



# Malawi

Malawi, officially the Republic of Malawi, is a landlocked country in southeast Africa that was formerly known as Nyasaland. It is bordered by Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. The capital is Lilongwe, which is also Malawi's largest city. In 1964 it became an independent country and two years later it became a republic. Upon gaining independence, Malawi became a totalitarian one-party state until 1994. At present, Malawi has a democratic, multi-party government. Malawi is divided into 28 districts within three regions. Malawi is among the world's least-developed countries. The economy is heavily based on agriculture, with a largely rural population.\*

With respect to SWM, the Environment Management Act of 2017 was enacted and the Waste Management Strategy of 2017-2022 came into effect. The Act established the Malawi Environmental Protection Agency, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining. The Agency is expected to be established in a few years to take over the national level SWM supervisory roles from the Environmental Affairs Department. Local governments/municipalities are responsible for SWM at the local/municipal level.

Source: \* Wikipedia, Malawi, accessed 27 February 2019, <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malawi>>

## Information

Population*	18.62 million (2017)
Population growth (annual %)*	2.9 (2017)
Area (km <sup>2</sup> )*	118,480
Climate	Tropical
GDP (current USD)*	6.3 billion (2017)
GDP growth (annual %)*	4.0 (2017)
GNI per capita, Atlas method (current USD)*	320 (2017)
Main industries**	Largely agricultural
Currency***	USD 1 : MWK 719 (Malawi kwacha) (February 2019)

Sources: \* World Bank, Malawi, accessed 14 March 2019, <<https://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&country=MWI>>

\*\* Wikipedia, Malawi, accessed 27 February 2019, <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malawi>>

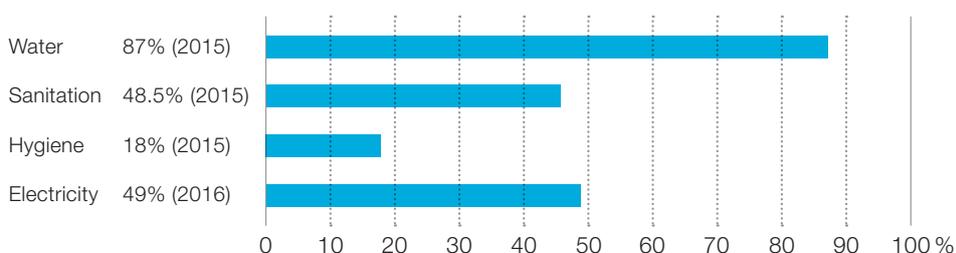
\*\*\* Oanda.com

## Current SWM Situation

Item	Outline
<b>Legal system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is a framework law on SWM: Environment Management Act of 2017. The law clearly defines responsibilities of the stakeholders.</li> <li>● There are three Regulations (2008):               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Waste management and sanitation.</li> <li>2. Chemicals and toxic substances.</li> <li>3. Regulation on Ban of Thin Plastics.</li> </ol> </li> <li>● Local Government Act of 1998 assigns the municipalities to be responsible for SWM (this law is presently under review).</li> <li>● The law is not implemented well due to lack of understanding among stakeholders, lack of specialised facilities, inadequate expertise, and lack of appropriate budget allocation.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy/Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The overall SWM strategy is outlined under the Waste Management Strategy of 2017-2022 (the policy development was supported by Basel Convention).</li> <li>● The Waste Management Strategy identifies priority issues and parties for Malawi in SWM (please see Areas for improvement, below.)</li> </ul>
<b>Implementation system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● At present, the Environmental Affairs Department of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining is in charge of SWM at the national level. The Department interacts with local government for conveying laws/regulations, providing instructions, and providing technical support. It monitors the status of SWM at municipalities and uses the information to provide local government with further instructions and to plan for the next year.</li> <li>● At the local level, the local government/municipalities are responsible for SWM. However, sometimes environmental issues are low on the priority of Local Councils, thus actions tend to be slow.</li> <li>● Other relevant authorities for SWM include the Ministry of Local Government and Ministry of Health.</li> <li>● The informal sector as well as small-scale private operators are involved in collection of waste on the streets, transfer stations, and at disposal sites. Guidelines and licensing requirements for private operators have been developed under the Regulation on Waste Management and Sanitation (since 2016). The private sector operators have been trained as well.</li> </ul>

Item	Outline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Average waste generation rate for Malawi is 0.5 kg/person/day. Estimated waste generation is approximately 8,500 tons/day for the whole country.</li> <li>● There is supposed to be some data available on waste generation amount, collected waste amount, disposed waste amount, and waste amount put into incineration facility for the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe, though data is not gathered often. Data collection of the four main cities is being planned by the Environmental Affairs Department.</li> <li>● There is no sanitary landfill in the country.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is national budget for SWM but no taxation on SWM. There is some financial assistance system (i.e. SWM project funds are provided by the Ministry of Finance to local government for specific projects).</li> <li>● Waste collection rate is still very low -30% collection rates in major cities (as of 2016). Private sector involvement should continue to improve the collection rate. The Department of Environment is aiming to raise this rate to above 70%. A higher collection rate is expected to attract larger private sector companies' to operate in Malawi (e.g. waste-to-energy).</li> </ul>
<b>Donor support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JICA is providing capacity development support.</li> <li>● Global Environmental Fund through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): Climate change activities that are linked to SWM, e.g. improvement of disposal sites, establishment of waste transfer stations.</li> <li>● EU: Establishment of a waste disposal site in Mzuzu City (implementation by Plan International).</li> <li>● WaterAid: Supported waste transfer station.</li> </ul>
<b>Areas for improvement</b>	<p>In the order of priority from the view point of the Environmental Affairs Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Legal issues: Some councils are in the process of developing by-laws. Some cities (such as Lilongwe) are faster in taking action, while other cities are slower due to internal bureaucracy. Once local by-laws have been enacted, the legal system will be complete.</li> <li>● Financial issues: Promotion of public-private partnerships (PPP) as a strategy to address the issue of financing waste management.</li> <li>● Technical issues: Council personnel require technical training.</li> <li>● Institutional issues: Enforcement is difficult due to absence of an autonomous agency that would enforce the legislation. Under the Environment Management Act of 2017, it has been decided that Malawi Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) is to be established as an autonomous body under Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining. Such an agency might be established by 2020 or so.</li> </ul>

## Status of Access to Basic Services\* (in urban area)



\*The definition of each basic service is on page 1 of ANNEX.

## Estimated Waste Amount

The future amount of waste generation is estimated based on the projection of urban population at three waste generation rates, i.e. 0.5, 0.75, and 1.0 kg/person/day.

		unit: thousand persons			
Population	Year	2015	2020	2025	2030
	Total		17,574	20,284	23,277
Urban		2,867	3,535	4,407	5,551

		unit: thousand ton/day			
Waste Amount	Generation rate	2015	2020	2025	2030
	0.50 kg/pers/day	1.4	1.8	2.2	2.8
	0.75 kg/pers/day	2.2	2.7	3.3	4.2
	1.00 kg/pers/day	2.9	3.5	4.4	5.6

$$\text{Waste Amount} = (\text{generation rate}) \times (\text{urban population})$$

Source for population: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2018 Revision, Online Edition.

