

MALAWI

Capital Lilongwe

Population 15.26 million

Literacy Rate 62.7 percent

Infant Mortality Rate 81.04 per 1,000 live births¹

Life Expectancy 53 years old²

Total Refugees 130

Total Asylum Seekers 46³

Refugees in South Africa 940⁴

Percent of People Living under Poverty Line 52.4 percent⁵

GDP per Capita \$278⁶

HIV/AIDs Rate 12.3 percent⁷

The current president of Malawi, Bingu wa Mutharika, won his second term in May 2009; however, after entering office, he left his political party--the United Democratic Front (UDF)--in favor of creating the Democratic Progressive Party. Under President Mutharika, Malawi has had substantial economic growth and seen improvements in education and healthcare. Mutharika's successor, former President Muluzi instituted an HIV/AIDs programme after his brother died from the disease. Despite the programme, thousands die each year from AIDs.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and relies heavily on agriculture. However, because of its location and penchant for extreme rainfall and extreme droughts, Malawians are heavily dependent on food aid.⁸

¹ World Fact Book: Malawi, CIA. 2011.

² World Development Indicators: Malawi, World Bank. 2010

³ 2010 Statistical Snapshot: Malawi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2010. Data reflects total refugees and asylum seekers as of January 2010.

⁴ 2005 Statistical Yearbook: Malawi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. 2007.

⁵ World Development Indicators: Malawi, World Bank. 2010.

⁶ 2009 Indicators on Income and Economic Activity, United Nations Statistics Division. 2010. Data is based off internationally recognized poverty line of \$1.25 a day.

⁷ World Development Indicators: Malawi, World Bank. 2010.

⁸ Country Profiles: Malawi, BBC News. 2011.