
Lilongwe City	99.2	0.8	
Mangochi	95.0	5.0	
Machinga	97.5	2.5	
Zomba Non-City	98.7	1.3	
Chiradzulu	97.5	2.5	
Blantyre	97.6	2.4	
Mwanza	96.6	3.4	
Thyolo	90.7	9.3	
Mulanje	98.0	2.0	
Phalombe	97.8	2.2	
Chikwawa	94.2	5.8	
Nsanje	93.6	6.0	0.4
Balaka	91.1	8.6	0.3
Neno	97.0	2.7	0.3
Zomba City	99.3	0.7	
Blantyre City	96.4	3.6	
Dzaleka Camp	98.3	1.0	0.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.8: Proportion of Births Assisted by Skilled Health Personnel

	Doctor/ Clinical Officer	Nurse/Midwife	Patient Attendant	Traditional Birth Attendant	Relative/Friend	Self	Other
Malawi	24.5	71.8	1.2	0.8	1.5	0.2	0.1
Place of Residence							
Urban	28.4	69.9	0.5	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.2
Rural	23.8	72.2	1.3	0.9	1.6	0.2	0.1
Region							
Northern	11.5	86.2	1.1	0.4	0.3	0.4	
Central	24.2	73.4	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.0	0.1
Southern	28.0	66.7	1.6	0.8	2.5	0.3	0.1
District							
Chitipa	11.5	87.2	0.6		0.5	0.2	
Karonga	12.7	86.2			0.3	0.8	
Nkhatabay	17.5	80.2	2.0		0.3		
Rumphi	10.2	89.6			0.2		
Mzimba	9.5	86.9	1.5	1.0	0.4	0.5	
Likoma	10.5	86.4		2.7	0.4		
Mzuzu City	12.3	86.3	1.4				
Kasungu	17.0	81.6	0.7		0.6		
Nkhotakota	33.1	64.9	0.9	0.5	0.7		
Ntchisi	11.3	87.3	0.1	1.2			
Dowa	31.3	65.7	0.9		1.8	0.3	
Salima	19.1	77.3		1.5	2.1		
Lilongwe	22.5	74.7	0.6	1.6	0.6		
Mchinji	39.1	59.9			1.1		
Dedza	23.4	72.9	1.8	1.7	0.2		
Ntcheu	22.7	73.8	2.3		0.5		0.7
Lilongwe City	24.1	75.2		0.5	0.3		
Mangochi	31.0	62.9	1.5	0.8	3.9		
Machinga	27.6	69.0	0.6		2.5	0.3	
Zomba Non-City	21.8	70.8	6.3	0.6	0.3	0.2	
Chiradzulu	39.1	60.5			0.4		
Blantyre	17.6	77.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	2.1	
Mwanza	7.2	86.7	1.1	1.0	2.0		2.0
Thyolo	35.8	59.3		0.2	4.7		
Mulanje	35.8	62.9			0.6	0.7	
Phalombe	38.6	59.8	0.4		1.2		
Chikwawa	8.1	82.7	3.7	1.9	3.1	0.6	
Nsanje	15.5	75.4	4.0	2.5	2.4	0.2	
Balaka	30.3	60.4	0.3	4.5	4.4		
Neno	10.6	85.0	0.7	0.7	1.6	0.6	0.8
Zomba City	20.1	74.8	4.4		0.3	0.4	
Blantyre City	39.7	55.8	0.8		3.0		0.7
Dzaleka Camp	35.5	63.0			0.7	0.2	0.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.9: Proportion of Households with Members Sleeping under a Bed Net

	Bed Net	Under 5 Years		No
	Yes	Yes - All Children	Yes - Some Children	
Malawi	74.8	95.9	3.3	0.8
Place of Residence				
Urban	74.2	96.9	2.4	0.7
Rural	75.0	95.7	3.5	0.8
Region				
Northern	63.4	94.7	3.8	1.5
Central	70.2	97.4	1.7	0.9
Southern	82.2	94.9	4.6	0.5
Sex of Household Head				
Male	75.6	96.4	3.0	0.6
Female	73.1	94.5	4.3	1.2
District				
Chitipa	62.5	97.4	2.6	
Karonga	73.4	95.7	3.9	0.4
Nkhatabay	75.9	94.5	3.8	1.7
Rumphi	63.0	91.9	7.3	0.8
Mzimba	52.6	93.6	3.4	3.1
Likoma	82.4	99.3		0.7
Mzuzu City	73.3	96.4	3.1	0.5
Kasungu	74.3	97.1	1.7	1.2
Nkhotakota	86.8	96.7	1.5	1.8
Ntchisi	67.0	94.0	2.6	3.3
Dowa	71.5	95.5	3.4	1.1
Salima	77.7	99.6	0.4	
Lilongwe	64.4	98.4	1.6	
Mchinji	73.7	99.5		0.5
Dedza	72.3	98.7		1.3
Ntcheu	68.9	99.1	0.3	0.6
Lilongwe City	63.6	93.9	4.9	1.1
Mangochi	82.6	97.5	1.4	1.1
Machinga	87.9	97.1	2.9	
Zomba Non-City	82.8	98.4	1.6	
Chiradzulu	79.2	96.4	3.6	
Blantyre	74.7	97.7	1.2	1.2
Mwanza	73.8	99.0		1.0
Thyolo	75.8	98.8	0.9	0.3
Mulanje	80.7	75.9	23.7	0.4
Phalombe	93.0	78.6	21.4	
Chikwawa	90.6	98.1	1.5	0.4
Nsanje	87.9	99.3	0.7	
Balaka	83.2	99.2		0.8
Neno	65.8	99.7		0.3
Zomba City	75.6	98.4	1.6	
Blantyre City	80.2	97.2	1.5	1.3
Dzaleka Camp	67.6	87.2	9.0	3.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 4.10: Prevalence of Any Disability (Individuals ages five years or older)

	Any difficulty	Seeing	Hearing	Walking/ Climbing steps	Concentrating/ Remembering	Self Care	Communicating
Malawi	13.7	5.5	2.8	4.4	3.4	1.0	1.4
Place of Residence							
Urban	13.5	7.3	2.1	3.3	2.3	0.5	0.9
Rural	13.8	5.1	2.9	4.7	3.6	1.1	1.5
Region							
Northern	11.9	6.0	2.1	4.1	2.0	0.7	0.9
Central	13.0	4.8	2.8	4.4	3.2	0.7	1.3
Southern	15.0	6.1	3.1	4.6	4.0	1.3	1.7
Sex							
Male	12.8	5.1	2.5	3.3	2.9	0.9	1.9
Female	14.6	5.9	3.1	5.4	3.8	1.1	1.0
Age group							
5-9	6.6	1.2	2.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.8
10-14	6.6	1.7	2.1	0.8	1.6	0.4	1.1
15-49	12.1	4.6	2.2	3.0	3.1	0.5	1.3
50-64	31.2	15.3	4.2	12.9	6.8	1.4	1.2
65+	55.9	30.2	13.9	33.8	15.4	8.0	3.6
District							
Chitipa	5.6	2.3	1.2	2.6	0.4	0.4	0.5
Karonga	6.1	2.0	1.1	3.3	0.4	0.4	0.8
Nkhatabay	10.0	5.1	3.0	3.1	1.7	0.6	0.5
Rumphi	15.5	8.6	4.0	4.1	2.1	1.0	0.5
Mzimba	15.2	7.4	2.2	5.4	3.2	0.8	1.3
Likoma	12.9	8.4	2.0	3.9	1.5	0.5	1.2
Mzuzu City	12.6	8.2	1.6	2.8	1.5	0.9	0.6
Kasungu	12.5	4.3	3.6	4.0	2.9	0.4	1.6
Nkhotakota	11.7	4.0	2.8	5.0	2.6	1.9	1.2
Ntchisi	14.8	6.0	3.6	5.6	4.8	1.8	0.7
Dowa	14.4	5.6	3.1	4.8	3.5	0.3	1.0
Salima	10.9	4.9	1.5	4.0	2.4	0.9	0.8
Lilongwe	14.9	4.8	3.3	5.6	4.2	0.7	1.4
Mchinji	13.6	3.8	3.6	2.8	3.5	0.5	2.3
Dedza	13.7	4.2	2.2	5.4	4.1	1.0	1.5
Ntcheu	7.2	3.2	1.3	3.4	1.9	0.9	1.0
Lilongwe City	13.1	6.4	2.1	3.0	2.1	0.4	1.0
Mangochi	9.7	3.7	2.5	3.2	1.8	0.8	1.3
Machinga	16.4	7.4	3.4	4.2	5.4	1.3	2.2
Zomba Non-City	17.1	7.2	3.1	5.0	3.8	1.0	2.6
Chiradzulu	12.9	3.2	2.4	5.2	3.9	1.0	1.3
Blantyre	21.6	6.8	3.1	7.5	8.2	0.7	2.4
Mwanza	13.5	4.9	4.8	4.2	2.6	0.8	1.6
Thyolo	11.3	4.6	2.2	3.6	2.8	0.7	0.9
Mulanje	19.3	7.6	4.1	6.6	4.7	3.6	1.6
Phalombe	19.8	7.6	3.8	6.3	4.2	4.1	2.2
Chikwawa	18.7	6.3	4.8	5.6	7.2	1.6	2.4
Nsanje	14.3	5.3	3.2	4.1	4.7	1.6	1.4
Balaka	10.0	5.2	2.6	3.0	1.4	0.5	1.7
Neno	11.4	5.0	3.7	3.0	2.8	0.9	1.1
Zomba City	13.2	8.4	2.4	2.8	1.0	0.8	0.6
Blantyre City	15.2	8.3	1.9	3.6	3.8	0.3	1.3
Dzaleka Camp	15.1	8.9	2.5	4.2	2.8	0.9	0.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 5.1: Proportion of Households where at least One Member Obtained a Loan and Reasons for Obtaining the Loan

Reasons for Obtaining a Loan	Proportion that borrowed										
		Purchase Land	Purchase Agricultural Inputs For Food Crop	Purchase Inputs For Tobacco	Purchase Inputs For Other Cash Crops	Business Start-Up	Purchase Non-Farm Inputs	Consumption	Other	Household Non-Farm Expenditure	Boost Capital
Malawi	47.0	0.3	8.0	1.0	2.1	5.6	1.3	55.0	0.6	14.9	11.0
Place of Residence											
Urban	44.9	0.3	4.8	0.1	1.7	5.9	2.0	50.7	0.2	17.0	17.3
Rural	47.4	0.3	8.6	1.2	2.2	5.6	1.2	55.8	0.7	14.6	9.9
Region											
Northern	44.0	0.7	9.9	2.8	2.2	5.0	1.0	44.6	0.5	20.2	13.2
Central	47.3	0.3	10.8	1.8	3.5	5.8	1.5	51.4	0.9	13.2	10.7
Southern	47.4	0.3	5.5	0.1	1.0	5.6	1.2	59.8	0.4	15.1	10.8
Sex of Household Head											
Male	47.3	0.3	9.0	1.4	2.4	5.5	1.6	53.1	0.6	15.0	11.2
Female	46.2	0.4	5.7	0.2	1.4	5.9	0.6	59.6	0.7	14.9	10.6
Age of Household Head											
15 to 24	49.0	0.3	4.2	0.4	1.7	4.0	1.1	64.6	0.2	14.0	9.5
25 to 34	50.6	0.4	7.9	0.5	2.2	6.2	1.5	54.1	0.8	15.6	10.8
35 to 44	50.8	0.3	8.5	0.8	1.9	6.1	1.4	55.0	0.5	14.2	11.4
45 to 54	46.7	0.3	7.8	1.3	2.7	5.4	1.1	53.0	0.3	14.3	13.8
55 to 64	45.1	0.6	11.7	3.2	2.2	4.8	1.5	46.3	1.1	18.6	10.1
65+	27.2	0.4	7.0	1.2	1.2	4.9	0.8	66.3	0.6	11.2	6.5
Education of Household Head											
None	37.6	0.2	6.7	1.2	1.2	4.7	1.2	64.3	0.7	12.8	7.1
Primary	47.1	0.2	7.9	0.8	1.8	5.6	0.9	56.7	0.6	14.8	10.7

Secondary	51.6	0.5	8.9	1.5	2.9	6.3	2.2	50.1	0.7	14.3	12.6
Tertiary	44.9	2.0	6.8	0.3	3.3	3.5	0.8	41.1	0.3	27.9	13.9
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	36.7		5.8		1.7	4.1	0.8	61.2	0.2	13.5	12.7
Married	48.4	0.4	9.0	1.3	2.4	5.5	1.6	52.8	0.7	15.1	11.2
Divorced/Separated	48.1	0.1	4.0	0.0	1.2	5.9	0.5	62.2	0.4	15.8	9.8
Widow/Widower	38.1	0.6	8.3	0.6	1.5	6.5	0.8	57.9	0.5	11.6	11.6
District											
Chitipa	24.4		14.0	0.7	2.9	8.0	2.6	50.9	1.0	7.3	12.6
Karonga	28.6	2.9	9.1		3.9	6.9	1.2	63.0	1.6	7.6	3.8
Nkhatabay	31.1	0.9	9.2			4.5	1.7	60.4		7.6	15.8
Rumphi	61.4	0.8	9.7	2.1	3.2	4.1	1.6	36.1	0.6	27.3	14.6
Mzimba	54.6	0.6	11.2	4.7	2.2	4.5		41.3	0.1	23.8	11.5
Likoma	41.1	0.4			0.9	11.0	1.3	57.1	2.2	6.0	21.1
Mzuzu City	46.0	0.3	4.1	0.2	0.8	5.8	3.2	43.6	1.0	18.1	23.0
Kasungu	50.3		8.7	5.3	3.1	10.7	1.5	45.5	0.7	15.1	9.5
Nkhotakota	32.3		11.4		4.2	3.2	2.6	60.2		4.7	13.6
Ntchisi	49.3		19.7	3.9	5.6	4.6		53.1	1.4	7.0	4.7
Dowa	46.1	0.8	11.8	5.1	4.2	5.5	2.8	44.0	1.9	9.9	13.9
Salima	19.6	2.4	13.5		1.8	16.7	2.7	49.5	1.7	1.3	10.3
Lilongwe	48.4	0.5	7.9	0.8	3.1	4.3	1.6	55.1	0.5	15.5	10.7
Mchinji	49.2		9.0	2.0	2.9	3.0	1.2	47.9	1.5	16.6	15.9
Dedza	55.4		15.6	0.9	3.7	6.2	1.2	57.9	2.4	9.3	2.7
Ntcheu	54.9		17.2	0.2	6.8	6.0	1.1	54.5		7.9	6.3
Lilongwe City	49.2		5.9	0.2	1.7	5.0	1.5	47.4	0.2	20.8	17.4
Mangochi	33.9		5.4		2.6	6.2	0.7	62.4	0.5	6.4	15.8
Machinga	61.0	0.3	4.4		0.5	6.4	1.2	56.0	0.1	23.6	7.5
Zomba Non-City	52.4	0.4	11.0		0.9	3.7	1.5	55.7	1.8	14.1	11.0
Chiradzulu	46.7	0.7	8.4		1.4	8.7	2.6	59.3	0.7	4.8	13.5
Blantyre	26.8		3.5		1.2	9.9	1.9	57.3		11.3	14.9
Mwanza	49.8	0.5	10.4			3.6	3.8	57.7		12.3	11.7
Thyolo	40.2		10.7		0.7	9.4	0.6	59.3	1.8	10.6	6.9
Mulanje	49.6	0.8	4.2	0.3	0.6	2.1	0.3	62.6		21.4	7.6
Phalombe	56.2		4.2	0.4	1.2	8.1	0.4	63.1		13.8	8.9
Chikwawa	69.4		4.5		1.0	2.4	2.1	59.4	0.5	14.8	15.2
Nsanje	70.9	0.9	3.5		0.2	3.5	1.0	66.0		17.0	7.8
Balaka	46.9	0.4	3.4		1.2	7.3	2.2	66.5		10.5	8.6
Neno	43.9		6.0			4.9	5.4	60.6	0.6	12.4	10.0
Zomba City	42.7	0.6	2.0		1.4	6.3	1.9	53.6	0.9	14.5	18.8
Blantyre City	41.0	0.3	2.6		1.4	8.1	1.1	55.8		11.8	18.9
Dzaleka Camp	42.5		2.1		1.6	3.2	1.1	85.6		2.1	4.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 5.2: Percentage Distribution of Sources of Loans

	Relative	Neighbour	Grocery	Money lender	Employer	Religious institution	NEEF	SACCO	Commercial banks	NGOs	Village banks	Other
Malawi	20.5	21.9	2.7	10.0	0.9	0.3	1.1	1.6	1.0	35.8	1.7	2.5
Place of Residence												
Urban	12.8	32.6	1.1	9.5	2.4	0.1	1.1	4.6	0.4	27.8	2.5	5.0
Rural	21.9	19.9	3.0	10.1	0.6	0.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	37.3	1.5	2.1
Region												
Northern	15.3	23.9	0.3	2.2	1.4	0.2	1.9	2.0	1.3	43.9	1.4	6.0
Central	16.8	21.6	0.7	12.8	0.8	0.3	1.2	2.0	1.4	37.6	2.3	2.4
Southern	24.4	21.7	4.7	9.5	0.7	0.4	0.8	1.2	0.6	32.8	1.3	1.9
Sex of Household Head												
Male	20.2	22.6	2.9	10.9	1.1	0.4	1.3	1.8	1.0	33.3	1.8	2.7
Female	21.2	20.1	2.2	7.9	0.4	0.1	0.5	1.2	0.9	42.0	1.4	2.2
Age of Household Head												
15 to 24	33.2	27.7	2.8	9.7	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.2	23.7	0.6	0.4
25 to 34	25.3	24.0	3.2	10.1	1.0	0.0	0.3	1.4	0.5	31.2	1.4	1.6
35 to 44	16.2	22.7	1.7	10.1	1.1	0.4	1.4	2.1	1.1	37.9	1.7	3.7
45 to 54	14.6	17.2	2.4	10.4	0.7	0.3	1.9	1.1	1.4	44.1	2.1	3.8
55 to 64	15.4	17.4	2.4	7.4	0.5	0.9	1.5	4.0	2.0	42.3	3.1	3.1
65+	19.6	19.0	5.8	12.7	0.2		2.4	0.2	1.7	35.7	1.3	1.5
Education of Household Head												
None	24.3	21.3	1.8	8.4	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.8	38.7	2.2	0.7
Primary	21.6	21.3	3.0	11.5	0.7	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.0	36.8	1.4	1.7
Secondary	18.5	23.9	2.6	8.0	1.0	0.6	1.8	2.4	1.2	34.2	2.0	3.8
Tertiary	9.4	16.4	1.0	5.2	3.2		1.3	22.0	0.5	26.9	3.1	10.9
Marital Status of Household Head												
Never married	17.8	52.3		4.6	1.9	0.5		1.9		14.6	2.2	4.2
Married	20.5	20.6	2.9	10.3	0.8	0.3	1.3	1.7	1.1	36.2	1.7	2.6
Divorced/Separated	22.1	24.9	1.9	10.7	1.2	0.2	0.1	1.1	0.7	34.5	1.4	1.3
Widow/Widower	17.4	19.3	2.7	7.2	0.7	0.3	1.4	1.7	1.2	41.6	2.3	4.1
District												
Chitipa	23.6	20.0		1.5		2.6	2.3	4.8	1.3	36.8	1.1	5.9
Karonga	21.2	22.3	1.8	3.0			2.6	2.0		44.9	1.2	1.1
Nkhatabay	6.5	27.3	1.6	6.9			1.1	1.0	0.7	45.5	1.4	8.0
Rumphi	18.3	19.0		1.7	5.3		2.4	0.7	3.6	38.2	0.9	9.9
Mzimba	14.5	22.1	0.2	1.4	1.2	0.2	1.9	2.3	1.4	48.0	1.7	5.4
Likoma	19.1	30.2					6.5	0.4		41.3		2.5
Mzuzu City	13.4	37.5		3.7	0.2		0.8	2.1		34.2	1.2	7.0
Kasungu	14.0	22.9	1.8	16.3	0.2	2.0	1.4	4.2	0.4	29.9	5.9	0.9
Nkhotakota	22.6	24.6		9.1			2.6	2.0		35.3	1.5	2.4
Ntchisi	9.4	11.2		17.1			4.6	1.2	2.5	43.6	1.1	9.4

Dowa	26.9	19.7		6.6	0.5		1.9	0.7	2.8	35.2	2.0	3.6
Salima	18.5	15.9		13.6			0.6		2.1	49.4		
Lilongwe	11.3	24.3	0.5	16.3	0.8		1.8	2.0	1.9	37.8	1.6	1.9
Mchinji	23.8	22.3	3.3	7.1		0.8	1.1	0.6	0.6	34.1	1.8	4.4
Dedza	20.4	18.1		13.8				1.1	1.1	43.0	1.5	1.0
Ntcheu	17.8	16.3	0.9	8.8				0.2	1.8	52.7	1.3	0.2
Lilongwe City	13.9	27.4	0.3	13.4	3.9		0.6	4.4	0.8	28.7	3.2	3.2
Mangochi	23.0	40.4	1.3	0.9	4.4		1.6	3.9	0.3	21.7	1.5	1.1
Machinga	38.4	21.3	3.2	1.7		0.6	1.6	0.6	0.4	30.5	0.9	0.9
Zomba Non-City	33.8	21.3	2.2	8.0		0.2	0.7	1.2	0.5	28.1	2.1	1.8
Chiradzulu	17.8	24.5	1.1	12.5			0.4	0.7		40.1	1.0	1.9
Blantyre	15.6	24.3		6.1				0.7	0.3	48.7		4.2
Mwanza	30.3	10.2		1.6			2.0			52.7	2.1	1.1
Thyolo	22.9	28.2	1.8	9.5	0.4	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.3	30.6	1.8	1.1
Mulanje	27.4	10.3	17.8	9.9		0.6	0.3	0.9	1.7	29.0	0.9	1.2
Phalombe	23.3	8.1	11.3	18.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	2.2	33.0	0.7	2.3
Chikwawa	11.1	16.5		22.8	0.3	0.6		0.6		45.9	1.1	1.2
Nsanje	11.2	22.1	0.6	21.5	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.7		41.0		1.7
Balaka	27.7	23.4	1.5	1.5	1.6		1.0	1.4	0.2	37.2	3.0	1.6
Neno	20.7	19.0		7.2	2.1		0.8	0.6		44.7	0.6	4.4
Zomba City	10.8	25.4	0.7	12.4	1.9	0.7	3.1	6.6	0.4	29.1	3.1	5.6
Blantyre City	9.0	43.1		8.9	2.4	0.2	0.3	2.7		24.1	2.3	7.0
Dzaleka Camp	23.0	59.4	5.9	2.1		1.6		1.6		4.3	1.6	0.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 5.3: Proportion of Households that Never Applied for a Loan by Reason

	Proportion that never applied for a loan	Reasons for Not Obtaining a Loan							
		No Need	Believed Would Be Refused	Too Expensive	Too Much Trouble For What It Is Worth	Inadequate Collateral	Do Not Like To Be In Debt	Do Not Know Any Lender	Other
Malawi	45.4	24.9	8.1	5.1	30.0	9.7	15.6	6.2	0.4
Place of Residence									
Urban	45.7	38.6	5.9	3.0	24.8	8.1	15.0	3.6	0.9
Rural	45.4	22.0	8.6	5.6	31.1	10.0	15.7	6.7	0.3
Region									
Northern	52.2	22.7	7.6	4.4	30.0	8.8	22.9	3.4	0.1
Central	44.9	26.4	5.4	5.6	33.3	12.5	10.5	5.7	0.6
Southern	44.2	24.1	10.9	4.9	26.9	7.2	18.3	7.4	0.4
Sex of Household Head									
Male	44.7	26.8	7.9	4.4	29.3	9.1	15.0	7.0	0.5

Female	47.2	20.5	8.5	6.9	31.7	11.0	16.9	4.3	0.2
Age of Household Head									
15 to 24	43.9	24.2	6.5	5.6	33.3	10.0	15.3	5.2	
25 to 34	42.1	29.8	8.6	4.9	28.5	7.5	14.4	6.0	0.3
35 to 44	41.2	24.7	6.7	5.4	30.6	9.4	15.0	7.2	0.9
45 to 54	45.4	22.8	7.2	4.5	29.5	11.2	16.8	7.7	0.2
55 to 64	46.6	21.0	9.8	4.5	31.9	10.4	15.9	5.9	0.5
65+	66.1	21.8	10.1	6.2	29.2	11.8	16.9	3.6	0.4
Education of Household Head									
None	55.5	15.0	12.7	8.1	32.7	9.9	15.4	6.0	0.2
Primary	45.2	22.2	8.1	5.4	30.4	10.5	16.5	6.5	0.4
Secondary	40.1	32.5	6.3	3.4	28.3	8.8	13.7	6.5	0.5
Tertiary	51.0	53.0	1.3	0.5	24.2	4.1	14.6	1.1	1.2
Marital Status of Household Head									
Never married	55.8	36.2	6.5	6.3	25.1	7.6	15.3	3.1	
Married	43.8	26.4	7.3	4.4	29.7	9.2	15.4	7.1	0.5
Divorced/Separated	44.4	18.9	10.1	7.4	30.8	11.8	15.7	5.1	0.2
Widow/Widower	55.8	20.7	10.6	6.0	32.1	10.2	16.6	3.1	0.7
District									
Chitipa	73.0	23.6	1.6	10.2	21.3	5.6	36.1	1.3	0.3
Karonga	69.6	33.4		6.3	19.4	7.8	30.8	1.9	0.5
Nkhatabay	64.9	12.2	3.4	3.8	41.3	5.2	27.8	6.2	
Rumphi	35.2	22.0	22.7	1.2	22.1	12.4	17.4	2.2	
Mzimba	40.4	18.8	14.7	2.3	34.6	12.4	12.1	5.1	
Likoma	54.9	31.3	9.2	1.7	30.5	5.4	19.4	2.5	
Mzuzu City	50.5	26.4	7.3	1.8	37.4	8.2	17.2	1.7	
Kasungu	40.8	26.2	2.6		38.6	14.9	8.5	7.2	1.9
Nkhotakota	63.5	16.1	6.6	8.6	38.6	4.6	22.8	2.7	
Ntchisi	46.2	19.4	1.0	1.6	52.3	8.3	5.5	10.6	1.3
Dowa	41.2	27.8	10.8	2.5	25.0	13.5	14.0	6.1	0.3
Salima	74.3	18.0	9.1	13.4	42.8	11.4	0.7	4.0	0.7
Lilongwe	42.6	26.0	6.0	4.3	31.1	14.4	11.5	6.3	0.4
Mchinji	45.6	25.0	1.4	1.0	36.0	11.6	12.1	12.4	0.4
Dedza	40.6	35.0	3.3	9.1	34.1	9.1	7.2	2.2	
Ntcheu	41.7	31.6	2.6	15.6	20.7	17.0	10.2	2.4	
Lilongwe City	38.9	32.5	6.3	0.8	26.5	14.4	13.0	5.6	1.0
Mangochi	58.1	17.7	14.2	5.5	10.8	9.4	23.3	18.8	0.4
Machinga	28.0	21.1	19.5	1.6	29.4	16.3	8.2	3.8	
Zomba Non-City	39.8	16.5	10.0	3.3	33.2	10.0	20.6	4.8	1.6
Chiradzulu	38.1	21.1	9.1	5.6	43.9	5.1	12.1	3.1	
Blantyre	62.1	23.9	10.4	4.1	27.4	4.2	27.2	2.9	
Mwanza	45.9	23.8	9.5	2.3	39.7	4.8	19.3	0.7	
Thyolo	48.3	27.1	7.3	10.6	35.1	5.1	12.0	2.5	0.4
Mulanje	45.7	6.0	10.4	5.8	40.5	8.7	17.9	10.8	
Phalombe	38.8	12.9	9.0	2.8	40.7	6.9	21.3	6.5	
Chikwawa	26.3	50.6	7.1	2.8	19.7	3.7	13.7	2.5	

Nsanje	23.3	52.2	5.6		32.0	3.9	5.8	0.6	
Balaka	44.7	20.3	18.8	4.3	18.6	6.6	19.8	11.6	
Neno	50.3	23.6	8.0	0.5	42.8	9.3	14.0	1.0	0.8
Zomba City	49.9	28.8	8.3	3.9	26.6	7.4	19.4	4.6	1.0
Blantyre City	49.6	46.3	6.5	5.3	18.1	3.2	17.0	3.0	0.7
Dzaleka Camp	54.1	28.7	5.7	10.5	25.8	7.7	16.7	3.8	1.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 5.4: Proportion of Households that were yet to repay the loans and Reasons for not repaying the loans

	Yet to pay loans	Agreement not due	Financial constraints	Health issues	Payments ongoing (Installments)	Other	Waiting for income
Malawi	40.1	35.4	38.9	0.2	18.3	1.6	5.6
Place of Residence							
Urban	42.7	35.6	33.6	0.2	26.6	1.9	2.1
Rural	39.6	35.4	40.0	0.2	16.6	1.5	6.4
Region							
Northern	38.3	21.9	36.0		28.7	2.6	10.8
Central	39.8	44.9	29.0	0.4	16.6	1.6	7.5
Southern	40.8	30.9	47.3		17.5	1.3	3.1
Sex of Household Head							
Male	39.4	36.8	36.0	0.1	19.5	1.4	6.2
Female	41.9	32.2	45.5	0.2	15.8	2.0	4.3
Education of Household Head							
None	39.4	34.5	50.6	0.1	8.0	0.8	5.9
Primary	39.3	33.4	41.4	0.2	16.9	1.7	6.4
Secondary	40.9	38.5	33.0		22.1	1.4	4.9
Tertiary	46.7	41.7	19.6	1.1	34.8	2.8	
Marital Status of Household Head							
Never married	33.0	30.7	44.7		15.9		8.6
Married	40.4	36.6	36.5	0.2	19.4	1.4	5.9
Divorced/Separated	38.6	30.3	49.6		14.3	1.7	4.1
Widow/Widower	42.9	36.1	38.0		17.1	2.7	6.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

NON-FARM ENTERPRISES CHAPTER TABLES

E

Table 6.1: Proportion of Households that Operated Non-farm Enterprises by Industry

	Proportion that Operated a NFE	Industry							
		Mining and quarrying	Manufa- cturing	Constr- uction	Wholesale & retail; Accomm- odation & food	Transport & storage; Information & communi- cation	Real estate; Profes- sional; Education; Health	Other service activ- ities	Agricu- lture, forestry and fishing
Malawi	48.8	0.8	27.7	0.7	55.5	4.7	2.1	3.4	5.1
Place of Residence									
Urban	60.3	0.6	23.9	0.9	57.8	6.2	3.9	5.0	1.7
Rural	46.5	0.9	28.8	0.7	54.8	4.2	1.6	3.0	6.1
Region									
Northern	43.1	0.5	26.6	2.4	55.2	6.1	1.2	3.9	4.2
Central	47.8	0.8	28.3	0.4	57.9	4.5	2.1	3.3	2.8
Southern	51.3	0.9	27.4	0.7	53.4	4.6	2.3	3.4	7.3
Sex of Household Head									
Male	50.5	0.8	26.0	0.9	55.8	5.9	2.2	3.7	4.7
Female	44.8	1.0	32.8	0.1	54.6	1.1	1.6	2.7	6.1
Age of Household Head									
15 to 24	48.1	1.5	26.5	0.1	55.8	4.7	2.5	4.1	4.9
25 to 34	52.6	0.8	22.6	1.0	57.6	6.2	2.1	5.3	4.4
35 to 44	55.1	0.6	26.8	0.8	56.9	4.2	2.6	3.3	4.8
45 to 54	50.4	0.8	31.4	0.5	55.2	3.6	1.7	1.3	5.5
55 to 64	42.1	0.6	34.4	1.0	49.7	4.7	1.4	1.9	6.4
65+	27.3	1.3	40.0	0.6	45.9	1.7	1.1	2.0	7.4
Marital Status of Household Head									
Never married	39.6	0.8	27.8	0.6	47.4	3.5	8.0	8.2	3.8
Married	51.8	0.7	26.2	0.9	56.4	5.5	2.1	3.4	4.7
Divorced/Separated	45.8	1.5	31.6	0.4	54.7	1.7	1.2	2.5	6.5
Widow/Widower	35.8	0.4	36.7		49.5	2.2	1.2	3.4	6.6
Education of Household Head									

None	37.9	1.5	33.5	0.0	48.8	3.9	0.8	1.9	9.5
Primary	47.7	0.7	27.8	0.7	56.1	4.7	0.9	2.5	6.6
Secondary	55.4	0.8	26.1	0.9	57.5	4.3	3.8	4.9	1.7
Tertiary	56.4	0.1	26.9	1.5	47.5	8.1	6.8	7.7	1.4
District									
Chitipa	36.4	1.0	34.6	3.5	46.0	6.3		4.4	4.2
Karonga	37.7		27.3	1.8	46.9	5.9	4.5	4.1	9.5
Nkhatabay	37.0	1.1	21.6	1.0	60.4	1.8	1.6	6.2	6.3
Rumphi	47.8	1.1	31.2	0.3	58.1	4.4	0.6	2.0	2.2
Mzimba	40.5	0.3	29.3	3.6	54.6	6.7	0.4	1.5	3.6
Likoma	49.2	1.3	19.0	2.0	71.2	2.9	0.8	2.7	
Mzuzu City	66.7	0.3	17.1	1.9	61.4	8.2	1.0	8.3	1.9
Kasungu	42.9	0.7	27.5		56.8	5.7	0.5	5.8	3.0
Nkhotakota	29.5	6.5	27.8	1.0	49.0	3.7	2.5	1.3	8.1
Ntchisi	45.3	1.1	33.0		49.2	2.5	2.3	4.2	7.6
Dowa	59.8		29.2		60.4	6.3	0.8	1.2	2.0
Salima	28.1		34.8		58.3	2.0		3.8	1.1
Lilongwe	49.2	1.4	28.4		58.6	4.2	2.3	2.1	3.0
Mchinji	48.3	0.3	27.9	1.7	57.9	2.7	5.3	3.7	0.5
Dedza	44.5		35.6	0.8	50.3	3.2	2.9	2.3	5.0
Ntcheu	38.9	1.1	20.1		66.9	5.3		2.9	3.6
Lilongwe City	65.1	0.4	25.2	0.9	59.8	4.8	2.8	5.0	1.1
Mangochi	61.4		30.7		50.7	2.6	2.7	5.9	7.3
Machinga	62.3	2.4	23.1	0.4	52.0	6.4	1.3	3.0	11.5
Zomba Non-City	49.3	3.9	26.9	0.9	56.3	5.4	1.3	2.6	2.6
Chiradzulu	39.8		35.8		53.9	1.3	1.5	6.0	1.4
Blantyre	39.2		35.3	4.5	43.5	3.3	1.2	4.8	7.4
Mwanza	41.6	0.8	36.4		40.2	6.0	1.7	2.0	12.8
Thyolo	32.9	0.6	30.1	1.2	61.2	2.2	1.9	1.3	1.6
Mulanje	50.0		32.8	0.3	55.7	4.1	2.1	3.2	1.8
Phalombe	50.6		27.9	1.3	57.2	3.3	1.1	3.4	5.8
Chikwawa	57.1		23.1		47.5	6.5	0.9	0.3	21.8
Nsanje	57.3	0.4	18.2	0.2	53.9	3.3	2.5	0.2	21.2
Balaka	62.2	1.3	25.2	0.3	56.8	4.3	4.4	3.0	4.6
Neno	41.1		29.9	0.6	37.2	2.8	1.7	1.8	26.1
Zomba City	60.1	1.9	25.1	1.1	53.4	3.6	5.4	6.0	3.5
Blantyre City	50.7	0.7	21.6	1.0	58.0	8.4	4.2	4.5	1.5
Dzaleka Camp	41.5		24.6	1.6	65.4	3.7	0.5	4.2	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.2: Percentage Distribution of Sources of Start-Up Capital, IHS6 2024-2025

	Source of start-up capital							
	Own savings agric	Own savings non-agric	Gift family/friend	Loan*	Profits from other business	Sales of Assets	Human capital only	Other*
Malawi	24.4	31.1	16.4	9.7	3.1	1.1	10.4	3.8
Place of Residence								
Urban	10.1	41.1	24.1	10.1	3.6	1.8	6.1	3.2
Rural	28.5	28.3	14.2	9.6	3.0	0.9	11.7	4.0
Region								
Northern	30.8	28.5	12.2	9.3	3.2	1.8	12.3	1.9
Central	29.5	30.9	14.4	8.6	3.7	0.9	7.2	4.9
Southern	18.5	31.8	19.0	10.7	2.5	1.2	13.0	3.2
Sex of Household Head								
Male	25.7	30.9	16.4	8.9	3.4	1.1	10.1	3.6
Female	20.6	31.7	16.4	11.8	2.3	1.2	11.6	4.4
Age of Household Head								
15 to 24	21.0	29.6	21.3	10.0	2.6	1.5	9.8	4.3
25 to 34	23.2	32.5	17.1	10.7	2.9	0.8	8.9	3.8
35 to 44	25.1	32.9	15.1	10.1	3.2	1.5	8.7	3.4
45 to 54	27.3	29.4	15.3	7.4	4.2	1.2	11.7	3.7
55 to 64	23.5	31.1	16.6	10.0	2.5	0.2	12.5	3.6
65+	24.1	21.7	14.4	8.2	1.7	1.7	22.6	5.5
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	11.9	44.4	21.3	6.9	2.3	1.3	8.6	3.3
Married	25.7	30.6	16.8	9.2	3.3	1.1	9.9	3.4
Divorced/Separated	21.0	31.4	13.4	12.5	2.6	0.8	13.0	5.2
Widow/Widower	21.1	32.1	16.6	9.5	2.0	1.8	12.1	4.9
Education of Household Head								
None	27.5	23.1	13.4	8.3	1.8	1.7	18.8	5.5
Primary	25.9	31.0	13.2	9.9	3.1	1.1	12.1	3.8
Secondary	23.2	31.3	21.5	9.9	3.7	1.1	5.9	3.5
Tertiary	9.5	46.7	24.9	8.2	2.3	0.1	5.4	2.8
District								
Chitipa	57.5	10.5	6.1	7.7	2.4		10.0	5.8
Karonga	35.6	7.4	12.1	9.8	1.8	1.2	28.3	3.8
Nkhatabay	30.4	34.6	14.4	6.2	3.6		10.9	
Rumphi	32.4	27.5	10.6	16.3	3.5	2.4	5.5	1.9
Mzimba	34.8	29.1	8.7	10.0	3.0	2.3	11.9	0.2
Likoma	5.2	55.1	19.6	12.2	3.7		3.9	0.3
Mzuzu City	7.4	47.2	21.4	5.6	4.8	2.6	7.7	3.3
Kasungu	38.5	27.8	10.0	6.7	3.2	2.5	5.7	5.6

Nkhotakota	26.9	35.3	8.9	7.2	1.0		17.7	3.1
Ntchisi	48.8	20.8	2.9	7.8	1.1		15.1	3.4
Dowa	39.5	18.7	11.0	9.5	3.8	1.2	6.9	9.5
Salima	39.2	18.9	10.2	4.6	1.6		6.6	18.9
Lilongwe	24.6	33.9	13.6	7.9	7.9	0.9	8.2	2.9
Mchinji	42.4	23.3	11.6	7.9	1.6	0.3	3.4	9.6
Dedza	33.7	32.9	17.2	6.0	0.2		9.4	0.7
Ntcheu	45.9	22.4	10.5	14.2			6.3	0.6
Lilongwe City	7.0	45.0	24.3	10.6	4.2	1.2	4.6	3.2
Mangochi	14.2	32.8	22.7	8.3	3.2	1.2	14.9	2.7
Machinga	24.4	19.4	14.7	19.4	3.3	2.6	11.7	4.5
Zomba Non-City	23.7	27.5	18.1	12.0	3.3	0.7	10.2	4.5
Chiradzulu	14.1	42.1	20.5	9.3		0.7	5.5	7.8
Blantyre	13.6	33.8	17.9	7.9	2.3	1.1	19.2	4.3
Mwanza	17.3	18.1	17.5	13.2	5.7	2.4	15.2	10.6
Thyolo	23.4	31.6	18.0	11.1			10.3	5.6
Mulanje	23.0	37.0	18.2	6.8	1.2	1.2	11.1	1.4
Phalombe	34.2	25.5	14.0	11.6	2.0	1.3	10.0	1.3
Chikwawa	13.9	37.6	9.0	8.3	1.8	1.8	25.8	1.6
Nsanje	12.7	36.9	10.6	11.5	2.5	0.2	25.5	
Balaka	21.8	33.3	17.9	9.1	3.3	1.4	10.9	2.2
Neno	19.0	13.7	12.0	12.5	1.6	4.5	28.0	8.7
Zomba City	4.7	41.7	23.4	13.6	4.8	0.5	8.8	2.5
Blantyre City	7.6	39.6	33.5	9.0	2.7	0.3	5.5	1.7
Dzaleka Camp	16.5	22.3	13.6	8.3	2.4	1.5	8.7	26.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.3: Percentage Distribution of Non-farm Enterprises by Place of Operation and Background Characteristics

	Home (outside residence)	Traditional market	Mobile	Home (inside residence)	Road side	Other fixed place	Commercial area/shop	Industrial site
Malawi	25.2	25.9	13.4	13.7	12.6	4.5	3.1	1.5
Place of Residence								
Urban	23.6	21.4	13.9	11.8	13.6	7.5	7.2	1.0
Rural	25.6	27.2	13.3	14.3	12.3	3.7	1.9	1.6
Region								
Northern	25.2	29.8	19.7	10.1	8.8	2.7	2.8	1.0
Central	24.2	22.3	13.7	17.2	11.1	4.9	4.0	2.6
Southern	26.1	28.3	11.9	11.4	14.8	4.6	2.3	0.6
Sex of Household Head								
Male	24.0	25.8	14.4	13.4	12.4	4.8	3.6	1.5
Female	28.6	26.3	10.5	14.7	13.2	3.7	1.6	1.4
District								
Chitipa	20.4	42.5	6.3	16.1	9.0	3.0	2.2	0.3

Karonga	28.8	30.4	9.3	12.0	8.3	4.1	2.3	4.8
Nkhatabay	34.2	25.2	24.7	2.4	6.2	5.5	1.7	
Rumphi	26.3	26.6	16.0	10.4	13.8	3.5	3.4	
Mzimba	24.9	30.0	24.2	10.8	7.9	0.9	1.3	
Likoma	32.7	26.5	23.0	9.1	2.2	2.0	4.5	
Mzuzu City	19.7	27.7	23.3	8.8	9.1	3.4	6.2	1.7
Kasungu	22.8	30.9	8.2	14.3	8.0	3.1	7.6	5.1
Nkhotakota	28.1	31.3	17.2	3.6	8.8	8.3	2.8	
Ntchisi	36.1	24.4	8.6	12.1	11.2	4.1	3.1	0.4
Dowa	31.5	20.9	5.7	26.2	8.6	3.5	0.7	2.8
Salima	17.0	26.1	12.4	15.0	15.0	9.3	5.1	
Lilongwe	20.6	20.4	17.1	18.5	14.4	4.1	4.4	0.4
Mchinji	29.4	20.7	15.3	15.7	10.3	0.7	0.6	7.3
Dedza	19.5	19.7	16.5	23.1	11.4	6.9	1.7	1.2
Ntcheu	27.6	20.0	19.5	12.6	4.6	0.5	2.7	12.6
Lilongwe City	22.1	21.6	14.3	13.9	12.0	8.3	6.9	0.8
Mangochi	30.6	21.5	13.2	11.4	18.3	2.6	1.6	0.8
Machinga	20.9	29.3	9.2	22.0	13.2	3.5	1.9	
Zomba Non-City	17.7	34.7	8.8	14.7	15.7	4.0	2.9	1.5
Chiradzulu	21.1	46.2	9.8	2.7	12.6	4.3	3.4	
Blantyre	23.3	23.3	21.2	11.1	13.5	4.8	2.8	
Mwanza	52.0	9.4	15.1	4.8	7.9	7.6	1.1	2.3
Thyolo	14.6	51.5	13.6	5.1	11.9	3.0		0.3
Mulanje	21.6	32.9	8.4	10.2	16.6	8.7		1.6
Phalombe	18.3	35.5	12.7	12.1	14.1	4.8	2.5	
Chikwawa	37.1	31.1	10.0	5.0	11.1	3.7	1.0	1.1
Nsanje	33.7	33.6	7.7	3.8	13.8	5.4	2.0	
Balaka	31.2	17.3	13.4	18.0	16.1	2.3	1.4	0.3
Neno	56.5	5.3	9.1	12.1	7.3	4.7	1.3	3.7
Zomba City	28.2	28.5	8.8	4.7	15.9	8.2	4.5	1.2
Blantyre City	27.2	17.4	16.1	8.7	15.8	7.6	7.2	
Dzaleka Camp	29.8	27.2	2.1	31.4	5.8	2.1	1.6	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.4: Percentage Distribution of Market for Products and services of Non-Farm Enterprises

	Main market for products or services				
	Final customers	Traders	Other small businesses	Other*	Total
Malawi	84.2	10.6	4.3	0.8	100.0
Place of Residence					
Urban	88.3	7.0	3.4	1.3	100.0
Rural	83.1	11.6	4.6	0.7	100.0
Region					
Northern	84.3	10.3	4.5	1.0	100.0
Central	84.5	10.5	4.3	0.7	100.0

Southern	83.9	10.8	4.4	0.9	100.0
Sex of Household Head					
Male	83.3	11.4	4.3	1.0	100.0
Female	86.8	8.4	4.6	0.2	100.0
District					
Chitipa	80.8	16.7	1.7	0.8	100.0
Karonga	79.2	13.0	3.9	4.0	100.0
Nkhatabay	85.8	10.7	3.5		100.0
Rumphi	91.6	5.9	2.0	0.5	100.0
Mzimba	84.9	8.7	5.6	0.7	100.0
Likoma	62.2	27.5	9.8	0.4	100.0
Mzuzu City	84.0	10.0	5.6	0.5	100.0
Kasungu	84.4	13.1	1.2	1.3	100.0
Nkhotakota	82.8	12.1	4.1	1.1	100.0
Ntchisi	83.9	14.9	1.2		100.0
Dowa	77.4	16.0	6.3	0.4	100.0
Salima	86.2	8.5	2.8	2.4	100.0
Lilongwe	86.8	9.8	3.1	0.4	100.0
Mchinji	83.4	10.9	4.4	1.3	100.0
Dedza	85.5	8.5	6.0		100.0
Ntcheu	74.7	13.0	11.7	0.6	100.0
Lilongwe City	90.2	5.6	3.2	0.9	100.0
Mangochi	87.5	10.0	2.4		100.0
Machinga	86.7	12.3	0.5	0.5	100.0
Zomba Non-City	87.1	7.4	3.7	1.8	100.0
Chiradzulu	86.6	8.7	4.1	0.6	100.0
Blantyre	87.5	2.0	8.5	2.0	100.0
Mwanza	77.4	20.6	2.0		100.0
Thyolo	85.5	8.8	5.7		100.0
Mulanje	68.8	19.5	11.4	0.3	100.0
Phalombe	66.8	19.6	12.8	0.8	100.0
Chikwawa	85.2	11.3	1.2	2.4	100.0
Nsanje	90.8	8.9		0.3	100.0
Balaka	86.9	8.9	3.6	0.6	100.0
Neno	74.8	22.0	2.7	0.5	100.0
Zomba City	90.0	1.1	3.7	5.2	100.0
Blantyre City	89.4	5.6	3.4	1.6	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	90.4	4.3	5.3		100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.5: Proportion of Registered Enterprises and Owners by Registration Agencies

	Proportion of registered enterprises	Registrar of Companies	Malawi Revenue Authority	Local Assembly
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Malawi	4.0	1.6	1.5	3.2
Place of Residence				
Urban	9.3	4.2	3.6	7.8
Rural	2.5	0.8	1.0	1.9
Region				
Northern	5.9	2.2	3.2	5.2
Central	4.2	1.9	1.5	3.3
Southern	3.4	1.1	1.2	2.8
Sex of Household Head				
Male	4.5	1.8	1.7	3.7
Female	2.5	0.9	1.0	1.9
District				
Chitipa	9.6	1.4	2.9	8.6
Karonga	13.1	8.0	10.0	12.4
Nkhatabay	1.1			1.1
Rumphi	5.2	0.4	2.2	3.4
Mzimba	4.2	0.8	2.3	3.9
Likoma	1.9	0.5	0.5	1.9
Mzuzu City	5.8	3.4	2.8	4.7
Kasungu	8.5	1.6	0.4	8.0
Nkhotakota	3.4	0.8	1.4	3.4
Ntchisi	1.6	1.1	0.2	0.7
Dowa	6.2	2.7	3.5	6.1
Lilongwe	2.4	1.0	0.8	1.4
Mchinji	3.3	2.3	1.4	2.4
Dedza	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3
Ntcheu	0.3			0.3
Lilongwe City	7.3	4.1	2.9	4.6
Mangochi	2.5	1.0	0.7	2.5
Machinga	1.7		0.7	1.2
Zomba Non-City	2.2	0.9	0.5	0.8
Chiradzulu	1.7	0.4	0.4	1.7
Blantyre	5.0	3.0	3.8	2.2
Mwanza	1.7		0.7	1.1
Mulanje	1.0	0.2		0.8
Phalombe	2.3	0.9	1.1	1.5
Chikwawa	2.1	0.2	0.9	1.8
Balaka	5.2	1.2	1.0	4.7
Neno	1.5	1.2	0.5	1.5
Zomba City	9.9	3.1	4.7	9.2
Blantyre City	12.4	4.5	4.5	11.4
Dzaleka Camp	5.8	2.6	2.6	3.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.6: Proportion of Enterprises Engaged in Sales of Forest-based Products and Sources

	Proportion of enterprises that sell forest- based products	Source of forest-based products					Total
		Own Land	Forest/ Wild Park Reserve	Communal Land	Purchased From Someone Else	Other	
Malawi	11.9	7.8	28.3	17.3	45.0	1.6	100.0
Place of Residence							
Urban	9.3	0.3	12.4	3.4	82.7	1.2	100.0
Rural	12.7	9.4	31.6	20.2	37.1	1.7	100.0
Region							
Northern	7.0	9.1	28.0	25.1	37.8		100.0
Central	10.0	11.4	18.9	12.2	57.2	0.4	100.0
Southern	14.7	5.5	34.1	19.6	38.4	2.5	100.0
Sex of Household Head							
Male	11.9	8.3	24.7	16.3	48.7	2.0	100.0
Female	12.0	6.2	38.8	20.3	34.3	0.4	100.0
District							
Chitipa	3.7		66.0	14.7	19.4		100.0
Karonga	4.3		26.6	62.7	10.7		100.0
Nkhatabay	9.1		8.5	72.3	19.2		100.0
Rumphi	7.5	5.2	30.8	16.4	47.7		100.0
Mzimba	8.6	18.5	22.5	17.8	41.2		100.0
Likoma	1.2	13.2			86.8		100.0
Mzuzu City	6.1		46.8		53.2		100.0
Kasungu	9.2	27.2	14.3	2.9	55.7		100.0
Nkhotakota	11.1		6.6	85.1	8.3		100.0
Ntchisi	10.6	30.7	14.7	6.2	41.5	6.9	100.0
Dowa	10.1	19.0	12.0	16.8	52.2		100.0
Salima	5.6		32.0	51.2	10.6	6.1	100.0
Lilongwe	11.8	11.6	29.2	8.8	50.4		100.0
Mchinji	10.1	4.0	17.6	6.9	71.5		100.0
Dedza	11.8	5.0	14.6	20.7	59.7		100.0
Ntcheu	10.2	16.0	29.1		54.9		100.0
Lilongwe City	7.5		10.3	3.7	85.9		100.0
Mangochi	15.4	8.5	39.9	30.4	17.1	4.2	100.0
Machinga	18.4	1.8	57.2	1.7	34.1	5.1	100.0
Zomba Non-City	8.3	1.3	19.3	34.4	45.0		100.0
Chiradzulu	3.6	36.5	9.9		44.4	9.2	100.0
Blantyre	18.9	10.4	8.1	45.3	36.2		100.0
Mwanza	20.0	4.5	32.7	18.4	42.7	1.7	100.0
Thyolo	8.4		60.1		39.9		100.0
Mulanje	10.3	2.8	49.4	4.4	43.4		100.0

Phalombe	12.1		53.3	10.2	28.9	7.6	100.0
Chikwawa	30.8	4.6	30.6	27.7	37.2		100.0
Nsanje	24.7	9.8	41.6	33.9	14.7		100.0
Balaka	10.4	11.3	15.8	15.5	55.7	1.7	100.0
Neno	28.8	18.9	17.8	28.1	32.8	2.4	100.0
Zomba City	7.0	1.8	23.1	15.4	59.7		100.0
Blantyre City	12.4			3.5	92.4	4.1	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	5.8			9.1	90.9		100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.7: Percentage Distribution of Non-Household Members Engaged in the Enterprise by Number of Employees

	Number of non-household employees					
	None	1	2	3	4 or more	Total
Malawi	92.4	3.9	1.8	0.8	1.2	100.0
Place of Residence						
Urban	86.3	7.0	3.3	1.4	2.0	100.0
Rural	94.2	3.0	1.3	0.6	0.9	100.0
Region						
Northern	92.5	4.3	1.8	0.4	0.9	100.0
Central	92.8	4.2	1.5	0.7	0.8	100.0
Southern	92.1	3.5	2.0	0.9	1.5	100.0
Sex of Household Head						
Male	91.9	4.1	1.8	0.8	1.4	100.0
Female	94.0	3.3	1.6	0.6	0.4	100.0
District						
Chitipa	96.5	2.0	1.6			100.0
Karonga	96.1	2.4		0.7	0.7	100.0
Nkhatabay	91.5	3.6	2.9	0.9	1.0	100.0
Rumphi	91.5	4.7	1.4		2.4	100.0
Mzimba	91.4	5.9	2.0		0.8	100.0
Likoma	95.2	1.6	2.2		1.0	100.0
Mzuzu City	91.7	3.8	2.3	1.4	0.9	100.0
Kasungu	89.0	7.5	2.8		0.7	100.0
Nkhotakota	94.8	2.8	1.6		0.8	100.0
Ntchisi	98.9	1.1				100.0
Dowa	93.8	4.2		1.4	0.7	100.0
Salima	96.6	0.3	1.6	1.5		100.0
Lilongwe	92.0	5.2	2.0	0.7	0.1	100.0
Mchinji	94.8	1.2	1.3	0.5	2.2	100.0
Dedza	96.6	2.6	0.8			100.0
Ntcheu	97.5		1.5		1.0	100.0
Lilongwe City	88.7	6.1	2.0	1.1	2.0	100.0
Mangochi	92.5	6.4	0.3	0.5	0.3	100.0
Machinga	92.8	3.1	2.5		1.6	100.0

Zomba Non-City	94.1	1.6	0.8	1.4	2.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	95.6	3.5	0.9			100.0
Blantyre	84.7	2.9	4.7	2.1	5.6	100.0
Mwanza	86.1	5.7	4.9	0.2	3.1	100.0
Thyolo	96.0	0.8		2.0	1.2	100.0
Mulanje	97.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.5	100.0
Phalombe	95.8	1.8		0.2	2.3	100.0
Chikwawa	96.4	0.8	2.2	0.5	0.2	100.0
Nsanje	90.8	4.8	2.4	0.7	1.4	100.0
Balaka	94.5	2.7	0.9		1.8	100.0
Neno	90.4	2.6	4.5	1.8	0.7	100.0
Zomba City	91.1	5.0	1.5	1.3	1.0	100.0
Blantyre City	80.0	7.5	7.0	2.7	2.8	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	93.2	2.6	2.1	0.5	1.6	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.8: Percentage Distribution of Enterprise Total Expenditure by Item

	Raw materials	Inventory	Freight /Transport	Fuel/Oil	Electricity	Water	Insurance	Other	Total
Malawi	39.8	37.4	9.0	3.1	1.0	0.3	0.2	9.2	100.0
Place of Residence									
Urban	30.5	42.9	8.9	3.1	1.6	0.9	0.2	11.8	100.0
Rural	42.6	35.7	9.0	3.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	8.4	100.0
Region									
Northern	42.2	32.6	14.7	4.2	1.2	1.1	0.2	3.8	100.0
Central	37.6	40.1	8.3	2.4	0.7	0.2	0.1	10.7	100.0
Southern	41.3	35.8	8.5	3.5	1.2	0.3	0.2	9.0	100.0
Sex of Household Head									
Male	37.5	38.3	9.1	3.7	1.0	0.4	0.1	9.9	100.0
Female	46.5	34.5	8.8	1.3	1.0	0.3	0.3	7.3	100.0
District									
Chitipa	40.4	35.1	16.0	5.1	1.7	0.3	0.0	1.5	100.0
Karonga	37.7	30.3	17.9	3.2	1.8	5.7	0.4	3.0	100.0
Nkhatabay	18.3	60.5	10.9	3.5	1.7	0.6	0.0	4.5	100.0
Rumphi	55.0	26.6	11.1	3.6	1.2	0.5	0.1	1.9	100.0
Mzimba	50.1	26.1	14.3	5.7	0.1	0.4	0.1	3.4	100.0
Likoma	38.7	37.6	15.8	2.1	2.2	0.7	0.0	2.9	100.0
Mzuzu City	36.6	32.9	17.1	2.8	2.5	0.9	0.3	6.9	100.0
Kasungu	50.8	32.8	8.0	2.3	1.6	0.1	0.0	4.5	100.0
Nkhotakota	34.6	50.3	5.7	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.0	7.9	100.0
Ntchisi	48.9	38.7	6.5	2.9	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.6	100.0
Dowa	42.1	39.7	9.9	2.8	0.4	0.0	0.0	5.0	100.0
Salima	68.6	15.8	11.8	0.7	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0
Lilongwe	29.9	46.7	5.9	1.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	15.0	100.0

Mchinji	33.7	52.3	4.5	1.1	0.4	0.2	0.2	7.6	100.0
Dedza	45.1	30.8	8.1	4.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	11.6	100.0
Ntcheu	49.1	24.5	14.7	2.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	8.4	100.0
Lilongwe City	25.5	43.5	9.9	2.6	0.9	0.6	0.1	16.9	100.0
Mangochi	48.6	30.6	8.2	4.1	2.1	0.9	0.4	5.0	100.0
Machinga	50.9	33.2	7.6	2.3	1.5	0.4	0.8	3.2	100.0
Zomba Non-City	59.0	26.1	7.0	3.2	0.5	0.1	0.3	4.0	100.0
Chiradzulu	39.4	47.9	3.7	0.9	1.8	0.1	0.0	6.1	100.0
Blantyre	31.3	46.4	7.5	5.4	1.1	0.0	0.0	8.2	100.0
Mwanza	29.2	50.1	8.7	7.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	4.2	100.0
Thyolo	26.6	58.9	5.5	1.9	0.9	0.4	0.0	5.7	100.0
Mulanje	45.6	23.5	6.7	4.9	0.7	0.0	0.0	18.5	100.0
Phalombe	41.3	24.3	5.2	3.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	25.2	100.0
Chikwawa	30.8	28.9	23.7	3.4	0.7	0.0	0.0	12.5	100.0
Nsanje	28.9	31.4	18.8	3.1	0.8	0.1	0.0	17.0	100.0
Balaka	47.1	35.7	9.4	1.0	1.6	0.3	0.2	4.6	100.0
Neno	42.5	38.9	8.7	2.4	0.8	1.4	0.6	4.7	100.0
Zomba City	63.6	28.1	3.9	2.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	1.2	100.0
Blantyre City	20.2	52.9	6.9	5.8	1.7	0.1	0.3	12.1	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	54.4	32.0	6.7	1.3	3.5	0.4	0.0	1.7	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.9: Proportion of Non- farm Enterprises Owned by Sole Proprietors

	Sole or joint ownership
Malawi	93.3
Place of Residence	
Urban	93.1
Rural	93.4
Region	
Northern	93.9
Central	94.0
Southern	92.5
Sex of Household Head	
Male	91.9
Female	97.4
Education of Household Head	
None	93.6
Primary	93.5
Secondary	93.0
Tertiary	92.5
District	
Chitipa	89.8
Karonga	88.2

Nkhatabay	91.2
Rumphi	92.8
Mzimba	97.8
Likoma	85.7
Mzuzu City	94.1
Kasungu	93.3
Nkhotakota	89.1
Ntchisi	89.7
Dowa	96.4
Salima	87.6
Lilongwe	94.1
Mchinji	93.9
Dedza	94.9
Ntcheu	92.9
Lilongwe City	95.5
Mangochi	95.8
Machinga	88.2
Zomba Non-City	94.4
Chiradzulu	94.7
Blantyre	96.3
Mwanza	90.4
Thyolo	91.6
Mulanje	97.7
Phalombe	93.2
Chikwawa	86.8
Nsanje	86.1
Balaka	92.8
Neno	87.6
Zomba City	93.5
Blantyre City	91.2
Dzaleka Camp	83.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.10: Proportion of Individuals Aged between 15 and 64 Years Engaged in Income Generating Activities by Type of Tasks

	Income generating tasks	Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non-agricultural and non-fishing business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment in kind
Malawi	71.0	44.3	14.0	29.2	8.0
Place of Residence					
Urban	57.8	10.7	19.3	18.9	18.1
Rural	74.2	52.3	12.8	31.6	5.6
Region					
Northern	60.0	36.4	10.7	20.3	8.0

Central	70.5	43.2	13.7	28.9	7.4
Southern	75.0	47.9	15.4	32.2	8.7
Sex					
Male	75.1	41.9	14.5	33.9	10.8
Female	67.4	46.5	13.6	24.9	5.5
Age Group					
15-24	57.7	39.5	5.9	26.3	3.1
25-34	77.3	42.3	18.4	33.9	11.4
35-49	82.1	49.0	21.7	31.5	11.3
50-64	76.5	54.8	14.4	22.8	9.4
District					
Chitipa	51.3	36.5	7.3	17.8	3.3
Karonga	44.6	25.1	6.6	20.1	2.4
Nkhatabay	75.7	49.6	11.5	26.1	7.9
Rumphi	66.3	44.4	11.4	22.2	8.9
Mzimba	64.7	45.2	9.4	19.7	9.5
Likoma	46.6	9.9	10.3	22.7	6.5
Mzuzu City	53.1	6.8	21.0	16.9	13.9
Kasungu	74.4	42.4	13.6	34.6	8.1
Nkhotakota	68.3	37.5	9.3	32.5	4.6
Ntchisi	71.7	50.7	11.3	35.0	3.8
Dowa	78.0	60.5	15.4	28.7	5.5
Salima	44.2	25.5	6.5	20.7	2.6
Lilongwe	70.7	45.5	15.2	30.9	5.6
Mchinji	80.0	57.3	13.7	32.5	4.2
Dedza	77.9	58.1	8.6	30.3	4.4
Ntcheu	79.1	61.7	11.4	31.5	2.8
Lilongwe City	58.5	8.5	20.0	18.6	20.2
Mangochi	74.0	49.9	16.8	29.2	4.6
Machinga	74.0	52.0	20.7	37.0	5.1
Zomba Non-City	78.8	55.1	15.7	31.3	7.7
Chiradzulu	75.3	52.6	13.4	35.7	4.7
Blantyre	73.1	40.7	12.3	35.0	9.3
Mwanza	82.6	48.7	14.7	39.4	4.5
Thyolo	79.9	58.6	10.4	34.7	8.3
Mulanje	77.6	54.3	12.2	29.4	5.3
Phalombe	81.8	64.3	15.1	32.9	4.2
Chikwawa	81.1	60.3	13.8	40.5	11.4
Nsanje	82.5	61.7	13.6	43.8	8.4
Balaka	80.5	58.9	19.5	34.7	6.3
Neno	79.5	50.4	14.7	36.0	7.4
Zomba City	58.1	4.4	20.4	22.2	17.4
Blantyre City	57.5	5.8	17.5	19.0	23.0
Dzaleka Camp	50.7	17.4	10.6	26.4	5.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.11: Proportion of Persons Aged between 15 and 64 Years by Tasks and Average Weekly Hours Worked

	Household agricultural or fishing activities	Non-agricultural and non-fishing business	Casual, part time or ganyu labour	Wage, salary commission or any payment in kind
Malawi	5.5	3.0	3.9	2.0
Place of Residence				
Urban	1.0	4.8	3.0	5.0
Rural	6.5	2.6	4.1	1.3
Region				
Northern	4.6	2.1	2.6	2.0
Central	5.5	3.1	4.0	1.9
Southern	5.7	3.2	4.2	2.1
Sex				
Male	5.3	3.3	5.1	2.8
Female	5.7	2.7	2.8	1.3
Age Group				
15-24	4.2	1.2	3.1	0.7
25-34	5.2	4.0	4.8	2.9
35-49	6.8	4.7	4.5	2.9
50-64	7.5	2.8	3.2	2.3
District				
Chitipa	4.8	1.5	1.9	0.8
Karonga	3.2	1.3	2.9	0.5
Nkhatabay	4.2	2.0	3.8	2.0
Rumphi	5.7	2.1	2.2	1.9
Mzimba	6.3	1.7	2.2	2.3
Likoma	1.0	2.1	4.2	1.7
Mzuzu City	0.8	5.2	2.6	3.9
Kasungu	5.2	2.9	4.8	2.1
Nkhotakota	3.8	1.6	4.5	1.1
Ntchisi	7.3	2.5	4.6	0.9
Dowa	8.0	3.3	3.8	1.3
Salima	2.8	1.1	2.7	0.6
Lilongwe	6.0	3.5	4.2	1.4
Mchinji	6.8	2.9	4.0	1.1
Dedza	7.8	1.7	4.1	1.1
Ntcheu	8.6	2.2	4.7	0.6
Lilongwe City	0.8	5.3	3.0	5.7
Mangochi	6.7	4.0	4.3	1.3
Machinga	6.4	4.4	4.2	1.3
Zomba Non-City	6.5	3.0	3.8	1.8
Chiradzulu	5.6	2.6	4.8	1.1
Blantyre	4.6	2.6	5.2	2.5
Mwanza	5.5	2.3	3.6	0.9

Thyolo	7.1	1.6	4.2	2.1
Mulanje	6.1	2.5	3.7	1.2
Phalombe	7.9	2.7	4.3	0.8
Chikwawa	7.2	2.5	5.0	2.1
Nsanje	6.9	2.4	5.9	1.3
Balaka	6.8	3.7	4.3	1.5
Neno	5.6	2.1	3.4	1.4
Zomba City	0.4	4.7	3.1	4.7
Blantyre City	0.4	4.2	3.2	6.1
Dzaleka Camp	1.9	2.4	4.1	1.4

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 6.12: Proportion of Persons Aged between 15 and 64 Years who Collected Water and Firewood and Average Daily Hours Worked

	Proportion that collected water	Proportion that collected firewood	Average hours spent yesterday on collecting water	Average hours spent yesterday on collecting firewood
Malawi	48.4	18.1	0.4	0.1
Place of Residence				
Urban	35.3	5.3	0.3	0.0
Rural	51.5	21.2	0.5	0.2
Region				
Northern	51.9	18.3	0.4	0.2
Central	47.2	17.4	0.4	0.1
Southern	48.7	18.8	0.4	0.1
Sex				
Male	20.4	6.1	0.1	0.0
Female	73.8	29.0	0.7	0.2
Age Group				
15-24	55.1	16.6	0.5	0.1
25-34	48.7	19.3	0.5	0.2
35-49	43.4	19.2	0.4	0.2
50-64	37.1	18.0	0.3	0.1
District				
Chitipa	58.1	23.7	0.5	0.2
Karonga	59.0	19.9	0.5	0.2
Nkhatabay	45.8	24.8	0.4	0.2
Rumphi	62.0	19.6	0.4	0.2
Mzimba	52.6	19.1	0.4	0.2
Likoma	35.3	10.5	0.3	0.1
Mzuzu City	35.0	2.8	0.2	0.0
Kasungu	50.6	22.4	0.5	0.2
Nkhotakota	49.3	22.6	0.4	0.2
Ntchisi	54.1	22.4	0.5	0.2
Dowa	50.6	24.1	0.4	0.2

Salima	37.3	15.5	0.3	0.1
Lilongwe	47.9	23.4	0.4	0.2
Mchinji	56.5	19.8	0.4	0.2
Dedza	53.4	16.3	0.6	0.1
Ntcheu	49.9	7.3	0.7	0.1
Lilongwe City	32.6	4.4	0.2	0.0
Mangochi	50.5	9.6	0.5	0.1
Machinga	54.3	28.3	0.5	0.2
Zomba Non-City	52.3	24.6	0.5	0.2
Chiradzulu	44.3	22.5	0.4	0.2
Blantyre	50.1	23.1	0.4	0.2
Mwanza	54.0	21.7	0.4	0.2
Thyolo	44.2	24.1	0.4	0.2
Mulanje	54.7	17.3	0.4	0.1
Phalombe	50.0	18.2	0.4	0.1
Chikwawa	52.8	23.7	0.5	0.2
Nsanje	56.0	24.0	0.5	0.2
Balaka	55.0	22.1	0.6	0.2
Neno	54.7	24.6	0.5	0.2
Zomba City	39.6	6.4	0.3	0.0
Blantyre City	29.8	5.7	0.2	0.0
Dzaleka Camp	46.5	8.5	0.6	0.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 7.1: Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units by Type of Housing Tenure

	Owned	Being Purchased	Employer Provides	Free, Authorized	Free, Not Authorized	Rented
Malawi	67.2	0.7	1.9	14.7	0.4	15.2
Place of Residence						
Urban	29.4	1.4	2.6	13.8	0.1	52.8
Rural	75.0	0.6	1.8	14.9	0.4	7.4
Region						
Northern	64.0	1.0	5.5	13.8	0.4	15.4
Central	70.4	0.5	1.1	11.7	0.3	16.1
Southern	64.9	0.9	1.8	17.8	0.4	14.3
Sex of Household Head						
Male	65.7	0.7	2.5	13.7	0.4	17.1
Female	70.8	0.6	0.5	17.1	0.4	10.6
Education of Household Head						
None	80.6	0.7	0.6	13.8	0.3	4.0
Primary	73.9	0.4	1.5	14.5	0.3	9.4
Secondary	53.4	0.9	2.2	16.3	0.6	26.7
Tertiary	22.6	3.3	9.9	9.6	0.1	54.5
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	26.0		4.4	27.2	0.6	41.8
Married	68.1	0.8	2.1	13.1	0.4	15.5
Divorced/Separated	63.7	0.3	1.6	19.9	0.5	14.0
Widow/Widower	79.2	1.0	0.3	13.2	0.4	6.0
District						
Chitipa	73.0	1.6	1.6	16.4		7.4
Karonga	67.4	4.8	1.7	13.2	0.5	12.4
Nkhatabay	59.3		5.5	17.1		18.2
Rumphi	68.9	0.1	6.3	14.3		10.3
Mzimba	72.9		9.3	12.6	0.7	4.4
Likoma	65.1		0.9	12.8		21.2
Mzuzu City	22.9	0.2	1.2	12.3		63.3
Kasungu	68.3	2.5	3.5	11.8	0.5	13.3
Nkhotakota	72.8	0.5	0.9	12.2	0.4	13.2
Ntchisi	85.7	0.3	1.2	8.8	0.3	3.6
Dowa	78.4	0.4	1.7	9.8	1.5	8.2
Salima	80.1	0.3		10.0		9.6
Lilongwe	76.5		0.3	13.9		9.3
Mchinji	70.6		1.6	9.5	0.3	18.1
Dedza	79.3	0.2	1.0	12.7	0.3	6.5
Ntcheu	85.0		0.2	11.2	0.4	3.1
Lilongwe City	29.9	0.5	1.1	11.7		56.8
Mangochi	72.2	0.5	1.1	19.1		7.0
Machinga	76.5		0.5	12.3	0.1	10.6
Zomba Non-City	73.5	0.1	1.2	13.7	1.9	9.6
Chiradzulu	65.1		0.4	27.3	0.7	6.6
Blantyre	63.7		0.3	21.4	0.6	14.0
Mwanza	79.8	0.5	0.5	9.4	0.7	9.1
Thyolo	55.6	0.9	5.2	28.3	0.8	9.1

Mulanje	66.8	2.2	2.4	21.5	0.3	6.8
Phalombe	79.3	1.2	0.7	14.4	0.9	3.4
Chikwawa	77.7	0.5		10.4		11.5
Nsanje	75.4	0.6	1.8	9.0	0.1	13.1
Balaka	73.9		1.7	16.6		7.8
Neno	77.5	0.8	4.6	10.9	0.2	6.0
Zomba City	31.6		5.1	9.9	1.3	52.0
Blantyre City	19.5	3.4	3.2	19.0		54.9
Dzaleka Camp	39.6	1.8		43.0	6.2	9.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.2: Percentage Distribution of Dwelling Units by Type of Dwelling Structure

	Permanent	Semi-Permanent	Traditional
Malawi	43.1	35.3	21.7
Place of Residence			
Urban	73.2	24.2	2.6
Rural	36.9	37.5	25.6
Region			
Northern	67.1	23.2	9.8
Central	34.6	36.7	28.6
Southern	44.9	36.9	18.1
Sex of Household Head			
Male	43.4	35.4	21.2
Female	42.2	34.9	22.8
Education of Household Head			
None	32.0	38.2	29.7
Primary	34.8	39.1	26.1
Secondary	58.2	30.2	11.6
Tertiary	92.1	6.4	1.5
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	65.4	22.0	12.6
Married	42.8	35.9	21.3
Divorced/Separated	36.8	36.5	26.7
Widow/Widower	48.6	32.7	18.7
District			
Chitipa	74.7	20.0	5.3
Karonga	77.3	14.2	8.5
Nkhatabay	74.4	19.8	5.9
Rumphi	76.2	16.7	7.1
Mzimba	53.6	30.4	16.1
Likoma	54.3	34.4	11.3
Mzuzu City	77.8	21.7	0.5
Kasungu	25.1	47.0	27.9
Nkhotakota	48.0	30.4	21.6
Ntchisi	18.2	42.1	39.7
Dowa	27.2	47.1	25.7
Salima	38.6	33.9	27.4
Lilongwe	26.7	34.2	39.1
Mchinji	27.2	51.6	21.1
Dedza	28.4	29.1	42.6
Ntcheu	42.1	24.6	33.3
Lilongwe City	62.1	33.0	4.9
Mangochi	50.0	30.2	19.8
Machinga	31.6	37.8	30.6
Zomba Non-City	35.0	46.6	18.5

Chiradzulu	53.8	26.4	19.8
Blantyre	28.0	57.5	14.4
Mwanza	24.6	42.5	32.9
Thyolo	64.8	24.0	11.1
Mulanje	24.7	62.2	13.1
Phalombe	14.7	65.0	20.3
Chikwawa	49.5	17.2	33.3
Nsanje	59.9	17.9	22.3
Balaka	42.9	39.9	17.3
Neno	33.8	33.4	32.8
Zomba City	81.2	17.1	1.8
Blantyre City	74.1	24.6	1.3
Dzaleka Camp	28.5	64.5	7.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.3: Percentage Distribution of Households by Number of Habitable Rooms

	1	2	3	4+
Malawi	14.0	28.4	32.1	25.5
Place of Residence				
Urban	13.6	28.9	30.0	27.5
Rural	14.1	28.3	32.5	25.1
Region				
Northern	8.7	19.6	32.4	39.3
Central	17.6	32.2	31.5	18.7
Southern	12.0	27.1	32.5	28.3
Sex of Household Head				
Male	14.0	29.0	31.4	25.6
Female	14.0	27.0	33.8	25.3
Education of Household Head				
None	15.9	30.5	33.6	20.0
Primary	14.6	30.1	30.9	24.4
Secondary	12.3	25.7	33.4	28.6
Tertiary	10.8	17.2	34.5	37.4
Marital Status of Household Head				
Never married	29.6	30.4	22.1	17.8
Married	12.5	28.4	32.3	26.9
Divorced/Separated	19.6	31.1	29.8	19.6
Widow/Widower	10.7	23.7	37.5	28.1
District				
Chitipa	6.8	18.6	39.3	35.4
Karonga	11.1	16.3	31.4	41.3
Nkhatabay	10.8	18.6	24.8	45.8
Rumphi	5.1	15.6	19.9	59.4
Mzimba	8.5	20.8	36.6	34.1
Likoma	8.5	13.0	27.4	51.1
Mzuzu City	9.1	25.4	30.9	34.6
Kasungu	16.4	29.4	31.4	22.8
Nkhotakota	17.9	25.0	29.6	27.5
Ntchisi	17.6	29.1	30.1	23.2
Dowa	20.3	35.3	30.1	14.4
Salima	33.1	33.5	25.7	7.8
Lilongwe	16.9	35.1	28.7	19.3
Mchinji	12.8	32.5	38.8	15.9
Dedza	16.3	34.2	34.9	14.6
Ntcheu	17.7	28.5	36.5	17.4

Lilongwe City	13.9	31.0	30.6	24.5
Mangochi	14.2	24.8	33.5	27.6
Machinga	16.7	28.1	31.5	23.7
Zomba Non-City	9.0	26.0	39.0	26.0
Chiradzulu	7.2	20.7	38.0	34.1
Blantyre	16.5	32.8	33.6	17.0
Mwanza	28.0	34.3	27.6	10.1
Thyolo	11.9	21.6	33.1	33.4
Mulanje	8.8	25.0	33.7	32.5
Phalombe	8.0	28.2	32.1	31.7
Chikwawa	3.7	35.8	23.8	36.8
Nsanje	1.5	32.5	29.1	36.9
Balaka	9.2	20.8	35.4	34.5
Neno	25.6	35.9	23.3	15.1
Zomba City	14.6	24.7	34.8	25.9
Blantyre City	16.4	30.0	29.3	24.3
Dzaleka Camp	20.7	39.9	28.8	10.6

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.4: Proportion of Households by Main Fuels Used for Lighting

	Firewood/Grass	Electricity	Battery/Dry Cell (Torch)	Candles	Solar	Other
Malawi	2.5	14.5	63.6	1.7	16.2	1.5
Place of Residence						
Urban	0.2	56.5	28.6	5.2	8.8	0.7
Rural	3.0	5.8	70.8	0.9	17.8	1.7
Region						
Northern	4.0	19.5	50.6	0.8	24.8	0.4
Central	2.5	11.6	63.9	1.6	18.2	2.2
Southern	2.2	16.0	66.6	1.9	12.1	1.2
Sex of Household Head						
Male	2.0	15.8	61.7	1.6	17.8	1.0
Female	3.7	11.4	68.1	1.8	12.4	2.7
Education of Household Head						
None	6.2	3.9	75.3	1.0	11.3	2.3
Primary	2.4	6.2	72.5	1.6	15.6	1.8
Secondary	1.3	27.0	47.7	2.3	20.9	0.8
Tertiary	0.2	80.0	7.9	0.9	10.3	0.6
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	1.8	40.1	42.0	3.2	9.3	3.6
Married	1.9	14.9	62.1	1.4	18.7	0.9
Divorced/Separated	3.6	9.9	72.4	2.6	8.0	3.6
Widow/Widower	5.3	11.3	65.5	1.5	14.4	2.1
District						
Chitipa	3.9	11.9	51.6	0.3	31.7	0.5
Karonga	5.4	18.7	47.7	0.3	26.7	1.1
Nkhatabay	1.6	20.5	60.3	0.6	16.1	0.9
Rumphi	2.5	21.8	42.2	0.4	33.1	
Mzimba	5.6	5.8	58.7	0.4	29.5	
Likoma	1.6	38.9	48.8		10.2	0.4
Mzuzu City	0.1	68.7	23.4	4.1	3.6	0.1
Kasungu	2.2	11.1	62.5	1.1	21.2	2.0
Nkhotakota	3.9	9.8	66.8	0.3	16.3	3.0
Ntchisi	6.3	4.0	62.0		25.5	2.1
Dowa	2.8	9.5	60.9	0.5	23.7	2.6
Salima	1.6	6.5	73.7	0.0	16.2	2.0

Lilongwe	2.5	4.2	73.4	1.7	15.9	2.3
Mchinji	0.6	6.4	69.7	0.3	20.5	2.4
Dedza	3.8	3.1	74.5	0.1	15.4	3.2
Ntcheu	3.8	3.5	66.2	0.6	24.1	1.8
Lilongwe City	0.3	45.2	34.0	7.1	12.3	1.1
Mangochi	2.0	13.4	68.7		15.4	0.5
Machinga	1.3	4.8	77.8	0.3	13.4	2.4
Zomba Non-City	1.0	9.0	72.4	0.7	15.5	1.4
Chiradzulu	4.4	7.1	76.0	2.7	7.4	2.4
Blantyre	2.2	13.6	62.8	8.2	10.3	2.9
Mwanza	2.5	9.7	71.4	0.9	14.5	1.0
Thyolo	2.5	8.6	77.4	1.2	9.1	1.1
Mulanje	2.5	6.8	76.7	1.5	11.5	1.1
Phalombe	2.8	1.1	80.9	0.2	13.6	1.3
Chikwawa	6.2	5.9	71.4	1.1	14.4	1.0
Nsanje	5.4	6.0	71.1	0.3	16.3	0.9
Balaka		11.5	70.6		17.0	0.8
Neno	4.9	12.0	67.0	1.4	13.3	1.3
Zomba City		62.8	25.9	3.7	7.0	0.6
Blantyre City		71.4	18.2	6.8	3.6	
Dzaleka Camp	2.1	24.1	42.7	4.7	24.9	1.6

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.5: Proportion of Households by Main Fuels Used for Cooking

	Solid Fuel	Firewood	Electricity	Charcoal	Crop residue/Saw dust/Animal waste	Other
Malawi	97.4	75.9	2.4	20.5	1.1	0.2
Place of Residence						
Urban	87.8	19.2	11.3	68.2	0.3	1.1
Rural	99.4	87.6	0.5	10.6	1.2	0.0
Region						
Northern	97.6	78.6	2.4	18.9	0.0	0.0
Central	97.2	76.5	2.5	19.9	0.8	0.4
Southern	97.6	74.5	2.3	21.4	1.7	0.2
Sex of Household Head						
Male	97.3	74.0	2.5	22.3	0.9	0.3
Female	97.9	80.3	2.0	16.1	1.5	0.1
Education of Household Head						
None	99.8	91.4	0.2	6.6	1.8	
Primary	99.8	84.9	0.2	13.6	1.2	0.1
Secondary	96.7	58.9	3.1	37.2	0.5	0.2
Tertiary	62.8	13.6	34.1	49.2	0.1	3.1
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	86.4	42.0	12.4	43.5	0.9	1.3
Married	97.5	75.8	2.3	20.9	0.8	0.2
Divorced/Separated	98.7	77.7	1.2	18.9	2.1	0.2
Widow/Widower	98.3	83.8	1.7	13.0	1.4	0.1
District						
Chitipa	98.5	86.8	1.2	11.3	0.5	0.3
Karonga	98.0	80.2	2.0	17.8		
Nkhatabay	98.4	79.4	1.6	19.0		
Rumphi	99.4	83.2	0.6	16.2		
Mzimba	98.2	92.9	1.8	5.3		
Likoma	97.1	57.7	2.9	39.0		0.4
Mzuzu City	91.6	18.6	8.4	73.0		
Kasungu	97.3	82.8	2.7	14.6		

Nkhotakota	97.9	85.3	2.1	12.6		
Ntchisi	99.7	94.7	0.3	5.0		
Dowa	96.8	88.7	2.7	8.2		0.4
Salima	99.9	82.5		12.7	4.7	0.1
Lilongwe	99.5	85.1	0.5	13.5	0.8	
Mchinji	99.7	78.1	0.3	21.3		0.3
Dedza	100.0	90.1		8.3	1.6	
Ntcheu	99.9	88.3	0.1	11.1	0.5	
Lilongwe City	86.4	18.9	11.8	66.9	0.4	2.0
Mangochi	99.2	74.6	0.8	24.6		
Machinga	100.0	80.0		19.7	0.3	
Zomba Non-City	99.1	82.4	0.9	13.1	3.7	
Chiradzulu	99.6	88.8	0.4	9.4	1.4	
Blantyre	99.7	84.2	0.3	14.7	0.8	
Mwanza	99.6	82.9	0.4	16.7		
Thyolo	99.0	88.7	1.0	10.2		
Mulanje	99.9	83.4	0.1	6.7	9.8	
Phalombe	99.7	87.6		7.6	4.6	0.3
Chikwawa	99.7	88.7	0.3	11.0		
Nsanje	99.4	88.0	0.6	11.4		
Balaka	99.1	77.7	0.7	21.1	0.3	0.2
Neno	95.4	85.0	4.6	10.4		
Zomba City	86.7	24.7	13.0	61.7	0.3	0.3
Blantyre City	84.2	11.2	14.9	72.3	0.4	1.2
Dzaleka Camp	97.9	27.7	2.1	68.4	1.6	0.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.6: Proportion of Households with Access to Improved Water Source of Drinking Water and Percentage Distribution of Households by Main Source

	Access to improved water source	Water Sources				
		Piped into dwelling	Piped into yard/plot/ Communal Standpipe /Tanker truck/ Bowser	Protected well in yard/ plot/ public well/ Borehole rural	Open well in yard/plot/ open public well /Borehole urban	Spring/ River/ Stream/ Pond/ Lake/Dam/ Rainwater/ Other
Malawi	91.2	3.2	19.4	66.4	7.8	3.2
Place of Residence						
Urban	97.6	15.7	65.8	3.0	15.3	0.3
Rural	89.9	0.6	9.8	79.5	6.2	3.9
Region						
Northern	91.0	3.8	25.5	59.7	6.1	4.9
Central	90.8	3.1	17.4	68.7	8.2	2.6
Southern	91.7	3.1	19.8	65.8	7.8	3.4
Sex of Household Head						
Male	91.2	3.4	20.4	65.1	8.0	3.2
Female	91.2	2.8	17.2	69.3	7.3	3.4
Education of Household Head						
None	88.0	0.6	9.0	77.2	7.5	5.8
Primary	90.6	0.7	15.1	73.3	7.8	3.2
Secondary	93.2	4.5	31.0	53.6	8.6	2.3

Tertiary	97.8	37.4	36.6	21.1	3.5	1.4
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	95.2	9.0	34.0	47.3	7.4	2.2
Married	90.9	3.2	19.7	65.8	8.2	3.2
Divorced/Separated	91.5	2.2	17.9	69.1	7.4	3.4
Widow/Widower	92.1	3.3	15.7	71.6	5.9	3.4
District						
Chitipa	88.5	2.6	9.8	72.7	7.2	7.7
Karonga	81.0	5.6	13.6	58.4	10.8	11.5
Nkhatabay	84.3	1.8	26.4	52.3	8.2	11.4
Rumphi	88.6	4.2	53.6	30.8	2.9	8.5
Mzimba	95.7	1.2	11.4	83.1	4.1	0.2
Likoma	97.1	3.8	93.1	0.2		2.9
Mzuzu City	99.0	12.7	75.4	5.8	6.2	
Kasungu	81.6	0.6	14.8	66.2	15.9	2.5
Nkhotakota	92.0	3.1	6.3	78.3	10.7	1.7
Ntchisi	91.2		18.1	73.1	4.1	4.7
Dowa	89.7	1.6	3.0	83.0	7.1	5.3
Salima	98.2	0.8	6.0	89.4	2.5	1.4
Lilongwe	89.9	1.8	7.4	80.6	8.1	2.0
Mchinji	91.6	0.5	8.4	82.6	8.1	0.4
Dedza	88.5	0.9	4.5	83.1	6.7	4.9
Ntcheu	89.5	0.4	12.3	76.7	6.8	3.9
Lilongwe City	97.9	15.0	72.9	3.0	8.7	0.5
Mangochi	90.3	2.6	18.9	68.8	2.3	7.4
Machinga	87.6	0.3	17.2	69.4	10.3	2.7
Zomba Non-City	93.7	0.6	17.9	75.2	3.5	2.8
Chiradzulu	99.4	0.7	5.2	93.5	0.6	
Blantyre	92.8	0.3	11.1	81.5	3.3	3.9
Mwanza	91.5	2.2	5.9	78.5	9.2	4.2
Thyolo	78.2	0.2	6.1	68.4	19.1	6.1
Mulanje	93.4	1.1	24.1	68.2	4.2	2.4
Phalombe	94.2		8.1	86.2	3.8	2.0
Chikwawa	94.6		20.3	71.3	5.2	3.2
Nsanje	89.2	0.9	6.8	75.3	10.0	6.9
Balaka	98.0	2.1	6.6	82.8	7.7	0.8
Neno	88.4	5.4	8.6	74.4	6.0	5.6
Zomba City	95.4	20.5	59.7	1.1	17.2	1.5
Blantyre City	96.8	18.2	61.9	2.3	17.6	
Dzaleka Camp	97.2	0.5	15.8	80.8	1.6	1.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.7: Proportion of Households with Access to Toilet facility and Percentage Distribution of Households by Type of Toilet Facilities

	Access to improved toilet facility	Type of toilet facility					
		Flush Toilet	VIP Latrine	Pit Latrine With Slab	Pit Latrine Without Slab	None	Other
Malawi	54.2	3.2	2.5	48.0	41.9	3.5	0.8
Place of Residence							
Urban	81.1	16.1	4.0	60.6	17.4	1.0	0.9
Rural	48.6	0.5	2.2	45.4	47.0	4.0	0.8
Region							

Northern	53.2	4.0	0.5	48.5	42.3	4.3	0.3
Central	55.3	2.5	4.7	47.4	41.3	3.1	1.0
Southern	53.3	3.6	0.9	48.5	42.5	3.7	0.9
Sex of Household Head							
Male	55.4	3.3	2.9	48.7	41.2	3.0	0.8
Female	51.3	2.9	1.5	46.3	43.7	4.6	0.9
Education of Household Head							
None	48.0	0.8	1.8	45.0	45.8	5.5	1.1
Primary	49.0	0.6	2.2	45.9	46.6	4.1	0.6
Secondary	62.6	4.5	3.4	54.1	35.0	1.8	1.1
Tertiary	88.5	37.5	3.2	47.0	11.0		1.3
Marital Status of Household Head							
Never married	68.4	12.6	1.0	54.3	28.4	1.8	1.9
Married	54.8	3.0	2.8	48.6	41.9	2.9	0.8
Divorced/Separated	51.0	2.5	1.9	46.1	43.1	5.5	0.9
Widow/Widower	50.7	3.2	1.5	45.5	44.2	4.8	0.8
District							
Chitipa	58.4	0.7	0.5	57.0	38.5	2.7	0.6
Karonga	59.3	3.9	1.4	54.0	28.6	11.6	0.5
Nkhatabay	38.1	2.2	0.8	34.8	58.5	3.4	0.4
Rumphi	62.4	3.4		59.0	36.1	1.5	
Mzimba	43.9	2.5	0.1	41.3	52.2	4.0	
Likoma	58.6	2.3	1.5	54.8	38.0	3.4	
Mzuzu City	79.3	14.7	1.0	63.4	19.5	0.8	0.7
Kasungu	60.4	0.5	1.3	58.5	37.0	2.7	0.1
Nkhotakota	38.4	1.5	0.8	36.0	55.6	6.0	
Ntchisi	51.2	0.7	1.8	48.6	44.8	4.0	
Dowa	35.1	0.5	5.3	23.3	60.4	4.3	6.3
Salima	48.3	1.3		47.0	45.0	6.4	0.3
Lilongwe	66.1	0.2	8.4	57.6	29.4	3.9	0.6
Mchinji	59.2	1.6		57.6	39.7	1.0	0.1
Dedza	44.4	0.9	6.3	37.3	51.7	3.1	0.8
Ntcheu	27.3	0.1	1.8	25.3	70.8	1.5	0.4
Lilongwe City	84.2	13.9	9.3	60.9	14.8	0.6	0.5
Mangochi	81.7	2.7	0.4	78.6	15.8	2.5	0.1
Machinga	69.8	0.3	0.1	69.4	25.2	5.0	
Zomba Non-City	53.7	0.6	1.5	50.2	43.3	2.8	1.5
Chiradzulu	26.7	0.4	0.6	25.5	69.9	3.2	0.5
Blantyre	54.1	0.2		53.9	44.3	1.2	0.5
Mwanza	27.2	1.2	2.5	23.5	67.7	4.8	0.2
Thyolo	28.6	0.9	0.4	27.4	67.9	2.5	1.0
Mulanje	18.1	0.5	2.0	15.5	79.8	0.9	1.2
Phalombe	15.2	0.2	1.5	12.8	83.1	0.6	1.8
Chikwawa	46.1		1.5	44.6	38.3	14.3	1.2
Nsanje	49.4	1.8	0.3	47.3	37.3	12.3	1.1
Balaka	74.5	2.4	0.8	71.3	20.9	4.6	
Neno	30.3	5.1	2.7	22.6	63.5	6.1	
Zomba City	78.2	25.1	0.4	52.5	21.3	0.2	0.5
Blantyre City	81.6	22.1	0.7	57.6	16.5	1.1	2.0
Dzaleka Camp	66.6	6.7	1.0	50.8	29.8	2.6	9.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Kind of Rubbish Disposal Facility Used

	Rubbish Bin	Rubbish Pit	Burning	Public Rubbish Heap	Other	None
Malawi	5.2	63.3	6.1	7.9	1.5	15.9

Place of Residence						
Urban	18.6	56.3	4.6	11.0	2.4	7.2
Rural	2.5	64.8	6.4	7.3	1.4	17.7
Region						
Northern	1.7	72.0	4.3	2.6	0.4	19.0
Central	6.9	68.8	7.5	6.9	1.3	8.6
Southern	4.6	55.9	5.1	10.2	2.0	22.1
Sex of Household Head						
Male	5.5	64.4	5.9	7.8	1.4	15.1
Female	4.7	60.7	6.5	8.2	1.9	18.0
Education of Household Head						
None	2.5	53.8	7.6	9.6	1.4	25.2
Primary	3.5	63.6	6.3	7.8	1.7	17.1
Secondary	7.7	67.1	5.4	7.6	1.3	10.9
Tertiary	22.2	65.6	2.1	6.0	1.0	3.0
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	15.0	56.9	5.4	6.7	2.8	13.2
Married	5.1	64.9	6.1	8.2	1.3	14.5
Divorced/Separated	4.4	60.0	5.5	7.7	2.2	20.2
Widow/Widower	4.7	59.7	7.1	6.8	1.6	20.1
District						
Chitipa	1.8	65.8	0.8	0.9		30.7
Karonga	2.0	61.4	2.1	0.2		34.4
Nkhatabay	0.8	72.4	0.4	4.8	0.2	21.5
Rumphi		79.1	4.7	0.7	1.3	14.1
Mzimba	0.4	74.0	7.3	3.7	0.7	13.9
Likoma	0.7	62.1	11.6	1.8		23.7
Mzuzu City	7.5	78.9	4.1	2.6		6.8
Kasungu	1.9	69.4	13.1	1.5	1.2	13.0
Nkhotakota	2.7	68.4	8.8	3.4	0.7	16.0
Ntchisi	1.1	70.3	16.3	1.1		11.1
Dowa	11.1	76.0	3.2	2.2	1.2	6.3
Salima	8.9	63.7	21.6	2.3	1.8	1.7
Lilongwe	3.0	79.1	4.4	7.4	1.6	4.6
Mchinji	2.7	80.2	2.3	1.1	0.1	13.5
Dedza	1.8	66.0	5.1	12.9	1.7	12.5
Ntcheu	1.3	64.0	7.9	10.8	0.3	15.6
Lilongwe City	25.9	48.5	6.1	14.8	2.5	2.2
Mangochi	1.3	53.6	3.1	20.6	0.4	21.0
Machinga	1.4	62.2	12.4	0.1	5.4	18.5
Zomba Non-City	0.8	73.5	7.9	0.7	1.4	15.6
Chiradzulu	1.7	44.5	3.9	20.4		29.5
Blantyre	8.4	47.7	5.5	8.7	1.9	27.7
Mwanza	3.0	42.1	7.2	6.4		41.3
Thyolo	2.3	54.7	2.7	14.4	0.2	25.7
Mulanje	2.9	62.1	2.9	6.4	3.8	22.0
Phalombe	1.8	60.1	3.9	9.7	5.4	19.0
Chikwawa	0.3	54.7	6.3	3.6		35.0
Nsanje	0.3	60.6	4.4	2.2		32.5
Balaka	1.1	57.8	4.1	14.6	1.3	21.2
Neno	4.9	43.4	7.8	8.0		35.9
Zomba City	12.7	68.8	3.3	7.2	3.6	4.3
Blantyre City	24.8	42.3	2.9	15.8	4.0	10.2
Dzaleka Camp	66.3	13.2	2.1	11.1	4.9	2.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.9: Proportion of Household which own Durable Goods

	Mortar	Bed	Table	Chair	Air conditioner	Radio	CD Player	TV	Bicycle	Iron	Computer
Malawi	32.5	30.8	27.3	41.4	0.1	14.2	6.5	12.5	31.4	13.3	3.0
Place of Residence											
Urban	26.4	62.2	39.7	48.9	0.3	15.2	19.7	38.7	20.8	34.9	12.7
Rural	33.7	24.3	24.8	39.8	0.0	14.0	3.8	7.1	33.6	8.8	1.0
Region											
Northern	45.1	50.8	37.4	52.5		14.6	10.6	18.8	22.1	14.0	2.1
Central	27.9	24.5	24.9	36.8	0.2	16.5	5.8	11.9	32.5	11.8	2.7
Southern	33.6	31.7	27.1	42.9	0.0	12.0	6.1	11.5	32.8	14.5	3.5
Sex of Household Head											
Male	30.2	32.4	30.2	44.6	0.1	16.9	7.6	14.5	37.7	15.0	3.6
Female	38.0	27.0	20.5	33.6		7.8	3.8	7.8	16.1	9.2	1.6
Education of Household Head											
None	42.9	20.6	16.8	30.5	0.0	12.7	1.6	2.6	25.3	3.5	0.1
Primary	31.2	21.9	22.9	38.8		13.5	3.3	5.8	31.7	7.4	0.4
Secondary	29.2	45.8	37.0	48.8	0.1	16.1	11.2	23.1	34.2	22.4	3.8
Tertiary	37.7	87.3	58.3	61.9	1.4	16.5	35.6	67.5	28.4	65.0	41.6
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	13.7	43.6	23.4	35.2		8.3	12.4	17.0	13.0	24.1	12.9
Married	31.5	32.0	30.1	44.3	0.1	16.6	7.6	14.4	38.3	14.6	3.2
Divorced/Separated	28.9	21.8	18.3	31.8	0.1	7.2	2.7	6.2	14.9	6.8	1.2
Widow/Widower	51.3	33.5	23.9	38.8		10.6	3.4	8.4	15.9	11.0	1.4
District											
Chitipa	51.2	67.3	54.7	61.0		9.8	12.7	17.0	27.2	11.3	0.7
Karonga	46.1	55.0	36.8	56.6		10.2	9.3	11.9	22.7	6.8	0.2
Nkhatabay	54.3	54.5	38.5	49.8		15.3	8.5	20.2	14.2	11.5	1.1
Rumphi	53.8	60.6	38.4	47.1		18.8	10.5	22.3	26.6	21.6	4.7
Mzimba	45.7	33.3	30.8	49.3		17.4	7.0	13.0	23.0	11.9	1.3
Likoma	26.8	56.6	28.8	36.6		13.5	11.6	25.1	6.5	14.7	2.6
Mzuzu City	21.6	77.2	43.3	58.3		11.7	24.5	43.8	19.0	29.2	7.1
Kasungu	30.7	25.5	28.1	45.2		9.0	5.6	14.7	36.3	11.6	1.8
Nkhotakota	38.6	26.7	14.7	24.8	0.4	13.8	2.9	7.3	20.4	6.4	0.9
Ntchisi	31.0	15.8	25.0	36.8		9.8	1.7	10.1	27.9	8.8	
Dowa	35.8	23.5	31.4	41.7		17.5	5.5	11.5	33.7	14.9	1.7
Salima	35.7	16.9	15.8	26.8		26.3	2.2	3.5	29.5	2.8	0.2
Lilongwe	22.1	17.0	22.1	34.5		20.3	3.4	6.5	42.7	9.6	1.2
Mchinji	30.0	22.9	28.1	42.3	0.5	12.1	2.6	8.9	52.1	8.0	2.4
Dedza	23.6	14.6	21.7	30.9		14.8	3.1	7.5	29.3	4.1	0.4
Ntcheu	32.7	16.7	23.5	37.0		17.5	3.7	6.1	18.4	6.5	0.2
Lilongwe City	19.7	55.7	31.4	40.8	0.7	17.0	19.5	33.4	20.3	32.2	12.5
Mangochi	35.6	44.6	28.0	37.4		8.5	7.7	12.9	30.5	14.0	2.4
Machinga	38.6	26.5	20.7	26.0		14.7	1.4	3.7	46.4	8.6	0.8
Zomba Non-City	36.0	30.6	21.4	38.5		17.5	4.9	9.1	40.0	11.5	1.7
Chiradzulu	28.1	21.2	27.3	39.8		7.0	2.9	5.5	32.1	8.5	1.1
Blantyre	27.5	23.6	17.6	29.3		15.8	4.7	8.8	14.5	13.4	1.3
Mwanza	32.7	19.1	26.8	40.0		13.6	4.7	7.2	21.3	7.7	1.4
Thyolo	33.8	22.9	30.7	49.8		7.8	3.7	7.4	22.0	8.8	2.1
Mulanje	27.5	22.9	35.5	56.1		9.1	4.0	6.4	47.6	11.0	1.5
Phalombe	37.4	16.9	24.6	49.4		14.9	3.1	3.1	59.6	6.8	1.2
Chikwawa	38.1	16.8	21.1	57.8		9.6	2.9	2.7	42.7	9.6	1.2
Nsanje	38.8	16.9	14.6	54.6		9.0	3.1	4.0	26.0	7.6	1.8
Balaka	33.7	27.7	22.8	35.6		11.9	5.3	8.5	39.4	15.4	0.6
Neno	35.5	24.5	28.8	48.6	1.6	13.5	11.0	11.0	21.8	12.4	3.8
Zomba City	34.5	67.3	45.6	56.3	0.7	11.1	19.2	40.0	14.3	34.6	10.2
Blantyre City	28.0	67.3	40.8	47.2		16.1	18.4	42.7	9.7	42.0	18.9

Dzaleka Camp	25.1	22.3	56.0	81.1		13.0	2.6	29.0	15.3	10.6	1.8
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Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.10: Proportion of households which own agricultural tools and equipment

	Hoe	Slasher	Axe	Panga	Sickle	Treadle Pump	Watering Can	Ox-Cart	Livestock Kraal	Granary
Malawi	94.2	69.8	63.9	76.2	75.6	47.8	87.1	21.1	95.2	95.3
Place of Residence										
Urban	83.3	78.2	63.0	79.9	78.2	91.0	92.0	8.9	89.9	38.6
Rural	95.7	68.1	64.0	75.7	75.5	41.5	86.7	21.5	95.4	99.0
Region										
Northern	93.9	81.6	86.7	85.2	85.5	82.1	91.1	58.7	94.7	100.0
Central	95.4	75.3	65.2	79.4	80.3	52.9	87.7	18.6	94.2	94.3
Southern	93.1	59.9	55.9	71.7	68.7	39.5	84.2	13.2	96.4	96.3
Sex of Household Head										
Male	94.0	72.8	67.5	80.7	77.1	51.3	89.2	24.5	95.4	96.3
Female	94.5	57.9	55.0	63.8	71.8	22.6	77.7	8.8	94.3	88.4
Education of Household Head										
None	97.4	69.3	68.8	77.0	82.4	69.5	90.2	9.0	94.3	100.0
Primary	94.8	66.4	62.2	75.2	74.0	39.5	84.9	23.2	96.3	97.4
Secondary	91.5	74.3	63.9	77.3	74.7	53.7	90.6	20.0	93.8	88.0
Tertiary	89.4	79.1	75.8	83.3	79.7	78.5	88.3	20.8	89.8	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head										
Never married	77.4	59.8	44.7	57.1	65.9		80.9		81.2	
Married	94.8	73.0	67.7	80.9	76.9	51.7	89.0	24.4	95.9	96.5
Divorced/Separated	92.1	54.0	48.5	60.1	67.7	5.7	75.3	5.8	90.6	100.0
Widow/Widower	96.7	64.7	64.2	71.3	79.4	48.9	83.2	11.6	95.1	73.2
District										
Chitipa	97.2	87.0	88.5	85.7	89.2		100.0			
Karonga	94.9	60.6	77.2	83.7	82.6		92.9	41.0		
Nkhatabay	95.2	96.1	85.2	86.5	92.7	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0
Rumphi	92.3	82.4	88.5	87.5	83.9	79.9	86.7	58.7	95.0	100.0
Mzimba	93.8	84.0	89.6	82.7	84.5		90.3	61.9	95.4	100.0
Likoma	82.5	48.2	65.7	81.0	69.3		84.2		93.2	
Mzuzu City	87.6	87.7	88.5	95.8	98.4		100.0		66.8	
Kasungu	95.4	71.5	70.1	77.2	86.7	6.6	89.3	16.5	93.4	100.0
Nkhotakota	93.0	92.5	70.7	74.0	89.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Ntchisi	97.2	88.5	77.2	83.7	85.4	59.8	90.5	18.5	95.6	100.0
Dowa	98.7	76.9	83.3	88.1	85.7	75.8	92.6	37.8	99.6	100.0
Salima	97.1	97.2	94.0	96.5	98.0		100.0	41.7	100.0	100.0
Lilongwe	96.7	73.1	65.9	81.9	78.9	33.9	88.2	17.4	88.0	95.8
Mchinji	94.6	53.8	52.8	63.4	65.2	63.4	71.8	7.3	84.9	100.0
Dedza	96.8	55.2	49.1	74.4	76.0	34.1	84.0	16.7	98.5	100.0
Ntcheu	97.4	61.4	47.5	70.0	70.4		90.8	24.2	100.0	
Lilongwe City	84.6	87.4	66.3	87.7	85.9	87.5	93.8	5.9	83.5	42.3
Mangochi	94.4	49.5	47.6	67.4	64.5	30.8	77.6		91.6	95.0
Machinga	95.6	61.9	56.4	64.7	72.6	7.3	78.1		94.3	
Zomba Non-City	94.7	61.4	53.3	63.1	68.0	88.6	84.7	75.1	95.4	100.0
Chiradzulu	92.9	66.8	56.1	74.5	76.3	38.3	87.9		100.0	100.0
Blantyre	86.5	58.2	49.1	66.2	67.9	22.4	76.0		94.2	
Mwanza	97.2	64.7	65.7	72.7	61.9	37.3	82.3		90.1	100.0
Thyolo	90.5	65.7	53.2	71.1	70.7		91.0		100.0	
Mulanje	100.0	99.0	98.6	99.4	99.6		98.0		100.0	
Phalombe	99.2	83.2	92.3	94.8	95.4		96.7		100.0	
Chikwawa	93.6	33.9	51.9	68.1	48.5	26.7	65.2	6.6	98.8	

Nsanje	94.4	27.2	42.3	69.7	40.6	27.2	67.0	6.1	100.0	
Balaka	97.2	70.2	49.0	71.6	69.6	37.6	75.8	26.4	83.5	100.0
Neno	97.4	80.1	65.9	78.2	71.3	76.2	82.5	54.0	100.0	
Zomba City	79.2	72.9	55.5	77.0	76.8		84.8		100.0	
Blantyre City	76.1	72.0	51.6	71.7	79.7	100.0	89.7		79.5	
Dzaleka Camp	84.4	73.7	63.8	85.6	88.9	100.0	92.2	35.3	100.0	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.11: Percentage distribution of household members who slept under bednet

	Yes	No	Total
Malawi	74.8	25.2	100.0
Place of Residence			
Urban	74.2	25.8	100.0
Rural	75.0	25.0	100.0
Region			
Northern	63.4	36.6	100.0
Central	70.2	29.8	100.0
Southern	82.2	17.8	100.0
Sex of Household Head			
Male	75.6	24.4	100.0
Female	73.1	26.9	100.0
Education of Household Head			
None	68.0	32.0	100.0
Primary	72.4	27.6	100.0
Secondary	81.3	18.7	100.0
Tertiary	88.5	11.5	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	56.3	43.7	100.0
Married	77.9	22.1	100.0
Divorced/Separated	69.5	30.5	100.0
Widow/Widower	67.9	32.1	100.0
District			
Chitipa	62.5	37.5	100.0
Karonga	73.4	26.6	100.0
Nkhatabay	75.9	24.1	100.0
Rumphi	63.0	37.0	100.0
Mzimba	52.6	47.4	100.0
Likoma	82.4	17.6	100.0
Mzuzu City	73.3	26.7	100.0
Kasungu	74.3	25.7	100.0
Nkhotakota	86.8	13.2	100.0
Ntchisi	67.0	33.0	100.0
Dowa	71.5	28.5	100.0
Salima	77.7	22.3	100.0
Lilongwe	64.4	35.6	100.0
Mchinji	73.7	26.3	100.0
Dedza	72.3	27.7	100.0
Ntcheu	68.9	31.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	63.6	36.4	100.0
Mangochi	82.6	17.4	100.0
Machinga	87.9	12.1	100.0
Zomba Non-City	82.8	17.2	100.0
Chiradzulu	79.2	20.8	100.0
Blantyre	74.7	25.3	100.0
Mwanza	73.8	26.2	100.0

Thyolo	75.8	24.2	100.0
Mulanje	80.7	19.3	100.0
Phalombe	93.0	7.0	100.0
Chikwawa	90.6	9.4	100.0
Nsanje	87.9	12.1	100.0
Balaka	83.2	16.8	100.0
Neno	65.8	34.2	100.0
Zomba City	75.6	24.4	100.0
Blantyre City	80.2	19.8	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	67.6	32.4	100.0

Table 7.12: Percentage distribution of households who had ownership document

	Yes, Offer Of Lease	Yes, A Title Deed	Yes, Certificate Of Lease	Yes, Letter From Chief	No	Yes, Other	Total
Malawi	0.2	0.8	0.2	5.5	93.3	0.1	100.0
Place of Residence							
Urban	1.6	7.7	1.7	25.2	63.2	0.6	100.0
Rural	0.0	0.2	0.0	3.8	95.9	0.0	100.0
Region							
Northern	0.0	1.4	0.1	2.0	96.2	0.2	100.0
Central	0.2	0.7	0.3	5.8	92.9	0.1	100.0
Southern	0.2	0.7	0.0	6.0	93.0	0.0	100.0
Sex of Household Head							
Male	0.2	0.9	0.2	6.5	92.3	0.1	100.0
Female	0.2	0.6	0.2	3.3	95.7	0.1	100.0
Education of Household Head							
None	0.2		0.1	2.6	97.2		100.0
Primary	0.1	0.3	0.0	3.4	96.2	0.0	100.0
Secondary	0.1	1.4	0.5	12.1	85.8	0.0	100.0
Tertiary	5.0	17.3	1.9	26.9	47.1	1.8	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head							
Never married	0.9	1.3		1.5	96.4		100.0
Married	0.1	0.8	0.1	6.4	92.4	0.1	100.0
Divorced/Separated	0.0	0.2	0.2	2.8	96.7		100.0
Widow/Widower	0.6	1.3	0.3	3.6	94.0	0.1	100.0
District							
Chitipa				1.4	98.3	0.2	100.0
Karonga			0.4	2.0	97.0	0.5	100.0
Nkhatabay				3.1	96.9		100.0
Rumphi		2.6		4.1	93.3		100.0
Mzimba		0.6		0.3	99.1		100.0
Likoma				1.5	98.5		100.0
Mzuzu City	1.0	22.1		14.5	61.3	1.1	100.0
Kasungu		1.0		6.6	92.4		100.0
Nkhotakota				3.2	96.8		100.0
Ntchisi				0.6	99.4		100.0
Dowa			0.9	1.9	97.2		100.0
Salima	0.3	1.0	0.7	2.9	95.2		100.0
Lilongwe		0.4		8.9	90.6		100.0
Mchinji				3.9	96.1		100.0
Dedza				1.9	98.1		100.0
Ntcheu	0.5	0.6		0.8	98.1		100.0
Lilongwe City	1.6	6.5	2.8	29.8	58.3	1.0	100.0
Mangochi		0.6		1.9	97.6		100.0
Machinga				5.8	94.2		100.0

Zomba Non-City	0.1	0.5		3.4	96.0		100.0
Chiradzulu				1.8	98.2		100.0
Blantyre				7.8	92.2		100.0
Mwanza				4.8	95.2		100.0
Thyolo		0.8	0.4	6.9	92.0		100.0
Mulanje				8.8	91.2		100.0
Phalombe				7.4	92.6		100.0
Chikwawa				5.8	94.2		100.0
Nsanje				5.0	95.0		100.0
Balaka		1.3		3.4	95.0	0.3	100.0
Neno	0.7			2.9	96.4		100.0
Zomba City	3.6	1.8	2.5	34.1	56.2	1.8	100.0
Blantyre City	3.8	9.6		27.9	58.7		100.0
Dzaleka Camp	0.6			1.9	96.2	1.2	100.0

Table 7.13: Percentage distribution of households by outer wall material of the dwelling

	Mud (Yomata)	Compacted Earth (Yamdindo)	Mud Brick (Unfired)	Burnt Bricks	Concrete	Other	Total
Malawi	1.2	2.1	25.0	67.1	3.3	1.3	100.0
Place of Residence							
Urban	0.1	0.1	19.2	71.2	8.9	0.6	100.0
Rural	1.5	2.5	26.2	66.2	2.2	1.4	100.0
Region							
Northern	1.8	2.4	6.6	83.6	1.9	3.8	100.0
Central	1.9	4.1	32.1	57.9	2.8	1.3	100.0
Southern	0.4	0.1	23.0	71.5	4.2	0.6	100.0
Sex of Household Head							
Male	1.2	2.0	25.3	66.7	3.4	1.4	100.0
Female	1.3	2.3	24.3	67.9	3.2	1.0	100.0
Education of Household Head							
None	2.3	3.3	30.2	61.3	1.3	1.7	100.0
Primary	1.4	2.6	28.3	64.1	2.2	1.4	100.0
Secondary	0.4	0.7	18.4	73.7	5.8	0.9	100.0
Tertiary	0.3	0.1	7.1	82.1	9.6	0.7	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head							
Never married		0.1	21.6	71.1	5.1	2.1	100.0
Married	1.3	2.0	24.8	67.3	3.3	1.3	100.0
Divorced/Separated	1.2	3.1	29.0	62.4	2.9	1.4	100.0
Widow/Widower	1.0	1.6	20.7	72.2	3.8	0.6	100.0
District							
Chitipa	0.3	2.9	1.9	93.2		1.6	100.0
Karonga	1.1	0.7	3.8	89.2	0.3	4.9	100.0
Nkhatabay	2.0	0.5	4.6	90.2	2.1	0.6	100.0
Rumphi	2.1	5.5	7.6	76.8	5.7	2.2	100.0
Mzimba	2.9	3.5	7.2	78.5	1.5	6.4	100.0
Likoma			52.0	26.6	19.8	1.7	100.0
Mzuzu City			11.0	86.4	2.6		100.0
Kasungu	0.9	10.3	17.5	67.1	3.8	0.4	100.0
Nkhotakota	1.7	1.1	22.2	72.1	1.6	1.2	100.0
Ntchisi	1.2	30.9	14.3	50.3	1.6	1.7	100.0
Dowa	3.8	4.6	29.6	57.5	2.6	1.9	100.0
Salima	2.3	0.4	38.7	57.5		1.1	100.0
Lilongwe	3.0	1.7	42.4	47.6	3.2	2.1	100.0
Mchinji	2.0	0.9	23.1	70.8	2.8	0.4	100.0
Dedza	2.4	5.7	42.9	46.8	0.7	1.5	100.0

Ntcheu	0.2	0.1	34.4	64.5		0.7	100.0
Lilongwe City	0.2		29.7	61.9	7.3	0.9	100.0
Mangochi			25.0	72.0	1.8	1.1	100.0
Machinga			26.0	72.1	1.9		100.0
Zomba Non-City			18.8	78.4	2.8		100.0
Chiradzulu		0.4	26.2	67.0	4.9	1.5	100.0
Blantyre	1.2		28.6	64.5	5.1	0.6	100.0
Mwanza	4.6	1.5	16.9	73.0	3.4	0.5	100.0
Thyolo	0.5		18.0	77.3	4.2		100.0
Mulanje			22.9	72.2	4.6	0.3	100.0
Phalombe	0.2	0.7	24.9	71.5	2.2	0.5	100.0
Chikwawa	2.2	0.1	28.3	67.0		2.4	100.0
Nsanje		0.2	21.7	77.1		1.1	100.0
Balaka		0.2	18.1	79.9	1.6	0.3	100.0
Neno	4.2	0.7	23.7	67.1	3.1	1.3	100.0
Zomba City			8.6	84.0	7.4		100.0
Blantyre City		0.2	22.9	59.9	16.2	0.7	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	0.5	0.5	62.7	23.8	8.3	4.1	100.0

Table 7.14: Percentage distribution of households by roof material of the dwelling

	Grass	Iron Sheets
Malawi	38.2	61.6
Place of Residence		
Urban	3.9	96.0
Rural	45.3	54.4
Region		
Northern	29.4	70.4
Central	47.2	52.6
Southern	31.9	67.8
Sex of Household Head		
Male	38.2	61.6
Female	38.3	61.5
Education of Household Head		
None	47.8	51.9
Primary	45.4	54.4
Secondary	23.9	76.0
Tertiary	3.3	96.3
Marital Status of Household Head		
Never married	20.9	79.0
Married	38.4	61.4
Divorced/Separated	44.7	55.1
Widow/Widower	31.6	68.2
District		
Chitipa	27.1	72.7
Karonga	26.4	73.3
Nkhatabay	23.0	76.8
Rumphi	32.7	67.3
Mzimba	40.9	59.0
Likoma	18.0	82.0
Mzuzu City	1.9	98.1
Kasungu	59.2	40.8
Nkhotakota	54.6	45.3
Ntchisi	63.7	36.0
Dowa	53.5	45.8
Salima	58.6	41.4

Lilongwe	53.0	46.7
Mchinji	49.0	51.0
Dedza	54.0	46.0
Ntcheu	45.9	54.1
Lilongwe City	6.5	93.5
Mangochi	42.9	57.1
Machinga	43.7	55.9
Zomba Non-City	32.7	67.3
Chiradzulu	33.9	66.1
Blantyre	32.8	67.2
Mwanza	50.6	49.2
Thyolo	17.7	82.1
Mulanje	22.9	77.1
Phalombe	43.2	56.2
Chikwawa	47.3	51.0
Nsanje	39.1	60.7
Balaka	39.7	60.1
Neno	45.7	53.6
Zomba City	2.4	96.2
Blantyre City	0.5	99.5
Dzaleka Camp	25.6	71.5

Table 7.15: Percentage distribution of households by floor material of the dwelling

	Sand	Smoothed Mud	Smooth Cement	Tile
Malawi	2.4	62.3	34.2	1.0
Place of Residence				
Urban	1.0	16.4	76.8	5.3
Rural	2.7	71.8	25.3	0.1
Region				
Northern	1.7	45.9	51.1	0.8
Central	3.1	65.0	30.7	1.1
Southern	1.9	63.9	33.1	1.0
Sex of Household Head				
Male	2.5	60.7	35.5	1.1
Female	2.2	66.0	31.0	0.7
Education of Household Head				
None	2.9	76.6	20.2	0.2
Primary	2.9	71.4	25.3	0.1
Secondary	1.3	45.2	51.9	1.5
Tertiary	0.3	3.6	84.2	11.8
Marital Status of Household Head				
Never married	2.8	36.5	56.5	3.7
Married	2.2	61.8	34.8	1.0
Divorced/Separated	2.2	69.6	27.5	0.8
Widow/Widower	3.9	61.3	34.2	0.4
District				
Chitipa	1.4	53.8	44.8	
Karonga	1.0	47.9	50.6	
Nkhatabay	0.4	38.2	61.4	
Rumphi	2.3	48.2	48.6	0.5
Mzimba	2.7	55.7	40.3	0.4
Likoma	2.3	25.9	71.1	0.5
Mzuzu City		10.9	83.6	4.8
Kasungu	1.0	74.4	24.6	
Nkhotakota	7.1	64.3	28.5	

Ntchisi	0.9	81.9	17.2	
Dowa	0.1	72.6	27.2	
Salima	22.2	60.8	16.4	0.6
Lilongwe	3.8	69.9	26.2	0.1
Mchinji	0.4	72.6	26.2	0.5
Dedza	0.7	79.6	19.3	0.4
Ntcheu		79.7	20.3	
Lilongwe City	1.4	16.2	75.0	6.8
Mangochi	0.7	66.0	32.7	0.5
Machinga	2.6	71.0	25.9	0.4
Zomba Non-City	8.4	64.6	27.1	
Chiradzulu	0.2	74.3	25.5	
Blantyre	1.8	68.1	30.0	
Mwanza	0.3	75.7	24.0	0.1
Thyolo		65.6	34.4	
Mulanje	2.1	73.9	23.9	
Phalombe	2.6	84.2	13.2	
Chikwawa	1.7	78.1	20.2	
Nsanje	1.0	77.4	21.6	
Balaka	0.2	70.3	29.0	0.5
Neno	0.8	70.1	27.5	1.5
Zomba City	4.2	15.8	77.8	2.3
Blantyre City	0.9	12.5	78.6	7.3
Dzaleka Camp	0.5	21.2	77.2	0.8

Table 7.16: Percentage distribution of households by sources of firewood

	Own Woodlot	Community Woodlot	Forest Reserve	Unfarmed Areas Of Community
Malawi	7.6	15.0	13.2	60.5
Place of Residence				
Urban	2.7	11.2	10.9	67.0
Rural	7.8	15.2	13.4	60.2
Region				
Northern	3.8	14.1	22.2	58.9
Central	11.4	19.1	10.3	54.6
Southern	5.1	11.6	13.6	66.1
Sex of Household Head				
Male	7.8	14.7	13.6	60.3
Female	7.2	15.6	12.5	61.0
Education of Household Head				
None	6.8	15.2	12.0	64.1
Primary	7.7	15.2	13.5	59.8
Secondary	7.7	14.4	13.5	60.1
Tertiary	9.5	8.8	13.3	58.9
Marital Status of Household Head				
Never married	8.7	14.0	6.4	66.4
Married	7.2	14.7	14.0	60.5
Divorced/Separated	7.8	15.7	11.9	59.9
Widow/Widower	9.4	15.9	11.4	60.6
District				
Chitipa	3.7	24.9	9.4	61.5
Karonga	2.7	13.6	9.8	70.7
Nkhatabay	2.9	13.0	17.7	66.4
Rumphi	10.6	14.3	30.5	44.1
Mzimba	3.0	12.4	27.2	57.4
Likoma	4.8	12.8	20.7	61.7

Mzuzu City	2.9	6.0	52.7	27.5
Kasungu	5.3	5.9	7.8	78.4
Nkhotakota	5.2	13.8	19.4	61.5
Ntchisi	2.5	5.9	19.4	72.2
Dowa	41.3	18.3	3.0	33.5
Salima	11.9	32.1	26.0	26.8
Lilongwe	8.8	15.8	6.4	58.6
Mchinji	11.1	24.9	1.4	61.8
Dedza	8.2	22.7	17.6	46.6
Ntcheu	7.5	36.2	9.1	46.8
Lilongwe City	0.4	6.6	5.4	73.0
Mangochi	1.7	3.7	12.9	79.3
Machinga	4.4	8.4	19.4	64.4
Zomba Non-City	5.1	11.3	7.0	68.3
Chiradzulu	4.2	25.8	1.3	61.0
Blantyre	7.2	11.7	12.4	62.2
Mwanza	0.8	28.2	9.9	60.9
Thyolo	3.1	28.9	4.2	61.4
Mulanje	12.8	6.6	31.7	46.9
Phalombe	9.3	2.9	35.2	45.7
Chikwawa	6.0	11.2	10.2	72.7
Nsanje	3.9	5.2	14.4	76.6
Balaka	4.5	4.0	4.5	86.4
Neno	4.2	29.8	3.1	62.8
Zomba City	1.2	11.2	16.5	58.6
Blantyre City		11.8	5.4	74.4
Dzaleka Camp	10.2	26.1	1.1	39.2

Table 7.17: Percentage distribution of households that have access to electricity by Escom Access, IHS6 2024-2026

Malawi	14.2
Place of Residence	
Urban	55.9
Rural	5.5
Region	
Northern	19.2
Central	11.8
Southern	15.2
Sex of Household Head	
Male	15.4
Female	11.2
Education of Household Head	
None	3.8
Primary	6.1
Secondary	26.4
Tertiary	77.0
Marital Status of Household Head	
Never married	38.2
Married	14.5
Divorced/Separated	9.8
Widow/Widower	11.6
District	
Chitipa	11.9
Karonga	18.8
Nkhatabay	20.2

Rumphi	21.4
Mzimba	5.5
Likoma	35.3
Mzuzu City	67.9
Kasungu	11.4
Nkhotakota	10.3
Ntchisi	4.0
Dowa	8.9
Salima	6.2
Lilongwe	4.2
Mchinji	6.4
Dedza	4.0
Ntcheu	3.8
Lilongwe City	45.9
Mangochi	13.1
Machinga	4.4
Zomba Non-City	8.7
Chiradzulu	5.9
Blantyre	13.2
Mwanza	8.4
Thyolo	7.6
Mulanje	5.4
Phalombe	1.1
Chikwawa	5.6
Nsanje	6.0
Balaka	12.0
Neno	11.3
Zomba City	59.0
Blantyre City	68.2
Dzaleka Camp	16.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 7.18: Percentage distribution of households that access electricity through ESCOM by blackout frequency

	Never	Every Day	Several Times A Week	Several Times A Month
Malawi	1.7	16.9	36.5	18.8
Place of Residence				
Urban	1.6	17.6	36.8	17.3
Rural	1.7	15.6	35.8	22.0
Region				
Northern	0.3	2.4	27.6	24.7
Central	1.9	18.7	37.4	17.6
Southern	1.9	20.4	38.7	17.8
Sex of Household Head				
Male	1.8	16.5	37.7	18.0
Female	1.3	18.5	32.4	21.6
Education of Household Head				
None	7.8	13.5	33.0	28.5
Primary	0.9	14.1	37.4	20.1
Secondary	1.7	17.3	38.4	18.6
Tertiary	1.3	19.9	31.4	16.4
Marital Status of Household Head				
Never married	2.5	19.6	38.6	18.2
Married	1.7	16.6	37.3	18.2

Divorced/Separated	1.8	17.4	35.3	19.5
Widow/Widower	0.4	16.9	28.4	24.4
District				
Chitipa			20.8	27.6
Karonga	1.5	1.7	27.7	17.9
Nkhatabay		5.0	32.2	25.2
Rumphi		1.5	38.3	24.7
Mzimba			22.6	27.5
Likoma	6.4		14.4	
Mzuzu City		3.2	26.4	26.5
Kasungu		10.8	70.1	10.3
Nkhotakota		14.1	55.0	9.8
Ntchisi	7.8	11.7	39.7	29.3
Dowa	1.7	19.5	25.8	23.0
Salima	2.4	35.5	50.4	10.2
Lilongwe		20.9	14.3	27.6
Mchinji		7.7	49.4	32.1
Dedza		5.7	56.8	18.9
Ntcheu		3.0	3.2	6.6
Lilongwe City	2.8	21.8	33.4	16.9
Mangochi	1.9	29.5	40.6	21.8
Machinga		22.8	31.7	19.1
Zomba Non-City	2.7	23.2	28.8	19.9
Chiradzulu		16.4	29.5	20.0
Blantyre		34.2	35.2	16.9
Mwanza	35.5		9.0	14.1
Thyolo		6.0	47.4	22.6
Mulanje			50.4	11.7
Phalombe	27.9		13.2	58.8
Chikwawa		16.1	42.6	26.2
Nsanje		41.3	32.2	26.6
Balaka	3.9	27.3	30.7	20.4
Neno	24.4	5.6	4.7	13.2
Zomba City	0.4	24.2	52.5	16.4
Blantyre City	1.2	18.6	39.9	15.5
Dzaleka Camp		14.5	38.7	38.7

Table 8.1: Proportion of Households Engaged in Agricultural Activities by Type, IHS6 2024-2025

	Agriculture Households	Cultivation of Rainy Season Crops	Cultivation of Dry Season Crops	Cultivation of Trees	Livestock Production
Place of Residence	85.7	78.0	21.6	37.0	46.4
Urban	54.3	39.9	5.1	17.4	24.6
Rural	92.1	85.9	25.1	41.1	50.9
Region					
Northern	83.8	69.4	17.1	37.0	54.4
Central	86.4	79.5	28.0	33.3	48.7
Southern	85.4	78.9	16.8	40.5	42.3
Sex of Household Head					
Male	84.9	76.8	23.2	35.2	48.2
Female	87.4	81.0	17.8	41.4	42.3
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	52.0	42.7	7.8	18.3	18.8
Married	87.1	79.5	24.1	36.7	50.5
Divorced/Separated	83.1	75.7	17.3	37.7	35.6
Widow/Widower	90.6	83.0	15.8	44.3	44.3
Education of Household Head					
None	92.2	85.9	21.2	43.9	49.1
Primary	89.3	82.6	23.8	39.4	47.5
Secondary	78.8	69.7	19.5	30.7	45.1
Tertiary	60.7	44.9	7.3	24.7	31.8
District					
Chitipa	90.8	87.5	8.2	8.5	56.2
Karonga	82.6	66.1	4.0	32.8	45.2
Nkhatabay	79.3	35.6	9.0	60.6	40.7
Rumphi	90.7	76.5	26.1	50.4	71.7
Mzimba	91.8	86.6	28.2	40.1	66.5
Likoma	66.0	18.3	2.5	47.9	47.0
Mzuzu City	53.0	31.7	6.8	22.8	25.5
Kasungu	88.2	80.6	22.4	26.7	57.6
Nkhotakota	81.4	66.5	6.6	31.2	30.2
Ntchisi	94.8	92.1	30.3	22.9	63.3
Dowa	95.1	90.0	46.1	32.0	71.9
Salima	84.9	82.7	3.9	5.6	36.4
Lilongwe	93.1	83.9	39.2	35.6	54.8
Mchinji	87.8	83.7	49.5	29.3	47.9
Dedza	95.9	93.3	36.9	52.3	52.3
Ntcheu	97.9	96.4	21.4	68.7	43.3
Lilongwe City	53.3	39.9	5.1	17.8	25.5

Mangochi	89.2	83.1	15.7	39.4	54.6
Machinga	95.4	92.5	14.3	53.7	45.5
Zomba Non-City	93.1	86.6	17.8	52.1	46.2
Chiradzulu	93.3	91.1	15.5	29.8	34.8
Blantyre	79.3	75.1	10.3	27.4	29.2
Mwanza	91.5	87.8	14.2	52.8	44.8
Thyolo	90.3	86.9	23.0	51.5	33.3
Mulanje	92.5	83.9	23.0	63.4	38.8
Phalombe	96.3	93.5	18.9	34.5	49.9
Chikwawa	91.0	81.2	30.0	31.5	57.2
Nsanje	91.5	79.8	37.8	31.3	59.6
Balaka	91.8	86.5	13.9	45.1	61.2
Neno	95.2	90.7	10.4	39.3	51.0
Zomba City	55.1	38.4	1.8	33.6	15.9
Blantyre City	40.7	27.3	2.1	11.6	12.9
Dzaleka Camp	47.7	36.8	9.6	1.8	28.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.2: Percentage Distribution of Gardens by Means of Acquiring them, IHS6 2024-2025

	How Garden was Acquired												Total
	Granted By Local Leaders	Inherited By The Death Of A Family Member	Bride Price	Purchased	Leasehold	Rent Short-Term	Farming As A Tenant	Borrowed For Free	Moved In Without Permission	Other	Allocated By Family Member	Gift from Non-HH member	
Malawi	5.0	9.5	0.1	7.7	0.4	13.6	0.3	4.3	0.2	0.6	54.5	3.6	100.0
Place of Residence													
Urban	2.7	4.0	0.0	19.8	0.9	39.0	0.1	8.1	0.5	1.2	21.8	2.0	100.0
Rural	5.3	10.3	0.1	6.2	0.3	10.3	0.4	3.8	0.2	0.5	58.8	3.8	100.0
Region													
Northern	11.8	16.7	0.0	5.5	0.6	11.6	1.4	4.3	0.1	1.3	33.6	13.1	100.0
Central	3.9	9.8	0.0	9.2	0.5	15.4	0.3	3.0	0.2	0.4	56.7	0.4	100.0
Southern	4.3	7.3	0.1	6.8	0.2	12.3	0.1	5.8	0.2	0.6	57.6	4.6	100.0
Sex of Household Head													
Male	5.0	8.5	0.1	8.6	0.4	15.3	0.4	4.4	0.2	0.7	52.7	3.6	100.0
Female	4.9	12.2	0.1	5.5	0.3	9.4	0.1	4.1	0.2	0.3	59.2	3.7	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head													
Never married	3.0	7.5	0.1	5.3	0.1	28.3	0.1	9.8		3.2	40.1	2.5	100.0
Married	4.9	8.6	0.1	8.6	0.5	14.6	0.4	4.2	0.2	0.6	53.7	3.8	100.0
Divorced/Separated	2.6	9.3	0.0	4.3	0.3	11.2	0.1	5.5	0.3	0.6	62.6	3.2	100.0
Widow/Widower	10.2	17.8	0.2	6.8	0.3	6.9	0.0	2.5	0.1	0.3	51.4	3.5	100.0
Education of Household Head													
None	10.5	15.8	0.1	4.4	0.3	5.8	0.3	3.1	0.3	0.1	57.5	1.9	100.0

Primary	4.7	9.3	0.1	6.1	0.4	10.5	0.3	4.1	0.2	0.4	59.9	3.9	100.0
Secondary	3.2	8.0	0.1	10.2	0.5	21.5	0.4	5.1	0.2	0.9	45.9	3.9	100.0
Tertiary	1.3	0.9	0.0	29.4	0.3	37.8	0.2	6.2	0.2	3.6	16.8	3.3	100.0
District													
Chitipa	31.3	1.7	0.1	5.8		7.2	0.2	2.3		0.7	50.1	0.6	100.0
Karonga	28.4		0.1	6.1	0.1	13.0	0.2	2.7		0.4	48.6	0.4	100.0
Nkhatabay	16.7	15.1		5.3	1.1	13.6	1.0	5.6	0.0	0.7	37.6	3.1	100.0
Rumphi	6.7	35.0	0.1	4.0	1.4	13.9	2.1	5.6	0.2	0.9	18.9	11.2	100.0
Mzimba	3.0	24.6		2.6	0.2	5.8	2.2	4.1	0.1	2.1	30.9	24.4	100.0
Likoma	4.5	14.5		26.4	0.8	17.1		5.8		0.6	24.6	5.7	100.0
Mzuzu City	1.3	3.9		23.3	2.7	46.1	0.1	8.7	0.3	0.3	6.7	6.6	100.0
Kasungu	3.2	5.4	0.1	8.2	0.8	15.5	0.9	3.8	0.6	1.0	59.4	1.2	100.0
Nkhotakota	14.6	10.5	0.1	4.1	0.2	11.7		1.6		0.2	56.5	0.4	100.0
Ntchisi	2.6	5.5		3.0	1.7	5.9	0.1	1.7		0.6	78.8	0.0	100.0
Dowa	1.2	20.9	0.1	9.6	0.5	18.3	0.3	1.3		0.5	47.3	0.0	100.0
Salima	25.9	6.1		6.3	1.6	10.7		1.7		0.1	47.1	0.4	100.0
Lilongwe	3.2	3.7		10.7	0.5	13.9	0.6	3.6	0.2	0.3	63.2	0.1	100.0
Mchinji	1.5	0.5		9.2	0.6	16.7	0.1	1.7	0.2	0.6	66.3	2.5	100.0
Dedza	1.7	16.1	0.1	4.3	0.4	9.9	0.1	2.8	0.1	0.3	64.1	0.0	100.0
Ntcheu	2.4	27.9		2.8		6.7		3.3		0.1	56.7	0.1	100.0
Lilongwe City	2.5	2.1		25.0	0.1	38.3		6.1	0.5	0.5	24.6	0.2	100.0
Mangochi	7.8	5.6		5.7	0.3	10.9		9.3	0.1	0.2	59.4	0.7	100.0
Machinga	9.2	9.9	0.2	3.2	0.2	9.5	0.3	3.4	0.5	0.8	58.5	4.3	100.0
Zomba Non-City	2.2	11.0	0.2	3.8		9.5		6.4	0.2	1.0	55.4	10.4	100.0
Chiradzulu	1.6	14.0	0.1	4.3	0.0	7.0		4.1	0.1		66.8	1.9	100.0
Blantyre	3.2	8.6	0.1	6.7		12.3		7.7	0.6	0.1	47.0	13.8	100.0
Mwanza	2.7	7.3		4.9	0.0	6.4	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.1	76.1	0.1	100.0
Thyolo	0.8	10.9	0.3	6.4		8.8	0.3	5.5	0.2	1.2	64.0	1.5	100.0
Mulanje	1.3	5.3	0.1	6.6	0.4	4.9		3.0	0.2	0.7	69.1	8.6	100.0
Phalombe	0.8	3.5	0.2	6.8	0.5	7.7		2.2		0.3	67.5	10.5	100.0
Chikwawa	9.4	5.1	0.1	9.8	0.2	15.4		5.2			54.7	0.1	100.0
Nsanje	8.9	2.2	0.2	9.7	0.1	21.0	0.1	3.4		0.6	53.2	0.7	100.0
Balaka	3.6	7.5	0.1	7.4	0.5	9.3		7.1		0.1	62.8	1.6	100.0
Neno	4.0	6.0	0.1	8.2		6.7	0.5	3.7	0.1	1.0	69.3	0.4	100.0
Zomba City	0.4	8.7	0.1	16.4		39.3	0.4	6.9		1.8	19.0	7.0	100.0
Blantyre City	1.0	4.7		14.6	0.4	42.0		11.6	0.5	2.5	18.8	3.9	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	8.6	11.1	0.2	2.8	2.2	31.2		22.1	0.2	6.6	7.1	7.8	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.3: Average Cultivated Plot Size (Acres) and Percentage Distribution of Plots by Size (Acres) during the rainy season, IHS6 2024–2025

	Plot size (Acres)	Plot sizes in Acres				
		0–1 acres	1–2 acres	2–4 acres	4–6 acres	6 and above acres
Malawi	0.9	73.4	20.5	4.9	0.6	0.5
Place of Residence						
Urban	1.2	70.9	19.3	5.8	1.5	2.4
Rural	0.8	73.6	20.6	4.8	0.6	0.3
Region						
Northern	1.1	64.9	25.9	7.1	1.2	0.9
Central	1.0	67.4	24.9	6.2	0.8	0.6
Southern	0.7	82.1	14.5	2.9	0.3	0.2
Sex of Household Head						
Male	0.9	71.3	22.0	5.5	0.7	0.5
Female	0.8	78.7	17.0	3.4	0.5	0.3
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	0.8	78.7	14.6	5.0	1.2	0.5
Married	0.9	71.5	21.9	5.4	0.6	0.5
Divorced/Separated	0.7	81.6	15.4	2.5	0.2	0.2
Widow/Widower	0.8	75.3	18.7	4.5	1.0	0.5
Education of Household Head						
None	0.8	73.8	21.4	3.9	0.7	0.2
Primary	0.8	74.5	20.2	4.5	0.6	0.3
Secondary	1.0	71.0	21.1	6.5	0.7	0.8
Tertiary	1.4	70.1	19.8	5.6	1.6	2.9
District						
Chitipa	1.1	61.5	29.6	7.0	1.7	0.2
Karonga	0.8	77.7	17.6	3.7	0.7	0.3
Nkhatabay	1.0	77.9	13.4	4.5	1.5	2.8
Rumphi	1.0	65.8	24.2	8.5	0.7	0.7
Mzimba	1.1	62.2	27.7	7.7	1.3	1.0
Likoma	0.3	97.1	2.9			
Mzuzu City	1.8	62.8	27.2	6.4	1.3	2.4
Kasungu	1.2	54.6	33.1	9.7	1.7	0.9
Nkhotakota	0.9	76.7	19.0	3.1	0.3	0.9
Ntchisi	1.2	55.4	33.6	8.7	1.1	1.2
Dowa	1.1	61.7	28.1	8.5	1.3	0.3
Salima	1.1	59.2	31.2	8.5	0.6	0.5
Lilongwe	0.8	73.7	21.7	4.2	0.1	0.3
Mchinji	1.1	61.5	30.1	6.7	0.8	1.0
Dedza	0.8	77.4	18.7	2.6	1.0	0.3
Ntcheu	0.8	75.5	19.4	4.8	0.3	
Lilongwe City	1.3	68.5	18.1	8.8	1.4	3.2
Mangochi	0.9	70.3	20.9	7.7	0.6	0.5
Machinga	0.7	82.5	14.7	2.0	0.2	0.6
Zomba Non-City	0.6	85.9	13.2	0.9		0.1
Chiradzulu	0.5	90.7	8.9	0.2	0.1	
Blantyre	0.6	82.4	15.3	2.4		
Mwanza	1.0	59.9	31.6	7.9	0.6	
Thyolo	0.4	93.5	5.7	0.8		
Mulanje	0.5	90.7	8.2	1.0		
Phalombe	0.5	90.4	8.9	0.6	0.1	
Chikwawa	1.0	69.5	22.2	7.1	1.1	0.1
Nsanje	0.8	80.5	15.4	3.7	0.5	
Balaka	0.7	76.7	20.0	3.0		0.3
Neno	1.1	56.3	32.3	9.0	2.1	0.3

Zomba City	0.8	82.3	15.3	1.1		1.2
Blantyre City	0.8	84.3	14.6	0.6	0.5	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 8.4: Proportion of Plots by Type of Labour Input Used in Various Non-harvest Agricultural Activities, IHS6 2024-2025

	Male household labor	Female household labor	Child household labor	Hired labor	Exchanged labor
Malawi	74.8	89.8	20.8	23.9	31.8
Place of Residence					
Urban	64.1	75.4	9.2	59.2	49.0
Rural	75.6	90.8	21.6	21.5	30.6
Region					
Northern	74.6	87.7	18.4	26.1	29.6
Central	77.9	88.3	16.5	26.9	32.1
Southern	71.6	91.9	26.0	20.2	32.1
Sex of Household Head					
Male	88.9	87.9	18.2	25.4	30.0
Female	39.9	94.5	27.4	20.2	36.4
Education of Household Head					
None	67.2	90.6	27.0	13.2	33.1
Primary	76.2	91.4	22.1	19.1	30.4
Secondary	77.2	87.6	15.6	36.7	34.1
Tertiary	60.7	67.2	4.9	79.2	36.7
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	62.5	44.8	8.6	31.8	37.1
Married	85.9	91.5	19.7	25.2	30.6
Divorced/Separated	40.6	85.0	25.0	17.4	34.4
Widow/Widower	43.9	89.7	24.3	23.5	36.8
District					
Chitipa	83.8	92.6	18.3	16.6	20.5
Karonga	83.8	92.5	15.1	14.4	21.3
Nkhatabay	83.9	91.7	29.6	18.7	20.4
Rumphi	74.0	83.5	15.7	33.0	28.1
Mzimba	71.2	87.2	19.5	27.2	33.7
Likoma	58.7	98.5	4.8	3.5	2.6
Mzuzu City	62.3	73.7	9.4	60.1	34.6
Kasungu	77.1	83.9	16.7	28.4	26.4
Nkhotakota	84.3	92.1	22.4	20.5	19.9
Ntchisi	76.4	87.4	19.7	23.6	20.8
Dowa	87.3	91.5	14.3	24.2	26.7
Salima	75.8	87.2	19.1	15.0	20.3
Lilongwe	78.9	91.6	16.4	26.7	36.2
Mchinji	79.9	91.3	18.7	25.4	28.2
Dedza	76.1	89.6	15.4	26.3	34.8
Ntcheu	72.7	87.4	20.5	21.1	43.9
Lilongwe City	61.3	70.3	6.2	61.9	46.9
Mangochi	68.1	92.2	24.0	15.5	39.6
Machinga	72.3	93.5	28.9	29.3	37.0
Zomba Non-City	73.3	92.2	32.8	22.5	30.6
Chiradzulu	71.2	92.2	28.3	12.2	20.3
Blantyre	68.6	84.2	30.1	20.4	30.7
Mwanza	75.2	92.9	24.1	16.4	44.2
Thyolo	68.1	92.3	25.1	11.7	26.7
Mulanje	72.5	95.4	16.4	14.3	25.6

Phalombe	73.9	95.0	19.3	16.2	30.8
Chikwawa	80.7	90.3	37.5	27.4	34.4
Nsanje	79.1	94.9	38.5	18.8	36.1
Balaka	68.0	89.4	24.5	21.6	27.4
Neno	74.4	90.1	26.0	16.6	35.4
Zomba City	61.0	79.3	13.3	62.1	29.9
Blantyre City	57.7	77.9	12.7	59.8	45.4
Dzaleka Camp	81.6	88.7	20.8	37.7	20.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 8.5: Percentage Distribution of Plots by Method of Land Preparation for Planting on [Plot] during the 2018/2019 Rainy Season, IHS6 2024–2025

	Traditional Ridging	Tied or Box Ridging	Planting Pits	Zero Tillage	Ripping	Minimum Tillage	Other
Malawi	91.2	2.4	1.0	3.3	0.4	1.3	0.4
Place of Residence							
Urban	91.2	4.7	0.9	1.3	0.4	1.0	0.4
Rural	91.2	2.3	1.0	3.4	0.4	1.3	0.4
Region							
Northern	95.9	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.9	1.3
Central	96.8	1.2	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.3
Southern	84.1	4.2	1.5	7.1	0.6	2.2	0.3
Sex of Household Head							
Male	91.0	2.4	1.0	3.5	0.3	1.4	0.4
Female	91.6	2.6	1.0	2.8	0.5	1.0	0.3
Education of Household Head							
None	89.5	1.9	1.6	3.9	0.7	2.1	0.4
Primary	90.9	2.5	1.1	3.5	0.4	1.3	0.4
Secondary	92.5	2.7	0.7	2.8	0.2	0.7	0.4
Tertiary	94.3	2.6	0.8	1.9		0.1	0.3
Marital Status of Household Head							
Never married	94.0	3.2	0.8	1.4		0.5	
Married	91.2	2.3	0.9	3.5	0.4	1.3	0.4
Divorced/Separated	91.8	2.7	1.1	2.5	0.4	1.0	0.6
Widow/Widower	90.1	3.0	1.5	3.1	0.6	1.5	0.2
District							
Chitipa	96.4	0.8			0.7		2.0
Karonga	78.2	4.1		0.6	3.6	4.5	8.9
Nkhatabay	92.4		1.9	3.1		2.5	
Rumphi	99.2	0.2	0.5	0.2			
Mzimba	98.7	0.1	0.3	0.1		0.5	0.2
Likoma	88.5		3.0	5.6	2.0	1.0	
Mzuzu City	95.0	1.0	0.3	2.1	0.8	0.8	
Kasungu	97.4	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.8
Nkhotakota	91.3	1.2	2.8	1.6	1.4	1.9	
Ntchisi	98.5	1.5					
Dowa	99.5	0.1	0.1			0.1	0.2
Salima	93.2	1.4	0.8	2.2	0.1	2.3	
Lilongwe	96.6	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.7	0.1
Mchinji	98.3	0.5	0.8		0.3		
Dedza	94.8	1.2	1.8	0.9		0.2	1.1
Ntcheu	98.7	0.6	0.7				
Lilongwe City	92.4	5.3	1.5	0.1		0.4	0.2
Mangochi	94.4	1.0	0.9	1.1	2.4	0.2	
Machinga	85.1	3.5		11.2		0.2	

Zomba Non-City	92.4	3.2	0.2	3.7		0.6	
Chiradzulu	78.1	21.9					
Blantyre	88.1	6.8	0.4	4.8			
Mwanza	96.1		1.4	2.1		0.4	
Thyolo	84.4	15.0	0.1	0.3		0.3	
Mulanje	93.0	0.6	2.8	1.5		1.0	1.1
Phalombe	88.6	0.8	4.5	1.8	0.2	3.0	1.0
Chikwawa	43.4		2.4	39.5	0.4	14.3	
Nsanje	38.0	0.4	0.3	44.1	0.2	17.1	
Balaka	88.9	1.0	3.5	2.3	3.6	0.5	0.3
Neno	90.6	0.3	5.5	2.6		0.9	
Zomba City	95.0	4.7		0.3			
Blantyre City	86.8	13.2					
Dzaleka Camp	99.0	0.5	0.5				

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 8.6: Proportion of Plots by Equipment Used for Land Preparation, IHS6 2024-2025

	Hand Hoe	Animal Power	Mechanical Power
Malawi	91.7	17.4	0.5
Place of Residence			
Urban	94.5	29.1	3.0
Rural	91.5	16.8	0.4
Region			
Northern	95.1	75.1	
Central	95.2	5.6	1.0
Southern	87.2	1.1	0.3
Sex of Household Head			
Male	91.6	18.3	0.6
Female	92.1	14.8	0.1
Education of Household Head			
None	89.4	9.6	
Primary	91.4	18.3	0.2
Secondary	93.9	20.1	1.2
Tertiary	91.4	24.7	5.9
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	93.4	13.1	
Married	91.7	18.8	0.6
Divorced/Separated	92.7	9.0	0.3
Widow/Widower	90.4	17.1	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 8.7: Proportion of Plots by Various Non Labour Input Use, IHS6 2024-2025

	Organic Fertilizers	Inorganic Fertilizers	No Fertilizers	Pesticides	Irrigation
Malawi	29.8	48.9	39.8	7.2	0.9
Place of Residence					
Urban	34.6	67.0	22.8	7.3	0.4
Rural	29.5	47.7	41.0	7.2	0.9
Region					
Northern	14.8	51.9	45.0	7.5	0.2
Central	28.5	55.3	37.0	7.7	1.3

Southern	35.0	41.2	41.6	6.6	0.6
Sex of Household Head					
Male	28.9	50.6	39.2	8.5	0.9
Female	32.1	44.7	41.5	4.0	0.7
Education of Household Head					
None	27.2	40.7	45.6	4.4	0.6
Primary	30.0	47.2	41.2	6.3	1.1
Secondary	31.1	56.2	34.3	10.5	0.5
Tertiary	27.1	65.4	29.1	12.2	0.6
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	28.9	49.7	38.8	4.3	0.8
Married	29.4	50.9	38.7	8.2	0.9
Divorced/Separated	32.4	40.3	44.1	5.4	1.1
Widow/Widower	29.2	46.4	42.1	2.8	0.2
District					
Chitipa	5.2	56.5	41.6	5.8	
Karonga	4.6	39.1	56.9	12.7	
Nkhatabay	9.0	47.2	46.6	4.1	1.4
Rumphi	23.3	62.4	33.5	12.4	0.1
Mzimba	16.9	50.0	47.3	5.6	0.3
Likoma	40.7	61.2	13.7		
Mzuzu City	20.5	73.6	22.2	14.3	0.2
Kasungu	20.9	42.2	50.8	3.9	0.8
Nkhotakota	21.1	60.2	28.5	5.9	2.8
Ntchisi	22.3	49.0	44.8	7.2	0.7
Dowa	28.6	62.9	32.1	15.1	4.7
Salima	36.2	45.8	39.7	7.1	
Lilongwe	32.8	56.1	36.1	7.1	0.7
Mchinji	23.8	49.2	45.3	9.2	0.3
Dedza	32.6	61.3	31.4	6.3	1.2
Ntcheu	25.4	55.7	33.6	6.9	
Lilongwe City	32.5	66.5	25.2	3.3	0.6
Mangochi	34.8	45.7	39.9	2.1	0.1
Machinga	36.3	47.1	37.0	3.5	1.8
Zomba Non-City	46.0	55.2	24.9	5.3	1.2
Chiradzulu	36.3	54.9	28.0	2.1	0.3
Blantyre	37.2	49.9	31.7	5.0	
Mwanza	45.2	42.1	31.4	0.8	1.2
Thyolo	33.1	57.3	31.8	7.0	0.7
Mulanje	39.2	29.2	45.8	5.0	0.6
Phalombe	39.3	32.1	44.7	3.2	0.4
Chikwawa	10.4	9.6	83.3	31.0	0.2
Nsanje	4.1	9.6	87.3	18.4	
Balaka	39.1	35.4	43.2	4.1	0.5
Neno	39.5	42.5	30.0	1.6	0.3
Zomba City	40.4	68.9	15.0	0.8	
Blantyre City	43.7	75.1	12.3	9.0	
Dzaleka Camp	51.9	78.8	15.6	39.6	0.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 8.8: Table 8-8: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated Plots by Type of Crop Stand, IHS6 2024-2025

	Mixed Intercrop	Pure Stand	Strip Intercrop	Row Intercrop	Relay Intercrop	Total
Malawi	56.6	33.2	2.6	5.5	2.1	100.0
Place of Residence						
Urban	48.6	40.3	1.5	6.4	3.2	100.0

Rural	57.1	32.8	2.7	5.5	2.0	100.0
Region						
Northern	27.4	66.8	1.1	4.1	0.5	100.0
Central	31.9	63.1	2.5	1.3	1.3	100.0
Southern	74.3	12.0	2.9	8.1	2.8	100.0
Sex of Household Head						
Male	53.3	36.5	2.8	5.3	2.1	100.0
Female	63.6	26.0	2.2	6.1	2.0	100.0
Education of Household Head						
None	61.2	28.0	2.2	6.2	2.4	100.0
Primary	57.3	32.7	2.7	5.4	1.9	100.0
Secondary	52.8	36.5	2.8	5.6	2.3	100.0
Tertiary	44.1	47.5	1.8	3.4	3.3	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	47.9	40.9	2.8	7.1	1.4	100.0
Married	54.6	35.3	2.8	5.3	2.0	100.0
Divorced/Separated	61.2	27.6	2.3	6.3	2.6	100.0
Widow/Widower	64.0	26.4	1.6	5.8	2.3	100.0
District						
Chitipa	15.8	81.0	1.3	1.9		100.0
Karonga	8.4	88.8		1.3	1.5	100.0
Nkhatabay	10.1	70.0	1.0	18.5	0.4	100.0
Rumphi	29.8	66.0	0.2	3.0	0.9	100.0
Mzimba	33.1	60.8	1.4	4.2	0.4	100.0
Likoma	13.5	86.5				100.0
Mzuzu City	25.4	64.0	2.8	6.9	1.0	100.0
Kasungu	13.0	83.0	2.5	0.7	0.8	100.0
Nkhotakota	2.8	85.9		11.3		100.0
Ntchisi	4.6	94.1	0.9	0.4		100.0
Dowa	28.3	67.3	1.5	2.6	0.3	100.0
Salima	1.3	96.7	0.5	1.2	0.2	100.0
Lilongwe	31.2	63.5	3.0	0.8	1.5	100.0
Mchinji	17.1	70.7	10.8	0.3	1.1	100.0
Dedza	52.1	44.4	1.2	1.1	1.2	100.0
Ntcheu	58.6	37.1	0.9	0.1	3.3	100.0
Lilongwe City	38.7	55.9	0.9	2.9	1.7	100.0
Mangochi	68.1	13.8	7.9	8.9	1.3	100.0
Machinga	78.5	13.8	2.4	0.5	4.9	100.0
Zomba Non-City	79.6	11.0	2.5	1.4	5.5	100.0
Chiradzulu	54.1	10.4	0.9	34.0	0.6	100.0
Blantyre	82.1	11.6	1.9	4.0	0.5	100.0
Mwanza	93.2	5.5	0.3	0.4	0.6	100.0
Thyolo	57.7	10.3	0.3	29.1	2.6	100.0
Mulanje	77.7	12.3	0.7	7.0	2.3	100.0
Phalombe	79.1	12.4	0.3	6.2	2.0	100.0
Chikwawa	78.7	9.4	4.9	2.9	4.1	100.0
Nsanje	82.4	7.8	4.1	3.3	2.4	100.0
Balaka	71.3	13.7	5.7	6.7	2.7	100.0
Neno	88.2	10.5		0.5	0.8	100.0
Zomba City	69.6	20.8	2.2	0.2	7.1	100.0
Blantyre City	59.6	21.5	1.2	15.4	2.3	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	56.1	30.1	10.1	2.0	1.7	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.9: Proportion of Plots Intercropped during the Reference Rainy Season and Number of Crops Intercropped, IHS6 2024-2025

	Intercropped plots	Number of crops				Total
		Second Crop	Third Crop	Fourth Crop	Fifth Crop	
Malawi	40.4	54.2	28.3	11.0	6.5	100.0
Place of Residence						
Urban	34.0	64.8	20.4	10.2	4.6	100.0
Rural	40.9	53.6	28.7	11.1	6.6	100.0
Region						
Northern	16.4	81.2	15.9	2.9		100.0
Central	18.5	80.6	18.3	0.7	0.3	100.0
Southern	69.6	45.2	31.8	14.4	8.6	100.0
Sex of Household Head						
Male	37.3	55.8	27.2	11.1	6.0	100.0
Female	48.2	51.2	30.4	11.0	7.5	100.0
Education of Household Head						
None	45.3	51.1	28.0	13.2	7.7	100.0
Primary	41.0	53.6	29.1	10.6	6.8	100.0
Secondary	37.2	57.3	26.4	10.9	5.3	100.0
Tertiary	28.5	62.3	27.6	9.1	1.0	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	35.0	66.8	21.9	8.7	2.7	100.0
Married	38.4	55.5	27.2	11.2	6.2	100.0
Divorced/Separated	46.6	50.0	32.4	10.0	7.7	100.0
Widow/Widower	47.2	51.2	29.4	12.0	7.3	100.0
District						
Chitipa	8.7	92.2	7.8			100.0
Karonga	3.0	91.4	8.6			100.0
Nkhatabay	13.2	100.0				100.0
Rumphi	16.4	83.8	15.7	0.4		100.0
Mzimba	20.5	78.0	18.2	3.8		100.0
Likoma	4.7	43.5	31.5	25.0		100.0
Mzuzu City	19.8	92.1	3.8	4.1		100.0
Kasungu	7.2	100.0				100.0
Nkhotakota	6.2	100.0				100.0
Ntchisi	2.0	95.9	4.1			100.0
Dowa	13.4	78.7	21.3			100.0
Salima	0.4	100.0				100.0
Lilongwe	19.1	80.4	19.3	0.3		100.0
Mchinji	13.7	98.4	1.6			100.0
Dedza	32.4	72.2	26.5	1.3		100.0
Ntcheu	41.4	80.2	18.6	1.1		100.0
Lilongwe City	23.2	80.9	12.3	1.9	4.8	100.0
Mangochi	68.3	45.7	30.7	14.7	8.8	100.0
Machinga	67.4	42.8	29.9	15.4	12.0	100.0
Zomba Non-City	72.9	43.7	36.0	14.4	5.8	100.0
Chiradzulu	67.5	42.4	42.6	14.7	0.3	100.0
Blantyre	70.8	43.9	37.3	13.7	5.0	100.0
Mwanza	84.6	34.8	45.5	17.0	2.7	100.0
Thyolo	67.5	58.2	35.1	4.8	1.9	100.0
Mulanje	70.5	53.8	26.3	13.1	6.8	100.0
Phalombe	69.0	51.6	27.2	11.7	9.5	100.0
Chikwawa	73.1	28.2	21.8	25.7	24.3	100.0
Nsanje	77.0	30.1	32.1	21.8	16.0	100.0
Balaka	67.6	38.0	34.6	17.5	10.0	100.0
Neno	74.3	47.5	36.8	13.4	2.4	100.0
Zomba City	60.9	64.2	30.2	4.7	0.8	100.0

Blantyre City	56.1	57.2	39.2	2.1	1.5	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	40.3	94.1	5.9			100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.10: Proportion of Households which Received any Input Coupon and Use Status of the Coupon, IHS6 2024-2025

	Enrolled on AIP	Redeemed Input	Shared input purchased with a fellow farmer
Malawi	22.0	69.7	17.3
Place of Residence			
Urban	15.7	59.1	13.6
Rural	22.6	70.4	17.5
Region			
Northern	21.5	88.1	6.0
Central	30.6	67.6	11.8
Southern	13.8	67.6	33.5
Sex of Household Head			
Male	22.3	70.5	14.7
Female	21.2	67.7	23.7
Education of Household Head			
None	23.6	68.5	23.8
Primary	23.1	68.9	16.1
Secondary	19.4	73.8	16.6
Tertiary	8.0	50.4	
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	10.0	65.4	27.2
Married	22.8	70.3	15.3
Divorced/Separated	17.5	62.2	29.4
Widow/Widower	24.8	74.3	17.5
District			
Chitipa	20.3	90.3	4.8
Karonga	8.5	80.0	5.2
Nkhatabay	14.3	90.5	5.4
Rumphi	30.4	95.0	1.0
Mzimba	26.7	87.2	7.6
Likoma	19.7	66.2	51.7
Mzuzu City	4.9	62.1	6.4
Kasungu	20.1	77.4	7.1
Nkhotakota	16.9	100.0	13.3
Ntchisi	23.1	87.7	10.2
Dowa	27.6	73.6	15.6
Salima	15.0	82.0	36.1
Lilongwe	45.8	57.6	8.4
Mchinji	25.5	63.5	7.0
Dedza	36.5	63.0	14.4
Ntcheu	32.3	80.6	9.9
Lilongwe City	22.9	59.9	15.5
Mangochi	13.9	84.5	34.1
Machinga	17.7	81.5	49.1
Zomba Non-City	19.3	64.5	42.1
Chiradzulu	12.4	82.1	36.3
Blantyre	18.5	59.8	42.1
Mwanza	11.4	87.8	16.5
Thyolo	9.1	73.4	32.4
Mulanje	3.8	44.2	28.1

Phalombe	14.1	65.0	12.7
Chikwawa	17.2	28.0	6.3
Nsanje	15.6	44.4	8.3
Balaka	17.9	75.8	24.7
Neno	7.5	80.0	15.2
Zomba City	8.3	54.3	48.3
Blantyre City	9.1	41.6	39.4
Dzaleka Camp	12.0	76.5	35.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.11: Percentage Distribution of Cultivated Plots by Maize Seed Variety, IHS6 2024-2025

	Local	Hybrid	OPV	Recycled	Total
Malawi	48.3	38.5	0.3	12.9	100.0
Place of Residence					
Urban	31.0	58.9	0.2	9.8	100.0
Rural	49.7	36.8	0.3	13.1	100.0
Region					
Northern	39.1	58.7		2.1	100.0
Central	38.8	44.8	0.4	16.0	100.0
Southern	58.7	28.9	0.3	12.1	100.0
Sex of Household Head					
Male	45.5	41.4	0.4	12.8	100.0
Female	54.9	31.7	0.2	13.2	100.0
Education of Household Head					
None	55.4	30.3	0.3	14.0	100.0
Primary	51.5	35.0	0.3	13.1	100.0
Secondary	38.4	48.6	0.4	12.6	100.0
Tertiary	25.3	71.2		3.5	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	48.4	40.7	0.2	10.7	100.0
Married	45.7	41.4	0.3	12.7	100.0
Divorced/Separated	56.2	29.1	0.3	14.4	100.0
Widow/Widower	55.4	31.5	0.5	12.6	100.0
District					
Chitipa	37.5	61.2		1.3	100.0
Karonga	42.8	53.9		3.3	100.0
Nkhatabay	27.2	66.3		6.5	100.0
Rumphi	40.5	59.3		0.2	100.0
Mzimba	40.8	56.8		2.4	100.0
Likoma	20.1	78.5		1.4	100.0
Mzuzu City	27.1	71.4		1.5	100.0
Kasungu	38.4	40.6		21.0	100.0
Nkhotakota	43.9	50.8		5.3	100.0
Ntchisi	42.3	37.5	0.1	20.0	100.0
Dowa	42.6	44.6	0.2	12.5	100.0
Salima	60.8	27.2	1.2	10.8	100.0
Lilongwe	42.0	45.0	0.7	12.3	100.0
Mchinji	26.7	59.9	0.5	12.9	100.0
Dedza	37.0	44.7	0.5	17.8	100.0
Ntcheu	35.3	38.0	0.1	26.7	100.0
Lilongwe City	20.6	63.8	0.3	15.3	100.0
Mangochi	52.2	22.1	0.4	25.3	100.0
Machinga	54.3	32.6	0.2	12.9	100.0
Zomba Non-City	41.8	42.7	1.0	14.4	100.0
Chiradzulu	65.5	34.1		0.5	100.0

Blantyre	52.0	28.5		19.5	100.0
Mwanza	77.1	21.8		1.1	100.0
Thyolo	68.9	26.5		4.5	100.0
Mulanje	64.4	26.6	0.1	8.9	100.0
Phalombe	71.4	19.0		9.6	100.0
Chikwawa	72.8	23.7		3.4	100.0
Nsanje	61.3	29.8		8.9	100.0
Balaka	55.0	25.3	1.9	17.8	100.0
Neno	67.6	30.2		2.2	100.0
Zomba City	24.1	63.4		12.5	100.0
Blantyre City	49.1	46.9		4.0	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	31.8	57.8		10.4	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.12: Proportion of Households that had the Harvested Maize Crop in Storage by Storage Method Used, IHS6 2024-2025

	Crop in storage	Bags in house	Heaped in house	Unprotected pile	Chitandala in house	Traditional Nkhokwe	Other	Total
Malawi	18.1	94.4	3.1	1.8	0.3	0.1	0.4	100.0
Place of Residence								
Urban	30.5	93.8	3.6	1.9			0.6	100.0
Rural	16.9	94.4	3.0	1.8	0.4	0.1	0.4	100.0
Region								
Northern	29.1	97.7	1.8	0.1		0.4		100.0
Central	22.7	91.9	4.1	2.9	0.6		0.5	100.0
Southern	11.2	97.3	1.8	0.5			0.4	100.0
Sex of Household Head								
Male	19.8	94.0	3.4	1.9	0.3	0.1	0.4	100.0
Female	14.1	95.6	2.0	1.5	0.4		0.5	100.0
Education of Household Head								
None	17.7	93.2	5.1		0.9		0.8	100.0
Primary	15.3	95.1	2.5	1.7	0.4	0.1	0.2	100.0
Secondary	22.9	94.7	2.5	2.8			0.0	100.0
Tertiary	41.9	88.2	6.1	2.2			3.5	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	18.1	100.0						100.0
Married	19.9	94.0	3.7	1.6	0.3	0.1	0.3	100.0
Divorced/Separated	11.8	95.9	0.9	2.9			0.3	100.0
Widow/Widower	15.2	94.4	0.7	2.8	1.0		1.0	100.0
District								
Chitipa	50.2	98.6	0.9	0.5				100.0
Karonga	24.8	100.0						100.0
Nkhatabay	17.4	97.1	2.9					100.0
Rumphi	33.2	94.8	2.7			2.5		100.0
Mzimba	24.0	97.5	2.5					100.0
Likoma	1.5	100.0						100.0
Mzuzu City	36.7	100.0						100.0
Kasungu	25.0	97.0					3.0	100.0
Nkhotakota	13.7	100.0						100.0
Ntchisi	32.1	99.1			0.9			100.0
Dowa	27.0	78.8	6.5	14.7				100.0
Salima	15.0	75.9	9.0	3.6	11.6			100.0
Lilongwe	22.1	92.0	6.8	1.2				100.0
Mchinji	23.2	96.2	3.8					100.0
Dedza	18.7	96.1	1.7	2.1				100.0
Ntcheu	16.3	100.0						100.0
Lilongwe City	37.9	90.2	6.6	1.9			1.3	100.0
Mangochi	18.3	100.0						100.0
Machinga	10.7	88.7	11.0	0.3				100.0

Zomba Non-City	16.5	95.5	2.5	2.0		100.0
Chiradzulu	12.6	100.0				100.0
Blantyre	5.2	100.0				100.0
Mwanza	12.9	97.0	3.0			100.0
Thyolo	8.2	100.0				100.0
Mulanje	4.3	97.3			2.7	100.0
Phalombe	4.7	100.0				100.0
Chikwawa	6.9	100.0				100.0
Nsanje	1.5	100.0				100.0
Balaka	9.5	93.2		1.8	5.0	100.0
Neno	12.8	100.0				100.0
Zomba City	26.5	93.4	4.1		2.5	100.0
Blantyre City	21.4	100.0				100.0
Dzaleka Camp	15.2	52.4	19.0	23.8	4.8	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.13: Percentage Distribution of Households by Treatment Methods Used to Protect the Harvested Maize Crop under Storage

	Applied storage pesticides	Dust	Liquid pesticides	Fumigants	Granules	Other
Malawi	62.3	54.2	38.2	0.7	6.8	0.1
Place of Residence						
Urban	75.2	62.2	29.1	0.8	7.4	0.5
Rural	60.1	52.5	40.1	0.6	6.7	0.1
Region						
Northern	69.4	60.3	33.7	0.7	5.0	0.3
Central	54.4	50.7	39.6	1.1	8.5	0.2
Southern	73.9	56.2	38.5	0.1	5.3	
Sex of Household Head						
Male	63.8	54.8	37.5	0.8	6.8	0.1
Female	57.6	52.1	40.6	0.3	6.7	0.4
Education of Household Head						
None	63.7	56.3	32.3	0.2	11.3	
Primary	57.3	51.3	42.5	0.7	5.5	
Secondary	68.7	54.3	37.7	0.8	6.7	0.4
Tertiary	68.3	70.6	21.8	0.6	7.0	
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	57.1	89.8	10.2			
Married	63.0	53.9	38.5	0.6	7.0	0.1
Divorced/Separated	57.1	50.1	38.1	2.0	8.9	0.9
Widow/Widower	62.7	56.1	39.8		4.1	
District						
Chitipa	74.3	52.5	44.4		3.1	
Karonga	47.2	67.3	25.1	7.6		
Nkhatabay	49.5	86.8	13.2			
Rumphi	62.4	75.9	18.0	2.7	0.9	2.5
Mzimba	74.4	58.4	33.2		8.4	
Likoma	100.0		100.0			
Mzuzu City	64.7	60.9	39.1			
Kasungu	68.4	91.4	8.6			
Nkhotakota	54.6	49.2	50.8			
Ntchisi	55.6	68.1	31.2		0.7	
Dowa	49.4	41.1	33.8		25.2	
Salima	43.1	51.0	16.2		32.8	
Lilongwe	44.7	34.8	55.4	2.7	7.1	
Mchinji	34.5	26.5	58.9	5.8	8.8	
Dedza	50.9	34.0	63.3		2.7	
Ntcheu	62.4	27.7	66.8		5.6	
Lilongwe City	81.4	64.3	23.9	1.6	9.2	1.0
Mangochi	73.3	69.4	14.6		16.0	
Machinga	80.1	73.9	26.1			
Zomba Non-City	74.3	70.6	29.4			
Chiradzulu	75.3	28.4	70.5	1.1		
Blantyre	73.7	24.8	75.2			
Mwanza	86.2	34.2	63.2		2.6	
Thyolo	89.9	20.7	79.3			
Mulanje	81.4	46.0	54.0			
Phalombe	85.0	25.0	75.0			
Chikwawa	14.8	74.9	25.1			
Nsanje	32.1	40.7	59.3			
Balaka	66.8	73.1	7.1		19.8	
Neno	70.9	42.7	57.3			
Zomba City	61.5	92.8	7.2			

Blantyre City	64.6	44.1	55.9	
Dzaleka Camp	57.1	58.3	25.0	16.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.14: Percentage Distribution of Plots Planted with Trees by Type, IHS6 2024-2025

	Mango	Cassava	Fuel Wood Trees	Banana	Pawpaw	Guava	Others	Avocado	Masau	Mexican Apple (Masuku)	Fertiliser Trees
Malawi	30.6	12.2	16.1	8.3	4.5	5.1	4.5	3.3	2.5	2.6	3.2
Place of Residence											
Urban	31.5	6.2	11.2	2.5	7.2	9.8	6.3	6.7	0.9	3.6	2.7
Rural	30.5	12.7	16.6	8.8	4.3	4.7	4.3	3.0	2.6	2.5	3.2
Region											
Northern	28.7	31.2	0.2	14.4	3.9	3.3	1.5	3.4	0.0	4.6	0.2
Central	24.0	3.8	34.5	6.6	2.6	5.5	7.1	1.3	0.9	1.9	6.4
Southern	37.2	16.5	1.6	8.7	6.5	5.0	2.5	5.2	4.5	2.8	0.6
Sex of Household Head											
Male	28.9	11.8	18.7	8.4	4.9	4.9	4.6	3.1	2.0	2.5	3.2
Female	34.2	13.0	10.4	8.1	3.8	5.4	4.3	3.6	3.5	2.8	3.0
Education of Household Head											
None	33.0	12.7	10.4	8.4	4.3	5.4	6.5	3.1	3.6	2.8	3.4
Primary	30.9	12.5	16.9	9.0	4.1	4.8	4.1	3.0	2.5	2.6	2.7
Secondary	28.7	11.9	18.2	7.1	5.6	5.5	4.0	3.3	2.1	2.2	4.1
Tertiary	26.4	6.0	13.6	4.4	6.2	6.8	5.7	9.1	1.0	3.8	5.1
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	34.4	7.1	18.7	5.6	5.2	5.4	10.9	1.6	2.9	2.7	1.9
Married	29.4	12.2	18.3	8.4	4.5	4.9	4.5	3.1	2.2	2.4	3.3
Divorced/Separated	33.9	12.7	11.3	7.3	4.5	5.6	4.3	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.9
Widow/Widower	32.8	12.2	8.9	9.9	4.5	5.4	3.9	4.4	3.7	3.3	2.4
District											
Chitipa	3.3	14.7		61.9	1.3			1.8			
Karonga	0.7	89.2		5.4			4.7				
Nkhatabay	11.1	68.2		11.3	2.2	0.7		1.4		0.4	
Rumphi	31.9	24.1	0.8	14.3	3.7	6.0	1.2	2.5		3.2	
Mzimba	43.4	10.2		17.5	4.2	3.0	1.2	1.8		8.1	0.5
Likoma	31.1	15.3	1.4	11.7	9.8	8.6	13.9		2.5	1.0	
Mzuzu City	23.0	3.7	1.0	3.9	11.6	11.4	2.6	27.0		5.8	
Kasungu	37.3	5.2	27.6	13.6	2.4	7.3	0.3	0.7		1.4	0.3
Nkhotakota	12.8	75.4		6.6		0.7	2.2				
Ntchisi	35.1	3.6		37.8	2.0	9.2		3.2		3.5	
Dowa	16.0	2.5	51.6	6.2	1.2	6.4	2.6	0.1		1.1	1.7
Salima	58.3			8.0		5.5	19.6		8.5		
Lilongwe	16.8	1.8	51.2	4.0	3.9	4.9	4.5	1.4		1.8	4.9
Mchinji	65.6	1.3		9.6		2.8	15.1			4.3	
Dedza	20.0	0.6	39.7	5.2	1.9	5.8	5.3	2.8	2.0	3.0	9.6
Ntcheu	30.3	0.8	12.6	7.8	1.9	2.7	19.6	1.3	3.0	1.1	17.0
Lilongwe City	24.9	2.2	25.0	1.2	6.0	11.0	9.5	0.5	0.2	3.5	4.8
Mangochi	45.1	17.2		11.0	3.1	5.0	2.3	3.4	4.0	4.6	
Machinga	40.4	15.0	0.4	10.9	1.6	9.0	2.0	5.1	3.9	3.8	

Zomba Non-City	37.9	6.3	0.5	10.2	8.6	7.6	2.5	7.5	4.7	5.0	
Chiradzulu	54.7	8.7		7.5	11.8	1.9	1.5	2.7	1.4	2.1	
Blantyre	49.9	8.8		7.0	7.9	3.0	1.9	4.8	4.8	2.1	
Mwanza	34.7	2.3	0.1	14.4	8.5	4.8	0.2	7.5	2.0	3.2	
Thyolo	35.0	32.1		8.4	6.4	2.6	1.5	4.2	0.2	0.8	
Mulanje	25.2	32.2	3.9	5.0	8.1	2.4	5.3	5.4		0.9	0.6
Phalombe	34.4	8.5	16.8	3.2	5.9	2.7	3.4	3.7	0.9	2.8	11.5
Chikwawa	33.9	8.0	0.2	14.5	9.0	3.1	0.9		22.0	0.7	
Nsanje	34.2	16.8		10.6	7.6	2.4	2.2	6.6	7.6	2.6	
Balaka	43.4	7.7	0.6	5.9	7.1	5.0	0.5		22.1	2.1	
Neno	31.1	3.2	2.6	16.5	3.6	7.5	2.6	7.4	6.6	3.4	
Zomba City	35.9	8.2		4.4	13.1	10.6	0.3	11.5	1.0	5.6	
Blantyre City	42.6	2.6		1.8	7.8	9.8	4.1	17.0	0.6	4.3	
Dzaleka Camp		25.0	25.0			25.0	12.5				12.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.15: Percentage Distribution of Plots Planted with Trees by Type, IHS6 2024-2025

	Orange	Lemon	Tangerine	Peach	Custard Apple (Poza)	Fodder Trees	Tea	Pineapple	Coffee	Macadamia
Malawi	1.5	1.4	0.7	1.5	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Place of Residence										
Urban	1.4	4.1	0.4	1.5	2.2	1.6				
Rural	1.5	1.1	0.7	1.5	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.1
Region										
Northern	4.7	1.6	0.6	0.7	0.4			0.2	0.3	0.1
Central	0.4	1.0	0.4	1.4	0.3	1.6			0.0	
Southern	1.8	1.7	0.9	1.7	1.6	0.1	0.8	0.1		0.1
Sex of Household Head										
Male	1.4	1.3	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
Female	1.6	1.4	1.0	1.8	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	
Education of Household Head										
None	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.2	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.0		
Primary	1.5	1.3	0.7	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0
Secondary	1.6	1.5	0.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
Tertiary	1.3	4.3	0.6	1.2	0.9	3.2				0.6
Marital Status of Household Head										
Never married	1.1		0.0	0.3	2.2					
Married	1.3	1.3	0.5	1.4	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1
Divorced/Separated	1.9	1.8	0.6	1.6	0.9	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.0
Widow/Widower	1.8	1.5	1.9	1.8	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.1		
District										
Chitipa									17.0	
Nkhatabay	1.4	1.7	1.3		0.3					

Rumphi	4.8	2.2	1.8		2.1		1.0	0.4
Mzimba	7.8	1.8		0.6				
Likoma	1.2				3.7			
Mzuzu City	2.5	2.2		5.4				
Kasungu	0.3	0.3	2.4			0.9		
Nkhotakota	0.7	0.7	0.7					
Ntchisi	0.8	1.8		2.4			0.6	
Dowa	0.9	1.2	0.3	5.6	0.3	2.4		
Lilongwe	0.5	1.2	0.1	0.2		2.8		
Mchinji			1.4					
Dedza	0.3	0.2	0.3	2.8		0.6		
Ntcheu		0.3		0.4	0.8	0.3		
Lilongwe City	0.8	5.0	0.1	0.4	1.2	3.7		
Mangochi	2.2		0.2		1.9			
Machinga	1.3	0.7	0.1	2.4	3.2			
Zomba Non-City	1.6	2.4	0.4	3.2	1.4			0.3
Chiradzulu	1.4	0.3		3.6	2.0	0.4		
Blantyre		3.3		1.1	4.4		1.0	
Mwanza	0.9	2.6	15.0	0.4	3.0	0.2	0.3	
Thyolo	2.9	1.2	0.4	3.7			0.2	0.4
Mulanje	2.3	1.9	0.3	0.8		0.5	4.9	0.4
Phalombe	2.4	1.2		1.0	0.8	0.9	0.4	
Chikwawa	0.5	2.9	2.1		2.1			
Nsanje	4.4	3.3		0.9		0.4	0.5	
Balaka	1.0	0.8			3.9			
Neno	1.4	2.2	9.0	0.9	2.1			
Zomba City	1.5	3.7	0.3	2.8	1.0			
Blantyre City	0.7	3.6		1.7	3.4			

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 8.16: Percentage Distribution of Households by Types of Livestock, IHS6 2024-2025

	Cattle	Chickens	Goats	Turkeys/ Guinea Fowls/ Quails	Pigs	Sheep	Ducks	Pigeons	Donkeys/ Horses/ Mules	Rabbits/ Guinea pigs	Bee keeping
Malawi	3.7	34.0	15.8	0.8	7.3	0.3	2.4	2.5	0.1	0.9	0.2
Place of Residence											
Urban	1.1	19.1	4.1	0.2	2.9	0.2	1.3	1.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
Rural	4.2	37.1	18.2	0.9	8.2	0.3	2.6	2.8	0.1	1.0	0.2
Region											
Northern	8.3	44.6	14.4	0.5	11.9	0.0	2.6	2.1	0.0	0.9	0.5
Central	3.5	33.6	17.3	0.6	11.3	0.4	2.2	1.8	0.2	0.9	0.2
Southern	2.6	31.7	14.8	1.0	2.3	0.3	2.5	3.3		0.8	0.0
Sex of Household Head											
Male	4.3	35.0	16.0	1.0	8.4	0.3	2.7	2.8	0.1	1.1	0.2
Female	2.1	31.6	15.5	0.3	4.6	0.2	1.4	1.9		0.4	
Education of Household Head											
None	3.4	32.8	21.0	0.6	4.2	0.6	2.3	2.9	0.1	0.6	
Primary	3.9	34.9	16.4	0.8	7.7	0.3	2.7	2.3	0.1	0.8	0.2
Secondary	3.4	33.9	13.4	0.9	8.4	0.1	1.8	2.7	0.1	1.1	0.0
Tertiary	2.1	26.8	7.0	0.7	3.9	0.1	1.2	3.0		0.7	0.4
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	0.8	12.6	5.8	0.3	2.6		0.6	1.5		0.2	
Married	4.6	37.0	16.8	1.0	8.9	0.4	2.8	2.9	0.1	1.1	0.2
Divorced/Separated	1.0	26.2	11.9	0.2	3.1	0.1	1.3	1.2		0.6	
Widow/Widower	2.3	32.7	18.2	0.4	4.2	0.4	1.4	2.0		0.1	
District											
Chitipa	12.0	44.2	13.6	0.6	14.0		0.2	2.1		1.6	
Karonga	13.3	28.1	12.7	0.2	6.3		3.9	1.3		0.2	
Nkhatabay	0.1	35.3	6.4		2.9		4.6	2.2		1.0	0.2
Rumphi	5.6	64.0	31.2	0.3	20.0	0.4	7.4	7.5	0.3	1.2	1.4
Mzimba	11.1	57.7	17.3	0.9	16.2		1.1	1.6		1.0	0.9
Likoma		34.7	13.0				15.6	0.5			
Mzuzu City	0.3	17.9	2.3	0.3	6.2		2.1	0.4			
Kasungu	2.6	42.1	18.2	1.0	9.3		2.1	3.5		0.3	
Nkhotakota	1.0	22.4	7.1	0.4	0.3	0.5	3.7	1.3			
Ntchisi	3.5	41.4	29.7	1.3	17.6	0.5	2.1	1.6		2.3	
Dowa	8.8	54.9	28.2	1.1	25.2	1.1	4.7	4.8	1.1	2.0	0.8
Salima	1.4	28.4	13.9		4.0	0.5	2.6	0.4		0.1	
Lilongwe	4.7	37.7	18.5	0.4	12.9	0.6	2.3	1.6	0.4	1.5	0.2
Mchinji	4.6	28.7	16.1	0.2	13.7		0.8	0.5		0.8	
Dedza	3.2	32.1	21.6	0.8	14.8	0.4	1.3	1.0		0.9	
Ntcheu	2.9	23.6	20.2	0.9	8.6		2.0	1.9		0.1	0.3

Lilongwe City	0.5	20.4	3.6	0.1	3.0	0.1	1.2	0.7	0.5	0.2
Mangochi	1.3	40.3	20.9	0.5	0.5	0.4	3.2	3.5	0.4	0.2
Machinga		36.3	13.9	1.1	0.2	1.4	3.0	8.6	0.8	
Zomba Non-City	1.5	34.8	17.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	3.6	6.7	1.4	
Chiradzulu	6.4	18.2	19.1	0.8	3.9		0.4	0.8	0.2	
Blantyre	0.3	20.9	10.5	0.5	0.7		1.3	1.7		
Mwanza	1.5	33.5	16.3	1.4	7.8	0.3	1.8	1.8	0.3	0.2
Thyolo	10.3	18.3	8.7	0.3	4.3		0.5	1.4	1.2	
Mulanje	1.0	30.5	11.1	1.3	6.2		1.4	2.7	2.0	
Phalombe	2.5	37.0	18.1	1.5	5.5	0.4	4.1	3.4	1.9	
Chikwawa	5.7	48.0	22.6	3.8	5.0		4.8	2.2	0.5	
Nsanje	4.7	53.7	19.4	3.9	2.0		5.6	5.8	0.9	
Balaka	0.8	47.1	24.4	0.3	0.8		2.6	3.3	0.8	
Neno	3.5	40.6	20.8		2.6	0.6	2.3	1.6	0.1	0.2
Zomba City		13.2	1.9	0.3	0.4		1.2	1.5	0.3	
Blantyre City	0.6	10.2	1.5	0.2	0.2		1.0	0.3	0.5	
Dzaleka Camp	0.5	23.1	3.4	0.3	5.7		1.6	1.0	2.1	

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.1: Proportion of Households by Adequacy of Food, Housing and Health Care

	Food Security		Housing		Health Care	
	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate	Inadequate	Adequate
Malawi	67.0	33.0	54.6	45.4	56.4	43.6
Place of Residence						
Urban	55.0	45.0	45.6	54.4	48.3	51.7
Rural	69.5	30.5	56.4	43.6	58.0	42.0
Region						
Northern	54.0	46.0	47.8	52.2	49.9	50.1
Central	60.2	39.8	51.0	49.0	53.3	46.7
Southern	76.8	23.2	59.6	40.4	60.9	39.1
Sex of Household Head						
Male	64.5	35.5	53.9	46.1	55.0	45.0
Female	73.0	27.0	56.3	43.7	59.7	40.3
Age of Household Head						
15 to 24	69.4	30.6	56.4	43.6	51.2	48.8
25 to 34	64.4	35.6	54.8	45.2	54.8	45.2
35 to 44	67.0	33.0	55.6	44.4	57.1	42.9
45 to 54	68.3	31.7	56.5	43.5	58.0	42.0
55 to 64	66.1	33.9	51.4	48.6	57.1	42.9
65+	71.0	29.0	49.9	50.1	60.3	39.7
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	48.6	51.4	38.3	61.7	44.3	55.7
Married	64.9	35.1	54.4	45.6	54.8	45.2
Divorced/Separated	75.5	24.5	59.1	40.9	61.6	38.4
Widow/Widower	73.1	26.9	53.1	46.9	62.4	37.6
Education of Household Head						
None	76.5	23.5	63.5	36.5	67.5	32.5
Primary	72.1	27.9	57.1	42.9	58.7	41.3
Secondary	57.7	42.3	48.8	51.2	50.3	49.7
Tertiary	27.5	72.5	28.1	71.9	28.2	71.8
District						
Chitipa	36.4	63.6	30.3	69.7	21.1	78.9
Karonga	58.4	41.6	50.5	49.5	30.0	70.0
Nkhatabay	59.0	41.0	50.6	49.4	41.1	58.9
Rumphi	53.1	46.9	47.3	52.7	63.6	36.4
Mzimba	57.5	42.5	54.8	45.2	66.7	33.3
Likoma	51.4	48.6	39.3	60.7	46.1	53.9
Mzuzu City	47.9	52.1	35.2	64.8	43.8	56.2
Kasungu	64.4	35.6	50.3	49.7	57.5	42.5
Nkhotakota	71.3	28.7	66.1	33.9	52.6	47.4
Ntchisi	55.9	44.1	46.6	53.4	51.3	48.7
Dowa	56.6	43.4	50.9	49.1	56.5	43.5
Salima	58.4	41.6	68.3	31.7	59.3	40.7
Lilongwe	59.0	41.0	50.6	49.4	51.3	48.7
Mchinji	61.5	38.5	36.1	63.9	48.1	51.9
Dedza	61.3	38.7	52.1	47.9	55.9	44.1
Ntcheu	65.6	34.4	52.9	47.1	56.1	43.9

Lilongwe City	54.5	45.5	47.0	53.0	48.2	51.8
Mangochi	75.1	24.9	69.9	30.1	77.5	22.5
Machinga	80.3	19.7	74.7	25.3	71.8	28.2
Zomba Non-City	82.6	17.4	65.7	34.3	75.8	24.2
Chiradzulu	80.3	19.7	54.3	45.7	61.9	38.1
Blantyre	82.8	17.2	61.0	39.0	64.3	35.7
Mwanza	61.4	38.6	53.1	46.9	49.3	50.7
Thyolo	79.6	20.4	54.5	45.5	57.0	43.0
Mulanje	78.7	21.3	41.4	58.6	32.1	67.9
Phalombe	82.1	17.9	43.7	56.3	30.2	69.8
Chikwawa	84.3	15.7	69.5	30.5	60.8	39.2
Nsanje	82.5	17.5	65.8	34.2	60.3	39.7
Balaka	75.6	24.4	65.6	34.4	75.6	24.4
Neno	64.1	35.9	53.6	46.4	45.7	54.3
Zomba City	68.3	31.7	44.6	55.4	58.5	41.5
Blantyre City	58.2	41.8	48.5	51.5	53.2	46.8
Dzaleka Camp	85.0	15.0	60.4	39.6	78.5	21.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.2: Percentage Distribution of Households Perceived Current Economic Well-being

	Self-Assessment				Compared to neighbors			Compared to friends		
	Very Poor	Poor	Average	Rich	Lower	Same	Higher	Lower	Same	Higher
Malawi	30.3	45.5	23.4	0.8	59.5	36.1	4.4	57.1	38.1	4.7
Place of Residence										
Urban	17.2	41.5	38.9	2.4	38.6	50.2	11.2	41.4	49.2	9.3
Rural	33.1	46.3	20.2	0.5	63.9	33.1	3.0	60.4	35.8	3.8
Region										
Northern	25.7	47.6	26.0	0.7	52.2	44.9	2.9	55.1	43.1	1.8
Central	28.6	46.0	24.3	1.1	60.1	35.3	4.6	54.6	39.1	6.2
Southern	33.2	44.5	21.8	0.5	60.9	34.5	4.6	60.0	35.9	4.1
Sex of Household Head										
Male	27.5	46.3	25.3	0.9	59.0	36.4	4.6	55.9	38.9	5.2
Female	37.2	43.5	18.7	0.7	60.8	35.4	3.8	60.0	36.3	3.6
Age of Household Head										
15 to 24	33.0	47.3	19.3	0.4	55.1	39.7	5.2	57.3	37.8	4.9
25 to 34	28.8	47.8	22.9	0.6	58.1	37.6	4.3	57.5	37.7	4.8
35 to 44	25.8	47.2	25.9	1.1	56.3	38.4	5.4	55.0	40.0	5.0
45 to 54	30.3	43.7	24.9	1.2	63.6	32.3	4.1	56.5	38.3	5.2
55 to 64	31.0	43.8	24.4	0.9	61.4	34.9	3.6	58.3	37.2	4.5
65+	43.5	37.9	18.5	0.1	66.9	30.3	2.8	61.3	35.7	3.1
Marital Status of Household Head										
Never married	23.0	41.3	33.8	1.8	50.2	42.9	7.0	50.8	43.9	5.2
Married	26.9	46.5	25.7	0.9	59.7	35.8	4.5	56.0	38.9	5.2
Divorced/Separated	39.6	44.6	15.4	0.4	58.8	36.9	4.3	61.2	35.0	3.7
Widow/Widower	41.8	40.9	16.7	0.6	62.7	34.3	3.0	60.6	36.4	3.0
Education of Household Head										
None	44.0	43.0	13.0	0.0	69.4	28.2	2.4	66.4	31.5	2.1
Primary	35.0	47.4	17.2	0.5	62.6	33.4	4.0	59.8	35.9	4.3
Secondary	18.2	46.1	34.8	1.0	52.6	42.4	5.0	51.4	42.7	5.9
Tertiary	2.5	24.1	66.8	6.6	30.9	57.1	12.0	28.2	60.5	11.3
District										
Chitipa	13.8	39.9	45.6	0.7	51.7	44.6	3.7	49.2	48.9	1.8
Karonga	25.0	45.6	29.1	0.3	55.3	43.7	1.0	55.8	43.4	0.8
Nkhatabay	28.5	50.9	20.6		70.7	28.7	0.6	68.3	31.5	0.2
Rumphi	28.0	51.0	21.0		52.7	43.8	3.5	58.1	39.9	2.0

Mzimba	31.3	49.4	18.3	1.0	51.9	45.0	3.2	56.3	41.7	2.0
Likoma	19.2	46.8	34.0		46.8	48.7	4.5	50.9	47.5	1.7
Mzuzu City	14.7	44.9	39.3	1.1	30.9	63.5	5.7	40.1	55.9	3.9
Kasungu	34.1	48.7	17.2		68.1	31.2	0.7	66.4	30.6	3.0
Nkhotakota	38.1	52.0	9.5	0.4	74.9	24.3	0.8	64.9	31.7	3.4
Ntchisi	37.0	37.2	24.4	1.4	73.5	24.8	1.7	60.5	34.3	5.2
Dowa	10.4	56.3	33.1	0.2	54.7	42.9	2.3	50.4	45.3	4.3
Salima	37.5	51.2	9.9	1.4	68.1	27.8	4.1	51.5	35.7	12.9
Lilongwe	30.8	42.9	24.9	1.3	60.4	33.9	5.7	49.5	43.7	6.8
Mchinji	26.9	54.2	18.7	0.2	61.7	35.1	3.3	60.5	36.9	2.6
Dedza	35.8	39.8	23.9	0.5	61.3	33.7	5.0	62.8	32.2	4.9
Ntcheu	35.7	41.1	23.1	0.1	69.3	30.3	0.4	62.6	36.2	1.2
Lilongwe City	14.3	43.1	38.5	4.1	36.3	50.5	13.2	37.4	48.6	13.9
Mangochi	17.3	54.5	27.4	0.9	54.2	42.6	3.2	58.6	37.1	4.2
Machinga	33.8	51.8	13.8	0.6	70.3	27.7	2.0	66.3	31.1	2.6
Zomba Non-City	30.2	47.3	22.0	0.5	58.6	37.6	3.8	58.7	38.3	3.0
Chiradzulu	47.6	43.1	8.7	0.6	74.6	22.3	3.1	69.3	27.5	3.2
Blantyre	41.2	42.3	16.0	0.5	60.0	33.5	6.5	60.5	36.2	3.4
Mwanza	31.3	41.5	26.2	1.0	65.4	32.5	2.1	56.1	39.6	4.3
Thyolo	53.1	35.0	11.7	0.1	73.0	23.3	3.7	70.1	26.5	3.4
Mulanje	35.6	43.1	21.4		64.0	30.1	5.8	60.8	35.1	4.1
Phalombe	38.9	43.7	16.7	0.8	64.9	31.8	3.3	63.1	32.8	4.1
Chikwawa	41.0	41.8	17.2		64.3	32.5	3.2	59.4	37.7	2.9
Nsanje	43.0	36.4	19.8	0.7	61.1	36.8	2.2	60.6	35.2	4.3
Balaka	19.9	51.6	28.3	0.2	63.1	34.7	2.2	60.5	36.9	2.6
Neno	29.6	38.6	31.0	0.8	54.7	41.3	4.0	54.3	39.9	5.8
Zomba City	10.2	41.6	46.1	2.1	36.4	55.9	7.7	39.1	52.3	8.6
Blantyre City	25.6	35.9	37.9	0.6	42.4	45.1	12.5	45.7	46.2	8.1
Dzaleka Camp	7.3	71.5	21.0	0.3	60.4	36.0	3.6	63.7	33.4	2.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.3: Percentage Distribution of Perceived Adequacy of Households' Current Income

	Income allows to build savings	Income allows to save just a little	Income only just meets expenses	Income not sufficient so need to use savings	Income really not sufficient so need to borrow
Malawi	3.6	14.4	41.3	15.4	25.4
Place of Residence					
Urban	7.1	17.0	45.3	13.6	17.0
Rural	2.8	13.9	40.4	15.8	27.1
Region					
Northern	6.8	18.9	44.1	19.1	11.1
Central	3.8	18.6	41.1	13.1	23.4
Southern	2.4	9.2	40.7	16.7	31.0
Sex of Household Head					
Male	4.0	15.9	40.8	15.2	24.1
Female	2.5	10.7	42.4	15.9	28.5
Age of Household Head					
15 to 24	1.7	12.9	41.0	13.2	31.2
25 to 34	4.1	16.0	42.3	13.8	23.8
35 to 44	3.9	14.4	40.7	14.4	26.6
45 to 54	4.1	14.7	39.7	16.4	25.1
55 to 64	3.9	15.6	39.8	16.6	24.2
65+	1.7	9.0	44.3	21.6	23.5
Marital Status of Household Head					
Never married	7.9	19.8	41.2	13.1	17.9

Married	3.9	15.7	40.7	15.1	24.6
Divorced/Separated	1.9	10.4	41.0	16.6	30.1
Widow/Widower	2.4	10.2	45.6	16.3	25.4
Education of Household Head					
None	2.0	8.4	36.4	23.3	29.9
Primary	2.4	12.8	42.6	15.0	27.2
Secondary	5.2	18.0	42.2	13.2	21.4
Tertiary	13.3	31.9	33.0	9.1	12.7
District					
Chitipa	2.9	23.8	47.7	17.5	8.1
Karonga	2.6	16.8	47.5	24.0	9.1
Nkhatabay	1.3	22.1	44.0	25.8	6.8
Rumphi	10.7	16.9	40.1	17.6	14.6
Mzimba	10.0	16.5	41.5	17.9	14.2
Likoma	7.1	27.5	46.4	13.4	5.6
Mzuzu City	7.8	22.7	48.4	12.6	8.5
Kasungu	2.2	24.7	33.0	13.1	27.0
Nkhotakota	0.4	11.7	46.1	22.9	18.8
Ntchisi	6.3	17.2	36.4	18.7	21.5
Dowa	5.7	29.8	40.1	5.5	18.8
Salima	1.8	7.2	58.8	5.4	26.8
Lilongwe	4.2	19.8	40.9	10.5	24.6
Mchinji	0.5	31.4	37.4	3.0	27.8
Dedza	4.7	10.3	38.9	21.1	25.0
Ntcheu	1.0	14.7	34.1	23.5	26.7
Lilongwe City	7.5	14.4	48.3	13.3	16.5
Mangochi	2.0	9.2	20.0	32.1	36.8
Machinga	2.6	3.0	40.1	20.7	33.5
Zomba Non-City	2.7	7.9	42.0	12.8	34.5
Chiradzulu	0.9	8.7	41.7	13.0	35.7
Blantyre	1.8	6.5	47.9	12.9	30.9
Mwanza	7.7	6.6	42.3	17.4	26.1
Thyolo	0.8	7.5	52.1	10.2	29.4
Mulanje	0.8	12.4	54.3	1.9	30.6
Phalombe	1.2	11.4	50.1	4.9	32.2
Chikwawa	1.8	8.8	41.3	25.8	22.2
Nsanje	3.5	11.3	39.1	22.4	23.6
Balaka	1.7	6.8	26.0	25.5	40.0
Neno	9.5	9.2	39.2	20.0	22.1
Zomba City	4.5	11.2	44.4	8.9	31.0
Blantyre City	5.3	17.1	44.6	11.2	21.8
Dzaleka Camp	3.1	15.8	54.9	7.0	19.2

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.4: Proportion of Household Heads with At Least Three Changes of Clothes and Sleeping Materials Used

	Head had at least three changes of clothes	Sleeping materials							
		Bed and Mattress	Bed and Mat (Grass)	Bed alone	Mattress on floor	Mat (Grass) on floor	Cloth/sack on floor	Floor (Nothing else)	Other
Malawi	89.5	23.2	5.8	1.1	10.2	54.8	4.6	0.1	0.2
Place of Residence									
Urban	95.8	55.8	3.9	1.9	12.8	22.6	2.8	0.2	0.0

Rural	88.2	16.4	6.2	1.0	9.7	61.5	4.9	0.1	0.3
Region									
Northern	85.9	38.0	9.7	1.6	10.1	38.3	2.2		0.0
Central	91.3	19.9	3.6	1.1	11.9	58.8	4.3	0.1	0.3
Southern	88.6	22.5	6.9	1.0	8.6	55.3	5.4	0.0	0.2
Sex of Household Head									
Male	89.2	24.7	6.1	1.2	10.3	53.8	3.6	0.1	0.2
Female	90.0	19.5	5.2	1.0	10.0	57.2	6.9	0.1	0.3
Age of Household Head									
15 to 24	90.6	7.9	4.1	0.7	10.1	70.0	6.3	0.0	0.9
25 to 34	91.1	18.6	5.6	1.1	11.7	58.8	3.8	0.1	0.2
35 to 44	90.4	26.0	5.9	1.0	8.8	54.0	4.0	0.1	0.0
45 to 54	90.3	29.0	5.8	1.4	10.7	48.4	4.4	0.0	0.3
55 to 64	85.7	29.1	6.7	1.8	9.5	48.3	4.4		0.2
65+	83.7	26.5	6.8	0.5	9.2	49.7	7.2	0.1	0.1
Marital Status of Household Head									
Never married	94.5	37.5	4.0	0.8	13.3	39.0	4.8	0.6	
Married	89.8	24.4	6.0	1.2	10.4	54.3	3.4	0.1	0.2
Divorced/Separated	88.9	15.2	4.6	1.1	8.7	62.0	7.9	0.1	0.5
Widow/Widower	86.4	23.4	6.7	1.1	10.1	51.2	7.2	0.1	0.1
Education of Household Head									
None	83.4	11.4	6.6	0.8	8.6	63.2	9.1	0.1	0.2
Primary	87.8	14.4	5.6	1.4	9.6	63.8	4.9	0.1	0.2
Secondary	94.6	37.5	6.5	0.9	12.8	39.7	2.3	0.1	0.2
Tertiary	98.2	87.0	1.3	0.7	6.7	4.0		0.3	
District									
Chitipa	75.0	40.1	23.7	2.0	5.2	29.0			
Karonga	72.1	40.1	12.6	1.9	14.6	30.9			
Nkhatabay	94.0	40.4	8.1	3.6	11.1	33.5	3.1		0.2
Rumphi	91.7	48.6	7.0	1.2	15.8	27.0	0.4		
Mzimba	87.0	23.5	7.7	0.9	8.5	55.0	4.5		
Likoma	97.1	49.9	2.6	1.3	15.4	29.0	1.7		
Mzuzu City	96.3	70.0	4.6	1.6	8.3	15.3	0.2		
Kasungu	87.1	18.9	4.6	2.0	11.2	58.0	5.1		0.2
Nkhotakota	84.2	18.8	4.4	2.1	13.1	58.9	2.6	0.1	
Ntchisi	84.1	11.9	2.7	1.2	6.5	76.2	1.5		
Dowa	91.3	20.5	4.5	0.4	15.5	55.6	2.5	0.4	0.7
Salima	85.3	12.2	5.0	0.2	11.7	68.8	1.7	0.1	0.3
Lilongwe	92.4	14.1	2.2	1.0	10.7	65.4	5.9		0.7
Mchinji	90.7	16.5	4.9	0.5	10.9	66.3	0.8		
Dedza	91.6	9.1	3.0	1.5	11.6	67.9	6.7	0.1	0.1
Ntcheu	97.2	11.5	5.1	1.5	11.3	64.8	5.8		
Lilongwe City	96.7	51.5	2.5	1.2	14.4	25.4	4.4	0.5	
Mangochi	88.0	25.9	15.1	0.4	10.6	41.8	5.9		0.1
Machinga	87.1	20.6	5.8		11.0	58.4	4.1		
Zomba Non-City	86.9	19.8	10.0	0.8	10.3	56.0	3.1		
Chiradzulu	89.6	17.2	3.9	0.4	8.2	59.0	11.1		0.2
Blantyre	93.2	16.8	2.4	1.9	11.6	61.4	5.3	0.5	
Mwanza	90.1	14.6	3.5	0.4	8.7	72.1	0.8		
Thyolo	87.5	14.2	5.5	2.3	4.6	59.8	13.5		0.2
Mulanje	89.1	13.7	6.4	1.2	4.1	65.6	7.5		1.5
Phalombe	87.4	7.8	5.7	0.7	4.4	76.8	4.2		0.5
Chikwawa	81.3	8.5	6.5	0.1	6.7	76.9	1.2		
Nsanje	77.9	7.4	8.7	1.0	2.2	79.8	0.9		
Balaka	86.9	22.3	4.7		10.4	56.4	6.1		
Neno	90.9	19.8	2.8	1.2	8.7	64.1	3.1		0.2
Zomba City	95.7	59.0	6.9	0.2	12.6	20.6	0.6	0.2	
Blantyre City	98.1	61.5	2.3	3.0	11.6	18.9	2.5		0.2

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.5: Percentage Distribution of Households by Sleeping Materials for the Head of Household during Cold Season

	Sleeping materials during the cold season							
	Blanket & Sheets	Blanket only	Sheets only	Chitenje cloth	Fertilizer/ Grain sack	Clothes	Nothing	Other
Malawi	20.5	60.8	13.6	3.7	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2
Place of Residence								
Urban	33.3	55.9	9.1	0.6	0.0	0.1		1.0
Rural	17.9	61.9	14.6	4.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2
Region								
Northern	30.4	57.4	11.5	0.6	0.0		0.0	
Central	21.0	61.4	12.2	3.7	0.0	0.2		1.5
Southern	17.5	61.2	15.5	4.5		0.1	0.1	1.1
Sex of Household Head								
Male	21.8	62.0	12.4	2.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.1
Female	17.5	58.0	16.6	6.3		0.2	0.1	1.4
Age of Household Head								
15 to 24	14.1	67.1	14.8	2.1		0.2		1.7
25 to 34	19.4	62.5	14.0	2.5		0.1	0.0	1.4
35 to 44	22.9	59.0	14.6	2.7		0.1		0.7
45 to 54	21.9	59.0	13.2	4.6	0.0	0.2		1.1
55 to 64	21.1	59.2	12.9	4.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.8
65+	20.3	59.9	10.8	8.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	29.3	55.9	10.3	1.3		0.2		3.0
Married	21.9	61.7	12.5	2.6		0.1	0.0	1.0
Divorced/Separated	15.5	59.5	17.1	6.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.5
Widow/Widower	16.0	58.2	16.7	7.7	0.1	0.3	0.0	1.0
Education of Household Head								
None	12.5	62.4	14.6	8.9	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.1
Primary	17.1	61.6	15.9	3.9	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.3
Secondary	26.7	61.1	10.1	1.1		0.0		1.0
Tertiary	51.9	44.7	3.0					0.5
District								
Chitipa	42.3	46.3	11.2				0.2	
Karonga	32.5	34.7	32.5	0.3				
Nkhatabay	21.1	66.0	11.5	1.1	0.2			
Rumphi	38.7	52.3	8.8	0.1				
Mzimba	24.9	68.0	6.1	1.0				
Likoma	24.2	61.7	13.9	0.2				
Mzuzu City	38.7	56.8	4.3	0.3				
Kasungu	20.5	60.8	13.6	2.9		0.2		2.1
Nkhotakota	12.7	61.6	19.9	5.7	0.1			
Ntchisi	12.8	68.0	10.9	7.1				1.1
Dowa	27.6	56.7	10.0	4.0				1.7
Salima	27.2	53.1	15.7	3.9		0.1		
Lilongwe	13.3	66.0	12.3	5.9		0.3		2.3
Mchinji	22.1	65.8	11.2	0.9				
Dedza	15.0	64.5	14.3	3.8				2.4
Ntcheu	28.6	55.8	10.8	3.4		0.5		0.8
Lilongwe City	30.6	58.3	8.6	0.3	0.1	0.2		1.9

Mangochi	18.3	64.6	12.4	3.6		0.3	0.7
Machinga	21.9	52.5	19.2	3.1			3.3
Zomba Non-City	24.9	53.0	15.2	3.4			3.5
Chiradzulu	4.2	77.2	11.8	5.9			0.8
Blantyre	14.9	60.0	20.0	4.4	0.3	0.2	0.3
Mwanza	19.7	62.2	14.2	2.9			1.1
Thyolo	3.6	72.6	17.2	5.1			1.5
Mulanje	18.8	61.4	13.5	6.0	0.3		
Phalombe	19.2	59.6	15.6	5.6			
Chikwawa	7.9	57.8	24.6	9.5	0.2		
Nsanje	5.1	63.9	19.9	10.4	0.7		
Balaka	18.0	57.0	20.2	4.0			0.8
Neno	18.7	62.1	12.8	5.5	0.2		0.7
Zomba City	49.9	38.9	9.6	0.8			0.8
Blantyre City	28.8	62.3	7.3	0.6	0.2		0.8
Dzaleka Camp	27.7	63.0	7.5	1.0			0.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.6: Proportion of Households by Sleeping Materials for the Head of Household during Hot Season

	Sleeping materials during the hot season							
	Blanket & Sheets	Blanket only	Sheets only	Chitenje cloth	Fertilizer/ Grain sack	Clothes	Nothing	Other
Malawi	4.7	18.6	43.0	20.5	0.0	1.0	11.6	0.6
Place of Residence								
Urban	3.9	15.4	60.4	7.6		0.3	11.1	1.4
Rural	4.9	19.2	39.4	23.2	0.0	1.2	11.7	0.4
Region								
Northern	12.6	20.9	54.3	8.7		0.1	3.4	
Central	5.7	21.9	44.4	20.6	0.0	1.6	4.9	0.8
Southern	1.8	14.8	38.6	23.5		0.7	20.1	0.6
Sex of Household Head								
Male	5.1	19.6	45.2	16.6	0.0	0.8	12.1	0.7
Female	3.7	15.9	37.7	30.1	0.0	1.5	10.5	0.4
Age of Household Head								
15 to 24	2.9	26.0	33.4	18.2		0.7	18.1	0.6
25 to 34	4.3	20.2	42.8	18.0	0.1	1.0	12.6	1.0
35 to 44	5.0	17.4	46.0	18.7		0.7	11.9	0.3
45 to 54	5.5	15.9	45.8	21.5		1.2	9.7	0.5
55 to 64	4.7	17.4	45.7	22.5		1.0	7.9	0.8
65+	5.2	15.9	36.3	31.0	0.0	1.5	9.8	0.2
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	3.6	20.2	48.1	8.1		0.1	19.2	0.7
Married	5.3	18.9	44.9	17.8	0.0	0.7	11.7	0.7
Divorced/Separated	3.4	19.3	36.3	27.5		1.7	11.3	0.5
Widow/Widower	3.4	14.1	38.8	32.1		2.0	9.2	0.4
Education of Household Head								
None	3.9	21.9	29.1	30.6	0.0	1.1	13.0	0.3
Primary	4.1	18.3	39.7	24.3	0.0	1.3	11.8	0.5
Secondary	6.0	18.7	52.4	10.6	0.0	0.5	10.9	0.8
Tertiary	6.6	10.3	70.1	1.8		0.5	8.5	2.3
District								
Chitipa	24.3	26.1	46.2	3.0		0.3		
Karonga	16.7	7.7	66.8	1.6		0.5	6.7	
Nkhatabay	0.6	15.1	65.7	11.7		0.3	6.6	
Rumphi	19.4	11.8	64.1	2.4			2.2	

Mzimba	11.2	26.2	44.7	15.0			3.0	
Likoma	6.6	14.0	65.5	5.1			8.8	
Mzuzu City	8.2	28.8	57.4	4.3			1.4	
Kasungu	9.6	29.2	40.0	18.7		0.2	1.3	1.1
Nkhotakota	0.3	8.8	49.5	25.1		3.6	12.7	
Ntchisi	5.1	32.4	30.6	26.8		0.1	4.2	0.8
Dowa	11.7	19.5	45.4	20.7		0.3	1.4	1.0
Salima	2.8	8.3	33.4	22.6		3.5	29.3	
Lilongwe	3.1	25.5	40.0	27.5		1.0	2.4	0.6
Mchinji	12.0	28.1	46.7	12.5			0.7	
Dedza	2.4	22.3	42.8	25.6	0.2	3.1	1.6	1.9
Ntcheu	7.5	19.0	46.3	18.2	0.3	5.2	3.5	
Lilongwe City	3.7	18.4	60.6	9.5		0.5	5.7	1.7
Mangochi	0.2	16.9	36.9	19.4		0.8	25.7	
Machinga	1.5	12.6	36.3	32.9			15.7	1.0
Zomba Non-City	2.1	9.9	41.3	28.9			16.2	1.6
Chiradzulu	0.7	22.5	34.2	28.4		0.3	13.5	0.3
Blantyre	1.0	9.2	43.2	21.2		1.8	23.3	0.3
Mwanza	13.3	19.0	35.8	21.6		1.1	8.9	0.4
Thyolo	0.3	17.6	37.3	26.0			18.5	0.4
Mulanje	4.3	27.7	29.6	29.5		1.1	7.9	
Phalombe	5.1	22.7	29.9	28.6		1.1	12.5	
Chikwawa	0.9	0.9	24.6	27.7		2.5	43.5	
Nsanje		0.9	16.9	26.0		1.6	54.6	
Balaka	0.7	10.9	44.2	23.8		0.3	20.1	
Neno	11.4	18.7	39.3	19.2		2.2	9.2	
Zomba City	1.0	12.2	63.6	10.2		0.2	11.1	1.6
Blantyre City	0.5	15.2	63.5	3.5			15.3	2.0
Dzaleka Camp	19.2	34.2	36.5	6.7		0.5	2.3	0.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.7: Proportion of Households Affected by Shocks during the Last 5 Years by Location, Sex and Region

	Malawi	Place of Residence			Region		Sex of Household Head	
		Urban	Rural	Northern	Central	Southern	Male	Female
Drought	49.9	29.5	54.2	29.3	46.7	58.3	49.2	51.6
Floods	19.1	13.3	20.3	24.8	7.4	28.6	19.1	19.0
Earthquakes	3.3	3.8	3.2	3.7	1.8	4.7	3.3	3.5
Unusually High Level of Crop Pests or Disease	42.2	21.2	46.6	19.3	35.7	54.3	41.1	45.0
Unusually High Level of Livestock Disease	19.9	10.6	21.9	23.3	17.9	21.0	20.5	18.6
Unusually Low Prices for Agricultural Output	21.2	10.3	23.5	14.2	26.1	18.3	22.5	18.1
Unusually High Costs of Agricultural Inputs	73.6	50.6	78.3	69.0	74.7	73.6	73.5	73.6
Unusually High Prices for Food	86.4	88.2	86.0	75.0	83.7	91.8	85.9	87.6
End of Regular Assistance/Aid/Remittances From Outside Household	7.9	8.2	7.8	5.1	5.4	11.0	7.1	9.8
Reduction in the Earnings from Household (Non-Agricultural) Business (Not due to Illness or Accident)	9.0	15.1	7.7	5.7	6.5	12.2	8.9	9.0
Household (Non-Agricultural) Business Failure (Not due to Illness or Accident)	11.4	17.3	10.2	8.2	9.8	13.8	11.5	11.1
Reduction in the Earnings of Currently Salaried Household Member(s)(Not due to Illness or Accident)	2.4	5.4	1.8	2.8	1.8	2.8	2.4	2.4

Loss of Employment of Previously Salaried Household Member(s) (Not due to Illness or Accident)	3.9	8.8	2.8	4.9	2.5	4.9	4.2	3.0
Serious Illness or Accident of Household Member(s)	17.5	18.0	17.4	12.9	17.4	18.8	17.0	18.7
Birth in the Household	6.5	7.6	6.3	5.5	5.2	8.1	6.8	6.0
Death of Income Earner(s)	3.7	4.3	3.6	4.3	3.7	3.6	2.2	7.4
Death of Other Household Member(s)	6.5	6.8	6.5	10.1	6.4	5.7	5.6	8.8
Break-Up of Household	13.0	13.7	12.8	6.7	11.6	16.0	8.3	24.2
Theft of Money/Valuables/Assets/Agricultural Output	20.8	22.7	20.4	17.1	21.1	21.4	21.5	19.0
Conflict/Violence	6.0	6.3	6.0	5.8	4.7	7.3	6.3	5.4
Other (Specify)	2.8	4.7	2.4	10.5	1.3	2.2	3.0	2.5
Disease Outbreak e.g Cholera, COVID-19 etc	5.3	10.3	4.2	6.6	3.7	6.4	5.5	4.8
Unusually High Prices for Fuel	27.8	40.0	25.3	27.9	25.8	29.6	29.3	24.1
Landslides	5.7	3.7	6.1	4.6	1.8	9.6	5.8	5.4
Late Onset of Rains	47.9	29.0	51.8	31.4	45.6	54.4	47.7	48.5
Early Onset of Rain	10.3	5.9	11.2	8.3	6.7	14.2	9.9	11.3
Early Cessation of Rains	44.6	28.5	48.0	16.3	37.9	58.2	43.8	46.7
Too heavy rains / hailstorms	28.4	20.1	30.1	27.6	21.6	35.1	28.3	28.7
Too little Rainfall	39.5	21.4	43.3	18.3	42.0	42.7	39.7	39.1
Very High Temperature	19.9	22.0	19.4	7.9	9.8	32.5	19.8	20.1
Extremely strong Winds / Whirlwind	21.5	15.3	22.8	10.9	16.2	29.2	21.6	21.2
Cyclone	22.7	21.6	22.9	4.7	3.1	45.8	21.9	24.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.8: Percentage Distribution of Households by Number of Shock Experienced in the Last 5 Years

	Number of shocks					
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five+
Malawi	1.8	6.2	7.1	8.8	10.4	65.6
Place of Residence						
Urban	2.6	8.5	12.4	13.9	12.7	49.9
Rural	1.7	5.7	6.0	7.8	9.9	68.9
Region						
Northern	3.0	13.7	15.4	14.3	11.2	42.3
Central	2.5	5.8	8.1	9.7	12.7	61.3
Southern	0.9	4.7	4.1	6.6	7.9	75.7
Sex of Household Head						
Male	1.9	6.5	7.3	9.2	10.5	64.6
Female	1.7	5.6	6.7	7.9	10.1	68.0
Age of Household Head						
15 to 24	2.6	8.7	7.8	9.2	10.2	61.5
25 to 34	1.9	6.3	8.5	9.2	10.6	63.5
35 to 44	1.9	5.9	6.8	8.0	10.5	66.8
45 to 54	1.8	5.3	5.5	8.5	9.7	69.1
55 to 64	1.5	5.7	6.2	8.1	10.2	68.4
65+	1.3	6.8	6.9	10.6	10.9	63.5
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	5.3	11.9	12.7	13.8	10.9	45.4
Married	1.7	6.0	7.0	8.8	10.5	66.0
Divorced/Separated	1.5	5.5	6.5	7.9	9.7	68.8
Widow/Widower	2.0	7.1	7.4	9.2	10.2	64.2
Education of Household Head						

None	1.7	5.1	6.3	9.5	10.2	67.2
Primary	1.8	6.0	6.2	7.8	10.5	67.7
Secondary	1.9	6.6	8.6	9.9	9.8	63.2
Tertiary	2.5	9.7	12.5	13.4	12.9	48.9
District						
Chitipa	12.0	24.1	20.7	12.0	6.5	24.8
Karonga	5.4	19.0	19.4	16.4	6.5	33.3
Nkhatabay	4.0	22.6	29.7	16.7	11.9	15.1
Rumphi		2.3	4.1	9.1	7.3	77.2
Mzimba	0.4	7.4	8.0	13.9	15.0	55.3
Likoma	1.6	26.6	23.1	22.3	4.6	21.7
Mzuzu City	1.6	17.9	24.2	16.4	11.9	28.0
Kasungu	1.2	5.7	7.4	10.7	15.2	59.9
Nkhotakota	7.4	18.5	18.4	15.3	11.9	28.5
Ntchisi	0.6	1.7	2.6	10.2	12.4	72.6
Dowa	0.3	2.6	5.8	6.4	9.9	75.0
Salima	15.4	19.7	8.0	3.8	7.2	45.9
Lilongwe	2.1	5.6	9.0	6.7	13.0	63.7
Mchinji	1.8	7.7	9.4	11.2	13.5	56.5
Dedza	0.1	1.5	1.6	7.6	11.6	77.6
Ntcheu	0.4	0.5	0.7	10.6	18.8	68.9
Lilongwe City	2.3	4.6	16.2	16.5	11.7	48.6
Mangochi	2.5	2.9	3.0	11.7	14.8	65.0
Machinga	0.3		0.7	4.1	3.5	91.4
Zomba Non-City		2.2	4.7	9.4	10.5	73.2
Chiradzulu	0.1	0.2	3.2	6.8	5.7	83.9
Blantyre	0.4	5.4	8.3	7.7	8.7	69.6
Mwanza		2.9	2.4	7.9	10.7	76.1
Thyolo	0.2	1.8	2.9	6.2	5.3	83.7
Mulanje	0.1	17.5	5.9	1.9	2.9	71.7
Phalombe	0.4	15.2	6.4	2.6	1.8	73.6
Chikwawa				0.9	0.6	98.5
Nsanje	0.5				1.3	98.2
Balaka	2.6	0.9	2.8	2.6	10.4	80.6
Neno		0.9	3.4	7.3	9.9	78.5
Zomba City	0.8	9.5	16.5	16.5	17.2	39.5
Blantyre City	2.7	8.8	7.9	11.3	14.3	54.9
Dzaleka Camp	0.3	8.5	8.5	13.7	14.0	54.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.9: Percentage Distribution of Households by Mitigation Measures for Overcoming Shocks by Background Characteristics

	Own-savings	Do nothing	Changed dietary patterns	Help from relatives /friends	More work	Sold assets	Help from government , NGOs, etc.	Spiritual efforts	Got credit	Other
Malawi	31.5	29.8	11.6	12.1	15.9	3.1	3.1	0.5	3.8	11.1
Place of Residence										
Urban	33.2	31.5	8.7	9.4	15.4	2.2	1.4	0.7	4.5	8.0
Rural	31.2	29.5	12.2	12.6	16.0	3.2	3.4	0.4	3.6	11.6
Region										
Northern	44.4	31.2	5.2	9.6	6.3	3.1	0.9	0.2	4.0	8.6
Central	45.9	24.7	7.6	11.9	9.8	4.7	1.7	0.2	4.0	11.3
Southern	16.1	34.0	16.5	12.8	23.4	1.6	4.7	0.7	3.5	11.4
Sex of Household Head										
Male	33.5	28.8	11.3	9.4	16.0	3.6	2.8	0.4	4.1	11.2
Female	26.7	32.3	12.5	18.6	15.8	1.9	3.8	0.5	3.0	10.8

Age of Household Head										
15 to 24	27.1	30.5	10.6	16.4	17.0	1.6	2.3	1.0	4.1	12.3
25 to 34	32.9	27.7	11.9	9.9	18.6	3.0	2.4	0.4	4.2	10.5
35 to 44	31.8	30.4	11.7	8.9	17.4	2.7	2.8	0.4	4.0	11.3
45 to 54	32.4	30.7	11.2	9.9	14.0	3.9	3.2	0.5	4.2	12.2
55 to 64	32.0	30.2	11.1	13.4	12.4	3.8	4.0	0.2	2.8	12.4
65+	28.1	32.0	13.3	25.5	10.8	3.5	5.3	0.6	1.9	7.6
Marital Status of Household Head										
Never married	29.3	33.6	10.2	15.3	16.5	0.2	1.4	0.2	3.1	8.0
Married	32.9	29.1	11.2	9.7	16.3	3.6	2.7	0.4	4.2	11.4
Divorced/Separated	27.4	32.6	12.5	15.5	15.9	2.1	3.6	0.7	2.9	10.6
Widow/Widower	29.0	29.5	13.6	22.8	12.9	1.7	5.3	0.4	2.4	10.2
Education of Household Head										
None	27.0	30.0	16.4	18.0	14.6	2.0	6.2	0.3	2.7	9.6
Primary	30.6	30.8	11.3	12.0	16.6	3.1	2.9	0.5	3.5	11.6
Secondary	34.3	28.4	10.1	10.0	15.7	3.6	2.1	0.4	4.2	10.9
Tertiary	42.4	24.4	10.3	7.1	12.9	2.5	0.8	0.4	8.4	9.5
District										
Chitipa	70.9	29.3		1.2		3.9	0.3		1.8	3.9
Karonga	65.6	35.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	2.3	0.2		2.2	2.2
Nkhatabay	62.8	13.6	12.4	17.6	6.6	4.4	0.7	0.3	4.1	8.9
Rumphi	24.1	40.8	6.5	4.3	8.7	3.7	0.4		5.4	12.5
Mzimba	34.1	32.6	5.5	13.7	7.9	3.3	1.4	0.2	3.5	10.8
Likoma	41.5	31.9	7.4	7.3	10.4	0.6	0.3	0.9	4.5	4.3
Mzuzu City	42.0	25.7	7.6	11.0	10.4	0.9	1.4	1.0	8.7	7.1
Kasungu	50.4	31.3	3.6	9.0	5.8	4.7	3.0		2.8	10.3
Nkhotakota	55.4	15.0	17.5	14.5	12.1	3.3	2.5	0.5	3.8	6.7
Ntchisi	51.8	30.9	7.2	12.0	5.7	6.9	5.1	0.0	3.7	13.1
Dowa	43.7	24.3	0.6	6.4	4.2	9.5	0.2	0.1	6.0	30.4
Salima	56.2	8.0	33.6	24.3	11.3	2.5	9.1		7.0	8.9
Lilongwe	41.5	29.9	4.8	12.1	8.9	5.3	1.0	0.3	3.3	8.5
Mchinji	58.7	29.9	0.4	4.4	0.8	3.4	0.1		1.8	4.6
Dedza	41.3	21.7	8.5	14.1	14.0	3.4	1.2	0.2	3.8	11.9
Ntcheu	50.4	9.7	16.0	21.8	18.6	3.9	1.1		3.3	7.2
Lilongwe City	33.9	31.5	4.3	6.9	13.1	3.0	0.2	0.7	5.6	9.7
Mangochi	15.6	44.2	24.9	7.7	5.5	0.7	7.9	0.2	0.7	5.7
Machinga	7.4	39.1	20.1	11.0	34.2	0.2	4.2	2.1	2.2	11.5
Zomba Non-City	23.8	28.8	13.9	19.4	29.4	1.6	3.8	1.6	4.0	9.5
Chiradzulu	9.6	38.5	15.8	14.4	19.8	1.4	1.7	0.1	4.7	20.6
Blantyre	9.9	42.9	9.2	9.5	26.1	3.6	2.9	1.8	2.3	6.6
Mwanza	15.5	41.1	25.7	8.9	11.6	3.4	6.0	0.3	2.1	9.2
Thyolo	9.5	38.4	17.3	12.2	18.2	1.5	1.3	0.5	2.0	22.4
Mulanje	11.4	29.8	13.8	13.4	17.8	1.9	3.1	0.4	11.4	25.7
Phalombe	11.6	28.6	16.4	11.0	19.3	2.4	5.4	0.5	10.4	24.5
Chikwawa	27.8	8.6	9.0	21.3	50.5	2.4	4.2		2.8	3.5
Nsanje	26.7	8.2	8.4	24.5	57.2	1.8	7.4		1.6	2.2
Balaka	11.2	40.4	24.4	8.8	14.3	0.9	12.5	0.4	1.2	10.0
Neno	21.3	37.9	26.4	8.2	12.6	2.9	3.8	0.5	1.3	6.9
Zomba City	47.1	19.8	9.1	19.0	24.0	1.7	2.1	0.5	3.2	1.9
Blantyre City	22.6	39.6	8.6	10.1	17.9	2.2	1.8	0.6	4.2	5.4
Dzaleka Camp	36.9	27.4	0.9	6.1	4.7	3.5	25.9	0.1	7.0	31.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.10: Proportion of Households by Food Programmes

	Free Maize	Free Food Other than Maize	School Feeding Progr- amme	Free Distri- bution of Likuni Phala	Supplementary Feeding for Malnourished Children	Maize from MVAC	Other Free Food from MVAC	Food/ Cash -for-Work Programme
Malawi	8.8	1.3	9.2	0.5	0.1	7.7	0.8	2.2
Place of Residence								
Urban	5.9	1.0	7.0	0.5	0.1	4.4	0.3	0.2
Rural	9.4	1.4	9.6	0.5	0.1	8.4	0.9	2.6
Region								
Northern	5.0	0.3	8.8	2.2	0.0	4.2	0.3	2.0
Central	7.0	1.3	4.0	0.2	0.1	4.5	0.4	1.1
Southern	11.4	1.5	14.2	0.4	0.1	11.7	1.4	3.2
Sex of Household Head								
Male	7.8	1.1	8.9	0.6	0.1	7.0	0.7	2.0
Female	11.0	1.7	9.8	0.4	0.0	9.3	1.0	2.6
Age of Household Head								
15 to 24	5.2	1.6	1.9	0.5	0.2	5.0	0.4	1.4
25 to 34	6.4	0.8	8.2	0.3	0.2	5.8	0.7	1.9
35 to 44	8.9	1.5	13.0	0.7		6.6	0.7	2.0
45 to 54	9.1	0.9	11.1	0.6	0.1	8.9	0.7	2.5
55 to 64	11.5	2.2	7.7	0.6		11.3	1.2	2.8
65+	14.9	1.8	7.3	0.5	0.0	12.5	1.4	2.6
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	5.8	0.7	0.8			2.8		0.5
Married	8.2	1.1	9.8	0.6	0.1	7.2	0.8	2.1
Divorced/Separated	9.2	1.3	8.5	0.3		7.4	0.9	2.2
Widow/Widower	13.1	2.6	8.8	0.5	0.0	13.2	1.0	2.9
Education of Household Head								
None	11.6	2.4	9.9	1.1	0.1	11.1	1.6	3.0
Primary	9.2	1.3	9.6	0.4	0.1	8.1	0.9	2.4
Secondary	7.4	1.0	8.6	0.7	0.1	6.0	0.3	1.6
Tertiary	2.5	0.2	4.3			1.9		

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.11: Proportion of Households by Education Programmes

	Scholarship/ Bursaries for Secondary Education	Scholarship for Tertiary Education
Malawi	0.5	0.3
Place of Residence		
Urban	0.6	1.1
Rural	0.5	0.2
Region		
Northern	0.2	0.4
Central	0.5	0.2
Southern	0.6	0.4
Sex of Household Head		
Male	0.4	0.3
Female	0.8	0.3
Age of Household Head		
15 to 24	0.2	0.2
25 to 34	0.1	0.2
35 to 44	0.5	0.2
45 to 54	1.1	0.2

55 to 64	0.6	0.9
65+	0.7	0.4
Marital Status of Household Head		
Never married	0.3	1.3
Married	0.4	0.3
Divorced/Separated	0.6	0.1
Widow/Widower	0.8	0.2
Education of Household Head		
None	0.5	0.2
Primary	0.5	0.1
Secondary	0.4	0.3
Tertiary	0.6	2.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 9.12: Proportion of Households by Cash Transfer and Other Programmes

	Direct Cash Transfers from Gov.	Direct Cash Transfers from others	Cash from MVAC
Malawi	4.2	1.8	1.3
Place of Residence			
Urban	3.7	0.8	0.6
Rural	4.3	2.0	1.4
Region			
Northern	4.5	0.8	0.5
Central	4.0	1.8	0.6
Southern	4.2	2.0	2.1
Sex of Household Head			
Male	3.3	1.6	1.2
Female	6.2	2.2	1.5
Age of Household Head			
15 to 24	1.3	1.3	0.6
25 to 34	1.5	1.8	0.8
35 to 44	3.0	1.8	1.5
45 to 54	5.4	1.8	1.6
55 to 64	6.8	2.0	1.9
65+	12.5	1.8	1.3
Marital Status of Household Head			
Never married	2.6	1.2	
Married	3.3	1.7	1.3
Divorced/Separated	4.5	2.0	1.2
Widow/Widower	10.4	2.4	1.6
Education of Household Head			
None	8.4	2.3	1.6
Primary	4.4	1.7	1.5
Secondary	2.1	1.8	0.9
Tertiary	0.6	1.3	0.4

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 10.1: Food Consumption in the Past Seven Days

	Cereals, Grains and Cereal Products	Roots, Tubers, and Plantains	Nuts and Pulses	Vege- tables	Meat, Fish and Animal products	Fru- its	Milk and Milk Prod- ucts	Sugar, Fats, and Oil	Spices & Miscel- laneous	Cooked Foods from Vendors	Beve- rages
Malawi	99.5	75.0	91.8	99.9	88.0	76.0	21.6	93.3	99.9	70.3	67.1
Place of Residence											
Urban	99.8	83.5	93.2	99.7	95.3	82.8	40.6	98.2	99.8	76.5	79.9
Rural	99.5	73.2	91.5	99.9	86.5	74.6	17.7	92.2	99.9	69.0	64.4
Region											
Northern	97.6	82.2	92.0	99.8	89.2	73.6	37.6	90.8	99.9	55.3	68.7
Central	99.8	75.9	93.5	99.9	88.7	75.6	23.1	93.8	99.9	73.2	71.1
Southern	99.8	72.3	90.1	99.9	87.1	77.0	16.1	93.3	99.8	71.3	62.8
Sex of Household Head											
Male	99.6	76.1	92.3	99.9	89.6	76.3	24.0	94.2	99.9	71.5	69.0
Female	99.5	72.3	90.6	99.9	84.4	75.4	15.8	91.0	99.9	67.3	62.5
Age of Household Head											
15 to 24	99.6	76.0	91.4	99.7	84.0	78.5	18.1	93.4	99.9	78.9	64.9
25 to 34	99.7	74.0	91.6	99.9	89.4	76.4	22.4	95.5	99.9	76.5	70.1
35 to 44	99.7	76.6	93.3	99.9	89.3	77.9	22.7	94.5	99.9	71.9	70.5
45 to 54	99.4	77.0	92.4	100.0	88.9	77.5	22.5	92.7	100.0	66.6	68.7
55 to 64	99.2	75.2	90.6	100.0	88.6	76.0	23.0	92.1	100.0	62.3	62.2
65+	99.3	69.1	89.0	99.8	82.1	65.1	16.5	85.4	99.5	54.8	54.0
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	99.7	79.2	87.2	99.2	90.8	78.6	35.2	92.9	99.4	78.5	69.2
Married	99.6	76.0	92.7	99.9	89.4	76.5	23.2	94.4	100.0	70.8	68.5
Divorced/Separated	99.6	73.1	90.0	99.9	85.0	75.6	15.2	91.9	99.6	72.8	66.1
Widow/Widower	99.2	69.3	89.3	99.8	82.4	72.1	16.4	87.6	100.0	59.6	58.0
Education of Household Head											
None	99.3	69.7	88.6	99.7	85.1	69.6	11.1	88.5	99.7	61.4	56.3
Primary	99.5	73.6	90.9	99.9	85.6	74.4	17.1	92.1	100.0	68.8	63.8
Secondary	99.8	78.4	95.1	99.9	92.9	80.6	29.2	97.1	99.8	76.6	75.3
Tertiary	99.9	89.3	91.9	99.9	98.8	88.8	67.0	99.6	99.9	77.8	92.1
District											
Chitipa	99.6	87.6	95.0	99.5	85.9	73.2	35.8	94.4	100.0	48.4	67.1
Karonga	95.8	83.1	86.2	99.5	95.1	60.1	32.0	94.1	99.8	53.5	62.5
Nkhatabay	87.9	96.7	85.3	100.0	95.3	81.6	22.3	92.4	100.0	53.9	61.3
Rumphi	98.2	87.5	96.5	100.0	94.1	77.7	48.2	91.6	100.0	74.2	82.4
Mzimba	100.0	72.4	93.8	100.0	83.6	74.6	41.3	85.5	100.0	48.9	66.5
Likoma	99.4	91.9	80.3	99.8	100.0	80.1	28.5	99.8	100.0	78.2	88.6
Mzuzu City	99.2	89.8	94.4	99.4	92.4	76.6	41.9	98.0	99.6	70.1	81.1
Kasungu	100.0	78.2	93.2	99.9	86.8	79.3	18.4	93.3	100.0	68.7	64.4
Nkhotakota	97.1	82.1	86.6	100.0	92.8	63.8	12.4	89.2	100.0	56.1	60.2
Ntchisi	100.0	72.6	94.6	100.0	85.8	76.9	16.1	87.6	100.0	66.3	57.9
Dowa	100.0	82.1	97.9	100.0	92.8	86.5	34.3	97.4	100.0	78.7	81.8
Salima	100.0	65.1	94.0	100.0	88.1	62.4	12.5	94.8	100.0	64.1	42.2
Lilongwe	100.0	75.2	93.3	100.0	87.2	69.5	25.3	93.8	100.0	81.4	72.9

Mchinji	100.0	75.1	96.3	100.0	90.4	82.0	26.3	97.5	100.0	82.2	78.1
Dedza	100.0	74.4	90.5	100.0	84.2	72.0	15.7	89.6	100.0	68.8	75.0
Ntcheu	100.0	68.3	91.0	100.0	84.1	74.7	10.6	90.5	100.0	58.8	67.8
Lilongwe City	99.8	81.4	95.0	99.6	95.3	84.0	38.5	98.2	99.6	80.1	82.4
Mangochi	99.9	65.9	91.2	100.0	93.5	81.5	19.9	95.0	99.4	76.1	72.8
Machinga	100.0	61.2	87.5	100.0	94.7	78.4	6.2	93.1	100.0	66.4	64.8
Zomba Non-City	100.0	67.5	90.8	99.8	89.3	71.5	8.0	93.0	100.0	72.2	56.6
Chiradzulu	100.0	67.4	82.5	100.0	80.8	66.6	11.5	89.2	100.0	68.8	48.7
Blantyre	100.0	66.8	92.2	99.6	86.3	74.4	12.7	92.9	99.2	66.1	50.4
Mwanza	99.3	74.8	92.4	100.0	75.2	82.9	8.9	88.4	100.0	54.4	60.2
Thyolo	99.5	80.7	84.0	99.7	75.3	75.4	12.5	89.8	100.0	66.4	47.8
Mulanje	98.3	89.2	89.3	99.7	75.6	74.3	6.4	88.7	99.9	74.9	60.5
Phalombe	100.0	73.5	90.7	99.6	81.9	66.4	7.5	91.0	100.0	81.1	56.2
Chikwawa	100.0	70.7	95.3	99.9	86.8	84.6	17.6	95.8	100.0	72.8	73.7
Nsanje	100.0	69.7	89.5	100.0	89.3	83.9	21.1	95.8	100.0	70.2	71.4
Balaka	100.0	64.5	93.7	100.0	92.7	84.5	16.4	96.1	100.0	73.2	75.4
Neno	100.0	71.0	88.8	100.0	79.0	82.0	18.7	90.1	100.0	51.8	58.7
Zomba City	100.0	81.9	91.7	100.0	95.1	77.7	28.1	96.6	100.0	66.0	70.4
Blantyre City	100.0	83.1	92.5	100.0	94.2	77.0	43.5	99.1	99.8	74.5	69.2
Dzaleka Camp	99.2	74.1	95.6	99.5	82.6	66.8	15.8	96.6	99.0	68.1	56.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 10.2: Average Number of Days Per Week with Consumption of Food Groups

	Cereals, Grains and Cereal Products	Roots, Tubers, and Plantains	Nuts and Pulses	Vege- tables	Meat, Fish and Animal products	Fruits	Milk and Milk Products	Fats/ Oil	Sugar/ Sugar Products /Honey	Spices /Condi- ments
Malawi	6.7	2.4	2.3	6.3	2.9	2.8	0.7	4.5	3.5	6.7
Place of Residence										
Urban	6.8	2.7	2.4	6.5	3.7	3.0	1.7	6.1	5.5	6.8
Rural	6.7	2.4	2.3	6.3	2.7	2.7	0.5	4.2	3.1	6.7
Region										
Northern	6.6	3.0	2.1	6.3	2.9	2.4	1.2	5.0	3.9	6.8
Central	6.7	2.4	2.4	6.3	2.8	2.7	0.8	4.5	3.8	6.7
Southern	6.7	2.3	2.4	6.3	2.9	3.0	0.6	4.4	3.2	6.7
Sex of Household Head										
Male	6.7	2.5	2.4	6.3	3.0	2.8	0.8	4.7	3.7	6.7
Female	6.7	2.3	2.3	6.3	2.5	2.8	0.6	4.0	3.1	6.7
Age of Household Head										
15 to 24	6.6	2.4	2.1	6.2	2.8	2.7	0.5	4.2	3.2	6.7
25 to 34	6.7	2.4	2.3	6.3	3.0	2.7	0.7	4.8	3.8	6.7
35 to 44	6.7	2.4	2.4	6.4	3.0	2.9	0.8	4.6	3.7	6.8
45 to 54	6.7	2.6	2.4	6.4	2.9	2.8	0.8	4.6	3.6	6.8
55 to 64	6.7	2.5	2.4	6.3	2.7	2.9	0.8	4.3	3.3	6.7
65+	6.7	2.2	2.3	6.2	2.5	2.4	0.5	3.7	2.9	6.7
Marital Status of Household Head										
Never married	6.5	2.4	2.0	6.2	3.5	2.7	1.3	5.0	4.3	6.6
Married	6.7	2.5	2.4	6.4	3.0	2.8	0.8	4.7	3.7	6.8
Divorced/Separated	6.7	2.3	2.1	6.3	2.6	2.8	0.5	4.0	3.1	6.7
Widow/Widower	6.6	2.3	2.3	6.2	2.5	2.7	0.6	3.7	2.9	6.6
Education of Household Head										
None	6.6	2.3	2.2	6.0	2.5	2.5	0.3	3.5	2.3	6.7
Primary	6.7	2.3	2.3	6.3	2.7	2.7	0.5	4.2	3.1	6.7
Secondary	6.8	2.5	2.5	6.5	3.2	2.9	1.0	5.4	4.6	6.8

Tertiary	6.7	3.2	2.9	6.7	4.6	3.4	3.3	6.6	6.6	6.9
District										
Dzaleka Camp	6.7	2.2	3.3	6.5	3.0	1.8	0.5	5.3	3.4	6.6

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 10.3: Food Security and Food Shortages in the Past 12 Months

	Worried about not having enough food to eat	Unable to eat healthy and nutritious food	Ate only a few kinds of foods	Skip a meal	Ate less than you thought you should	Ran out of food	Hungry but did not eat	Went without eating for a whole day
Malawi	87.0	89.0	89.9	86.1	88.0	82.8	82.8	52.1
Place of Residence								
Urban	75.1	76.6	78.4	70.9	75.1	68.6	68.3	31.4
Rural	89.5	91.6	92.3	89.2	90.7	85.7	85.8	56.4
Region								
Northern	79.2	82.6	82.3	75.0	76.2	71.1	70.7	40.9
Central	85.6	87.2	88.0	84.5	86.5	80.2	81.5	50.1
Southern	90.5	92.4	93.7	90.4	92.4	88.2	87.2	57.0
Sex of Household Head								
Male	85.6	87.8	88.8	84.5	86.6	80.9	80.9	49.2
Female	90.6	92.0	92.7	89.7	91.4	87.2	87.4	59.1
Age of Household Head								
15 to 24	90.3	92.1	93.2	89.6	91.1	87.3	87.0	55.8
25 to 34	86.3	89.1	89.8	84.4	86.9	81.9	82.0	48.6
35 to 44	86.9	87.8	89.3	85.1	87.9	82.3	82.7	51.4
45 to 54	86.6	88.0	88.8	86.4	87.3	81.2	81.7	51.7
55 to 64	87.5	89.5	90.6	87.3	89.0	84.1	83.0	55.2
65+	87.1	90.3	90.0	88.3	88.7	84.1	83.6	58.5
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	73.6	73.6	74.7	69.0	72.1	65.6	67.9	38.8
Married	85.9	88.3	89.2	85.0	87.0	81.2	81.3	49.1
Divorced/Separated	91.7	92.8	94.0	91.0	92.8	89.6	88.9	61.6
Widow/Widower	91.5	92.4	92.9	91.0	92.0	88.2	87.8	61.9
Education of Household Head								
None	92.4	93.3	93.7	92.7	93.6	89.8	89.6	68.3
Primary	91.0	93.5	93.8	91.0	92.4	87.7	87.9	57.8
Secondary	81.8	83.2	85.6	79.4	82.0	75.3	75.4	38.8
Tertiary	50.8	52.8	52.7	41.1	48.6	42.2	40.1	9.7
District								
Chitipa	61.4	64.3	60.5	55.1	60.1	54.0	54.4	31.0
Karonga	77.1	78.5	75.9	74.8	74.6	64.4	68.9	52.2
Nkhatabay	85.4	90.7	91.8	81.2	87.0	78.9	74.1	50.7
Rumphi	79.2	83.4	83.8	76.5	78.9	69.5	69.7	33.2
Mzimba	82.5	87.0	87.5	80.0	79.0	76.6	77.7	42.1
Likoma	84.2	84.4	84.1	77.9	81.6	75.0	70.5	30.1
Mzuzu City	80.2	80.7	82.0	68.7	70.2	70.3	61.5	27.4
Kasungu	90.8	94.0	93.0	90.8	92.4	85.7	85.4	53.0
Nkhotakota	93.3	93.3	93.9	89.9	93.0	88.5	85.4	69.4
Ntchisi	85.7	90.0	88.5	86.3	86.8	83.4	82.9	49.0
Dowa	81.2	81.4	85.1	80.9	82.4	74.2	75.4	45.5
Salima	91.4	90.6	92.1	90.5	89.7	86.0	84.2	69.4
Lilongwe	86.5	88.6	89.9	85.8	88.4	81.2	83.5	49.0
Mchinji	89.5	92.6	88.8	82.5	87.5	76.7	79.4	51.8

Dedza	89.4	90.4	90.2	90.0	90.0	85.9	87.0	51.9
Ntcheu	81.8	85.7	86.6	85.0	84.8	82.9	85.1	56.0
Lilongwe City	75.0	74.9	78.2	71.6	76.1	68.1	71.0	31.0
Mangochi	86.9	93.4	94.3	89.6	92.6	83.9	85.3	51.2
Machinga	95.3	95.1	97.5	95.2	96.4	93.9	92.5	57.1
Zomba Non-City	92.3	94.6	95.7	95.1	94.3	92.9	92.0	65.4
Chiradzulu	95.4	97.2	97.2	96.3	97.1	95.3	95.3	75.4
Blantyre	91.1	94.2	94.0	93.6	93.9	92.2	92.6	65.8
Mwanza	89.5	91.0	93.0	87.4	91.2	83.5	83.6	44.0
Thyolo	94.3	94.4	95.7	93.2	94.9	91.1	89.9	68.2
Mulanje	95.4	94.1	98.0	95.3	98.1	93.5	91.6	63.2
Phalombe	95.4	96.1	97.4	95.6	98.0	95.8	94.8	64.3
Chikwawa	93.5	95.1	95.0	89.4	91.6	87.8	82.5	52.3
Nsanje	94.9	95.0	96.5	93.1	94.0	88.1	85.4	58.0
Balaka	90.4	93.9	93.1	89.3	93.0	86.8	89.2	58.2
Neno	86.3	87.1	90.0	86.0	86.4	84.0	82.3	48.7
Zomba City	79.2	77.8	79.1	72.6	75.9	70.9	70.2	37.2
Blantyre City	75.3	77.4	79.5	72.6	76.8	72.7	69.8	32.8
Dzaleka Camp	94.6	92.2	94.8	95.9	95.3	88.6	91.5	64.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 10.4: Percentage Distribution of Households by Number of Meals Taken Per Day by Adults and Children Under 5 Years of Age

	Number of meals (adults)				Number of meals (children aged 6-59 months)			
	1	2	3+	Total	1	2	3+	Total
Malawi	10.6	52.1	37.3	100.0	4.3	30.5	65.2	100.0
Place of Residence								
Urban	5.9	33.7	60.3	100.0	1.5	15.7	82.7	100.0
Rural	11.5	55.9	32.5	100.0	4.9	33.2	62.0	100.0
Region								
Northern	2.7	47.7	49.6	100.0	1.5	32.5	66.1	100.0
Central	8.5	52.4	39.1	100.0	3.2	29.2	67.6	100.0
Southern	14.6	53.0	32.4	100.0	6.1	31.1	62.7	100.0
Sex of Household Head								
Male	9.3	50.5	40.2	100.0	3.6	28.2	68.2	100.0
Female	13.7	56.0	30.3	100.0	6.6	37.3	56.0	100.0
Age of Household Head								
15 to 24	12.2	57.8	29.9	100.0	3.1	35.7	61.2	100.0
25 to 34	9.5	49.5	40.9	100.0	4.1	31.0	64.8	100.0
35 to 44	8.8	49.3	41.9	100.0	4.6	27.2	68.2	100.0
45 to 54	11.2	51.7	37.0	100.0	4.7	30.6	64.7	100.0
55 to 64	11.4	54.3	34.3	100.0	3.2	32.1	64.8	100.0
65+	14.6	60.2	25.2	100.0	10.4	28.9	60.7	100.0
Education of Household Head								
None	14.7	62.8	22.5	100.0	6.0	40.7	53.3	100.0
Primary	12.2	56.9	30.9	100.0	5.4	33.6	61.0	100.0
Secondary	6.6	42.4	51.1	100.0	2.3	24.2	73.6	100.0
Tertiary	1.7	16.1	82.2	100.0	0.5	4.1	95.5	100.0
Marital Status of Household Head								
Never married	11.2	45.0	43.8	100.0	3.7	14.5	81.8	100.0
Married	9.1	50.5	40.4	100.0	3.8	28.4	67.7	100.0
Divorced/Separated	15.5	56.2	28.2	100.0	6.0	40.9	53.2	100.0
Widow/Widower	12.5	59.5	28.1	100.0	8.3	37.3	54.4	100.0
District								

Chitipa	0.6	35.6	63.8	100.0		23.4	76.6	100.0
Karonga	0.5	53.4	46.0	100.0	1.4	36.8	61.8	100.0
Nkhatabay	6.0	49.4	44.6	100.0	4.2	43.3	52.5	100.0
Rumphi	0.8	34.5	64.7	100.0	0.8	13.4	85.8	100.0
Mzimba	3.3	54.3	42.3	100.0	1.5	36.1	62.3	100.0
Likoma	1.5	37.1	61.3	100.0		24.4	75.6	100.0
Mzuzu City	3.2	38.4	58.5	100.0	0.5	28.0	71.5	100.0
Kasungu	4.1	59.4	36.6	100.0	0.9	40.2	58.9	100.0
Nkhotakota	13.7	58.8	27.5	100.0	6.0	39.8	54.2	100.0
Ntchisi	7.2	64.3	28.5	100.0	4.8	49.1	46.1	100.0
Dowa	3.4	50.4	46.1	100.0	0.8	32.6	66.5	100.0
Salima	11.1	55.2	33.7	100.0	1.9	19.0	79.1	100.0
Lilongwe	10.2	48.7	41.2	100.0	0.9	23.1	76.0	100.0
Mchinji	7.9	51.5	40.6	100.0	4.9	24.7	70.4	100.0
Dedza	9.5	60.6	29.9	100.0	5.4	37.6	57.0	100.0
Ntcheu	13.1	59.1	27.8	100.0	10.4	34.6	55.0	100.0
Lilongwe City	6.9	36.3	56.8	100.0	1.4	14.5	84.1	100.0
Mangochi	4.4	39.9	55.7	100.0	0.5	22.3	77.2	100.0
Machinga	11.9	66.9	21.2	100.0	3.4	38.7	57.9	100.0
Zomba Non-City	19.9	58.6	21.5	100.0	11.4	38.0	50.6	100.0
Chiradzulu	22.8	57.8	19.4	100.0	11.4	39.9	48.7	100.0
Blantyre	22.0	55.9	22.1	100.0	8.7	29.0	62.3	100.0
Mwanza	12.8	63.6	23.7	100.0	6.2	47.4	46.5	100.0
Thyolo	20.1	56.3	23.6	100.0	8.2	39.7	52.1	100.0
Mulanje	29.9	58.1	12.0	100.0	15.7	47.7	36.6	100.0
Phalombe	26.4	63.0	10.6	100.0	12.2	42.8	45.0	100.0
Chikwawa	7.3	59.0	33.7	100.0	4.3	16.6	79.1	100.0
Nsanje	9.4	51.8	38.7	100.0	2.4	22.4	75.2	100.0
Balaka	3.9	48.5	47.6	100.0	1.4	25.4	73.3	100.0
Neno	14.0	61.7	24.3	100.0	8.4	37.9	53.7	100.0
Zomba City	10.2	47.1	42.7	100.0	6.6	29.8	63.6	100.0
Blantyre City	7.4	33.5	59.1	100.0	1.8	12.5	85.7	100.0
Dzaleka Camp	46.6	45.6	7.8	100.0	29.2	46.4	24.4	100.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2025-2026

Table 10.5: Proportion of the Households that Experienced Food Shortage and Distribution of causes of Food Shortages by Background Characteristics, IHS6 2024-2025

	Household experi- enced food shortage	Drought/ poor rains	Crop pest damage	Small land size	Lack of farm inputs	Food in market expen- sive	High transpor- tation cost	No food in market	Floods/ Water logging	Lack of Money	Other
Malawi	79.5	43.6	4.4	10.7	38.9	45.9	0.4	1.4	2.0	9.9	2.4
Place of Residence											
Urban	66.6	12.3	0.7	5.9	16.1	61.2	0.4	1.4	1.7	28.8	3.2
Rural	82.2	48.8	5.1	11.5	42.7	43.3	0.4	1.4	2.1	6.7	2.3
Region											
Northern	69.0	10.1	1.2	20.2	57.0	40.3	0.9	4.9	3.1	5.8	2.8
Central	75.3	42.6	3.6	10.6	38.1	37.5	0.4	0.6	1.0	11.2	2.7
Southern	86.2	51.2	5.8	8.8	35.9	54.0	0.3	1.3	2.7	9.6	2.0
Sex of Household Head											
Male	77.7	41.7	4.5	11.1	37.3	45.6	0.4	1.5	2.0	10.3	2.6
Female	84.0	47.8	4.2	9.8	42.5	46.5	0.4	1.0	2.1	9.0	1.9
Age of Household Head											
15 to 24	82.8	33.0	3.6	13.9	32.6	51.3	0.4	2.1	1.5	14.8	2.0
25 to 34	79.4	38.2	3.6	10.7	36.3	48.3	0.6	1.3	1.6	11.8	2.6
35 to 44	79.4	42.1	4.4	11.5	36.5	46.6	0.4	1.2	1.9	11.7	2.5
45 to 54	78.4	49.5	5.0	10.6	41.7	43.3	0.2	1.3	2.8	7.1	2.6
55 to 64	79.8	53.0	4.5	9.0	44.7	41.9	0.4	1.5	2.6	4.7	1.6
65+	78.9	52.7	7.0	7.9	47.3	40.9	0.3	1.1	2.0	5.5	2.3
Education of Household Head											
None	83.8	52.3	7.1	11.0	47.0	46.3	0.6	1.6	2.6	6.0	1.5
Primary	84.1	45.3	4.7	11.3	41.3	43.6	0.3	1.2	2.2	8.9	2.3
Secondary	73.7	36.8	2.6	9.6	31.1	50.1	0.5	1.5	1.4	12.7	3.0
Tertiary	41.9	17.9	1.8	5.7	12.2	57.3	2.5	2.9	1.4	28.6	3.7
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	63.2	21.9	3.1	5.6	25.0	57.5	0.6	1.9	0.7	17.7	4.0
Married	78.3	42.8	4.6	11.0	38.6	45.3	0.4	1.6	2.1	9.7	2.4
Divorced/Separated	85.4	45.5	3.6	11.5	40.4	47.8	0.3	0.9	1.6	10.9	2.3
Widow/Widower	83.2	50.5	5.4	8.5	42.0	43.6	0.4	0.9	2.7	7.0	1.9
District											
Chitipa	45.8	0.5	0.7	10.2	75.2	27.3	1.3	3.0		2.0	3.5
Karonga	72.7	6.3	0.8	28.8	40.8	49.7	3.2	10.1	8.7	4.6	5.4
Nkhatabay	60.7	10.5	1.6	15.3	29.6	69.9	1.0	2.1	8.4	6.0	0.4
Rumphi	65.2	11.5	2.6	26.8	62.5	31.5		4.1	3.2	4.2	4.8
Mzimba	77.2	14.8	1.4	22.4	76.0	27.3	0.3	3.7	0.7	3.0	1.9
Likoma	59.0	3.0		20.1	14.1	63.9	2.3	9.3	2.7	19.5	6.0
Mzuzu City	70.1	2.5	0.2	5.5	20.5	62.4	0.3	6.2	1.7	20.4	2.5

Kasungu	78.8	38.4	0.3	9.0	49.3	34.6	0.9			4.6	3.9
Nkhotakota	71.6	30.3	5.6	11.4	37.4	57.8		2.5	9.2	2.6	2.9
Ntchisi	73.7	36.1	0.9	12.2	59.1	41.8		0.5		1.3	4.1
Dowa	69.7	45.3	2.5	14.5	53.5	30.3	0.5		0.8	7.2	2.4
Salima	79.7	66.7	9.3	5.2	35.3	30.3		0.8	4.6	11.1	1.0
Lilongwe	77.1	33.5	3.3	13.1	38.1	34.5	0.2	0.3		12.5	2.3
Mchinji	84.2	61.0	3.4	11.7	24.6	38.6		0.6		6.9	4.6
Dedza	79.7	48.0	6.0	8.5	44.6	29.1	0.6	1.6	0.1	8.8	3.6
Ntcheu	75.6	80.4	6.8	14.1	37.3	39.4	0.6	0.7			0.7
Lilongwe City	65.0	6.9		5.4	15.3	52.2	0.5	0.4	1.2	38.6	2.0
Mangochi	82.5	51.4	6.6	2.8	53.1	77.2	0.5	2.7	0.7	4.0	0.5
Machinga	94.7	49.3	3.8	6.9	46.3	51.6	0.7	1.1	0.9	11.4	1.6
Zomba Non-City	90.6	53.6	2.0	8.1	38.9	57.5	0.7	0.4	1.1	11.4	3.1
Chiradzulu	92.4	45.6	3.1	12.4	62.3	26.5		0.9	0.7	8.7	2.3
Blantyre	89.0	48.6	2.5	5.5	28.7	41.2	0.9	1.3	0.6	16.6	3.2
Mwanza	81.6	84.0	5.6	6.7	21.2	46.1		1.7	0.3	1.2	1.6
Thyolo	89.1	46.0	2.4	14.4	55.6	31.0		0.4	0.8	10.6	0.9
Mulanje	87.3	51.3	15.4	18.7	30.5	59.2	0.3	1.8	1.0	3.6	1.8
Phalombe	87.5	61.9	16.3	11.5	33.0	49.2	0.3	1.3	6.3	3.6	2.7
Chikwawa	90.9	71.8	8.3	13.4	5.3	48.8		1.8	15.7		0.4
Nsanje	94.0	80.1	9.1	15.6	1.0	50.8		0.2	17.0	1.0	2.3
Balaka	85.8	66.4	5.9	4.3	48.2	61.3		0.1		4.4	3.4
Neno	77.5	85.6	5.1	5.4	21.2	43.3		2.5	0.6	1.8	0.3
Zomba City	70.4	21.1		6.4	14.5	83.5				35.5	
Blantyre City	69.3	6.0	0.3	1.5	5.8	66.6	0.3	1.5		33.9	5.1
Dzaleka Camp	90.2	19.0	2.0	11.5	19.0	55.2	0.6			48.9	1.1

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2025-2026

Table 10.6: Percentage Distribution of Households by Months they Experienced Food Shortage

	Number of months							Total	Average number of months
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven and more		
Malawi	12.4	21.5	18.9	10.9	7.3	5.3	23.8	100.0	4.7
Place of Residence									
Urban	15.9	25.0	19.9	9.7	5.9	5.3	18.3	100.0	4.2
Rural	11.8	20.9	18.7	11.1	7.5	5.3	24.7	100.0	4.7
Region									
Northern	23.1	25.6	21.1	9.3	6.4	2.6	11.9	100.0	3.6
Central	12.9	23.4	22.0	12.0	7.3	5.1	17.4	100.0	4.2
Southern	9.8	19.1	15.8	10.3	7.4	6.1	31.5	100.0	5.3
Sex of Household Head									
Male	13.7	22.7	19.3	11.0	7.0	4.9	21.4	100.0	4.4
Female	9.5	18.9	17.9	10.7	7.7	6.2	29.0	100.0	5.2
Age of Household Head									
15 to 24	15.1	21.6	17.5	10.3	6.4	5.4	23.7	100.0	4.6
25 to 34	13.6	24.2	18.3	10.7	6.7	4.9	21.6	100.0	4.4
35 to 44	12.3	22.1	19.7	10.6	7.1	5.3	22.8	100.0	4.6
45 to 54	11.2	19.0	21.4	10.9	8.1	4.2	25.1	100.0	4.8
55 to 64	10.3	20.6	18.1	13.0	8.5	6.1	23.3	100.0	4.7
65+	10.8	17.3	15.7	10.4	7.3	7.6	31.0	100.0	5.5
Marital Status of Household Head									
Never married	16.4	29.5	20.3	8.7	5.0	2.3	17.8	100.0	4.0
Married	13.3	22.5	19.4	11.2	7.2	5.0	21.4	100.0	4.4
Divorced/Separated	9.7	18.6	17.4	10.7	7.5	6.6	29.4	100.0	5.3
Widow/Widower	10.2	17.6	17.0	9.8	8.1	6.0	31.2	100.0	5.3
Education of Household Head									
None	9.4	16.7	18.5	10.0	6.3	5.6	33.4	100.0	5.4
Primary	12.0	20.7	18.3	11.1	7.9	5.5	24.5	100.0	4.8
Secondary	14.2	25.4	20.0	11.1	6.6	4.7	18.0	100.0	4.1
Tertiary	21.2	30.6	23.1	10.0	3.7	4.5	7.0	100.0	3.0
District									
Chitipa	26.3	33.8	15.2	11.8	8.3	2.6	2.0	100.0	2.6
Karonga	26.8	25.6	19.9	8.8	9.7	3.2	6.0	100.0	2.9
Nkhatabay	25.5	25.1	20.3	8.8	6.3	4.8	9.1	100.0	3.2
Rumphi	22.2	36.3	23.5	9.7	3.3	0.4	4.6	100.0	2.8
Mzimba	19.1	23.2	22.5	9.9	6.9	2.1	16.3	100.0	4.1
Likoma	29.8	22.1	16.2	7.7	4.0	2.6	17.6	100.0	3.9
Mzuzu City	29.4	22.4	20.5	6.6	1.6	3.0	16.5	100.0	3.8
Kasungu	8.1	23.3	28.8	15.3	7.7	3.0	13.7	100.0	3.9
Nkhotakota	12.1	21.0	18.8	9.2	8.5	6.0	24.5	100.0	4.8
Ntchisi	11.6	14.7	21.0	15.8	9.9	6.6	20.3	100.0	4.6
Dowa	15.8	31.8	19.4	9.6	5.6	4.7	13.1	100.0	3.8
Salima	6.4	10.6	10.2	9.8	12.9	8.5	41.5	100.0	6.5
Lilongwe	17.1	23.9	22.4	12.8	8.0	4.8	11.0	100.0	3.7
Mchinji	13.2	28.9	25.0	12.4	3.8	4.1	12.6	100.0	3.7
Dedza	12.5	22.6	24.0	11.2	5.4	6.9	17.4	100.0	4.1
Ntcheu	4.8	19.5	19.3	14.0	8.5	5.0	28.8	100.0	5.1
Lilongwe City	18.1	26.9	23.1	9.4	5.7	3.7	13.1	100.0	3.7
Mangochi	8.1	21.9	17.7	13.5	6.7	3.7	28.5	100.0	4.9
Machinga	9.4	23.4	15.3	5.6	6.3	9.2	30.7	100.0	5.1
Zomba Non-City	9.5	15.0	16.6	14.7	8.2	7.5	28.5	100.0	5.1
Chiradzulu	2.2	9.7	8.7	10.2	7.9	8.0	53.3	100.0	6.9
Blantyre	8.4	17.2	20.6	10.9	10.0	6.2	26.8	100.0	5.3
Mwanza	2.3	10.9	15.3	11.4	10.1	8.5	41.5	100.0	6.6
Thyolo	3.0	7.2	10.9	12.7	11.9	7.0	47.5	100.0	6.9

Mulanje	20.0	20.6	12.8	6.1	5.3	5.5	29.6	100.0	5.1
Phalombe	18.4	20.9	14.2	6.7	2.7	3.8	33.4	100.0	5.4
Chikwawa	9.6	29.6	20.6	9.7	4.2	4.4	21.9	100.0	4.4
Nsanje	9.2	29.0	20.2	10.2	4.9	4.2	22.3	100.0	4.6
Balaka	10.1	22.0	15.2	11.0	8.8	3.9	29.0	100.0	4.8
Neno	3.5	12.7	13.2	6.9	9.1	9.8	44.8	100.0	6.8
Zomba City	12.3	23.9	15.8	12.4	8.8	6.4	20.4	100.0	4.5
Blantyre City	12.9	20.1	17.8	10.1	8.8	6.6	23.7	100.0	4.8
Dzaleka Camp	16.7	21.8	14.4	8.0	4.6	3.7	30.7	100.0	5.6

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2025-2026

CHILD ANTHROPOMETRY CHAPTER TABLES

Table 11.1: Nutritional Status of Children Aged 0-59 Months

	Underweight(Weight for age)		Stunted(Height for age)		Wasting(Weight for Height)	
	Severe (z<-3)	Moderate (z<-2)	Severe (z<-3)	Moderate (z<-2)	Severe (z<-3)	Moderate (z<-2)
Malawi	2.4	9.3	12.7	21.3	1.0	3.1
Place of Residence						
Urban	1.3	7.5	8.3	19.5	0.9	2.5
Rural	2.6	9.7	13.5	21.6	1.0	3.2
Region						
Northern	2.8	8.4	10.3	17.4	1.7	2.6
Central	2.3	9.0	14.3	22.0	0.9	3.3
Southern	2.4	9.8	12.0	21.6	0.9	3.0
Sex of child						
Male	2.6	11.2	13.7	23.2	0.9	3.6
Female	2.2	7.4	11.7	19.2	1.1	2.5
Age of child in months						
6-11	1.4	7.1	5.6	9.2	1.8	3.7
12-23	2.2	8.6	13.0	18.5	1.3	3.7
24-35	2.2	10.1	15.4	27.1	0.7	3.4
36-47	2.6	9.5	13.8	23.9	0.9	2.1
48-59	3.2	10.0	11.6	20.3	0.8	2.8
Education of the mother						
None	2.5	9.9	13.0	23.0	1.1	3.1
Primary	2.4	9.5	15.4	16.3	0.7	3.3
Secondary+	1.3	8.4	7.7	19.4	0.7	2.3
District						
Chitipa	1.8	11.1	19.1	16.7	2.5	4.4
Karonga	2.9	6.2	8.4	20.7	4.7	5.5
Nkhatabay	3.1	5.1	10.2	18.0	0.5	0.8
Rumphi	1.4	7.0	9.5	20.4	0.5	1.9
Mzimba	3.3	9.8	10.3	15.4	1.5	1.7
Likoma	0.2	9.6	10.4	12.1	0.5	6.7
Mzuzu City	2.7	8.4	6.4	17.3		2.2
Kasungu	0.6	5.7	10.5	23.3		
Nkhotakota	2.6	10.9	12.5	23.5	0.7	4.4
Ntchisi	2.0	3.9	9.7	23.5	0.7	0.8
Dowa	2.8	11.5	12.6	23.4	1.2	1.5
Salima	6.4	12.6	24.1	16.4	1.4	2.7
Lilongwe	3.3	8.7	15.1	18.6	0.8	5.0
Mchinji	4.7	9.3	15.5	22.6	3.0	7.0
Dedza	0.2	9.5	15.1	21.3		4.9
Ntcheu	1.1	9.7	19.7	27.4	1.6	2.3
Lilongwe City		7.7	7.8	23.8	0.4	1.6
Mangochi	1.6	9.4	9.2	20.4	0.5	4.5
Machinga	4.5	11.9	15.2	23.1	1.5	2.3
Zomba Non-City	2.8	6.7	11.6	26.9	0.5	4.3
Chiradzulu	1.9	6.9	15.5	19.1	2.9	1.9
Blantyre	3.7	8.5	7.0	23.5		3.1
Mwanza	3.6	8.2	15.8	22.7	1.1	1.2
Thyolo	2.4	8.2	15.8	20.2		1.6
Mulanje	2.1	12.6	13.8	28.0	1.3	0.8

Phalombe	3.0	8.8	16.7	17.2	0.8	5.2
Chikwawa	1.8	13.7	7.6	21.3	0.8	2.3
Nsanje	1.9	13.4	10.6	16.2	1.4	5.9
Balaka		11.0	9.0	22.4	0.7	0.7
Neno	1.2	16.2	14.0	19.8	1.0	3.1
Zomba City	3.8	7.7	12.2	19.6	1.3	4.0
Blantyre City	2.6	6.6	12.8	16.4	1.4	2.4
Dzaleka Camp	1.1	3.9	8.8	18.5	0.3	1.4

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 11.2: Proportion of Children Aged 0-59 months who participated in Nutrition and Under-Five Clinic Programmes

	Participate in Nutrition Programme	Participate in Under Five Clinic Programmes
Malawi	7.0	67.5
Place of Residence		
Urban	5.9	58.6
Rural	7.2	69.1
Region		
Northern	10.9	78.5
Central	9.8	72.2
Southern	3.5	60.5
Sex of child		
Male	7.1	66.3
Female	7.2	65.5
Age of child in months		
6-11	5.7	89.9
12-23	8.3	87.0
24-35	7.0	72.0
36-47	6.5	53.9
48-59	7.6	40.1
Education of the mother		
None	6.8	68.0
Primary	7.2	71.8
Secondary+	6.8	67.5
District		
Chitipa	27.7	86.1
Karonga	28.6	87.9
Nkhatabay	7.2	71.8
Rumphi	7.9	80.8
Mzimba	3.7	79.5
Likoma	1.2	71.3
Mzuzu City	4.2	58.0
Kasungu	11.1	78.0
Nkhotakota	4.2	61.1
Ntchisi	13.3	84.4
Dowa	8.1	79.0
Salima	9.5	68.3
Lilongwe	6.8	65.6
Mchinji	10.5	75.9
Dedza	10.9	77.0
Ntcheu	24.9	84.0
Lilongwe City	4.2	61.0
Mangochi	1.8	58.3
Machinga	2.2	64.8
Zomba Non-City	1.1	75.4
Chiradzulu	2.5	54.1

Blantyre	11.4	61.1
Mwanza	1.3	89.7
Thyolo	3.8	59.8
Mulanje	1.5	42.0
Phalombe	6.2	49.8
Chikwawa	4.7	67.7
Nsanje	4.4	69.7
Balaka	0.9	55.0
Neno	6.0	84.3
Zomba City	1.6	65.7
Blantyre City	8.1	52.0
Dzaleka Camp	12.3	71.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 11.3: Proportion of Children aged 0-59 Months who were Oedematic and Children who Received Measles Vaccine

	Oedematic	Measles Vaccine (Aged 9 Years or Older)
Malawi	3.8	93.6
Place of Residence		
Urban	1.5	92.9
Rural	4.2	93.7
Region		
Northern	4.0	88.6
Central	3.8	94.0
Southern	3.8	94.6
Sex of child		
Male	4.1	93.1
Female	3.1	94.1
Age of child in months		
6-11	5.2	84.6
12-23	4.2	92.3
24-35	3.3	95.3
36-47	3.4	94.4
48-59	2.9	94.2
Education of the mother		
None	4.0	93.8
Primary	4.1	94.4
Secondary+	3.3	92.7
District		
Chitipa	2.9	81.5
Karonga	2.0	83.8
Nkhatabay	3.8	94.2
Rumphi	2.5	94.3
Mzimba	5.8	89.1
Likoma	3.2	94.1
Mzuzu City	2.1	87.8
Kasungu	2.1	91.5
Nkhotakota	4.1	96.3
Ntchisi	0.9	97.0
Dowa	4.9	90.9
Salima	14.1	87.1
Lilongwe	5.4	95.1
Mchinji	0.4	95.2
Dedza	2.7	97.0
Ntcheu	2.3	96.8
Lilongwe City	1.0	93.1

Mangochi	4.2	93.3
Machinga	5.4	98.5
Zomba Non-City	2.8	97.0
Chiradzulu	1.6	96.9
Blantyre		96.8
Mwanza	3.4	96.2
Thyolo	2.1	92.9
Mulanje	4.9	86.6
Phalombe	11.1	90.1
Chikwawa	3.8	95.3
Nsanje	1.7	98.6
Balaka	3.6	98.1
Neno	3.9	100.0
Zomba City	0.9	95.5
Blantyre City	1.5	92.8
Dzaleka Camp	7.1	94.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 12.1: Proportion of individuals 15 years and older who own a financial account

	Own a financial account
Malawi	18.8
Place of Residence	
Urban	33.1
Rural	15.6
Region	
Northern	18.9
Central	21.1
Southern	16.4
Sex	
Male	20.1
Female	17.6
District	
Chitipa	6.6
Karonga	5.7
Nkhatabay	23.9
Rumphi	25.5
Mzimba	19.8
Likoma	23.2
Mzuzu City	32.1
Kasungu	17.9
Nkhotakota	22.3
Ntchisi	12.9
Dowa	23.4
Salima	9.7
Lilongwe	23.7
Mchinji	7.4
Dedza	18.3
Ntcheu	12.6
Lilongwe City	38.7
Mangochi	9.9
Machinga	7.4
Zomba Non-City	12.5
Chiradzulu	13.0
Blantyre	18.1
Mwanza	11.7
Thyolo	11.0
Mulanje	15.8
Phalombe	15.0
Chikwawa	28.1
Nsanje	26.9
Balaka	12.7
Neno	17.5
Zomba City	28.5
Blantyre City	32.3
Dzaleka Camp	45.5

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 12.2: Use of Financial Services – Percentage of individuals using different financial services by type of financial service

	ATM/Credit or Debit Card	Online banking	Mobile banking	Agent banking
Malawi	29.6	11.7	58.0	12.9
Place of Residence				
Urban	54.2	23.3	70.5	12.8
Rural	17.8	6.2	52.0	12.9
Region				
Northern	33.8	13.8	35.5	11.8
Central	25.4	10.7	67.9	11.8
Southern	33.7	12.4	52.9	14.6
Sex				
Male	38.9	14.7	68.5	14.6
Female	20.1	8.7	47.3	11.0
District				
Dzaleka Camp	16.3	3.0	24.9	20.4

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 12.3: Proportion of individuals 15 years and older who saved money in the last 12 months by formal and informal institutions

	Proportion that saved money in Formal institutions	Proportion that saved money in Informal institutions
Malawi	26.9	58.7
Place of Residence		
Urban	31.8	51.4
Rural	25.7	60.4
Region		
Northern	34.0	60.9
Central	22.5	60.6
Southern	29.1	56.1
Sex		
Male	27.1	56.4
Female	26.6	60.8
District		
Chitipa	25.6	69.9
Karonga	24.3	62.1
Nkhatabay	37.2	56.4
Rumphi	22.5	65.9
Mzimba	37.6	61.0
Likoma	37.2	49.0
Mzuzu City	48.2	53.2
Kasungu	29.0	54.8
Nkhotakota	28.9	52.5
Ntchisi	43.0	64.1
Dowa	19.2	66.9
Salima	3.8	51.1
Lilongwe	20.5	62.5
Mchinji	20.9	52.7
Dedza	18.5	66.3
Ntcheu	17.8	72.1
Lilongwe City	29.4	56.3

Mangochi	44.1	72.6
Machinga	25.1	54.2
Zomba Non-City	20.9	45.6
Chiradzulu	22.2	38.3
Blantyre	13.5	34.0
Mwanza	9.0	53.3
Thyolo	17.8	32.9
Mulanje	17.9	72.2
Phalombe	16.4	67.2
Chikwawa	54.8	76.1
Nsanje	53.7	75.1
Balaka	46.0	74.5
Neno	11.7	51.1
Zomba City	23.0	41.7
Blantyre City	29.3	40.1
Dzaleka Camp	7.1	43.3

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 12.4: Percentage of individuals who saved money formally by type of formal financial service

	Commercial Banks	Micro Finance	SACCO	Other Formal Financial Institution	Mobile Money
Malawi	17.5	1.2	1.7	75.3	8.8
Place of Residence					
Urban	43.7	1.5	3.5	44.6	17.3
Rural	10.2	1.1	1.2	83.7	6.4
Region					
Northern	17.2	0.5	0.9	81.5	3.2
Central	19.7	0.6	2.3	67.6	16.7
Southern	15.8	2.0	1.4	79.2	4.5
Sex					
Male	24.5	0.9	1.9	67.4	11.1
Female	11.1	1.5	1.4	82.4	6.7
District					
Dzaleka Camp	32.1	3.7		42.5	27.4

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 12.5: Percentage of individuals by type of informal financial service

	Home (CASH)	Friends/Family	Village Savings	Non-Registered Association / Chipereganyu
Malawi	48.8	9.3	17.7	3.9
Place of Residence				
Urban	41.7	6.7	12.4	6.9
Rural	50.4	9.8	18.8	3.2
Region				
Northern	49.2	4.1	19.2	3.0
Central	51.2	11.8	19.0	4.7
Southern	46.2	8.3	15.8	3.3
Sex				
Male	51.2	10.2	8.2	1.9
Female	46.7	8.4	26.1	5.6
District				
Dzaleka Camp	40.7	0.9	3.6	0.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Table 13.1: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook an overnight trip

	yes
Malawi	20.0
Place of Residence	
Urban	28.5
Rural	18.2
Region	
Northern	24.4
Central	20.0
Southern	18.9
Sex of Household Head	
Male	21.4
Female	16.7
Age of Household Head	
15 to 24	18.2
25 to 34	19.3
35 to 44	22.5
45 to 54	23.0
55 to 64	19.1
65+	12.8
Marital Status of Household Head	
Never married	23.0
Married	21.4
Divorced/Separated	15.6
Widow/Widower	16.4
Education of Household Head	
None	12.3
Primary	18.1
Secondary	24.5
Tertiary	40.8
District	
Chitipa	15.4
Karonga	18.0
Nkhatabay	18.1
Rumphi	31.8
Mzimba	26.6
Likoma	34.5
Mzuzu City	33.8
Kasungu	21.9
Nkhotakota	16.2
Ntchisi	13.9
Dowa	25.1
Salima	11.7
Lilongwe	21.1
Mchinji	20.8
Dedza	18.2
Ntcheu	7.9
Lilongwe City	28.9

Mangochi	8.9
Machinga	30.7
Zomba Non-City	20.8
Chiradzulu	9.9
Blantyre	11.4
Mwanza	14.7
Thyolo	15.5
Mulanje	14.8
Phalombe	16.3
Chikwawa	30.4
Nsanje	34.9
Balaka	14.0
Neno	19.5
Zomba City	36.6
Blantyre City	24.7
Dzaleka Camp	8.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 13.2: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook an overnight trip by purpose of trip

	Purpose of Overnight Trip										
	Visiting Friends and Relatives	Fun-eral	Work/Profess-ional	Health and Medical Care	Trad-ing	Religion/Pilgri-mages	Leisure/holiday/recrea-tion	Eve-nts	Educa-tion And Training	Shop-ping	Other
Malawi	44.8	17.5	12.3	4.7	4.2	5.7	0.8	4.2	0.8	0.5	4.4
Place of Residence											
Urban	33.2	21.0	19.2	1.5	5.5	3.8	1.4	6.2	1.5	0.0	6.7
Rural	48.6	16.3	10.1	5.8	3.8	6.3	0.7	3.5	0.6	0.7	3.7
Region											
Northern	38.9	20.0	8.9	9.3	6.6	7.3	0.2	2.8	1.3	0.1	4.4
Central	41.0	21.2	13.3	3.9	2.7	6.0	1.1	3.8	1.1	0.7	5.2
Southern	50.7	12.9	12.4	4.0	4.9	4.8	0.8	5.0	0.4	0.5	3.7
Sex of Household Head											
Male	44.0	16.4	14.4	4.2	4.4	5.8	0.7	4.0	0.7	0.6	4.6
Female	47.3	20.9	5.7	6.3	3.6	5.2	1.2	4.6	1.1	0.1	4.1
Age of Household Head											
15 to 24	57.8	13.0	11.7	3.4	6.7	2.6	0.7	0.1		0.5	3.5
25 to 34	47.0	12.3	17.3	3.0	4.3	4.4	0.9	3.3	0.8	0.8	5.8
35 to 44	43.2	18.5	14.5	4.0	4.8	4.2	0.7	5.4	0.4	0.8	3.5
45 to 54	39.3	21.4	8.6	8.0	4.0	9.1	0.8	4.2	1.5	0.1	3.1
55 to 64	40.5	22.8	6.0	5.2	3.1	6.2		7.4	1.5		7.3
65+	50.5	20.9	2.8	6.3	0.6	10.2	2.6	2.4	0.6		3.2
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	51.8	7.4	24.5	0.2	7.2	0.4	2.1	0.3	2.6	0.4	3.1
Married	43.7	16.8	13.4	4.6	4.4	6.1	0.7	4.4	0.7	0.6	4.6
Divorced/Separated	47.2	21.5	8.2	6.0	3.7	5.5	1.4	2.7	0.6	0.1	3.3
Widow/Widower	48.6	21.8	3.2	6.3	1.7	4.6	1.1	6.2	1.1		5.4
Education of Household Head											
None	51.7	19.1	4.8	10.6	2.1	4.4		2.8	0.6		4.0
Primary	45.9	18.2	9.3	5.7	4.0	6.5	0.8	4.1	0.4	0.7	4.2
Secondary	44.4	18.0	13.5	2.6	5.6	4.8	0.7	4.6	1.2	0.5	4.0
Tertiary	33.2	9.4	33.0	1.4	2.2	4.9	2.1	4.1	1.9		7.7
District											

Chitipa	32.9	16.3	17.8	5.8	1.3	14.2			3.8	0.8	7.0
Karonga	39.8	18.5	6.5	6.1	8.9	8.7					11.4
Nkhatabay	53.9	11.2	1.5	14.3	8.8	6.7	0.6				3.1
Rumphi	33.0	20.8	10.2	9.3	6.7	12.2		2.0	2.7	0.5	2.7
Mzimba	40.7	20.2	6.5	12.9	4.7	6.7		5.4	0.7		2.3
Likoma	39.5	5.5	8.6		32.6	6.0		3.5	2.9		1.4
Mzuzu City	32.4	27.2	16.5	1.3	9.6	2.0	1.1	1.4	2.2		6.2
Kasungu	46.9	16.2	5.8	3.4	2.5	4.0	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.2	9.3
Nkhotakota	53.9	15.4	8.0	6.2	2.8	8.3		1.2	1.6		2.6
Ntchisi	35.7	13.2	10.9	3.8	24.4	4.5			3.4	1.0	3.0
Dowa	41.7	34.6	6.6	3.6		5.0		1.8		0.7	6.1
Salima	35.7	22.0	12.6	2.1	10.2	7.2		2.4	0.8	5.0	2.2
Lilongwe	41.1	23.6	11.7	4.0	0.7	8.1	1.6	3.9			5.3
Mchinji	65.8	11.0	10.3			2.9		5.3	3.7		0.9
Dedza	42.5	17.7	16.5	5.3	1.3	9.4		4.9			2.5
Ntcheu	47.9	12.3	2.6	22.4	3.8	2.9		8.1			
Lilongwe City	23.9	22.9	26.8	1.9	3.8	5.2	2.4	4.5	1.1		7.7
Mangochi	48.1	8.1	10.6	14.0	3.1	3.4	3.6	4.1			5.0
Machinga	44.6	15.1	16.3	2.6	6.2	2.7	1.6	7.5			3.5
Zomba Non-City	56.2	10.8	13.4	2.1	5.5	3.9		4.6			3.5
Chiradzulu	61.3	9.9	3.5	4.0	4.1	5.1		2.9	3.0		6.2
Blantyre	62.3	6.7	11.9	4.0	1.9			4.3			8.9
Mwanza	55.1	10.6	13.4		4.8	5.5	1.5	2.9	1.1	1.4	3.5
Thyolo	60.0	13.5	1.8	1.7	2.6	9.3		8.9			2.2
Mulanje	48.2	8.2	20.9	5.5	4.9	3.5		3.3		2.4	3.1
Phalombe	47.8	7.9	14.9	9.3	6.3	2.6		1.3	3.7		6.2
Chikwawa	57.4	14.9	8.4	5.3	4.4	7.2		1.6			0.8
Nsanje	50.3	12.4	15.5	1.9	4.0	11.5		1.6			2.8
Balaka	54.9	11.0	2.7	10.7	6.9	7.7				6.1	
Neno	45.1	9.6	15.5	3.4	10.6	4.4		4.6	1.4	1.1	4.5
Zomba City	44.7	15.5	14.8	0.6	5.9	4.3	2.7	5.2	3.3		3.2
Blantyre City	41.5	19.9	14.4		4.9	2.8	1.2	9.6			5.7
Dzaleka Camp	41.2	8.8	11.8	8.8	8.8	5.9					14.7

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 13.3: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook a overnight trip by transport of trip

	Mode of Transport of Overnight Trip			
	Road	Rail	Water	Air
Malawi	98.0	1.0	0.9	0.1
Place of Residence				
Urban	98.1	1.5	0.2	0.3
Rural	98.0	0.9	1.1	0.0
Region				
Northern	98.3	0.0	1.7	
Central	99.3		0.5	0.1
Southern	96.7	2.3	0.9	0.1
Sex of Household Head				
Male	97.9	1.0	1.0	0.1
Female	98.5	0.9	0.5	0.1
Age of Household Head				
15 to 24	97.0	1.3	1.6	0.1
25 to 34	98.0	1.3	0.7	
35 to 44	98.7	1.0	0.3	0.0
45 to 54	97.9	0.9	0.8	0.4
55 to 64	96.5	1.0	2.5	

65+	99.3		0.7	
Marital Status of Household Head				
Never married	98.0		2.0	
Married	98.0	1.0	0.9	0.1
Divorced/Separated	98.4	0.9	0.6	0.1
Widow/Widower	98.1	1.3	0.6	
Education of Household Head				
None	98.3	1.1	0.6	
Primary	97.6	1.3	1.0	0.1
Secondary	98.4	0.7	0.9	0.0
Tertiary	99.2		0.2	0.6
District				
Chitipa	100.0			
Karonga	98.0		2.0	
Nkhatabay	97.5		2.5	
Rumphi	96.5		3.5	
Mzimba	100.0			
Likoma	8.9	0.5	90.6	
Mzuzu City	100.0			
Kasungu	95.9		4.1	
Nkhotakota	99.5			0.5
Ntchisi	100.0			
Dowa	100.0			
Salima	97.9		2.1	
Lilongwe	100.0			
Mchinji	100.0			
Dedza	99.5			0.5
Ntcheu	100.0			
Lilongwe City	99.8			0.2
Mangochi	95.7		4.3	
Machinga	95.4	4.6		
Zomba Non-City	97.4	2.6		
Chiradzulu	100.0			
Blantyre	97.7	2.3		
Mwanza	100.0			
Thyolo	100.0			
Mulanje	97.9		2.1	
Phalombe	100.0			
Chikwawa	97.2	1.9	0.8	
Nsanje	92.9	0.8	6.3	
Balaka	83.7	16.3		
Neno	100.0			
Zomba City	97.7	1.4		0.9
Blantyre City	97.8	1.8		0.5
Dzaleka Camp	100.0			

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 13.4: Accommodation of Overnight Trip

	Accommodation of Overnight Trip					
	Hotel/Inn Lodge	Private House	Resthouse	Caravan Camping	Other	Tents / Sleeping Bags
Malawi	4.2	82.1	4.2	0.2	7.7	1.6
Place of Residence						
Urban	11.3	77.4	6.0	0.5	4.2	0.6
Rural	1.9	83.6	3.7	0.2	8.8	1.9
Region						

Northern	3.1	84.1	5.0	0.2	7.4	0.3
Central	6.0	78.9	4.0	0.3	9.7	1.2
Southern	2.7	84.7	4.2	0.2	5.7	2.4
Sex of Household Head						
Male	4.6	81.1	4.9	0.1	7.6	1.7
Female	2.9	85.2	2.2	0.6	7.8	1.3
Age of Household Head						
15 to 24	3.5	83.2	4.9	0.7	5.8	2.0
25 to 34	4.2	82.1	5.2		6.5	2.0
35 to 44	6.7	80.1	4.5	0.5	6.4	1.8
45 to 54	3.2	83.0	3.4	0.1	8.9	1.4
55 to 64	2.1	82.9	3.2	0.3	11.5	
65+	0.4	85.4	2.1		10.5	1.6
Marital Status of Household Head						
Never married	12.1	73.5	9.8		4.6	
Married	4.3	81.5	4.3	0.2	8.0	1.7
Divorced/Separated	2.8	83.8	3.9	0.4	7.0	2.2
Widow/Widower	1.5	89.1	1.4	0.8	6.6	0.6
Education of Household Head						
None	0.3	84.2	3.1	0.1	9.5	2.8
Primary	1.5	83.9	3.1	0.2	9.4	1.8
Secondary	3.2	84.3	5.2	0.3	6.2	0.8
Tertiary	28.4	60.1	8.3		1.0	2.2
District						
Chitipa	3.1	54.2	20.7		22.1	
Karonga	4.8	74.3	6.9	1.3	12.7	
Nkhatabay		91.9	4.4		3.7	
Rumphi	3.9	84.4	2.2	0.8	8.6	
Mzimba	2.4	89.2	2.3		6.0	
Likoma	3.2	60.7	27.3		5.8	3.0
Mzuzu City	4.7	86.4	5.2		2.3	1.4
Kasungu	4.9	65.1	10.8	1.4	17.1	0.7
Nkhotakota		92.5	1.2		5.0	1.3
Ntchisi	4.4	67.6	7.9		17.2	2.9
Dowa	2.2	71.6	2.1		23.0	1.1
Salima	7.2	78.1			12.6	2.1
Lilongwe	3.4	86.8	2.1		6.1	1.5
Mchinji	1.8	89.4	2.1		4.3	2.3
Dedza	2.8	87.1	0.7		7.3	2.1
Ntcheu	2.9	88.6	2.0		6.5	
Lilongwe City	17.0	71.1	6.8	0.5	4.6	
Mangochi	1.1	72.4	14.3		12.2	
Machinga	2.4	91.3	4.6	0.5		1.2
Zomba Non-City		89.7	2.9		2.9	4.5
Chiradzulu		92.4	2.6		5.1	
Blantyre	1.8	77.9	6.2		11.3	2.7
Mwanza	1.6	81.7	4.8		2.1	9.8
Thyolo		93.1			6.9	
Mulanje		91.6	4.7			3.7
Phalombe	1.5	80.6	4.2		11.7	1.9
Chikwawa		85.2	1.8		10.8	2.2
Nsanje	2.2	79.0	0.3		11.2	7.2
Balaka	4.7	78.8	4.6	2.5	9.4	
Neno	2.9	71.8	3.5	1.5	3.8	16.6
Zomba City	8.5	86.4	0.6		3.3	1.3
Blantyre City	10.6	78.9	6.1		3.3	1.1
Dzaleka Camp		52.9	2.9		38.2	5.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 13.5: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook a sameday trip

	Undertook Same Day Trip
Malawi	19.8
Place of Residence	
Urban	19.8
Rural	19.8
Region	
Northern	15.7
Central	20.5
Southern	20.2
Sex of Household Head	
Male	21.5
Female	15.6
Age of Household Head	
15 to 24	20.5
25 to 34	21.4
35 to 44	20.4
45 to 54	21.9
55 to 64	17.5
65+	11.8
Marital Status of Household Head	
Never married	22.4
Married	21.2
Divorced/Separated	16.5
Widow/Widower	14.3
Education of Household Head	
None	13.1
Primary	19.1
Secondary	23.3
Tertiary	28.2
District	
Chitipa	2.0
Karonga	4.6
Nkhatabay	16.5
Rumphi	33.6
Mzimba	21.4
Likoma	2.7
Mzuzu City	9.1
Kasungu	12.1
Nkhotakota	15.4
Ntchisi	10.3
Dowa	48.7
Salima	18.2
Lilongwe	26.6
Mchinji	11.4
Dedza	17.6
Ntcheu	5.6
Lilongwe City	20.7
Mangochi	11.8
Machinga	34.0
Zomba Non-City	26.7
Chiradzulu	16.2
Blantyre	11.0
Mwanza	14.2
Thyolo	18.9
Mulanje	10.6

Phalombe	16.3
Chikwawa	38.3
Nsanje	32.8
Balaka	15.3
Neno	17.5
Zomba City	32.4
Blantyre City	18.8
Dzaleka Camp	26.9

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 13.6: Proportion of Households where atleast one individual undertook a sameday trip by purpose of trip

	Purpose of Same Day Trip										
	Visiting Friends and Relatives	Fun-eral	Work/Profess-ional	Health and Medical Care	Trad-ing	Religion/ Pilgri-mages	Leisure/ holiday/ recrea-tion	Eve-nts	Educa-tion And Training	Shop-ping	Other
Malawi	42.4	15.5	7.7	5.8	10.3	5.0	1.6	4.4	0.5	5.5	1.3
Place of Residence											
Urban	40.1	16.8	13.9	2.7	6.6	4.9	2.5	7.5	1.7	1.8	1.6
Rural	42.9	15.2	6.5	6.5	11.0	5.0	1.4	3.8	0.2	6.2	1.3
Region											
Northern	36.1	17.9	8.9	4.8	16.2	3.4	2.4	2.4	1.9	4.5	1.6
Central	41.3	18.5	8.4	4.6	6.7	6.4	2.6	5.1	0.3	5.2	1.0
Southern	44.8	12.1	6.8	7.2	12.5	4.0	0.5	4.2	0.4	5.9	1.6
Sex of Household Head											
Male	41.6	15.5	8.7	5.5	11.1	4.0	1.7	4.5	0.5	5.5	1.4
Female	45.3	15.6	4.4	7.0	7.6	8.2	1.2	4.1	0.2	5.2	1.2
Age of Household Head											
15 to 24	49.0	11.3	5.5	6.7	8.1	5.1	1.7	2.8		6.4	3.6
25 to 34	45.3	11.5	7.4	5.5	12.2	3.6	2.2	4.6	0.2	6.7	0.6
35 to 44	41.0	18.3	9.9	4.2	9.8	4.5	1.2	4.7	0.7	3.8	1.8
45 to 54	35.1	20.0	7.4	5.5	12.2	4.8	1.1	6.2	0.5	6.2	0.9
55 to 64	43.3	15.8	5.6	8.2	4.9	9.2	2.4	2.4	1.0	5.9	1.3
65+	45.0	16.1	8.0	9.9	7.8	8.2	0.1	1.8	0.9	1.2	1.0
Marital Status of Household Head											
Never married	39.2	6.6	18.0	6.5	8.7	3.3	2.1	3.1		8.5	4.0
Married	41.3	16.1	8.3	5.5	11.1	4.0	1.7	4.3	0.5	5.7	1.3
Divorced/Separated	47.3	12.3	5.0	6.6	5.8	9.3	1.3	6.7	0.3	4.3	1.1
Widow/Widower	46.7	19.4	1.6	6.9	11.0	7.6	0.6	2.2	0.2	3.3	0.6
Education of Household Head											
None	45.4	13.6	6.6	12.5	7.7	2.8	0.4	6.4		4.6	0.1
Primary	43.2	18.3	3.8	5.7	10.8	5.7	1.5	3.6	0.3	5.6	1.6
Secondary	42.0	12.2	11.8	5.1	10.5	5.3	1.9	4.7	0.3	4.8	1.3
Tertiary	33.8	10.7	22.6	0.2	8.6		3.2	7.5	3.3	8.5	1.5
District											
Chitipa	15.2	14.6	32.1		13.1	5.5		10.4		9.1	
Karonga	47.4	24.9	9.5		6.4				11.9		
Nkhatabay	51.9	4.6	5.2	5.6	20.3			2.6		9.7	
Rumphi	29.9	15.4	12.5	6.5	25.0	5.6		0.9	1.5	2.0	0.8
Mzimba	34.7	21.4	6.1	4.5	14.3	3.3	3.1	3.2	1.9	5.1	2.6
Likoma	35.4	11.6	22.0			15.8					15.2
Mzuzu City	32.9	18.7	21.5	5.8	4.9	6.1	10.1				
Kasungu	30.7	25.7	3.1	3.2	2.7	10.0	19.7				4.9
Nkhotakota	46.4	17.6	3.3	4.4	2.8	8.2		7.2		8.9	1.3
Ntchisi	42.0	5.3	1.2	1.4	22.1	7.6	5.2	11.3		2.5	1.3

Dowa	40.2	19.6	7.0	7.4	8.4	4.9	0.8	3.3		7.2	1.2
Salima	44.8	22.9	1.2	7.1	10.8	1.9	1.1	7.6		1.3	1.3
Lilongwe	40.0	20.5	9.2	2.6	4.7	9.6	0.3	7.9		4.7	0.4
Mchinji	54.0	10.9	6.9	2.8	4.6		3.6	2.9	1.2	13.0	
Dedza	48.9	16.7	2.5	7.2	11.6	4.3		3.3		3.7	1.9
Ntcheu	40.0	2.6		6.7	10.6		3.9	9.9		26.3	
Lilongwe City	38.0	16.5	23.0	2.1	3.1	6.4	4.6	3.3	1.6	1.2	
Mangochi	28.5	32.8	9.8	4.4	14.4			2.0		8.2	
Machinga	46.7	13.2	5.2	11.5	6.6	2.4		4.4		8.0	2.0
Zomba Non-City	46.2	7.8	12.2	6.3	12.7	3.3	0.7	1.4		8.5	0.9
Chiradzulu	46.5	5.3	6.4	8.2	13.1	3.2	1.3	2.1		13.9	
Blantyre	48.7	10.0	5.2	3.7	8.4	9.0		10.5	4.4		
Mwanza	39.7	13.8	8.3	5.6	5.2	7.2	2.4	5.2		10.5	2.0
Thyolo	54.3	4.2	5.6	4.4	11.5	3.0	0.7	5.8	1.2	8.4	0.8
Mulanje	42.4	8.4	3.4	8.7	25.0	7.0		1.6		1.9	1.6
Phalombe	45.7	2.9	8.2	5.6	18.7	5.3		4.5		3.8	5.3
Chikwawa	37.8	10.8	6.2	10.0	23.0	7.7		2.4		1.1	1.0
Nsanje	62.6	8.6	1.0	4.1	8.5	6.4		3.5	1.7	2.3	1.5
Balaka	36.0	14.8	1.1	12.2	20.6	1.7	2.5	2.0		6.3	2.7
Neno	24.2	19.1	3.2	4.1	8.0	6.1	6.7	3.2	0.7	22.3	2.3
Zomba City	37.7	22.7	17.9		7.6	3.3	3.5	5.8		1.4	
Blantyre City	52.2	13.7	7.9	4.7	1.7	2.9		10.9		2.2	3.8
Dzaleka Camp	46.2	9.6	4.8	9.6	4.8	5.8	2.9	1.9		9.6	4.8

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024-2025

Table 2.1: Selected Welfare Indicators IHS3 to IHS6

Indicators	IHS3	IHS4	IHS5	IHS6
Education				
Literacy rate	65.4	72.8	75.5	79.3
Never attended school	21.1	14.2	13.2	10.6
Enrollment Rates				
Gross enrollment rate (Primary School)	120.0	121.8	123.8	108.0
Net enrollment rate (Primary School)	85.8	87.8	88.0	90.2
Gross enrollment rate (Secondary School)	30.1	42.2	39.8	22.1
Net enrollment rate (Secondary School)	13.0	14.3	14.5	15.2
Dropout Rate				
Primary School	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.7
Secondary School	11.9	10.4	8.4	10.9
Credits and Loans				
Interaction with Credit Market				
Households applied for a loan	14.2	18.4	24.6	54.6
Households that obtained a loan	8.3	12.5	17.7	86.7
Household Enterprises				
Household Non-Farm Enterprises				
Wholesale, retail trade, restaurants & hotels	58.1	72.4	63.1	55.5
Manufacturing	30.5	16.3	15.6	27.7
Transportation, storage & communication	3.9	4.2	9.0	4.7
Construction	1.4	1.1	1.4	0.7
Mining and quarrying	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.8
Financing, insurance, real estate & business services	0.2	0.8	3.8	2.1
Housing Infrastructure and Environment				
Households by Type of Housing Tenure				
Owner occupied	81.0	72.9	74.3	67.2
Rented	10.6	12.3	12.4	15.2
Households by Type of Dwelling				
Permanent	28.7	26.7	45.9	43.1

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	IHS3	IHS4	IHS5	IHS6
Semi-permanent	24.7	35.9	25.0	35.3
Traditional	46.6	37.5	29.1	21.7
Access to improved water source	78.7	87.1	88.3	91.2
Use of solid fuel for cooking	97.4	98.0	98.8	97.4
Agriculture				
Households Engaged in Agricultural Activities				
Agricultural households	85.1	82.7	84.7	85.7
Livestock ownership	44.4	36.9	43.4	46.4
Cropping Patterns				
Intercropped	30.8	53.4	83.4	40.4
Welfare				
Households with Inadequate Access				
Inadequate food	38.3	63.8	63.5	67.0
Inadequate housing	40.5	55.6	52.1	54.6
Inadequate health care	32.7	54.8	52.3	56.4
Food Security Status				
High food secure	57.6	24.0	23.8	11.4
Marginal food secure	2.1	2.6	3.4	2.2
Low food secure	7.9	12.0	9.9	20.6
Very low food secure	32.5	61.4	62.9	65.8
Nutrition Status (Children Under Five)				
Severe Stunting	—	—	—	12.7
Severe Underweight	—	—	—	2.4
Severe Wasting	—	—	—	1.0
Savings				
Account ownership	—	—	—	18.8
Formal savings	—	—	—	26.9
Informal savings	—	—	—	58.7
Domestic Tourism				
Same-day trips	—	—	—	19.8
Overnight trips	—	—	—	20.0

Source: National Statistical Office, IHS6 2024–2025

Note: ‘—’ denotes data not available for that survey round.