Malawi: Investing in our Future Now

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The issues of population growth and family planning are central to Malawi’s national development, and impact the well-being of all Malawians, but they are often discussed in very technical terms and with little consideration of what it means for the average Malawian man or woman. This presentation is a new advocacy tool for Malawi that was developed by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and a task force of experts in population, reproductive health and family planning. Through this effort, we wish to support Malawi’s pursuit of its national development goals and improve the well-being of all Malawians by drawing attention to the challenges that the country faces as a result of rapid population growth and increase understanding and support for family planning as an effective strategy for development.

This presentation attempts to illustrate the importance of addressing rapid population growth and the benefits of family planning in a clear and engaging way. The presentation takes into account Malawi’s achievements and explores the challenges we face for future growth, with the goal of promoting policy dialogue at the national and community level.

[Start the presentation]
Presentation Tips

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE THE PRESENTATION

This ENGAGE presentation and supporting materials are tools for professionals involved in family planning and gender equality at all levels—in academic, policy, and community settings. The target audiences are:

- **Primary**: Government policymakers at all levels, including parliamentarians, who are in a position to allocate resources and advance family planning on the policy agenda.
- **Secondary**: All of those who influence high-level policymakers—news media, civic and religious leaders, program officials, and other community leaders.

USING THE PRESENTATION WITH DIFFERENT AUDIENCES

The ENGAGE presentation is designed to be used in a variety of settings or environments. Some ideas to reach different audiences with the presentation are listed below.

**Policymakers**

- Educating policymakers about the importance addressing rapid population growth and the benefits of family planning to reach development goals, especially at the national level.
- Demonstrating simple and effective strategies for incorporating population growth and family planning across all relevant policies and programs.

**Family Planning Advocates**

- Educating advocates about family planning as a key strategy to address the pace of population growth and the impact of population growth on the economy and development of Malawi, and the role of both in achieving Malawi’s Growth and Development goals and Millennium Development Goals so advocates can better inform high-level policymakers.
- Reaching advocates who participate in community health days, conferences, or stakeholder meetings with information about family planning and population growth.

**Civic and Religious Leaders**

- Educating civic and religious leaders about the importance of investing in family planning to produce beneficial health and development impacts in families and communities.
- Communicating better with civic and religious leaders, especially those against family planning.
• Sustaining policy dialogue with local leaders, including civic and religious leaders at local seminars and events.

The Media

• Educating the news media on issues of high fertility and unmet need in Malawi and the link between family planning, population growth and the priorities of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, using the ENGAGE presentation as a teaching tool.

• Providing a basis for television and radio talk shows, accompanied by local exposure to discussions and questions about family planning and population growth.
ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

You can make this presentation more interesting to your audience by adding information about local experiences and practices, especially those that apply to your audience. Some areas to consider when analyzing your audience:

**Size of the Audience.** With smaller groups, you can provide more in-depth analysis based on real-life stories or experiences because you usually know more about the individuals in the group. In larger groups, you may have to take more time during the scripted presentation to define general concepts and ensure the presentation is relevant to all viewers.

**Knowledge Level.** It is always safest to assume that the audience does not understand any technical terms you might use in the presentation. If you are giving a live presentation, we advise following the script and providing definitions for terms that may be unfamiliar to some audience members.
TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To give the presentation, you will need:

- A laptop or computer with:
  - At least 2.4 Ghz.
  - At least 3 GB of RAM.
  - An Intel Core 2 Duo processor.
  - Adobe Flash program. If your laptop or computer does not have Flash, you can download a free version of the program at www.adobe.com/products/flashplayer/.

- Projector with connecting cables. The projector should display a 1024 x 768 resolution.
- Projection screen (or white wall).
- Speakers for your laptop or computer.
- Light source to read the script if giving a live presentation.
- Microphone (if presenting for a large audience).
- Podium.

We recommend that you practice giving the presentation with the equipment (computer, projector, screen, microphone) you intend to use for the event, so that you are comfortable with the equipment and can make sure that it works correctly.
AVAILABLE VERSIONS OF THE PRESENTATION

The presentation is available in two formats which both require Adobe Flash software.

1. A Flash presentation without a voiceover, accompanied by a presentation script so it can be given live by a presenter. The presentation without the voiceover will require you to manually click through the presentation (see section “To Move Through the Presentation The presentation is available on CD-ROM or as a download from www.prb.org.

2. A presentation with a voiceover. The presentation with the voiceover does NOT require you to click through the presentation or to read the script. This version is available on CD-ROM, or you can stream the video by going to the PRB website page for this presentation (http://www.prb.org/Journalists/Webcasts/2012/malawi-engage.aspx). Once you click the link, it will begin streaming and will play like a video with the recorded voice describing what is happening on the screen. This version is also available as a download from www.prb.org.

We recommend that all potential presenters practice with the script to determine their level of comfort with the presentation. One’s level of comfort should guide the decision about which version is best at a particular event.
PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS (WITHOUT VOICEOVER)

It takes approximately 30 minutes to give this ENGAGE presentation in English and 45 minutes in Chichewa. Discussion and subsequent activities can require 30 minutes or more depending on the setting.

TO OPEN THE PRESENTATION

- Double click on the red square ‘f’ icon (‘f’ stands for Flash). The end of the file name will be “.exe”.
- Resize the window. The window may open in a small size, off-center on your computer screen. Enter full-screen by pressing Control + F on your keyboard.

TO MOVE THROUGH THE PRESENTATION

- You can click forward and backward through the presentation by pointing your mouse to the forward and backward arrows in the grey bottom bar of the presentation
  - The forward arrow advances the presentation. This advancement will be the next slide, the next bullet point, or the next piece of animation.
  - The back arrow moves you backward to the previous slide. If the previous slide included any animation, the back arrow takes you to the beginning of the slide.
- All of the animation, including Trendalyzer screens, are pre-recorded and are not interactive. Each segment of the Trendalyzer scenario plays with a “click.”
- If you click twice by accident, you will skip to the next piece in the sequence. If this happens, the slide will not match what you are saying. Be careful!
- Every screen in the presentation is numbered, starting with 1. These numbers correspond to the script. Some individual “screens” contain animation, and therefore change as they play.

TO DISPLAY THE PRESENTATION CORRECTLY

- The presentation will only appear correctly when it is in full screen. You cannot maximize the window—instead, you MUST click Control + F for full screen.
- To exit the full screen, you can either press the Escape button or Control + F again.
- If the Trendalyzer screens appear out of focus or pixelated:
  - Go into the Control Panel of your computer and select Display (on some computers it might be Appearance).
  - Go directly to Screen Resolution or to the Settings tab.
  - There should be an option to adjust the screen resolution. Select the 1024 x 768 screen resolution option. Click Apply and if you are asked if you want to keep these settings, select Yes.
  - Now, when in full screen by clicking Control + F, the Trendalyzer screens should appear sharp.

USING THE PRESENTATION AND SCRIPT TOGETHER
• The presentation script contains all the necessary narration for the presentation, along with a cue every time you need to click forward one slide. You will be able to give the presentation most effectively if you are very familiar with the script and follow it exactly as written.

• Every time the script says “Click Forward,” click the forward arrow of your keyboard to advance the presentation by one screen. Every click in the presentation is included in the script along with a number. The number corresponds to the lower left corner of the screen, and the script that follows is the narration for that screen.
PRESENTATION INSTRUCTIONS (WITH VOICEOVER)

STREAMING AND/OR DOWNLOADING FROM THE PRB WEBSITE

- Go to the PRB website page for this presentation:
- Click the link to the presentation with the narration. The presentation will start to stream on your computer/ laptop from the PRB website. It will play like a video.
- To download the presentation to your computer, right-click on the link with your mouse and select “Save Target As” to save the file where you want it.

CD-ROM

Flash Format

- Open the CD-ROM file on your computer or laptop. Double-click on the red “F” icon (“f” stands for Flash). The end of the file name will be .exe.
- Resize the window. The window will most likely open in a small size, off-center on your computer screen. Click Control + F to make the presentation appear in full screen.
- Click the Play button on the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. The presentation will play like a video.
- If the Trendalyzer screens appear out of focus or pixelated:
  - Go into the Control Panel of your computer, and select Display (on some computers it might be Appearance).
  - Go directly to ‘Screen Resolution’ or to the ‘Settings’ tab.
  - There should be a slider for the screen resolution. Select the 1024x768 screen resolution option. Click Apply, and if you are asked if you want to keep these settings, select yes.
  - Now, when in full screen by clicking ‘Control’+‘F’, the Trendalyzer screens should appear sharp.
  - The presentation may look as though it is stretched ‘wide’ across your computer screen. This should be automatically corrected when using a standard LCD projector with native resolution of 1024x768.

NOTE: There are two Google Earth files (“Malawi Tour_21Mar.mp4” and “Second Malawi Tour_21Mar.mp4) saved to the same folder on the CD-ROM as the main presentation file. You do not need to open these files separately; these files will open automatically at the correct point in the presentation as long as they are saved to the same location as the Flash file. If you wish to copy the presentation from the CD-ROM to your computer, you must be sure to copy all three files to the same folder.

MP4 Format

- Open the CD-ROM file on your computer or laptop. Double click on the video file. The end of the file name will be “.mp4.”
- Resize the window. The window may open in a small size, off-center on your computer screen. Enter full-screen by pressing Control + F on your keyboard.
- Click the “play” button. The presentation will play like a video.
**PRESENTATION TIPS**

The ENGAGE presentations differ from a regular PowerPoint presentation in the following ways.

ENGAGE presentations:

1. Have a storyline that weaves throughout the presentation. The ENGAGE presentations share more of a “story” than is usual with PowerPoint presentations.

2. Give people a different perspective on the same data or messages.

3. Mix different media formats to help tell the story: *Trendalyzer*, Flash animation, videos, etc., so there are fewer words on the slides in some cases.

4. Require starting with a script and practicing to feel comfortable telling the story and making the transition between slides.

5. Include complex, animated graphs that need careful explanation to help the audience grasp what they are seeing.

6. Emphasize positive news when telling a story. Our presentations focus on the positive as well as the challenges in an attempt to engage policymakers with some good news and inspire them to greater commitment.

**GENERAL PRESENTATION TIPS**

If you are making the presentation in-person, there are some important tips to remember:

**Start with the script.** It helps to start with the script and work through the presentation using the script. As you become more familiar with key points and transitions, you may be able to present without the script, and/or adapt the script slightly to give it your own personal stamp. Regardless, being familiar with the script will enable you to deliver the presentation in a more energetic and engaging way, rather than reading directly from a piece of paper the whole time. If possible, review some of the materials listed in the References section.

**Help people understand Trendalyzer.** It is necessary to help people understand the *Trendalyzer* “bubble” graphs by describing exactly what they are looking at on each axis and in the trends (see “Tips for Presenting *Trendalyzer* Scenarios”).

**Bring your own style.** Each person brings his or her own style to the presentation. You are encouraged to use your natural voice (meaning both tone and intonation as well as word choices and phrasing) in delivering the key messages.

**Engage the audience.** You are encouraged to use personal stories to make this presentation more compelling. One or two personal stories to illustrate a point can add a lot to the presentation and your delivery.

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.** Practicing in front of a live audience (such as your colleagues) and receiving feedback will help you become more comfortable with the presentation and improve your delivery. If possible, rehearse the presentation using the same room and equipment that you plan to use during your presentation.
TIPS FOR PRESENTING TRENDALYZER SCENARIOS

For many audience members, the ENGAGE presentation may be the first time they are seeing a Trendalyzer graph. Even though the Trendalyzer scenarios are built-in to the presentation and only require the presenter to “click” the arrow to play through it, it is extremely important to explain each Trendalyzer screen clearly and thoroughly. Doing so ensures that the audience will understand what they are watching on the screen. If you follow the script provided, the necessary description for Trendalyzer scenarios is already written.

If you choose to modify the script or deliver the presentation without notes, there are some elements of describing Trendalyzer that you will need to remember. Important Trendalyzer presentation tips to remember include:

1. When the Trendalyzer graph is first being shown, mention that the graph shows trends over time.
2. Point out the axes one at a time, naming and defining the indicator being shown, and defining the scale of the axis. Be sure to point out both the left/vertical axis, and the bottom/horizontal axis.
3. Note the year at the beginning of the scenario, and describe where the countries lie in that year according to the indicators on the graph.
4. Play the scenario, and at the same time, describe what is happening. For example, as the bubble is moving down, X is decreasing, and as the bubble is moving to the right, Y is going up.
5. Once the bubble(s) have stopped, briefly state what has happened over time.
Set up the presentation by pressing Ctrl+F to go into full screen. Check the sound.

The presentation opens with a black screen. When ready to begin, click the forward arrow (►) on your keyboard. For the pre-recorded version, you only need to click once and the presentation will play through automatically.

► Click
Malawi is on the verge of a bright future...

► Click
We are healthier than ever before...
...with improved child survival

Our economy is expanding...
...and our GDP is increasing

We are better educated...
...with more and more children attending school

► Click
These gains are still fragile, however, and not everyone benefits yet.
“I had the opportunity to visit the maternity ward of the Mangochi District Hospital. The crowded and dire conditions of the ward really shocked me and immediately I began to think, if the babies born under those conditions had a voice, what would they say to you, me and all of us? My take is that they would say, ‘Dear people. What have we done to be born under these dire conditions? Do we really deserve this?’ What would be our response to these newly born babies? What can we do to provide them with a better life, the life they deserve?”

All parents want to give their children a better life. When couples have many children to care for, however, they have fewer resources for each child and become caught in a cycle of poverty. Today, there are over 5 million Malawians living in poverty, the same number as 1998. If our economy is expanding, why is the number of poor not shrinking?

Because although our economy is growing, our population is growing even faster. Each year, Malawi adds over 400,000 people, making it one of the fastest growing populations in the world!

We are already a country of nearly 15 million people. And if we keep growing at this rate, as this red line shows, we will reach nearly 60 million people by 2050! That is four times our current size in just 40 years! Keeping up with this growth will indeed be a challenge...

This rapid population growth means that there will be even more people in need of social services...that means more schools and expanded healthcare. These are services that the government is going to have to provide.

All of this will put even greater strain on the government’s budget, which could crowd out other spending and investments. Ultimately, this could mean slower economic growth for the country, with fewer available jobs and opportunities.

What does this rapid population growth look like on the ground? Let’s turn to our Google Earth satellite map for a look...

Here we are looking down on the whole of Africa. As we zoom down over Malawi, we can see the Lake on the right-hand side of the screen. Arriving at an aerial view of Lilongwe, we can see how far the city has spread to accommodate its many residents. Many of you have to wrestle with the daily commute into work, so you know the effects of this density first hand!

We can see the effects of rapid urbanization even more dramatically in Ndirande, on the outskirts of Blantyre. [Pause] Here, as more and more people move into the city, conditions become more and more crowded. [Pause] This results in shortages of adequate housing and in greater demand for services like water and sanitation, demand that the government will need to meet.
Cities are not the only places experiencing population growth. Rural areas that have been hit hard by the effects of climate change and other environmental issues are also growing. This means that the problem of land shortage, already a serious issue in our country, will only get worse.

► Click

Farmers desperate for land have begun to move up hillsides and onto other marginal lands, even as intensified cultivation means that soil productivity has decreased.

► Click

Small-holding farmers, who make up 80% of the agricultural sector, are already struggling to support their families on their limited land, and as farmers subdivide their holdings among their children, farms will likely get smaller still.

► Click

84% of Malawi’s population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, but while the size of our population is growing larger every year, the size of our land is not. It is difficult to be good stewards of our country’s land and its resources when faced with such demand.

Agriculture is not the only sector facing problems as a result of rapid population growth.

► Click

“High rates of population growth have far-reaching implications on the social and economic development of a country.”

These problems are not inevitable - history shows that when countries are able to manage their populations, there is less pressure on national resources and more opportunities for investment that will push the economy forward.

► Click

Here we have a trend graph, where we can look at changes and trends over time. We’re going to focus on the relationship between the average number of children per woman and Gross National Income.

► Click

On the left axis we have the average number of births per woman, which we call the total fertility rate, and it goes from zero up to about 8 children per woman.

► Click

On the bottom axis we have the Gross National Income per person, or GNI, going from $0 to over $40,000. This is in US dollars, and it is standardized for what a dollar can buy today. GNI may be higher than the GDP because it also accounts for income received from outside of the country.

Each bubble on the graph represents a country, and the color of each bubble indicates the region.
Starting with the red, we have East Asia and the Pacific...

Orange is Central Asia and Europe... Many of these countries are clustered at the bottom right, with few children per woman and high gross national income per person.

Yellow is for North and South America...

Green is the Middle East and North Africa

The Light Blue is for South Asia...

And the Dark Blue is for Sub-Saharan Africa. These countries are clustered toward the back, with high levels of fertility and lower levels of income.

The size of each bubble represents the population size of that country – so the bigger bubbles have bigger populations.

This is what the world looked like in 1980.

When we play this graph forward, we can see what has happened since 1980.... As the years pass by you can see that as fertility is decreasing in countries throughout the world, income per person is increasing.

When we come to 2008, we see that all the countries of the world have moved toward that bottom, right corner.

You can see that some of the Asian Tiger countries we hear so much about, like South Korea and Singapore, have made major increases in income per person; but they also have very low fertility rates – close to ONE child per woman – allowing for very large work forces in relation to the overall population size.
In contrast, while the sub-Saharan African countries have certainly made progress, they are still clustered toward the back of this pack. This includes Malawi, here, with nearly 6 children per woman and an average national income per person of $760.

When we look at Malawi compared to other countries in the region, we see that although it has seen its GNI increase, it is still catching up to many of its neighbors, such as Zambia and Kenya.

Looking at all of the countries again, one of the reasons why the countries in the bottom right corner have been able to make so much economic progress is that women started having fewer children. This set the stage for the country to better manage its population growth and reduce constraints on economic growth.

This kind of progress is not automatic, however. One of the keys to this progress is ensuring that women and couples have access to family planning. When families are able to achieve their desired family size, they accumulate greater wealth over their lifetime. This allows them to contribute more to the economy, and invest in the development of the country.

The association between family planning and economic growth is further enhanced by the following additional investments:

- Strengthening health systems to improve child survival and to support a healthier population;
- Improving primary and secondary school completion rates, so that children have the knowledge and abilities to build a skilled workforce; and,
- Stabilizing economic conditions to create more jobs and make sure that there are economic opportunities for a growing workforce.

The improvements to economic development and poverty reduction that will help us become a middle-income country can be achieved in a short time, by investing in our future now.
For an example of how prioritizing population growth and family planning can support national development, let’s compare Malawi to another country in the region, Kenya, which has a similar history and context to Malawi.

Here we are looking again at our trend graph. The left axis is the average number of births per woman, going from 0 up to 8.

The bottom axis is Gross National Income per person, this time going from $0 to about $4,000. Remember that this is standardized, in US dollars, for what a dollar can buy today.

We see that in 1980, Kenya and Malawi were in about the same place, with an average of nearly 8 children per woman. Kenya had a slightly higher national income per person, at about $600...

...while Malawi was around $350 per person.

Let’s look at the progress both countries have made over the years.

Kenya focused on population growth from the time of independence, with one of the first National Population Policies in Africa and a strong family planning program. This paid off, with steady, positive progress through the 1980s. And although Kenya struggled in the face of an HIV/AIDS crisis similar to Malawi’s, the Kenyan government strengthened its commitment to population and reproductive health issues. The country stayed on track for development and today...

...the average Kenyan woman has about 4 children and the average national income per person is over $1,500.

In contrast, after independence, Malawi did not prioritize population growth and family planning was marginalized instead of mainstreamed as an essential development strategy. Our progress since 1980 has been uneven and we continue to lag behind our neighbor. Today, the average Malawian woman has nearly 6 children and an average national income of $760 per person.
With a history and challenges similar to those of Malawi, what made the difference for Kenya?

- The National Population Policy has been regularly reviewed and updated
- Reproductive health is specifically mentioned in the new Constitution
- The Kenyan government will for the first time be covering the full cost of contraceptive commodities.

Looking again at the graph showing Malawi’s projected population growth, let’s focus on two different scenarios. Starting from 15 million people today, the red line shows our path if the average number of births per woman stays at 6 and we continue to grow at our current rate. As we saw, in this scenario, Malawi will quadruple in size and reach nearly 60 million people by 2050.

However, as the blue line shows, if women start to have fewer children and the rate of growth slows, the population will reach a more manageable 44.5 million by 2050. That’s a difference of nearly 15 million people – the same number of people in the entire country today!

Achieving manageable population growth is an attainable goal...

...especially since the demand for family planning already exists. Like Patricia and her husband, couples today want smaller families than in the past. While couples of our parents’ generation wanted between 5-6 children...

...Malawian couples today want only about 3 children.

The decrease in desired family size is reflected in the fact that more and more women are choosing to use family planning.

And research shows that couples are even more likely to use family planning when male partners are supportive and engaged in planning for and raising children.

However, women are still having more children than they intend and the total fertility rate – the average number of children per woman - has not changed as dramatically. A major reason for this is unmet need for family planning.
Although the number of women using contraception has increased, we are still failing to meet the needs of many others. More than 1 in 4 women in Malawi do not want another child now or at all but are not using family planning. These women are said to have an unmet need for family planning.

In order to meet unmet need and ensure that every woman and couple who wants to use family planning is able to do so...

...we must address the obstacles they face, especially women. Women may not have the support of their husband or be worried that he will refuse to use family planning. They may be worried that their family or community will disapprove. Some women may not know what methods are available, or where to get them. And they may have trouble getting to the clinic or find that it is out of the supplies they need. All of these obstacles contribute to the high rate of unmet need for family planning.

This unmet need translates into high levels of unplanned pregnancy - in Malawi, almost half of pregnancies are unplanned. This is cause for concern because unplanned pregnancies are more likely to result in unsafe abortion and are more likely be high-risk for both the mother and her baby.

Family planning can prevent unsafe abortion and can ensure that pregnancies are healthy and well-timed, which increases the chances of a healthy baby.

For example, babies who are born 3 or more years apart are more than twice as likely to survive as babies who are born less than 2 years apart.

Unplanned pregnancy also puts mothers at risk; in Malawi, 1 woman dies every 2 hours from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth. When mothers die, they leave behind orphaned and vulnerable children.

Moreover, those deaths represent only the tip of the iceberg, because for every one woman who dies from maternal causes, 20-30 women suffer short- and long-term disabilities, such as obstetric fistula, anemia or infection.
“The most painful thing about these deaths is that they can be avoided. Giving birth should be a joyous occasion, not a cause of grief.

If the unmet need for family planning in Malawi were met by the year 2020, nearly 7,000 maternal deaths would be avoided. That’s 700 mothers saved every year!

Children’s lives would also be saved. If the unmet need for family planning in Malawi were met by the year 2020, almost 354,000 child deaths would be prevented. That’s over 20,000 a year!

So what would it cost to save those lives? It would actually save money overall.

From 2012 to 2020, the additional family planning costs for meeting the unmet need would be about 74 million dollars – about 13 billion Malawian Kwacha. This translates into savings because as women have fewer children, the government doesn’t have to spend as much money to meet the needs of the population and can save money on costs related to...

...education, immunization, water and sanitation, maternal health, and malaria. By saving money in other areas, investing to meet the unmet need for family planning would actually save Malawi about 118 million dollars – over 21 billion Malawian Kwacha!

In addition to these savings on social services, meeting the unmet need for family planning would bolster economic stability at the national and the family level.

Research has shown that families who had access to comprehensive family planning services had:

- Larger incomes
- Greater accumulation of wealth and assets
- Higher levels of education

Family planning is one of the surest ways to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty.

Moreover, since women make up over half of the active labor force in Malawi, protecting their health is critical for the national economy. Ensuring that women have access to and the power to use family planning will enable them to have healthy, planned pregnancies and to continue in their roles as productive citizens, alongside their male counterparts.
Family planning is one of the best buys in the current difficult economic environment. As the population increases at a rate that threatens to outstrip our economic gains, it is clear that investing in family planning now is critical for our future.

That future is closely linked to the success of our young people, a rapidly growing group with their own specific needs.

There are nearly 10 million Malawians below the age of 25 – that means that young people make up 66% of our population! That is the largest generation of youth that has ever existed in Malawi, and it is only going to get bigger.

This represents a huge and potentially increasing need for education, healthcare and other social services, as well as a significant increase in employment opportunities as these young people join the workforce.

However, if the right social, economic and political conditions are put in place now, this large youth population also represents a one-time window of possibility for the nation. Those 10 million young people represent 10 million opportunities to improve our future.

One strategy to help them realize that potential is improving their sexual and reproductive health. Young people have some of the greatest reproductive health needs – they are disproportionately affected by unplanned pregnancy, unsafe abortion, HIV and other STIs – but they would also reap some of the greatest benefits.

Research and evidence show that investing in their reproductive health not only improves young people’s overall well-being and helps them reach their full potential but produces positive outcomes across multiple sectors:

- Improving maternal and infant health
- Reducing the spread of HIV and AIDS
- Supporting gender equality and healthy relationships
- Increasing education opportunities, especially for girls
- Building sustainable livelihoods for individuals and families
- Economic growth for the entire nation
When young people have sufficient knowledge of and access to contraception, it can increase their opportunities throughout their lifetime. The benefits of investing in youth now stretch far into the future. Family planning is an investment to be made now for the future of the nation.

It is an investment not just for women and men but also for the girls and boys of today, who will become the men and women of tomorrow.

As we can see, when every individual and couple is able to choose the timing and spacing of each pregnancy, they can have the number of children they want and can care for.

This can reduce the economic burden on poor families; and at the same time, women are healthier and better able to work outside the home, and meet the needs of their families. Together, these lead to increased family resources.

And with greater resources, families can invest more in health, food, and education for each child.

Families can also invest in their own livelihoods, and break the cycle of poverty.

This positive chain happens at the national level as well, since family planning can lead to more manageable population growth.

When the pressure of rapid population growth is eased, the government can better provide social services such as education and health care, make investments in economic infrastructure and job growth, and can sustainably manage natural resources for future development.

The result is increased economic productivity and growth for all of Malawi.
Family planning is a key strategy for addressing rapid population growth and achieving poverty reduction and economic growth both at the family level and at the national level.

So what can be done now? With leadership from key policymakers, a broad range of stakeholders should join together to:

- Approve and implement a strong national population policy, and incorporate population growth and family planning across all relevant national policies
- Allocate sufficient funding and resources for reproductive health, including contraceptive supplies
- Encourage public support and understanding of the broad-based benefits of family planning through frequent statements and discussions
- Expand opportunities and services for youth, and involve youth in decision-making processes

The progress Malawi has made so far shows us that we can achieve even more. By recognizing the importance of population growth and taking action now, Malawi’s leaders can keep the nation on the path to becoming a middle-income country.
“Malawi: Investing in Our Future Now” highlights the advances Malawi has made and the challenges it still faces as it strives to become a middle-income country. Exploring the impact of rapid population growth at the national and the family level, the presentation illustrates the links between rapid population growth, family planning and development. The presentation underscores the importance of addressing rapid population growth and meeting unmet need for family planning in order to reduce poverty and achieve national development goals.

Malawi is on the verge of a bright future, with improved child survival, an increasing gross domestic product and higher school enrollment. However, not everyone benefits yet from these changes.

The absolute number of people living below the poverty line is just over 5 million, the same number as in 1998.¹

The population is growing faster than the economy can keep up. Malawi adds over 400,000 people a year. At this rate, the country will grow to four times its current size by 2050.²

More people will need social services. Greater pressure will be placed on the government’s budget as it seeks to meet those needs, crowding out other investments. Ultimately, this could slow the country’s economic growth.
Migration and population growth mean cities are getting more crowded, making it harder to provide adequate housing and services like water and electricity.

As the rural population grows, landholdings are getting smaller and soil productivity is decreasing. Desperate farmers are moving onto marginal lands.\(^3\)

While the size of the population is growing larger every year, the amount of available land is not.

Many countries have made significant economic progress over the past few decades, in part by managing population growth.

With fertility declines, these countries were able to invest in national development, and today have much higher gross national incomes per person than Malawi.\(^4\)

To achieve its development goals and become a middle-income country, Malawi needs to make addressing population growth a priority.

Kenya shares many of the same experiences as Malawi, but has made greater strides towards development. One thing that made the difference for Kenya was an early and sustained commitment to population and family planning.\(^5\)

Meeting the unmet need for family planning and reducing the fertility rate are key steps for Malawi to boost its economic growth.

Malawian couples today want fewer children (about three) than their parents did (five to six children).\(^6\)

More women are choosing to use family planning. Today, 42 percent of married Malawian women are using modern contraception.

And when men are positively involved, couples are even more likely to use family planning.\(^7\)
However, couples are still having more children than they intend and the fertility rate remains high, at nearly six children per woman. One reason is unmet need for family planning.

One in four women says that she does not want another child now or at all but is not using family planning. These women have an unmet need for family planning.

This unmet need results in high rates of unplanned pregnancy: nearly half of pregnancies in Malawi are unplanned.\(^8\)

Unplanned pregnancy increases the risk of disability or death for both mothers and babies. In Malawi, one woman dies every two hours from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth.\(^9\)

Unplanned pregnancy is also more likely to result in unsafe abortion.

These deaths can be avoided! If unmet need for family planning were met by the year 2020, we could prevent:

- 7,000 maternal deaths.
- 354,000 child deaths.\(^{10}\)

What would it cost to prevent these deaths?

From now until 2020, it would cost about US$74 million to meet the unmet need for family planning.

As families become smaller, the cost to meet the needs of the population also go down, including costs for education, immunization, water and sanitation, maternal health and malaria.

The government would save US$118 million—more than it spent!
Family planning is a best buy in today’s difficult economic environment, for the nation and for families.\textsuperscript{11}

Investing in family planning now is investing in the future of our country, especially in our youth.

There are 10 million young people in Malawi—two-thirds of our population.\textsuperscript{12}

With the right social and economic policies and conditions, these young people represent 10 million opportunities to improve Malawi’s future.

Meeting the reproductive health needs of our youth is one important strategy to help them reach their full potentials, with benefits reaching far into the future.\textsuperscript{13}

When every individual and couple is able to choose the timing and spacing of each pregnancy, they can have the number of children they want and can care for.\textsuperscript{14}

Family planning is a key strategy for development—for greater prosperity at the family level and sustainable economic growth at the national level.
What can be done now? A broad-based coalition of policymakers should join together to:

- Approve and implement a strong national population policy and incorporate population growth and family planning across all relevant national policies.

- Allocate sufficient funding and resources for reproductive health, including contraceptive supplies.

- Encourage public support and understanding of the broad-based benefits of family planning through frequent statements and discussion.

- Expand opportunities and services for youth, and involve youth in decisionmaking processes.

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ENGAGE Script (Chichewa)
“Monga banja, ine ndi amuna anga tinagwirizana kuti tizibereka ana potsata ndondomeko yokhazikika. Tinatero ndi cholinga choti ana athu tiwasmalire bwino powapatsa zosowa zawo mokwania makamaka chakudya, zovala ndi malo ogona.”

► Click

Makolo onse amafuna atasamalira bwino ana awo monga momwe Patricia ndi mwamuna wake akuganizira. Banja likakhala ndi ana ambiri chisamaliro pa mwana aliyense chimakhala chochepa motero amakodwa munsampha waumphawi wosatherapo. Lero amalawi oposa 5 miliyoni akukhala m’moyo waumphawi monga m’mene zinalili m’chaka cha 1998. Tsongo ngati chuma cha dziko laathu chikukwela, zithekanso bwanji kuti chiwerengero cha anthu osauka chili chimodzimodzi monga kale?

► Click

Ngakhale chuma cha dziko laathu chikukwera, tikuwanso kuti chiwerengero cha anthu m’dziko muno chikukweranso kopambana. Chaka chilichonse, chiwerengero cha dziko la Malawi chimaonjezekera ndi anthu oposa 400,000. Choncho Malawi ndi limodzi mwa maiko amene chiwerengero chawo chikukwera kwambiri m’dziko lapansi

► Click

Mmalawi muno tilipo anthu okwanira pfufipufu 15 miliyoni. Ngati chiwerengero cathu chingapitilire kukwera pa mlingo umene mzere wofiirawu ukwonekera, podzafika chaka cha 2050 chiwerengero cha anthu m’Malawi chidzafika pfufipufu 60 miliyoni. Izi zikutanthauza kuti chiwerengero cha dziko lino chizakwera kanayi kuyerekeza ndi mmene chilliri pano mza makumi anayi (40) okha. Sichapafupi kukhalabe bwino bwino pamene chiwerengero cha anthu chikukwera motere .............

► Click

Kuchulukana kwa anthu kotere kukutanthauza kuti anthu wochulukirapo azafuna zinthu zowayenera pa moyo wawo ...... Izi zikutanthauza kuti padzafunikira sukulu zochulukirapo komanso, chisamaliro cha zaumoyo chochuluka. Izi ndi zina mwa ntchito zomwe boma lizagwire popititsa patsogolo umoyo wabwino wa anthu......

Zonsezi zidzachititsa boma kuhala lelema potsata ndondomeko ya chuma chake (bajeti) ndipo lizalephera kugwira ntchito zake zina za chitutuko. Izi zizachititsa kuti chuma cha dziko chisakwele komanso padzakhala kusowa kwa nchito ndi mwayi wina wosiyansiyana kwa anthu.

Kodi zenizeni zake za kuchulukanaku ndi zotani? Tiyeni tiwone mmene dziko limawonekera pogwiritsa ntchito makina a Google Earth (awatu ndi makina amene amajambula dziko lapansi kuchokera mlengamlenga).

► Click

Apa tikuwona dziko lonse la Afrika. Tikayang’ana pa dziko la Malawi, tiwona nyanga kumanjaku pachinthuzipa. Tikawona chithunzithunzi cha m’mene mzinda wa Lilongwe ukwonekera kuchokera mu mlengalenga tingathe kuwonanso malo ogona alendo wotchedwa ‘Crossroads Hotel’. Apa tikhoza
kuwona nyumba yomwe tasonkhanamo! Kodi wina angatsegule zenela ndikutukulira dzanja lake ku makina ojambulilawa?

Tikabwelera m’buyo ndi kuyang’ananso mzinda wa Lilongwe tingathe kuonanso m’mene mzindawu wakulira malingana ndi kuchuluka kwa anthu okhalamo. Ambiri mwa inu mumavutikita tsiku ndi tsiku kuti mufike kuntchito, choncho mukudziwa nokha zotsatira za kuchulukana kwa anthu mumzindawu.

Tikutha kuona kuyipa kochulukana kwa anthu m’mizinda monga m’mene zilili ku Ndirande, mphepete mwa mzinda wa Blantyre. [Pumani pang’ono]. Apa tikuona kuxiposala kumvula kusambira anthu. Mzindawu wakulira malingana ndi kuchuluka kwa anthu mumzindawu mumvulitsa mavuto a kusamalira anthu yomwe boma likuyenera kukwaniirts.

Kukula kwa chiwerengero cha anthu sikukuchitika m’mizinda mokha ayi, komanso m’madera a kumidzi. Kumadera a kumidzi anthu akuvutika kwambiri ndi zotsatira za kusamalira anthu. Izi zitanthauza kuti vuto lomwe lili la kuchilemba. Kuchilemba anthu umwambiri m’dziko lathu lino lidzakulirakulirabe.

► Click
Alimi amene alibiletu malo olima ayamba kulima m’mapiri ndi malo ena osayenera, popeza kuthaka m’malo abwino yatopa chifukwa choyigwiritsa nthacho nthawi yayitali.

► Click
Alimi ang’onoang’ono amene chiwerengero chawo chimakwana makumi asanu ndi atatu (80) pa alimi dzana limodzi lililone (100) akuvutika kuti asamalire mabanja awo chifukwa cha kuchepa kwa maloolima. Ndipo pamene alimiwa akugawira ana awo malo olima, minda yikunka yicheperacheperabe.

► Click
Amalawi makumi atatu ndi asani ndi mphambu zinayi (84) pa zana limodzi lililone (100) amadalira ulimi pa moyo wawo wa tsiku ndi tsiku. Pamene chiwerengero cha anthu m’dziko muno chikukula chaka chilemba, malo olima ali chimodzimodzi, sakukula. Ndikovuta kuti m’kuyang’anira dziko lathu ndi zachilemba za pamene zinthu zofunika pa moyo ya anthu yicitikwenira. Sigawo la ulimi lokha lomwe likukumana ndi mavuto chifukwa cha kuchuluka kwa chiwerengero cha anthu.

► Click
[Musawerenge: Kukula kwa chiwerengero cha anthu kotereko kumabweretsa mavuto akulu pa chikhalidwe ndi chitukuko cha chuma m’dziko]

Mavutowa ndi opeweka – mbiri yikusonyeza kuti mayiko omwe amayang’anira bwino za kuchuluka kwa anthu m’dziko amatha kusamalira anthu awo komanso kutukula chuma ndi ntchito zina za chitutuko mdziko......
Pano tili ndi chinthunzi chotisonyeza m’mene zinthu zikuyenera kukhalira ndipo chitiwonetsa kusintha ndi mmene zinthu zikuyenera kukhalira nthawi zosiyansiyana. Maka chidwi chathu chikhala pa m’gwirizano womwe ulipo pakati pa kuchuluka kwa ana omwe mayi angakhale nawo ndi chuma chonse chomwe dziko limapeza.

Tikayang’ana kumanzereku tikuwona kuchuluka kwa ana obadwa mwa mayi m’modzi…… (kapena tinene kuti kuchuluka kwa chonde chobeleka ana mwa mmayi m’modzi) …. Kuchuluka kwa ana kukuyambira pa 0 mpaka 8 mwa mayi m’modzi.

Mzere uli mmunsiwu …. Uwu womwe wachokera kumanzere kumanja ukusonyeza mlingo wa chuma chomwe dziko lapeza (GNI) pa munthu m’modzi aliyense, pa muyeso wa ndalama ya ku Ameleka yotchedwa dollar …… Tayambira pa 0 mpaka 40,000. Ndalama ya Amerikayi yayikidwa molingana ndi mphamvu yake pakali pano. Chuma chonse chomwe dziko lapeza (GNI) chingakhale chochulukirapo kuposa chuma chimene dziko lapeza kuchokera ku nthchito zakesiyanasiyana m’dziko momwemo (GDP) chifukwa powerengera chuma chonse chomwe dziko lapeza (GNI) amaphatikizapo chuma chomwe dziko lapeza kuchokera kunja.

Kampira kalikonse mu chinthunzichi kakuyimira dziko ndipo mtundu wa kampirako ukusonyeza chigawo cha dziko laphasi.

Kampira kofiira kakuyimbira mayiko a kumvuma kwa Asia ndi zilumba za Nyanja ya mchere ya Pacific

Kampira kachikasuko chofiriirako (ka olenji) kakuyimira mayiko a pakati pa Asia (Central Asia) komanso mayiko aku ulaya (Europe) …………. Ambiri mwa mayiko amenewa ali m’gulu limodzi cha m’munsimo cha kumanja ndipo iwowa ali ndi ana ochepa obadwa mwa mayi aliyense ndipo chuma chonse chomwe boma limapeza pa munthu aliyense ndi chokwelerapo.

Kampira ka chikasuka kakuyimira mayiko a kumpoto ndi kemwera kwa Ameleka………..

Kampira kobiriwira (gilini) kakuyimira mayiko a aluya (Middle East) komanso kumpoto kwa Afilika (North Africa)
Click
Kampira ka mtundu wa mtambo (light blue) kakyimira mayiko a kumwera kwa Asia (South Asia)

Click
Ndipo kampira koderako (dark blue) kakyimira mayiko a kunsika kwa chipululu cha Sahara (Sub-Saharan Africa). Mayiko amenewa akupeza kwambiri molunjika kumwera kuti chiwerengero cha kana womwe mai mmodzi amayenera kukhala nawo ndi chokwera kwambiri pamene kapezedwe ka chuma nkotsika.

Kukuwa kwa kampira kalikonse kakyimira kukula kwa chiwerengero cha anthu mdzikomo, - koteri mipiraya yikuyimira chiwerengero chokwera.

Click
Umu ndi mmene dziko linkawonekera m’chaka cha 1980.

Click
Tikapita patsogolo pachinthuzi chanthuchi, tikuona zimene zakhala zikuchitika kuchokera chaka cha 1980 ....... Tikuona kuti pakadutsa zaka zingapo, pamene chiwerengero cha ana chomwe mai amayenera kukhala nacho chikusika, chuma chomwe maiko amapeza pa munthu wina aliense chikumachuluka.

Pofika chaka cha 2008, tikuwona kuti mayiko onse a dziko lapansi asunthira cha kumusiki chakumanja kwa chinthuzi chi....

Click
Mutha kuona kuti chuma cha maiko ena mwa mayiko wotukuka a ku Asia (Asia Tiger Countries) amene amatchuka kwambiri monga South Korea ndi Singapore chakwera molapitsa pa munthu wina aliense, komanso chiwerengero cha ana chomwe mai amayenera kukhala nacho ndi chotsika zedi - pafupifupi mayi aliyense akuberekwa mwana m’modzi basi- izi zikuthandizira kuti anthu ambiri akhale pantchito poyerekekeza ndi kukula kwa chiwerengero chonse cha dziko.

Click
Koma tikayerekeza ndi maiko a kunsi kwa chipululu cha Sahara, titha kuona kuti ngakhale iwowa achitapo kantu, ayikidwa mgulu limodzi chakumbuyoko. Malawi ndi dziko limodzi mwa mayiko amenewo kumene mai mmodzi amakhala ndi anafupifupi asanu ndi mmodzi (6) ndipo chuma chomwe boma limapeza pa munthu aliyense ndi chokwana 760 ndalama ya Ameleka ya dollar (US$ 760).
Tikayelekeza dziko la Malawi ndi mayiko ena m’chigawochi, tikuona kuti ngakhale chuma chomwe dziko la Malawi limapeza m’njira zosiyanasiyana m’dziko momwemo chikukwera, dziko la Malawi likuyesesa kuti lifanane ndi maiko ena monga Zambia ndi Kenya.

Tikayang’ana mwa mayiko onsewa, tikuona kuti imodzi mwa njira zomwe zathandizira kuti chuma cha maikowa chitukuke ndi yoti amai a maikowa anayamba kale kuchembeza mochepa. Izi zinathandizira kuti dziko lithe kuyika ndondomeko zoonetsetsa kuti chiwerengerero cha anthu mdziko chikukwera bwino ndipo mfundo za chitutuko cha chuma zikugwira bwino ntchito.


Mfundo zina zomwe zimalimbikitsa kutukuka kwa chuma kuphatikizapo pa mfundo zolimbikitsa njira za kulera ndi monga;

Kulimbikitsa ntchito za umoyo kuti ana wobadwa azikula bwino ndi kuti anthu akhale ndi umoyo wanthazi.

Kukweza chiwerengerero cha ophunzira amene akumaliza maphunziro awo msukulu za pulayimale ndi sekondale, ndi cholinga choti ophunzirawo azikhala ndi nzeru ndi luso losiyanasiyana; komanso ..........

Kukhazikitsa mfundo zabwino za chuma zomwe zingathandize anthu kupeza mwayi wantchito ndi mwayi osiyanasiyana wa ntchito zina za chuma.

Ngati maiko angayike mtima pazatsogolo la dziko lawo pakali pano, zingathandize kuti chuma cha dziko chikwere ndiponso umphawi uchepe pakanthawi kochepa
Mwachitsanzo, tikayerekeza dziko la Malawi ndi dziko la Kenya lomwe liri m’chigawo cha kunsi kwa chipululu cha Sahara komanso liri ndi mbiri komanso zochitika zina zofanana, titha kumvetsa bwino lomwe za mmene mfundo za chiwerengero cha anthu ndi njira za kulera zingathandizire kukweza chitukuko cha dziko.

Tiyeni tionenso pa chinthuzi chathu chomwe chikusonyeza m’mene zinthu zikuyendera (graph). Kumanzere tikuwona kuchuluka kwa ana obadwa mwa mayi m’modzi komwe kwayambira pa 0 kufikira pa 8.

Mzere wa m’munsi woyala kuchokera kumanzere kupita kumanja ukuwonetsa chuma chonse chomwe boma limapeza pa munthu aliyense; ndalama zimenezi zikuyambira pa 0 mpaka zikwi zinayi ndalama ya Ameleka (US$0 mpaka US$4,000). Ndalama ya Amelekayi yayikidwa molingana mphamvu yake padakali pano.

Tikuwona kuti mchaka cha 1980 mayiko a Kenya ndi Malawi anafananako; mayi aliyense m’mayikowa amachembeza kasanu ndi katatu. Koma dziko la Kenya linali ndi chuma chomwe boma limapeza chokwererapo pa munthu aliyense pa mlingo wa US$600.......... 

................. pamene dziko la Malawi linali ndi mlingo wa US$350 pa munthu aliyense.

Tiyeni tiwone momwe zinthu zakhalira m’maiiko awiriwa m’zaka zapitazi.

Kuyambira pomwe dziko la Kenya linalandira ufulu wozilamulira, dzikoli linayika mtima pankhani ya chiwerengero cha anthu pokhala dziko loyamba mu Afulika kukhala ndi ndondomeko ya chiwerengero cha anthu. Izi zinathandiza kuti zinthu ziziyenda bwino m’dzikoli mpaka zaka za ma 1980. Ngakhale dziko la Kenya ndi limodzi mwa maiko omwe anakhudzidwa kwambiri ndi mliri wa HIV ndi Edzi monga m’mene zinaliri ku Malawi, boma la Kenya linayika mtima pa ntchito zake za chiwerengero cha anthu ndi uchembere wabwino. Choncho dzikolo linapitilira kutukuka kufikira lero lino....

amai ambiri ku Kenya akuchembeza pafupifupi kanayi ndipo chuma chomwe boma limapeza pa munthu aliyense chimaposera 1500 ndalama ya Ameleka (US$1,500).
Pamene zinthu zinali chonchi ku Kenya, dziko la Malawi silinalabadire za chiwerengero cha anthu komanso njira za kulera litalandira ufulu wozilamulira ngati zina mwa ndondomeko zikuluzikulu za chitutuko. Pankhani ya chiwerengero cha anthu, sitinasinthe kwenikweni ndipo takhala pambuyo pa maiko omwe atizungulira. Pakali pano mai mmodzi ku Malawi amachembeza pafupifupi kasanu ndi kamodzi, ndipo chuma chonce chomwe boma limapeza pa mlingo wa munthu aliyense ndi chokwana 760 ndalama ya Ameleka (US$760).

Kodi chifukwa chiyani zinthu zinasintha ku Kenya pamene mbiri ndi zochitika zina ndi zofanana ndi dziko la Malawi?

- Ndondomeko ya chiwerengero cha anthu ku Kenya yakhala ikuwunikidwa komanso kukkanzzedwanso pafupipafupi
- Nkhani za uchembere wabwino zinasindikizidwa mu malamulo woyendetsera dziko (konsititushoni) a dziko la Kenya.
- Boma la Kenya linapanga chikonzero choti kwa nthawi yoyamba lizigula lokha zipangizo zonse zothandizira njira za kulera.

Pa chinthuzi chomwe chikusonyeza m’mene chiwerengero cha dziko la Malawi chidzakhalire, tiyeni tiyang’anitsitse pa zinthu ziwiri zosiyanu. Tikayambira pa chiwerengero cha anthu wokwana 15 miliyoni padakali pano, tikuona kuti mzere wofiira ukusonyeza mmene chiwerengero cha anthu chidzayendere ngati mayi aliyense angamachembeze kasanu ndi kamodzi basi; Monga mmene tawonera apa chiwerengero cha anthu mMalawi chidzakula kanayi poyelekeza ndi padakali pano kufika anthu pafupifupi 60 miliyoni pokwana chaka cha 2050.

Koma tikaona ka mzere kamtundu wa mtambo (blue), tikuona kuti chiwerengero chathu chizafika 44.5 miliyoni pofika mchaka cha 2050 ngati amai ayamba kubereka ana wochepe ndi mmene chiwerengero cha anthu chikukulira chizasike. Apatu tikuona kuti kusiyanu kwake ndi pafupifupi anthu wokwana 15 miliyoni omwe ndi chimodzimodziki kuchuluka kwa anthu m’Malawi muno lero lino!

Nzotheka kukwaniritsa masophenya wokhala ndi chiwerengero cha anthu wochepe .......

............ makamaka podziwa anthu amene akufuna njira za kulera alipo kale. Mabanja amakono amakhumba atamakahala ndi anthu ochepa m’mabanjamo monga lirili banja la Patricia ndi mwamuna wake. Izitu zikusiyana ndi mabanja a mbadwo wamakedzana omwe amafuna kuchembeza kasanu kapena kasanu nkamodzi.
Click
……………..lero mabanja ambiri mMalawi amafuna kukhala ndi ana atatu okha basi.

Click
Kutsika kwa chiwerengero cha anthu m’mabanjaku kuli choncho maka chifukwa choti amayi ambiri akusankha njira za kulera.

Click
Ndipo kafukufuku akuwonetsa kuti mabanja ambiri angathe kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera ngati abambo akuwonetsa chidwi ndiponso kutenga mbali pa maleredwe ndi kusamala ana.

Click
Ngakhale zinthu zili chonchi, amayi ambiri akumaberekabe ana ochuluka koposa chifuniro chawo ndiponso chiwerengero cha ana chomwe mai amayenera kukhala nawo sichinasike kwenikweni. Izi ziri choncho chifukwa anthu ambiri wofuna njira za kulera sakutha kupeza kupeza nzirazo

Click
Ngakhale chiwerengero cha amayi omwe akugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera chakwera, tikulepherabe kufikira anthu ena ambiri. Pafupifupi mayi m’modzi pa amayi anayi aliwonse m’Malawi safuna kuchembezanso ngakhale kuti sakugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera. Amayi amenewa sangathe kupeza njira za kulera chifukwa choti njirazo kulibe.

Kuti tikafikire anthu onse amene akufuna njira za kulera ndi kuwonetsetsa kuti mayi aliyense komanso banja lomwe likufuna kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera akutero ......

Click

Click
Kusapeza njira za kuleraku kukuchititsa kuti amai akhale ndi pakati posakonzekera- pafupifupi ntheka la amai oyembekezerwa m’dziko la Malawi amakhala kuti anali asanakonzekere kutenga pathupi. Ichi ndi chinthu chodandaulitsa kwambiri chifukwa zotsatira za pakati posakonzekera ndi kuchotsa mimba komanso pakati posakonzekera pamaopzeza moyo wa mai ndi mwana
Njira za kulera zimathandiza kupewa kuchotsa pakati mnjira zooposeza moyo (kuchotsa pakati pogwiritsa ntchito njira zomwe zingaopseze moyo) komanso zimathandiza kuti amayi amakhala ndi pakati ali ndi thanzi komanso panthawi yake zomwe zimapatsa mwawi wobeleka mwana wa thanzi.

Mwachitsanzo, kumbeleka patatha zaka zitatu kumapatsa mwayi mwana wobadwayo kuti akule bwino poyelekeza ndi mwana amene wabadwa pasanathe zaka ziwiri chiwadwire wina.

Pathupi posakonzekera pamayikanso moyo wa mayi pachiswe. M'Malawi muno mayi mmodzi amamwalira pa maola awiri aliwonse pa zifukwa za mavuto omwe amakumana nawo pamene ali woyembekezera ngakhalenzo pobeleka. Amayi akamwalira amasiya ana pa umasiye komanso ana wosowa chisamaliro chokwanira.

Komanso imfazi zikutiuza zambiri zokhuza mavu to omwe amai amakumana nawo chifukwa cha uchembere. Pa mayi aliyense ye'mwe amamwalira chifukwa cha uchembere, amayi 20 kapena 30 amakhala ndi zilema zosiyanasiyana zina zakanthawi kochepe kapena zokhazikika monga, matenda wongotulutsa fungo loyipa kamba ka kuongeka ziwalo zina zoberekerika (obstetric fistula), kusowa kwa magazi komanso ngakhale matenda ena wamba

„Imfazi ndi zowawitsa mtima chifukwa ndi zina mwa imfa zomwe zingapewedwe. Kubereka mwana kukuyenera kukhala chinthu chodzetsa chisangalalo osati chisoni”

Imfa pafupifupi zokwana 7,000 zodza chifukwa cha uchembere zikhoza kupewedwa ngati tingakwaniritse kufikira anthu amene akufuna ndi njira za kulera pofika mchaka 2020. Izi zikusonyeza kuti tikhoza kupulumutsa miyoyo ya amai yokwanira 700 chaka chili chonse!

Tikhoza kupulumutsanso miyoyo ya ana. Tingathenso kupewa imfa za ana wokwana 354,000 ngati tingakwaniritse kufikira onse akufuna njira za kulera pofika chaka cha 2020. Izi zikutanthauza kuti chaka chilichonse tikhoza kumapulumutsa miyoyo ya ana woposera 20,000

Kodi tingafune chuma chochuluka bwanji kuti tipulumutsa miyoyo imeneyi? Zoona zake zenizeni ndi zoti populumutsa miyoyo tidzapulumutsanso chuma cha dziko.
Click

Kuchokera mchaka cha 2012 mpaka 2020 chuma chowonjezera pogula zipangizo za njira za kulera kuti tikafikire wina aliyense amene akufuna njira ya kulera zingakwane pafupifupi US$ 74 miliyoni (MK13 biliyoni). Titatero boma nalo likhoza kusungako chuma chifukwa pamene amayi akuberekana ana ochepa, bomanso nalo silidzaononga ndalama zochulu ka posamalira miyoyo ya anthu. Choncho boma lingathenso kupulumutsa chuma chogwiritsa ntchito ................

Click

 ............. popititsa patsogolo ntchito za maphunziro, katemera, madzi ndi ntchito zokhudza ukhondo, uchembere wabwino ndi ntchito ndi malungo. Pamene tapulumutsa ndalama muntchito zina, ndalamazo zingagwire ntchito zokafikire anthu onse amene akufuna njira za kulera ndi kuthana ndi potero dziko la Malawi lizapulumutsa pafupifupi US$118 miliyoni (zopitilira MK 21 biliyoni) Kuphatikizanso pa kusunga chuma chomwe chikugwiritsidwa ntchito pa ntchito zosiyana amene usotukula miyoyo ya anthu, pofikira wina aliyense wofuna njira za kulera tithanso kulimbikitsa ntchito za chuma ndi muntchito, komanso m’mbabanga.

Click

Kafukufuku waonetsa kuti mbanja omwe anatha kufikire ndi kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera anali ndi:-

- Chuma chochulu ka
- Kupeza chuma komanso katundu wambiri
- Maphunziro a pamwamba

Njira za kulera ndi njira imodzi mwa njira zodalirika pothetsa umphawi womwe umafalikira kuchoka mbadwo wina kupita ku mbadwo wina

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Komanso popeza kuti amayi amapitilira theka la anthu omwe amakangalika kugwira ntchito m’Malawi, kuteteza miyoyo yawo ndi chinthu chofunikira kwambiri pa chuma cha dziko. Kuti amai athe kupitikiza udindo wawo ngati mnzika yodalirika monga abambo ndipofunika kuonetsetsa kuti amai ali ndi mwayi wotenga komanso kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera, akutha kutenga pathupi mwakufuna kwawo komanso ali ndi thanzi.

Click

Njira za kulera ndi njira yokhayo yomwe ingathandize kuthetsa mavuto a zachuma pakali pano. Pamene chiwerengero cha anthu chikukwera pa mlingo wowopseza chuma cha dziko, ndichachimvekere kuti kutukula njira za kulera pakali pano ndi kofunikira kwambiri kuti tsogolo la anthu likhale lopambana.
Tsogolo la dziko liri mmanja mwa achinyamata; achinyamata ndi kagulu kena ka anthu komwe kakuchuluka kwambiri ndipo kalinso ndi zosoweka zake.

Malawi muli anthu pafupipupi 10 miliyoni omwe ali ndi zaka zosapyolera 25- izi zikutanthauza pa anthu 100 aliwonse, anthu wokwana 66 ndi amene ali ndi zaka zosapyolera 25. Uwu ndi m’badwo wa achinyamata waukulu koposa mibadwo ina yonse m’Malawi muno, ndipo ukuyembekezereka kukulirakulirabe.

Izi zikutanthauza kuti pamene achinyamatawaka akulowa mgulu la anthu wokangalika pantchito mdziko; pafunika kukweza ntchito za maphunziro; za umoyo, ntchito zina zosamalira anthu komanso kuonetsetsa kuti mwayi wa ntchito ukupezeka.......

Ndipo achinyamata ochuluka chonchi akhoza kuzakhala nzika zodalirika ngati tingakwaniritse kugwiritsa ntchito mfundo zoyenerera za chuma komanso za ndale. Achinyamata 10 miliyoniwa angathe kutukula tsogolo la dziko mtsogolo muno ..... 

Imodzi mwa njira zomwe zingathandize achinyamata kuti akathe kufikira zokhumba zawo ndi kuwenetsetsa kuti tikupititsa patsgolo ntchito za uchembere wabwino wokhuza achinyamatawa-achinyamatawa amakhudzidwa kwambiri ndi mavuto monga kutenga pakati posakonzekera, kuchotsa pakati m’njira zoopseza miyoyo (kuchotsa pakati pogwiritsa ntchito zoopseza miyoyo), kachirombo ka HIV ndi matenda ena wopatsirana pogonana monga HIV-kotero iwowa angazapindule nawo mtsogolo muno ngati tilimbikitsa ntchitozi.

Pali umboni wokwanira womwe ukuonetsa kuti kutukula ntchito za uchembere wabwino wokhuza achinyamata kumakweza tsogolo lawo komanso kumabweretsa phindu lochuluka ku m’madera osiyanasiyana monga;

- Kukweza uchemberewabwino komanso moyo wabwino wa makanda
- Kuchepetsa kufala kwa kachilombo koyambitsa matenda a EDZI ka HIV.
- Kulimbikitsa kugwira ntchito mofanana pakati pa amuna ndi akazi
- Kuchulukitsa mwayi wa maphunziro makamaka wa asungwana
- Kulimbikitsa njira zopeza chakudy a komanso chuma kwa munthu aliyense ndi mabanja
- Kukweza chuma cha dziko lonse
Pamene achinyamata akhala ndi chidziwitso chokwanira komanso kupeza njira za kulera, iwo angathe kuchulukitsa mwawi wambiri. Tikayika mtima pa ntchito za a chinyamata pakali pano ndiye kuti tikukonza tsogolo labwino la dziko.

Tikuyenera tilimbikitse njira za kulera padakali pano kuti tsogola la dziko lizakhale labwino.

Kulimbikitsa njira za kuleraku zikuyenera kupindulira wina aliyense osati amai kapena abambo wokha komanso achinyamata athu, amene ali abambo ndi amayi a mawa.

Monga mmene tikuwonera, pamene munthu aliyense kapena banja lirilonse lasankha mmene lizichembezera akhoza kukhala ndi chiwerengero cha ana monga mwa chifuniro chawo komanso ana womwe angathe kuwasamalira.

Izi zitha kuchepetsa mavuto a zachuma pa mabanja osauka, komanso amayi adzakhala a thanzi ndi otha kugwira ntchito zowathandiza kukwaniritsa zosowa za mabanja awo.

Zotsatira zake ndizakuti chuma komanso zinthu zapabanja zizachuluka

Ndipo ngati chuma ndi zinthu zapabanja zachuluka ndiye kuti makolo atha kuyikapo mtima pa zinthu zomwe zingatukule moyo wa ana awo monga za umoyo, chakudya chokwanira komanso maphunziro

Mabanja angathenso kuyikapo mtima pa njira zopezera chuma ndi chakudya chokwanira zomwe zingathandize kuthana ndi njala ndi umphawi

Zabwino zotere zikhoza kufalikira mdziko chifukwa njira za kulera zingathandizire kuti dziko likhale ndi chiwerengero cha anthu chomwe boma lingathe kusamalira bwino

Pamene kukwera kwa chiwerengero cha anthu mdziko kukuchepetsedwa, boma nalo lingathe kukwaniritsa bwino ntchito zopititsa matsogolo miyoyo ya anthu monga ntchito za maphunziro, za umoyo; komanso boma lingathe kuyikapo mtima ndi kutukula ntchito za chuma, kuchulukitsa mwayi wantchito ndiponso litha kusamalira bwino zachilengedwe kuti zithandize pa ntchito za chitukuko
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Zotsatira zake ndi kukwera kwa chuma komanso kutukuka kwa dziko la Malawi

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Kulimbikitsa njira za kulera ndi mfungulo womwe ungathandize kuchepetsa kuchulukana kwa anthu, kuchepetsa umphawi komanso kukweza chuma m’banja ngakhalenso m’dziko OR [Kulimbikitsa njira za kulera ndi imodzi mwa njira zikuluzikulu zomwe zomwe zingathandize kuchepetsa kuchulukana kwa anthu, kuchepetsa umphawi komanso kukweza chuma m’banja ngakhalenso m’dziko

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Kodi tingachitepo chiyani padakali pano? Motsogozedwa ndi akuluakulu opanga ndondomeko za kayendetsedwe ka ntchito zosiyasaniyana, anthu ena onse amene akukhuzidwa ndi nkhaniyi ayenera kugwirira ntchito limodzi kuti:-

• Avomereze ndi kugwiritsa ntchito ndondomeko yokhazikika ya chiwerengero cha anthu m’dziko ndi kuwonetsetsa kuti mfundo za chiwerengero cha anthu komanso njira za kulera zikulimbikitsidwa mu ndondomeko zosiyasaniyana za ntchito za boma.

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• Aperenke chuma chokwanira ndi zipangizo zogwiritsa ntchito popititsa matsogolo ntchito za uchembere wabwino kuphatikizapo zipangizo zothandizira njira za kulera.

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• Alimbikitse anthu kuvomereza ndi kumvetsetsa bwino za njira za kulera kudzera maunthenga wosiyasaniyana komanso kukambirana pafupipafupi

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• Ayikepo mtima potukula mwayi wa machitachita ndi ntchito zoyenera pa moyo wa achinyamata, komanso kulola achinyamata kutenga mbali pa kupanga ziganizo pa zinthu zoyenera.)

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Pongoyang’ana zomwe dziko la Malawi lakwaniiritsa zikusonyezelatu kuti litha kuchita zadzikulu. Ngati atsogoleri athu angayike mtima ndi kuchitapo kanthu pa nkhani za chiwerengero cha anthu, ndiye kuti Malawi akhodza kakhala dziko lotukukirapo.
Malawi: Kuyikapo mtima pazatsogolo lathu pakadali pano

Mu “Malawi: Kuyikapo mtima pazatsogolo lathu pakadali pano” tikuunika zitukuko zimene dziko la Malawi lachita komanso zipsinjo zomwe dzikoli likukumana nazobe pamene likuyesetsa kuti likhale pa mdandanda wa mayiko wotukukirapo. Powunguzawunguza mavuto womwe amadza kaamba kakukwera msanga kwa chiwerengero cha anthu m’dziko muno kapanenso m’mabanja, uthenga uwu ukuwonetsa ngwirizano womwe ulipo pakati pa kukwera msanga kwa chiwerengero cha anthu, kutsata njira za kulera ndi chitukuko. Uthengawu ukutsindika kufunika kwa kuthana ndi kukwera msanga kwa chiwerengero cha anthu ndi kukwaniritsa zosowa za njira za kulera zomwe sizinakwaniritsido ndi cholina chochromepsa umphawi ndi kufikira zolinga za chitukuko cha dziko.

Dziko la Malawi lili chindunji ndi tsogolo lopambana chifukwa liri ndi ana ambiri amene akukula ndi moyo wathanzí, chuma chomwe dziko limapeza kuchokera ku ntchito zosiyanasiyana dziko mmomwemo (GDP) ndi chokwerekipango komanso chiwerengero cha ophunzira msukulu zathu ndi chachikulu.

Ngakhale izi zili chonchi, si anthu onse amene akupindula ndi kusintha kumeneku.
Chiwerengero chenicheni cha anthu osauka chikupitilira 5 miliyoni, chimodzimodzi ndi mchaka cha 1998.

Chiwerengero cha anthu chikukwera kuposa mmene chuma chingakwanitsire zosowa za anthuwo. Chaka chilichonse, chiwerengero cha dziko la Malawi chimaonjezekera ndi anthu oposa 400,000. Ngati chiwerengero cha dziko chingapitirire kukwera pa mlingo umenewu, ndiye kuti chiwerengero cha dziko lino chizakwera kanayi poyelekeza ndi mmene chiliri pakali pano pomafika chaka cha 2050.

Anthu wochulukirapo azafuna zinthu zowayenereza pa moyo wavo. Ndondomeko ya chuma cha boma (bajeti) idzakhala pa mpanipani pofunafuna kukwaniritsa zosowa zimenezi, potero boma litha kulephera kugwira ntchito zake zina za chitukuko. Izi zizachititsa kuti chuma cha dziko chisakwele.
Kusamuka kwa anthu kuphatikizapo ndi kukula kwa chiwerengero cha anthu zikupangitsa mizinda kukhala ndi anthu ochuluka zedi. Zotsatira zake ndi zoti kumakhala kovuta kwambiri kuthusira kuthi mizinda ikhale ndi nyumba zokwanira zokhalamo anthuwo komanso zinthu zofunikira ku ntchito zosiyanasiyana monga madzi abwino ndi magetsi.

Pamene chiwerengero cha anthu akumudzi chikukula, malo akuchepa ndipo chonde chachepa m’nthaka. Izi zikuchititsa alimi kulima malo osayenera ulimi.³

Pamene chiwerengero cha anthu chikulirakulira, chaka ndi chaka malo sakukula konse ayi.

Maiko ambiri apita patsogolo kwambiri pa chitukuko cha chuma zaka makumi angapo zapitazi, mbali ina chifukwa cha kuyang’anira bwino kukula kwa chiwerengero cha anthu.

Pamene chiwerengero cha ana omwe mai amayenera kukhala Nacho chikutsika, mayikowa anali nako kuthekera kogwiritsa ntchito chuma chawo mu ntchito za chitukuko. Lero lino chuma chonde chimene mayikowa amapeza pa munthu aliyense (GNI per person) chikuposa cha dziko la Malawi.⁴

Dziko la Malawi likuyenera kutsogoza kulabandira za kukwela kwa chiwerengero cha anthu kuti lithe kufikira pa zolinga zake pa chitukuko ndi kukhala dziko lotukukirapo.

Dziko la Kenya limafanana mzychitika zake ndi ziko la Malawi, koma Kenya wachita bwino pachitukuko kuposa Malawi. Chinthu chinodzi chimene chinapangitsa dziko la Kenya kukhala lotsogola ndi chakuti dziko la Kenya linayika mtima pa ntchito yokhudza chiwerengero cha anthu ndi njira za kulera kumayambiriro komwe.⁵

Mfundo zofunikira kwambiri zmwe dziko la Malawi likuyenera kutsata kuti lipititse patsogolo chitukuko pa chuma chake ndi kukwaniroza zosowa zimene sizenakwanintsidwe pa ntchito za njira za kulera komanso kuchepetsa chiwerengero cha ana omwe mai amayenera kukhala nao.
Mabanja alero m’Malawi akufuna azikhala ndi ana ocheperapo (pafupifupi atatu) kusiyanu ndi mmene amafunira mabanja a makedzana (ana asanu kapena asanu ndi m’modzi). Amayi ambiri akusankha kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera. Masiku ano amayi 42 pa amayi 100 a chi Malawi aliwone amene ali m’mbanja akugwiritsa nchito njira za makono za kulera.

Ndipo pamene abambo akutenga nazo mbalu kwatunthu chimakhala chodziwikiratu kuti mabanjao angathe kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera popanda vuto lina lirilonse.

Ngakhale izi zili chomwechi, mabanja akumakhalabe ndi ana ochulukirapo koposa m’mene akufunira ndipo chiwerengero cha ana omwe mmai amayenera kukhala nao chidakali chokwera. Mmai akyenera kukhala ndi ana pafupifupi ana asanu ndi m’modzi (6) obadwa kwa mayi alyense. Chifukwa chimodzi chimene zinthu zikukhalira chonchi ndi kusafikira anthu amene akufuna njira za kulera. Mayi m’modzi mwa amayi anayi aliwone amanena kuti sakufuna kutumbiza posakhalitsa kapena kuti basi ana akwana, koma chonsecho sakugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera. Amayi otere amakhala kuti sanafikilidwe ngakhale amafunira njira za kulera.

Kusapeza njira za kuleraku kumachititsa chiwerengero cha amai wokhala ndi pakati posakonzekera chikwele—pafupifupi ntheka la amai oyembekezera m’dziko la Malawi amakhala kuti anali asankonzekere kutenga pathupi. Pakati posankonzekelapa pamachitanso kuti chiwerengero cha amai komanso ana amene akulumala ngakhalensu kufo kumene chikwere. M’Malawi muno mayi mmodzi amamwalira pa maola awiri aliwone pa zifukwa za mavuto omwe amakumana nazo pamene ali woyembekezera ngakhalensu pobeleka. Komanso pakati posankonzekelapa mathero ake atha kukhala kuchotsa pakati mnjira zoopsyeza moyo (kuchotsa pakati pogwiritsa ntchito njira zomwe zingaopsyeze moyo).
Imfazi zikhoza kupewedwa ngati tingakwaniritse kufikira anthu amene akufuna ndi kugwiritsa ntchito njira za kulera pofika mchaka 2020. Tikanatha kupewa;

- Imfa zokwana 7,000 zodza chifukwa cha uchembere.
- Imfa za ana wokwana 354,000.¹⁰

Kodi tikanagwiritsa chuma chochuluka bwanji kuti tipewe imfazi?

Kuchokera pakali pano mpaka chaka 2020 zikanatitengera pawupufupi US$74 miliyoni kuti tikafikire wina aliyense amene akufuna njira ya kulera.

Pamene chiwerengero cha anthu pa banja chinkunka chicheperachepera, chuma chomwe mingagwiritsa ntchito pokwaniritsa zosowa za anthu onse nacho chikhoza kumanka chitsika, kuphatikizapo chuma chomwe mingagwiritsa ntchito popititsa patsogolo ntchito za maphunziro, katemera, madzi ndi ntchito zokhuza ukhondo wabwino, uchembere wabwino komanso zontha ndi malungo.

Boma likhoza kupulumutsa ndalama zokwana US$118 miliyoni—ndalama zoposa zimene boma likadagwiritsa ntchito.

Njira za kulera ndi njira yokhayo yomwe ingathandize kuthetsa mavuto a zachuma a mdziko komanso mbanja pakali pano.¹¹

Kuyikapo mtima pa ntchito za njira za kulera ndi kukonza tsogolo la dziko, makamaka kwa achinyamata athu.
M’Malawi muno muli achinyamata okwana 10 miliyoni—magawo awiri a magawo atatu a chiwerengero cha anthu a mdziko lino.\textsuperscript{12}

Ngati tingakhale ndi kugwiritsa bwino ntchito mfundo komanso ndondomeko zabwino za umoyo komanso achinyamata 10 miliyoniwa angathe kutukula tsogolo la dziko mtsoogolo muno.

Kukwaniritsa zosowa za uchembere wabwino wa achinyamata athu ndiyo njira imodzi yofunikira imene yingathandize achinyamatawo kufikira pa kuthekera kwawo, zomwe zingathandize kutukula dziko lathu mtsoogolo muno.\textsuperscript{13}

Pamene munthu aliyense kapena banja lirilonse lasankha mmene lizichembezera akhoza kuhala ndi chiwerengero cha ana monga mwa chifuniro chawo komanso ana womwe angathe kuwasamalira.\textsuperscript{14}

Njira za kulera ndi imodzi mwa njira zikuluzikulu zomwe zingapititsa mtsoogolo chitutuko—makamaka potukula chitutuko cha pa banja komanso kulimbikitsa kufikira pa chuma cha dziko.

Kodi tingachitepo chiyani? Akuluakulu opanga ndondomeko za kayendetsedwe ka ntchito zosiyanasiyan akuyenera kulumikizana komanso kugwirira ntchito limodzi kuti:

- Avomereze ndi kugwiritsa ntchito ndondomeko yokhazikika ya chiwerengero cha anthu m’dziko ndi kuwonetsetsa kuti mfundo za chiwerengero cha anthu komanso njira za kulera zikulimbikitsidwa mu ndondomeko zosiyanasiyanza za ntchito za boma.

- Aperereke chuma chokwanira ndi zipangizo zogwiritsa ntchito popititsa mtsoogolo ntchito za uchembere wabwino kuphatikiza zipangizo zothandizira njira za kulera.

- Alimbikitse anthu kuvomereza ndi kumvetsetsa bwino za njira za kulera kudzera maunthenga wosiyansiyana komanso kukambiliana pafupipafupi.

- Ayikepo mtima potukula mwayi wa machitachita ndi ntchito zoyenera pa moyo wa achinyamata, komanso kulola achinyamata kutenga mbali pa kupanga ziganizo pa zinthu zoyenera.


6 NSO and ICF Macro, Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2010 (Zomba, Malawi, and Calverton, MD: NSO and ICF Macro, 2011).


8 NSO and ICF Macro, Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2010.

9 NSO and ICF Macro, Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2010, and NSO, Analytical Report.

10 Futures Group, Special Calculations, 2012.


12 NSO, Analytical Report.


(Komwe Tatenga Zithunzi komanso zojambulajambula zina)

Kuthokoza


Kabukuka kanasindikizidwa ndi chithandizo chochokera ku mznika za kwa Ameleka kuzera ku nthambi yoona za chitutuko pa dziko la boma la Ameleka (United States Agency for International Development (USAID)) yomwe inapeleka thandizoli ku ntchito ya IDEA yomwe nambala yake ndi AID-0AA-A-10-00009. Zonse zomwe zalembedwazi zikuyimira maganizo a bungwe la Malawi ENGAGE ndi bungwe la ntchito za Population Reference Bureau osati nthambi yoona za chitutuko pa dziko la boma la Ameleka (United States Agency for International Development (USAID)) kapena boma la United States.

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Total Fertility Rate

Demographic and Health Surveys
www.measuredhs.com/start.cfm

GNI per Capita
The World Bank’s World Development Indicators (WDI) Database http://data.worldbank.org/indicator


Desired family size is changing


More women are using family planning


Average family size changing slowly

In Malawi, over 1 in 4 women have an unmet need for family planning.


Nearly half of pregnancies in Malawi are unplanned.


Infant mortality decreases when women are able to space their births.


Maternal Mortality Ratio

National Statistical Office (NSO) and ICF Macro, *Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2010* (Zomba Malawi, and Calverton MD: NSO and ICF Macro, 2011).

Annual Births


Speech by the Minister of Finance and Development Planning, Honorable Dr. Ken Lipenga, MP, on the Commemoration of U.N. Day of 7 Billion, Mangochi Community Centre Ground, Oct. 31, 2011.

Futures Group, Special calculations, 2012.

Futures Group, Special calculations, 2012.
Futures Group, Special calculations, 2012.


Angela Msosa, National Statistical Office, email communication, Feb. 27, 2012.


Pathfinder International, A Smart Investment: Integrating Sexual and Reproductive Health Into Multisectoral Youth Programs www.pathfind.org/site/DocServer/Pathfinder_A_Smart_Investment_Integrating_Sexual_and_Re.pdf?docID=19381

Population Reference Bureau, Improving the Reproductive Health of Sub-Saharan Africa’s Youth: A Route to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals www.prb.org/pdf10/youthchartbook.pdf


Acknowledgments

“Malawi: Investing in Our Future Now” is a multimedia advocacy tool developed in 2012 by the Malawi ENGAGE task force chaired by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the Ministry of Health with support from the Population Reference Bureau’s (PRB) Informing Decisionmakers to Act project (IDEA). The tool and this presentation reference were made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the terms of the IDEA Project (No. AID-0AA-A-10-00009). The contents are the responsibility of the Malawi ENGAGE task force and the Population Reference Bureau and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Responses

Below are some questions that you may receive after the presentation, and some suggested responses. You can choose to use these scripted responses, or answer in your own way.

Questions about the Presentation

Q. How accurate are your data?

A. The data that we have shared in this presentation are the most accurate available on population and family planning in Malawi. Most of the data come from the 2010 Malawi Demographic and Health surveys and the National Statistical Office, as well as other research studies. Malawian researchers, the National Statistical Office, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and the Ministry of Health were involved in the collection and analysis of all of our data.

Q. Have the people in the photographs and videos in your presentation given their consent?

A. We have the legal right to use every photograph and video that was included in this presentation.

Q. Why do you focus so much on family planning, when there are so many other, more important, issues to be addressed? Why do you focus on family planning when the real problem is [poverty/women’s rights/education/governance/etc.]?

A. There are indeed many important issues that face us. Ideally, we could address all of these issues together. This presentation is intended to raise awareness of the problem of rapid population growth and the negative impact it has on Malawi’s development, and to highlight the most effective steps we can take to start to address this problem. The presentation focuses on family planning as a “best buy” for addressing the many, inter-related problems that Malawi faces as a result of rapid population growth.

Q. Malawian women want to have many children. It is our tradition to have large families. So how can you say that Malawian women want to have fewer children?

A. Each woman can make her own decision about how many children she wants and when she wants to have each one. Being Malawian does not automatically mean that a woman wants many children. Some Malawian women and men want many children, but many others prefer to have a small family, or no children at all. The data that we shared during this presentation shows that many Malawian
women who want to space or limit their births could benefit from family planning and contraception but aren’t using it. Unmet need for family planning can lead to unintended pregnancies, which pose risks for women, their families, and communities, and in turn can harm economic growth and development for the country. By increasing access to family planning, we can ensure that all women and couples are able to choose the number and timing of their children.

Questions about Family Planning

Q. You discussed family planning a lot in this presentation, but you didn’t describe anything about family planning. What are the choices for family planning or contraception?

A. There are a wide range of contraceptive methods available for both men and women depending on the reproductive needs of each individual. Some methods are more effective than others. Methods such as withdrawal and spermicides have the lowest level of effectiveness while longer-acting or permanent methods such as implants, IUDs, female sterilization, and vasectomy are more effective. Some methods only work one time, such as male condoms or female condoms; while others may last longer but are not permanent, such as injectables, oral contraceptive pills, hormonal patches, and the vaginal ring. Additionally, there are Fertility Awareness Methods such as the Standard Days Method, Basal Body Temperature, and the TwoDay Method. These methods require partners’ cooperation as couples must be committed to abstaining or using another method on fertile days. And finally, there is the Lactational Amenorrhea Method, which is a method based on breastfeeding that provides pregnancy protection for the mother and nutrition for the baby during the first six months after childbirth. More information about these methods is available at any health clinic or from the Family Planning Association of Malawi.

Q. Isn’t it true that many forms of family planning have negative side effects?

A. Some contraceptive methods have known side effects that may affect one family planning user while not affecting another, but these side effects are not life threatening and can be addressed by the medical provider. Each woman or couple needs to find the method that is most suitable for them, and family planning counseling must include information on possible side effects and how to manage them. If the side effects are bothering the client, the provider can switch the client to a different and more suitable contraceptive method. In every case, the minimal side effects have to be weighed against the risks of becoming pregnant and the potential health consequences of an unwanted pregnancy.

Q. Why do you focus so much on women? Isn’t there a role for men in family planning?

A. It is very important that both partners in a couple be involved in decisions about building a family, and we strongly support the involvement of men in both deciding to use contraception and in deciding to have a child. The reproductive health impacts of high fertility, however, fall more directly on women, and that is one reason why there is a strong emphasis on women in this presentation.

Questions about Rapid Population Growth and Development

Q. Is there a standard or recommended level of population growth? If you are saying that Malawi’s population growth is too high, what should it be?

A. There is no standard definition for an ideal population growth rate. What is important is that population growth is manageable for the infrastructure and economy of the country. When population growth is too high, it can act as a constraint on improvements in per capita income and per capita well-being.
Q. We see messages all the time about HIV and AIDS—how the disease is destroying our families and nations. Will family planning limit our population in the face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic?

A. While HIV/AIDS is still prevalent in Malawi, access to life-saving drugs has dramatically increased over the years and more people are now living with HIV for longer periods of time. In fact, there is now a demand for family planning methods for HIV-positive women, as they are living healthy, productive lives and may wish to prevent future pregnancies. While Malawi still has high levels of mortality due to disease, people are living and surviving longer than ever before, including children under 5 years of age, which means access to family planning services is important to continue to build healthy families and communities.

Q. Some people say that family planning is an instrument of population control to keep poor people from having too many children. What do you think about this statement?

A. We are against population control, and we oppose coercion in reproductive health matters. We want to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies, since more than one-half of unintended pregnancies result in abortion, and nearly half of all abortions are performed in an unsafe or unhygienic way, possibly resulting in injury and death. In addition, family planning is one strategy to help reduce poverty while strengthening communities rather than keeping people in poverty and limiting the number of children born into poverty.

Q. Why is Malawi's population growth important when thinking about the strength of its economy?

A. The youthfulness of Malawi’s population – over two-thirds of Malawians are younger than 25 - has several implications for planning and implementation of pro-poor development, particularly in the provision of social services, the management of the environment, and economic empowerment. One consequence of the youthful nature of the Malawian population is that the working age population will grow rapidly beyond the rate at which jobs are being created by the economy. Failure to address unemployment might impact negatively both on the stability and sustainability of economic development. Youth are more than a demographic force – they are a force for progress. That is why empowering young people is a major platform for action for the coming years.

Q. Isn’t it true that some of those large countries, like China, India, and Brazil, are doing so well economically because of their large population size?

A. These countries have large domestic economies, but much of their wealth is generated through exports. While these countries do have large populations, the fertility rates, or the number of children per woman, is very low, and has declined over time. In many cases, the fertility declined before the economic growth took off. Because they have low fertility rates, their dependency ratios are also low, meaning that there are more workers in relation to dependents (such as children and the elderly), which can strengthen the economy.

Q. When you discussed fertility and the average births per woman, sometimes there were ‘half’ births. How can you have half a birth?

A. What we call the ‘total fertility rate’ is really the average number of births that a woman has. This means that we take an average of how many births each woman has had, and sometimes the average falls between two whole numbers. In Malawi’s case, with a fertility rate of 5.7, it means that most women have 5 or 6 births in their lifetime. The total fertility rate adjusts for young women, who have not yet finished childbearing (so they have only had one or two births, but will likely have more in their lifetime), and is considered a very accurate indicator for fertility patterns in the country.
Questions about Family Planning Policies and Interventions

Q. How can we make sure there is a sufficient budget to ensure all men and all women have access to family planning?

A. In the face of the global economic crisis, it may seem difficult to increase national budgets for family planning. However, the quality and availability of reproductive health services benefits from strong health systems and financing mechanisms. Using evidence-based research to advocate for increased resource allocation from the government and donors can help ensure funding for family planning is targeted and used efficiently. Also, integrating family planning into other key health services, such as maternal and child health and HIV/AIDS, can increase national funding streams for family planning commodities and services. In addition, budgeting for family planning and reproductive health services requires a long-term perspective since using family planning services is not a one-time event for individuals and couples but a need that lasts throughout an individual's reproductive life. Finally, advocates and policymakers who articulate support for family planning can help put family planning on the national agenda and increase budget support for such services. With greater involvement of NGOs and the private sector, countries can better provide family planning services to all men and women.

Q. Giving young people information about their sexuality and reproductive health will confuse them. They are too young to make these types of decisions, and it may encourage them to have sex before marriage.

A. Global evidence shows that comprehensive reproductive health education empowers young people to make healthy choices about their behavior. It reduces the frequency of unprotected sex and the number of sexual partners, and increases contraceptive use. Comprehensive sex education is critical if we want to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies, prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, and ensure a healthier generation of young people today. In addition, comprehensive sex education equips young people with the critical thinking and communications skills they will need to communicate with their partners about contraception and make healthy decisions together.

When effective youth-friendly policies exist and are implemented, young women and men can make a healthy transition into adulthood and enjoy full participation in public life. Ultimately, if we want to give young people a good, healthy start on their lives, their right to reproductive health and family planning information and services is essential.

Q. You talk about youth-friendly services in this presentation. Why are they important? Can’t young people use the same services that adults use?

A. Access to high-quality health services help young people address a range of health concerns. Often, young people are unable to obtain needed health services due to restrictive laws and policies. In other situations, services are too expensive or young people fear that providers will not maintain confidentiality. Youth-friendly services do not require a parallel system, but the services need to respond to young people in ways that address age- and gender-related needs. These services should be tailored to all young people, with particular emphasis on those often missed by standard services, including very young adolescents, girls and young women, married couples, poor urban youth, and out-of-school youth.

Q. What is the role of religion in relation to family planning? What does religion teach about family planning?

A. Religion is not just a personal identity for many Africans, it defines all aspects of their lives: private, public and family. Religious leaders are looked to for guidance and advice on all aspects of life, and while some may not support family planning, many are supportive of family planning and the benefits for the members of their congregations.
Many religious leaders support family planning based on the health of the mother, who Africans see as the heart of the home. These leaders can play an important role in explaining how family planning fits within the values, beliefs, and directives of their religion, and can effective partners for family planning programs.

Economic and Costing Questions

Q. What exactly is GNI, can you explain it more?

A. Gross National Income, or GNI, is the average annual growth or decline as calculated by the World Bank. GNI takes into account both the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) plus the net flows of income (remittances) from abroad, which have become substantial in many countries. We are using GNI because it is a more comparable indicator than GDP across countries and across time. GNI is adjusted by purchasing power parity (PPP), which takes into account differences in the relative prices of goods and services and provides a better overall measure of economic output of one economy in comparison with another. PPP is intended to represent the same purchasing power (standard of living) across countries, and the World Bank uses it to calculate the proportion of people living in poverty (less than $2 a day).

Q. The number of lifetime births per woman (total fertility rate) is not the cause of increasing GNI, which is what it sounds like you are saying here.

A. We are only showing an association between family size and per capita GNI across countries. We are not implying that there is a causal relationship, although there is some recent data from Bangladesh which does suggest that smaller family size leads to greater family income and wealth. And, as we point out, there are a number of important investments that have to be made in order to ensure economic growth and to reap the benefit of the demographic dividend, which includes investing in family planning and health systems; increasing educational enrollment and retention along with increasing skills; and improving economic conditions so more jobs can be created for the growing numbers of young people entering the labor market.

Q. At the end of the global Trendalyzer/bubble graph, there were a few blue, sub-Saharan African countries on the right, who were doing very well on GNI. Which countries were those?

A. Those countries are Namibia and Botswana, and both of which are doing very well on GNI. Namibia’s GNI stands at about $6,300 per person, and Botswana stands at about $13,600. There are a few other African countries doing similarly. Gabon ($12,400) is similar to Botswana, and South Africa ($10,100) and Mauritius ($12,700). All of these countries are doing similarly on fertility, as well, with between 2 and 3 children per woman, on average. In Mauritius, the fertility rate is below 2, with an average of 1.86 births per woman.
Questions about funding and partners
PRB is encouraging local organizations to take ownership of these presentations and activities. Here are some anticipated questions from local audiences and suggested responses:

Q. Who developed this presentation?

A. This presentation was developed through a task force, called the Malawi ENGAGE Task Force, chaired by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and co-chaired by the Ministry of Health. The task force brought together partners from many different Malawian organizations, who are all committed to improving the well-being of Malawian families and the nation through improving reproductive health in Malawi. The work was supported through the IDEA project.

Q. What is the IDEA Project?

A. IDEA seeks to increase support among policy audiences for effective health and population programs around the world. By working with advocates, practitioners, researchers, media, and key institutions, IDEA provides the data, materials, strategies, skills, and ongoing support needed to reach decision-makers with critical information. Under IDEA, PRB develops evidence-based materials on priority issues in user-friendly formats; trains and supports journalists to influence policy change; builds the communications capacity of institutions, researchers, and advocates; and empowers communities of policy champions. In addition to the IDEA activities in Malawi, IDEA is implemented in countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The Population Reference Bureau received funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to lead the IDEA project.

Q. How is Population Reference Bureau involved in this project?

A. The Population Reference Bureau helped collect data and has worked to develop some of the parts of the presentation—especially the Trendalyzer graphs and the Google Earth sections. But without local partners, IDEA and the presentations produced through it would not take place. In-country partners and the ENGAGE task force have played the leading role in providing the content, shaping the messages, and identifying what the priority actions are to advance the Malawi’s goals and development.

Q. Is PRB an advocacy group?

A. PRB is a nonprofit, private, educational organization that focuses on providing accurate data and facts. As such they do not directly advocate or plead in favor of specific outcomes or recommendations in countries. However, they do help local partners communicate by making sure that their messages are based on the best and latest data and information.
Discussion Questions

After giving the ENGAGE presentation, you may have the opportunity to engage the audience in a discussion. Some discussion guide questions are listed below:

**DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION**

1. Were you aware of the link between rapid population growth, family planning and sustainable development? What did you learn today about this relationship?

**DISCUSSION ABOUT POPULATION GROWTH**

2. Some people say that a large population size means a stronger economy, because there are more workers. After seeing this presentation, what do you think about that argument? Why might a very large population limit a country’s economic growth instead of helping it?

3. After watching the presentation, can you describe how high fertility can contribute to continued poverty for families? For the country?

4. In what other ways do you think high fertility and rapid population growth affects individuals? Families? Communities? The nation?

**DISCUSSION ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

5. Many people have diverse views about family planning. Has this presentation affected the way that you think about the issue? Did you learn anything that makes you think differently about family planning based on how it can contribute to economic development?

6. Why is it that some women, men or couples do not use family planning or contraception, even when they know they do not want another pregnancy right away?

7. What are some of the obstacles women, men or couples face when trying to use family planning? What can be done to overcome those obstacles? What are the different roles for the government, the private sector, the health sector, and the NGO sector, in improving access to and use of family planning?

8. How does family planning make a difference for: (a) families, (b) communities, and (c) nations? In what ways can family planning benefit women? Families? The nation?
9. Family planning is often talked about as a woman’s issue, but this presentation has shown how it can affect everyone, including men. How can men play a positive role in family planning use?

**DISCUSSION ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

10. How is access to family planning an issue for economic development?

11. What else needs to be done for Malawi to achieve economic growth and other development goals?

12. How does whether someone is poor or not affect their access to reproductive health care, such as family planning services?

**DISCUSSION ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS**

13. Why is it important to have a National Population Policy?

14. What can we do to increase funding for family planning (training service providers, providing contraception, etc.)?

15. Why is it important for Malawian leaders to publicly speak out in support of family planning? Now that you have seen this presentation, what do you think are some ways that we can encourage more leaders to speak out? In what ways can you take a public role in support of family planning?

16. Why is it important to consider the needs of young people when we discuss reproductive health and family planning? How does family planning relate to young people’s well-being in other areas? What can we do to encourage participation of young people in decisions that will affect them?

17. There were several actions that we asked people to take at the end of the presentation. In addition to those actions, what else do you think you can do, in your personal life or in your job, to address family planning? (Encourage people to be very specific and feasible in the actions they suggest.)
Dissemination Reporting Form

Please answer the questions on this form after every presentation of ‘Malawi: Investing in Our Future Now’. Please submit the form (or answer the questions in an email) to Sandra Mapemba (sandramapemba@yaco.co.uk) at PRB or Dunia Likubwe (dunialikubwe@gmail.com).

Date of presentation:

Location:

Occasion for presentation:
(If the presentation was part of a larger event, please describe.)

Name of facilitator:

How many people were in the audience:
(Provide an estimate if you don’t have an exact count)

Audience profile:
(eg, doctors, policymakers, members of a network or association)

Comments on the questions asked and discussion:
Please note what questions were asked.