

# Malawi

## Country Overview



**Language:** English (official), Chichewa (common)

**Religion:** Protestant 26.9%, Catholic 18.1%, other Christian 41.9%, Muslim 12.5%

**Capital:** Lilongwe

**Currency:** Malawian Kwacha

**Government:** Presidential Republic

**President:** Arthur Peter Mutharik

**Population below poverty line:** 50%

**HIV/AIDS adult prevalence:** 9.2% (2016)

**Willow Creek Partner:** Tubepoka Development Initiative (TDI)

**Location:** Chatipa (Northern)

**Environment:** Rural

**Want to learn more about Malawi?**

[www.willowcreek.org/globalinfo](http://www.willowcreek.org/globalinfo)

## Background

Malawi is a landlocked country that ranks among the world's most densely populated and least developed. Almost 80% of the population lives in rural areas, where the majority of people rely solely on subsistence farming for employment. Since agriculture accounts for one third of the country's GDP, Malawi is highly dependent on the stability of the environment. Therefore, when Malawi was hit by the El Nino-driven drought in 2015 the impact on the economy was considerable. The country's poor economic performance has historically been linked to instability within the region, poor infrastructure, government corruption, high population growth, and poor health and education that limit labor productivity. Overall, population growth, increasing pressure on agricultural lands, corruption, and the devastation of HIV/AIDS pose major problems for Malawi.

## Hunger & Health

- ◆ Poor health conditions are correlated with the severe shortage of health workers, malnutrition, frequent outbreaks of diseases and limited access to quality health services
- ◆ Poor sanitation practices & improper storage of drinking water lead to diseases like cholera
- ◆ There are high rates of HIV/AIDS (10.6 percent adult prevalence), fertility (5.7 children per woman), and infant mortality (66 per 1,000 live births)
- ◆ Increasing vulnerability to climate change threaten the sustainability of Malawi's agricultural-based economy and worsen food shortages
- ◆ The majority of the households (43 percent) have to walk for 30 minutes or longer to obtain their drinking water

## About Willow's Partner: Tubepoka Development Initiative (TDI)

TDI is a Christian non-governmental organization working with churches and local communities in the district of Chitipa. The organization focuses in the areas of church development, agriculture, water and sanitation, health and HIV, economic empowerment, and youth and children. Its mission is to build the capacity of local churches in facilitating social-economic and spiritual empowerment initiatives.