

AN **ENGAGE** PRESENTATION

GROWING TOGETHER: MULTISECTORAL INVESTMENTS IN MALAWI'S YOUTH

PRESENTATION GUIDE



Presentation Guidelines

GROWING TOGETHER: MULTISECTORAL INVESTMENTS IN MALAWI'S YOUTH

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Introduction to the Presentation Guide

This presentation guide is designed to help users make the most of the “Growing Together: Multisectoral Investments in Malawi’s Youth” ENGAGE presentation. The guide includes supplemental materials, such as the full presentation script, references, key messages with screenshots, FAQs, and a discussion guide that can be used to prompt interaction and dialogue among viewers.

After reviewing the presentation guide, you will know how to:

- Identify opportunities to use this ENGAGE presentation with various audiences.
- Respond to frequently asked questions about the presentation.
- Foster dialogue with audiences about key messages in the presentation.

Presentation Goals

The goal of “Growing Together: Multisectoral Investments in Malawi’s Youth” is to build awareness of the overlapping needs and priorities of multiple sectors and increase support for cross-sectoral investments in Malawi’s young people.

To achieve this goal, the presentation is designed to boost individuals’ understanding of the links between and among young peoples’ health, education, employment, and meaningful participation in governance, and how investments in each area can contribute to Malawi’s growth and development.

Target audiences include national and subnational government policymakers; health, education, employment, and youth sector leaders; program officials; journalists; and others.

Specific objectives of the presentation are to:

- Provide information and analysis about Malawi’s demographic changes, as well as health, education, employment sectors, and youth participation.
- Explain how these sectors and areas are all related to each other and how these links influence Malawi’s growth and development.
- Foster discussion among audience members about the need for greater cross-sectoral and multisectoral investments.

Opportunities to Give the Presentation

This ENGAGE presentation and supporting materials are tools for professionals involved in family planning, health, education, employment, and youth development and well-being at all levels—in academic, policy, and community settings. The target audiences for this presentation are:

- **Primary:** Government policymakers at national and subnational levels who are in a position to allocate resources and advance multisectoral collaboration and investments in Malawi, and traditional and religious leaders who are in a position to influence implementation of these policies at a community level.
- **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, especially as Malawi implements the Third Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III) and Sustainable Development Goals, and continues to work toward Vision 2020 and other targets. The presentation can be used in a number of ways to reach different audiences, including:

POLICYMAKERS

- Educate policymakers about the importance of investing in young people right now to foster growth and development for the country.
- Highlight how investments in health, education, and employment opportunities are linked.
- Describe ways to include youth in policymaking processes in Malawi for the benefit of the country.
- Inform traditional and religious leaders about their power to mentor youth, influence how youth are perceived in their communities, and help enforce laws such as the Marriage, Divorce, and Family Relations Act (Marriage Act) of 2015 and school readmission policies for girls.
- Demonstrate the potential economic gains and savings to be realized through multisectoral investments in health, education, and employment and by meaningful youth participation in policymaking and implementation.

FAMILY PLANNING/REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ADVOCATES

- Educate advocates about the mutually reinforcing relationship of family planning, health, education, labor force participation, and meaningful youth participation.
- Reach individuals who attend community health days, conferences, or stakeholder meetings with information about ways to invest across sectors.

CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

- Educate civic and religious leaders about the need to mentor youth, ensure they have a voice in their communities, and advocate for families and communities to abide by and implement progressive policies.
- Sustain policy dialogue with local leaders, including civic and religious leaders, at local seminars and events.

THE MEDIA

- Educate the news media on the links between youth's health, education, employment opportunities, and participation, using the ENGAGE presentation as a teaching tool.
- Provide a basis for television and radio talk shows, accompanied by local exposure for discussions and questions about these key sectors, their relationships with each other, and the investments required from each sector to ensure Malawi's growth and development.

Additional Considerations

You can make this presentation more interesting to your audience by adding information about local experiences and practices in different regions of Malawi, especially those that apply to your audience. Some considerations to make before you present:

- **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 may not be familiar with the 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 new to some audience members.

Presentation Instructions

This ENGAGE presentation is available in two formats:

1. A Flash presentation without a voiceover, accompanied by a presentation script so it can be delivered live by a presenter. This presentation requires you to manually click through the

presentation. By following the script included in this guide, you can advance the presentation one slide at a time, reading the narration for each slide as you go. This presentation requires Adobe Flash software.

2. A presentation with a voiceover. This presentation plays as a video and does NOT require you to advance each slide. You can stream the video or download it directly from www.prb.org. This presentation requires a movie player such Windows Media Player in order to be viewed on a computer.

We recommend that all potential presenters practice with the script to determine their level of comfort with each presentation. One's level of comfort should guide the decision about which version is best at a particular event.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To give ENGAGE presentations, 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/ (required for non-voiceover presentation); OR
 - A movie player such as Windows Media Player (required for voiceover, narrated presentation).

Presentation Instructions (Without Voiceover)

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".
- Your computer might give a warning about the file type. This is common with .exe files. This file is safe to open and does not contain viruses or software that will harm your computer.
- Resize the window. The window may open in a small size, off-center on your computer screen. You can maximize or minimize the presentation window by clicking the box at the bottom of the presentation which shows two diagonal arrows either pointing toward or away from each other.

TO MOVE THROUGH THE PRESENTATION

- You can click forward and backward through the presentation in two ways: using the forward and backward arrows on your keyboard; or, pointing your mouse to the forward and backward double-arrows in the gray bottom bar of the presentation. You might find it easier to move through the presentation using the keyboard arrows because you won't have to worry about pointing your mouse to the correct location on screen.
 - 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.
- You can click on the **Menu** box in the bottom bar of the presentation in order to skip to any point in the presentation. When you click on Menu, a list of all slides in the presentations pops up. When you point your mouse to a particular slide number, a snapshot image of the beginning of that slide appears. When you click your mouse, the presentation will jump directly to this slide. You can use this menu to skip directly to the beginning, end, or any other point in the presentation.
- All of the animations are prerecorded and are not interactive.
- If you click twice by accident, **you will skip to the next slide 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.

USING THE PRESENTATION AND SCRIPT TOGETHER

- The presentation script contains all the necessary narration for the presentation, along with instructions every time you need to click forward one slide.
- 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)

TO OPEN AND PLAY THE PRESENTATION

- 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. You can resize the window by dragging the top bar or dragging the corners to be smaller or larger. Enter full-screen by pressing Control + F on your keyboard.
- Check to ensure your computer speakers are working and the volume is turned up. You may find it helpful to use a portable speaker to amplify the sound for large groups.
- Click the “play” button. The presentation will play like a video.

PRESENTATION SCRIPT

Growing Together: Multisectoral Investments in Malawi's Youth

An ENGAGE multimedia presentation

Slide 1

Growing Together: Multisectoral Investments in Malawi's Youth

→ Slide 2

We are the young people of Malawi, and we imagine a future in which all young people in our country grow up with the resources we need to be healthy, happy, and productive adults.

→ Slide 3

Malawi has planted the seeds that will make this vision a reality, with policies such as the National Population Policy, Vision 2020, and Agenda 2063, and commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals. But many of us today aren't able to access the opportunities these policies promise.

→ Slide 4

We are Malawi's future. As youth, we know what we need to do to achieve our goals and drive Malawi's growth. But we cannot do it ourselves. We need you—our national and district decision-makers, and our traditional and religious leaders—to act now. Sustained investments in youth can open a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth and development in Malawi.

But, we must start today.

→ Slide 5

There are now 17.5 million people in Malawi, and if our population continues to grow at its current rate, we will have more than double the number of people by 2050.¹ That's over 42 million people.

→ Slide 6

Our population is made up of children and young people, working-age adults, and the elderly. Working people's economic activity provides the resources for government to invest in the health and education services that we all depend on.

→ Slide 7

By looking at how many people are in each of these age groups, we can better understand patterns of economic productivity and consumption.

This graph shows us the proportion of the population in five-year segments.

→ **Slide 8**

Today, Malawi has the largest and most youthful population in our history: Almost 6 million of us are between the ages of 10 and 24, and 8.4 million of us are ages 10 to 34.² In order to thrive, we need investments in health and education.

→ **Slide 9**

If young couples continue to have many children, as our parents did, our youthful population will remain large, and our government will continue to struggle to meet the needs we see today for adequate schools, teachers, health workers and facilities, and jobs.

→ **Slide 10**

But if we make investments now to give young people more opportunities and enable us to meet our desired family size Malawi will add fewer young people to its future population, reducing pressure on the working-age population to provide more and more resources. With investments that grow education and job opportunities, we can generate a burst of economic growth that will fuel our country's development.

→ **Slide 11**

Today, however, young people face barriers that will keep Malawi from reaching this goal.

→ **Slide 12**

As our population grows, so will the gaps in our health, education, employment, and participation in governance.

→ **Slide 13**

Effective and accessible health services play an important role in managing our country's population growth and ensuring a productive workforce.

→ **Slide 14**

[youth testimonial, Chisomo Kamwendo] *"We don't have proper places where the [youths] can access services, especially in sexual and reproductive health. And, sometimes when they [young people] go there, the providers that they come across, they [youth] find them a bit..., what can I say, they find them a bit... old. And then they're not free to express their problems So, it's a challenge."*

→ **Slide 15**

Malawi's health sector is facing many challenges: The second Health Sector Strategic Plan (2017-2022) reported a 45 percent vacancy rate in health posts and that one out of four people (24 percent) live more than 8 kilometers from a health centre or hospital.³

→ **Slide 16**

These gaps create challenges for young people to access the health care they need, especially when it comes to family planning.

→ **Slide 17**

Almost one in three girls between ages 15 and 19 have already begun childbearing.⁴

We already rely heavily on donors to finance our health supply chain, information systems, and infrastructure.

These early and unintended pregnancies add to Malawi's growing and youthful population, placing an even bigger demand on our health, education, employment, and other sectors.

→ **Slide 18**

Many women are having more children than they planned. In rural areas, women have, on average, one more child than they desire.⁵

→ **Slide 19**

These unplanned pregnancies also put young women's health and lives at risk. Maternal mortality accounts for 15 percent of deaths among young women ages 15 to 19 and 17 percent of deaths among young women ages 20 to 24.⁶

A 2014 analysis found that if all women who wish to delay or space their pregnancies were using modern contraception, Malawi could reduce maternal mortality by 40 percent.⁷ Increasing access to youth-friendly health services and contraception can play a role in reducing maternal deaths by allowing young women to delay or space births, achieve desired family sizes, and improve their own and their children's health.

→ **Slide 20**

Despite all the benefits of family planning, one in five married women and two in five sexually active unmarried women who want to avoid getting pregnant for the next two years or longer are not using a form of modern contraception.⁸ These gaps must be closed.

→ **Slide 21**

Improving our health is an important step in helping us become healthy, happy, and productive adults, but our future also depends on the investments we make in education.

→ **Slide 22**

[youth interview clip, Pilirani Masaiti] *In most schools in Malawi there are few learning materials, so there are not enough to accommodate all of the students in schools. And, maybe the learning materials, they can [accommodate] ten people, so there's not enough. So, the quality of education is very low. And, even the curriculum, recently the curriculum has just been changed, but yet, the books are not there in schools so it's difficult for students to catch up with the curriculum. It's very difficult, because there are not enough in the schools.*

→ **Slide 23**

Young people want a quality education that prepares us to enter the working world and have skilled jobs that pay good wages. But, we are struggling to succeed because of several gaps.

→ **Slide 24**

Thanks to policies that grant free primary school, more of us have access to education.

→ **Slide 25**

But we need more qualified teachers to guide our future leaders: In 2015, we had one qualified teacher for every 75 primary school students, and one qualified teacher for every 64 secondary students.⁹

→ **Slide 26**

The shortage of teachers illustrates a significant gap in the education sector. If women continue to have an average of four to five children, the number of children entering primary school will grow, requiring the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology to increase annual spending for primary school students to US\$351 million [255 trillion MK] between 2015 and 2050.¹⁰

→ **Slide 27**

But, if we prevent early and unintended pregnancies, and women have an average of two to three children, we can save \$US1.7 billion [1.2 trillion MK] and reallocate those savings for training teachers, building new schools, and improving existing infrastructure.¹¹

→ **Slide 28**

In addition, many schools lack adequate numbers of classrooms and do not provide hygienic facilities for girls, prompting them to drop out of school.

Pregnancy also discourages girls from returning to school, although we should be encouraging girls to return and complete their secondary education.

→ **Slide 29**

Beyond primary education, we need to keep students—especially girls—in school to complete secondary education and gain the skills to build a competitive workforce. Evidence suggests that when young people, especially girls, remain in school longer, they wait to have children.¹²

In Malawi, only 35 percent of the students in primary school complete the eight-year school cycle, and only 18 percent enrol in secondary school.¹³

In addition, fewer than 20 percent of girls who complete primary school continue their secondary education, and even fewer complete secondary school. In fact, a Malawian girl is 50 times more likely to be married before age 18 than she is to enrol in university.¹⁴

→ **Slide 30**

Our government has already enacted a landmark constitutional amendment and strategy to outlaw child marriage. Enforcing this law at all policy levels is a critical piece of investing in education.

→ **Slide 31**

To maximize the education sector's contributions to Malawi's development, we also need updated curricula to focus on the skills that today's generation needs: adolescent sexuality education, access to information and communication technology (ICT), and financial literacy.

→ **Slide 32**

The third Malawi Growth and Development Strategy calls for the educational curriculum to provide age-appropriate and culturally sensitive education, so that young people understand their bodies and healthy, responsible behaviours. Doing so can play a role in delaying sexual activity, allowing girls to continue their education uninterrupted.¹⁵

→ **Slide 33**

Including access to ICT and financial literacy in our education will prepare us for entrepreneurial success. ICT will enable us to keep pace with the rest of the world and spur innovation in Malawi. And financial literacy will help us understand how to access and use financial credit schemes to become successful entrepreneurs.

→ **Slide 34**

Today's youth need qualified teachers and classrooms, hygienic facilities for girls, and a skills-based curriculum. These investments will help young Malawians keep up with advances in technology and position the workforce to encourage economic growth.

→ **Slide 35**

[Youth interview clip, Harry Juma] *You see a guy with a degree, but then they're staying home, not getting any job. It's like there's no jobs for youths out there.*

→ **Slide 36**

The government has apprenticeship and employment strategies in place to create a limited number of government jobs. But for more youth to participate in the labour market, we need a booming private sector and improved youth employment schemes that will steer innovation and create job opportunities.

→ **Slide 37**

Today, 85 percent of employed Malawians are working in the agricultural sector.¹⁶

→ **Slide 38**

In fact, agriculture is the overwhelming entry point into employment for rural and urban youth.

→ **Slide 39**

Despite the progressive National Employment and Labour Policy, which recognizes the value of employment to upward economic mobility, one in five Malawians are unemployed.

→ **Slide 40**

Unemployment is even higher among young people: Nearly one in three (28 percent) youth between the ages of 15 and 34 are unemployed.¹⁷

→ **Slide 41**

Every year, an estimated 130,000 youth enter the job market, but the formal sector presently creates 30,000 jobs, a fraction of the necessary opportunities.¹⁸

Young people, especially women, are then forced to work in the informal economy, where they are vulnerable to a lack of worker rights and social protections, unstable or unsafe work opportunities, and uncertain income.

→ **Slide 42**

Agriculture cannot sustain our youthful population's demand for jobs. So we need to start taking steps today to meet this demand.

We need to diversify our economic sector and improve access to markets through an encouraging trade and legal environment.

→ **Slide 43**

By creating more access to financing and stronger ICT and energy infrastructure, Malawi can diversify our economic sectors, help businesses thrive, and create more job opportunities.

With greater financial literacy—beginning as part of our education—youth can better propel Malawi's economic growth through entrepreneurship.

→ **Slide 44**

And by meeting family planning needs to allow for the smaller families that young Malawians desire, we can lessen growth in the youngest ages of our population.

→ **Slide 45**

As more people are meaningfully employed, the working-age population will generate economic growth for the country, households and communities will be more stable, and the government can invest more in the needs of the social sector, and other sectors that will stimulate economic growth.

→ **Slide 46**

To move towards this vision, youth participation is necessary across all sectors.

→ **Slide 47**

The National Youth Policy calls for decision-making bodies to include 30 percent representation by youth, and space for young people in governance structures.¹⁹ We need to ensure that youth participate fully, as intended.

→ **Slide 48**

[Youth interview clip, Foster Mafiala] *As much as they have the young person's face on the platform, they feel like that's it, that's enough. They can have the young person in the space, but not really give him time to voice out his thoughts or his concerns.*

→ **Slide 49**

Many of us are, or soon will be, old enough to vote, pay taxes, and gain our full legal rights.

→ **Slide 50**

Most young people are acting on our potential to drive Malawi's political future: Seventy-seven percent of us were active in our communities in 2015, and 71 percent of youth voted in the 2014 elections. This community and civic engagement increases as more of us complete primary school, illustrating the importance of education in keeping young people informed and involved.²⁰

Without opportunities to contribute to important decisions, we will become frustrated or apathetic, placing Malawi's growth, peace, and stability at risk.²¹

→ **Slide 51**

Many governance platforms do not currently allow for meaningful youth consultation in policy development and implementation.

Malawi must strengthen youth networks within each sector so that we can understand our roles and responsibilities in government decision-making and identify opportunities for civic action at national and district levels. By taking these steps, we will grow our next generation of leaders.

→ **Slide 52**

Too often, however, our voices aren't heard in decision-making processes. One study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) found that only half of us trust our national institutions and processes.²²

→ **Slide 53**

Yet, most of us (75 percent) do trust our traditional and religious leaders.²³ These leaders are entry points to reach Malawi's youth with important messages and services. They can influence young people's access to information and our potential to act on our civic duties.

→ **Slide 54**

We can also start implementing the strong policies we have, like the National Youth Policy, the Youth-Friendly Health Services Policy, and the National Strategy of Adolescent Girls and Young Women, which promote equity and youth participation.

→ **Slide 55**

The challenges are present, but so are solutions. Let's remember that today's youth are already making significant decisions that will shape our lives and our country.

→ **Slide 56**

Critical to our success will be our empowerment, driven by our health, education, economic opportunities, and our role in decision-making.

→ **Slide 57**

Malawi has taken the first bold steps in our policy documents and directives to identify strategies that will inspire and support young people. Implementing those policies will provide a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth.

→ **Slide 58**

The time to act is now. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity to ensure Malawi's growth and development.

Key decision-makers within national ministries and district assemblies should acknowledge Malawi's youthful population and recognize that investments in us, and future youth, are central to the country's growth and development. Our traditional and religious leaders and institutions have the power to positively influence norms around gender, the value of young people, and how we are perceived.

→ **Slide 59**

Together, these leaders can prioritize four key sectors, each with specific investments:

First, scale up youth-friendly health services and extend services to youth clubs and centres with providers and educators who are trained to provide accurate information to young people so that they can make informed decisions.

→ **Slide 60**

Second, improve our educational infrastructure by building classrooms with science and computer labs, girls' hostels, and hygienic facilities. Equip this infrastructure with the necessary materials and hire qualified teachers to deliver innovative curricula and use updated resources that will prepare us as tomorrow's innovators and leaders.

→ **Slide 61**

Third, improve employment opportunities by supporting the private sector with an encouraging macroeconomic and legal environment, which will amplify private sector initiatives for youth development. Encourage young innovators and entrepreneurs with access to financing and ICT, and promote our financial literacy.

→ **Slide 62**

Fourth, implement the National Youth Policy by including a youth seat with voting powers in all local government coordination structures and national decision-making bodies. Support existing youth networks, clubs, and organisations with knowledge of governance, advocacy, and civic responsibility to amplify youth participation so that policies better respond to our needs, experiences, and values.

→ **Slide 63**

Development is multisectoral and no single ministry will drive our growth. Let's bring our collective strengths together to listen to youth, invest in youth, and actively promote development.

→ **Slide 64**

Investing in Malawi's youth is like nurturing a plant to grow. Just as a single root helps nourish the whole plant, investments in each sector will impact and encourage development across all sectors of our country.

Working with one purpose and one goal, all sectors can invest in our young people, accelerate development, and grow a stronger Malawi for generations to come.

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Key Messages Handout

The Key Messages handout is a short handout that includes visual “snapshots” from the ENGAGE presentation. The handout is intended to be succinct, serving as a visual aid as well as a readable document. We encourage you to use this handout when giving the presentation to an audience.

GROWING TOGETHER: MULTISECTORAL INVESTMENTS IN MALAWI'S YOUTH

KEY MESSAGES

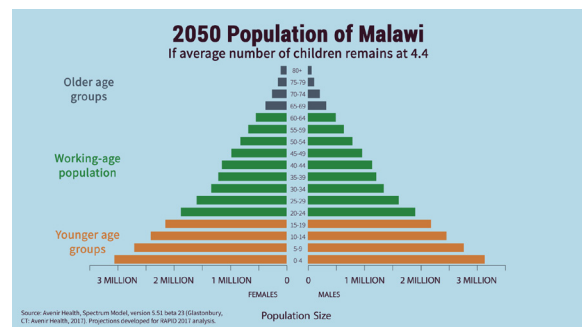
We are the young people of Malawi, and we imagine a future in which all young people in our country grow up with the resources we need to be healthy, happy, and productive adults.

Malawi has planted the seeds that will make this vision a reality, with policies such as the National Population Policy, Vision 2020, and Agenda 2063, and commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals. But many of us today aren't able to access the opportunities these policies promise.

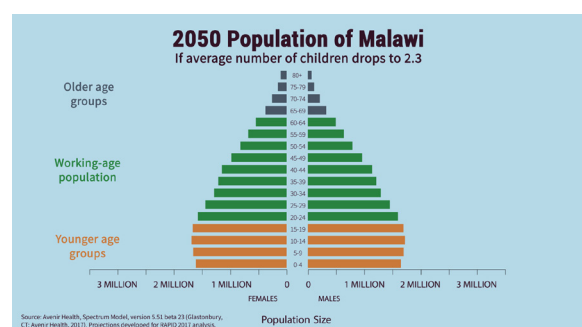


Today, Malawi has the largest and most youthful population in our history: Almost 6 million of us are between the ages of 10 and 24, and 8.4 million of us are ages 10 to 34.¹ In order to thrive, we need investments in health and education.

If young couples continue to have many children, as our parents did, our youthful population will remain large, and our government will continue to struggle to meet the needs we see today for adequate schools, teachers, health workers and facilities, and jobs.



But if we make investments now—to give young people more opportunities and enable us to meet our desired family size—Malawi will add fewer young people to its future population, reducing pressure on the working-age population to provide more and more resources. With investments that grow education and job opportunities, we can generate a burst of economic growth that will fuel our country's development.



Almost one in three girls between ages 15 and 19 have already begun childbearing.²

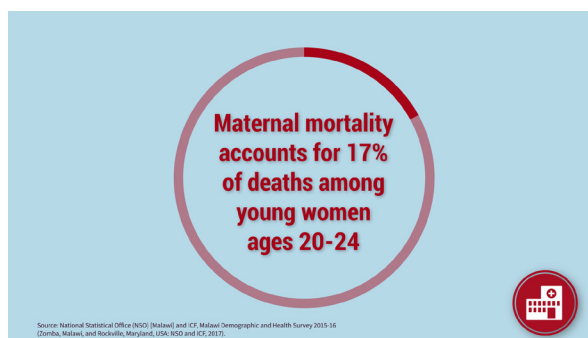
We already rely heavily on donors to finance our health supply chain, information systems, and infrastructure.

These early and unintended pregnancies add to Malawi's growing and youthful population, placing an even bigger demand on our health, education, employment, and other sectors.



These unplanned pregnancies also put young women's health and lives at risk. Maternal mortality accounts for 15 percent of deaths among young women ages 15 to 19 and 17 percent of deaths among young women ages 20 to 24.³

If all women who wish to delay or space their pregnancies were using modern contraception, Malawi could reduce maternal mortality by 40 percent.⁴ Increasing access to youth-friendly health services and contraception can play a role in reducing maternal deaths by allowing young women to delay or space births, achieve desired family sizes, and improve their own and their children's health.



Young people want a quality education that prepares us to enter the working world and have skilled jobs that pay good wages. But, we are struggling to succeed because of several gaps.

We need more qualified teachers to guide our future leaders: In 2015, we had one qualified teacher for every 75 primary school students, and one qualified teacher for every 64 secondary students.⁵



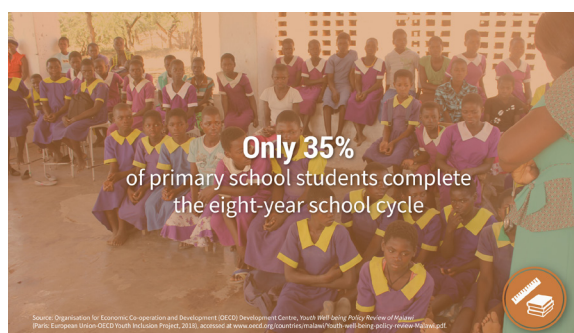
In addition, many schools lack adequate numbers of classrooms and do not provide hygienic facilities for girls, prompting them to drop out of school.

Pregnancy also discourages girls from returning to school, although we should be encouraging girls to return and complete their secondary education.



In Malawi, only 35 percent of the students in primary school complete the eight-year school cycle, and only 18 percent enrol in secondary school.⁶

In addition, fewer than 20 percent of girls who complete primary school continue their secondary education, and even fewer complete secondary school. In fact, a Malawian girl is 50 times more likely to be married before age 18 than she is to enrol in university.⁷



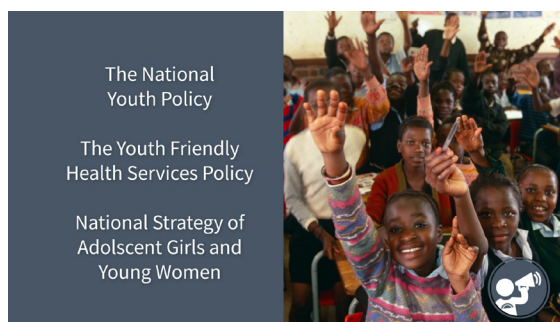
To maximize the education sector's contributions to Malawi's development, we also need updated curricula to focus on the skills that today's generation needs: adolescent sexuality education, access to information and communication technology (ICT), and financial literacy.



Most of us (75 percent) *do* trust our traditional and religious leaders.¹¹ These leaders are entry points to reach Malawi's youth with important messages and services. They can influence young people's access to information and our potential to act on our civic duties.



We can also start implementing the strong policies we have, like the National Youth Policy, the Youth-Friendly Health Services Policy, and the National Strategy of Adolescent Girls and Young Women, which promote equity and youth participation.

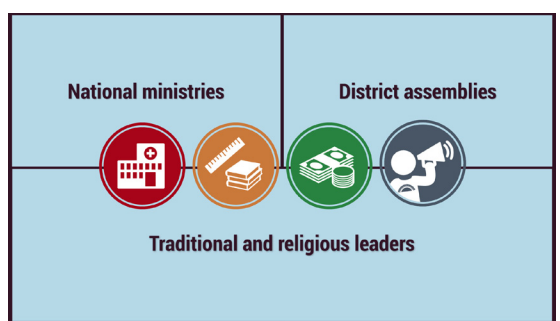


Malawi has taken the first bold steps in our policy documents and directives to identify strategies that will inspire and support young people. Implementing those policies will provide a window of opportunity for accelerated economic growth.



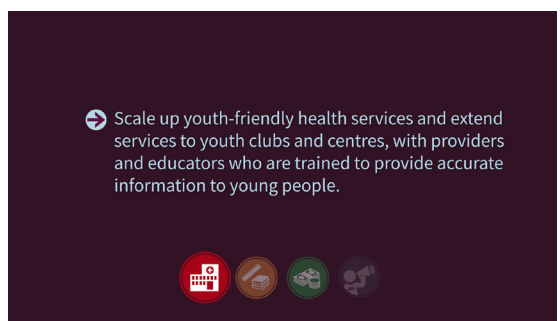
The time to act is now.

Key decisionmakers within national ministries and district assemblies should acknowledge Malawi's youthful population and recognize that investments in us, and future youth, are central to the country's growth and development. Our traditional and religious leaders and institutions have the power to positively influence norms around gender, the value of young people, and how we are perceived.




Together, these leaders can prioritize four key sectors, each with specific investments:

First, scale up youth-friendly health services and extend services to youth clubs and centres, with providers and educators who are trained to provide accurate information to young people so that they can make informed decisions.




Second, improve our educational infrastructure by building classrooms with science and computer labs, girls' hostels, and hygienic facilities. Equip this infrastructure with the necessary materials and hire qualified teachers to deliver innovative curricula and use updated resources that will prepare us as tomorrow's innovators and leaders.

- ➔ Improve our educational infrastructure by building classrooms with science and computer labs, girls' hostels, and hygienic facilities.
- ➔ Equip this infrastructure with the necessary materials and hire qualified teachers to deliver innovative curricula and use updated resources that will prepare us as tomorrow's innovators and leaders.




Third, improve opportunities by supporting the private sector with an encouraging macroeconomic and legal environment, which will amplify private sector initiatives for youth development. Encourage young innovators and entrepreneurs with access to financing and ICT, and promote our financial literacy.

- ➔ Improve employment opportunities by developing the private sector with an encouraging macroeconomic and legal environment, which will amplify private sector initiatives for youth development.
- ➔ Encourage young innovators and entrepreneurs with access to financing and ICT, and promote our financial literacy.



Fourth, implement the National Youth Policy by including a youth seat with voting powers in all local government coordination structures and national decision-making bodies. Support existing youth networks, clubs, and organisations with knowledge of governance, advocacy, and civic responsibility to amplify youth participation so that policies better respond to our needs, experiences, and values.

- ➔ Implement the National Youth Policy by including a youth seat with voting powers in all local government coordination structures and national decision-making bodies.
- ➔ Support existing youth networks, clubs, and organisations with knowledge of governance, advocacy, and civic responsibility to amplify youth participation so that policies better respond to our needs, experiences, and values.



Investing in Malawi's youth is like nurturing a plant to grow. Just as a single root helps nourish the whole plant, investments in each sector will impact and encourage development across all sectors of our country.



Key Messages Handout References

- 1 Projections developed for RAPID 2017 analysis using Spectrum model.
- 2 National Statistical Office (NSO) [Malawi] and ICF, Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16 (Zomba, Malawi, and Rockville, MD: NSO and ICF, 2017).
- 3 NSO and ICF, Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16.
- 4 Michael Vlassoff and Maxton Tsoka, "Benefits of Meeting the Contraceptive Needs of Malawian Women" (Guttmacher Institute, 2014), accessed at https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/lib-malawi.pdf
- 5 Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, *RAPID: Estimating the Impact of Population Growth on Development in Malawi* (Lilongwe: Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Development, 2017).
- 6 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Centre, *Youth Well-being Policy Review of Malawi* (Paris: European Union-OECD Youth Inclusion Project, 2018).
- 7 Nine percent of girls complete secondary school; Government of Malawi, National Strategy of Adolescent Girls and Young Women, 2018; and Janet Fleischman and Katey Peck, *Addressing HIV in Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Malawi: The DREAMS Partnership* (Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2017).
- 8 International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT database, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.AGR.EMPL.ZS?locations=MW>, accessed on Sept. 10, 2018.
- 9 NSO, *Malawi Labour Force Survey 2013* (Zomba, Malawi: NSO, 2014).
- 10 Ministry of Youth and Sports, *National Youth Policy* (Lilongwe: Ministry of Youth and Sports, 2013).
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Discussion Guide

After delivering the ENGAGE presentation, “Growing Together: Multisectoral Investments in Malawi’s Youth,” you may have the opportunity to facilitate discussion among the audience members. We encourage you to make the discussion specific to the recommendations included in the presentation and ask your audience members what types of actions they can take to influence or increase investments in health, education, employment, and participation among youth.

Sample discussion questions are listed below:

1. Did this presentation affect how you view young people in Malawi?
2. What policies in your sector affect youth? What policies have recommendations specific to youth?
3. Were you aware of the relationship between rapid population growth, health, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, and youth participation? What did you learn today about these relationships?

DISCUSSION ABOUT HEALTH AND YOUTH

4. People have diverse views about young people accessing reproductive health services. Has this presentation affected your views on the issue or about youth who access these services?
5. What are some benefits of scaling up youth-friendly health services and incorporating adolescent sexuality education in the curriculum? What are the barriers we face?
6. What kind of health services can we make available now to Malawi’s youth? How can we improve existing structures?
7. How do harmful gender norms affect fertility and population dynamics? What are some of the harmful norms that you see in Malawi today?

DISCUSSION ABOUT EDUCATION AND YOUTH

8. How are population dynamics affecting the education sector today? What challenges do you see in the education sector that may be related to population dynamics?
9. Aside from including adolescent sexuality education in school and offering youth-friendly health services, what other investments can we make in education that benefit health? That benefit employment? That benefit youth participation?
10. How do you think increasing youths’ education levels makes a difference for: (a) individuals, (b) families, (c) our country?
11. How do harmful gender norms affect educational attainment? What are some of these harmful norms? What policies or actions might address these harmful gender norms?

DISCUSSION ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH

12. Some people may believe that a large population can lead to a stronger economy because more workers are available to fill the labor force. After seeing the presentation, do you agree with this sentiment?
13. Were you aware of the scale of young people entering the labor market each year compared to the available jobs?
14. What can Malawi’s local and national policymakers do to ensure that youth are prepared to enter the workforce with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed?
15. How does young people’s employment affect Malawi’s growth and development? How does it affect our peace and security?

DISCUSSION ABOUT YOUTH PARTICIPATION

16. This presentation highlights the National Youth Policy, which calls for 30 percent of positions in governance bodies to be held by youth. Are you aware of the National Youth Policy? What are the barriers to the policy's successful implementation?
17. After watching this presentation, what actions can you take to amplify meaningful youth participation in a professional and personal capacity?
18. After watching this presentation, do you understand why meaningful youth participation can affect Malawi's peace and security? Overall growth and development?
19. The presentation mentions that young people overwhelmingly trust religious and traditional leaders. How can government leaders better partner with traditional and religious leaders to ensure that information about public participation and civic service reach youth?

DISCUSSION ABOUT POPULATION DYNAMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

20. Were you aware of the relationship between access to contraception/family planning and population growth and changing age structure?
21. Many people have diverse views about family planning and birth spacing. Has this presentation affected the way that you think about the issue? Did you learn anything that makes you think differently about family planning and birth spacing, especially as to how these issues affect human health and an individual's future opportunities?
22. How does geographic location, such as living in a rural area versus an urban area, affect a person's ability to access health care services, including reproductive health care?

DISCUSSION ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS

23. Why is it important to have multisectoral investments in Malawi's youth?
24. What can we do to increase investments from the key sectors mentioned in today's presentations towards the recommendations made today?
25. What role can civil society play to enhance youth well-being and development? Which policymakers have a role in ensuring multisectoral and cross-sectoral funding?
26. What can traditional and religious leaders do to become stronger advocates of young people?
27. The presentation included several actions recommended for government and traditional and religious leaders. In addition to those actions, what else do you think you can do—in your personal life or in your job—to support strong investments from your sector to enhance youth well-being for Malawi's growth and development?

Frequently Asked Questions

Often, audience members have questions about the presentation. Some of these questions may be specific to the actual presentation (data, pictures, figures, sources of information), while other questions may be related to the content of the presentation.

Below are some frequently asked questions and scripted answers:

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PRESENTATION

Q. Are the photos and videos in the presentation really from Malawi?

A. All footage in the presentation are stock images from Malawi or come from projects and individuals in Malawi who gave permission to use the photos.

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 included in this presentation.

Q. How accurate are your data?

A. The data we have shared in this presentation are from the most accurate sources available. These sources include government surveys and publications, government partners, Demographic and Health Surveys, and projections and statistical estimates from development partners. For questions about specific data points, please see the sources referenced in the script.

QUESTIONS ABOUT HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Q. Giving young people information about health and family planning could confuse them. Are they too young to make these types of decisions?

A. Global evidence shows that adolescent sexuality education empowers young people to make healthy choices about their behaviour. It reduces the frequency of unprotected sex, the number of sexual partners, and increases contraceptive use. Adolescent sexuality 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 Malawi's young people. In addition, adolescent sexuality education equips our young people with the critical thinking and communication skills they will need throughout their lives to communicate with their partners about contraception and make healthy decisions together.

Q. If young people have access to reproductive health care and contraception, won't it encourage promiscuity? Won't it encourage youth to have sex before marriage?

A. It is not uncommon for societies to disapprove of premarital sex and worry that reproductive health education and services may be inappropriate and unnecessary for young people. However, research shows that abstinence-only education is not effective at preventing sexual activity among young people.¹ When taught by a qualified educator, adolescent sexuality education provides young people with age-appropriate information about their bodies and their health, helping them to avoid unintended pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, and reproductive health complications. 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 access to reproductive health information and services is essential.

Q. If young women want to marry or have children and drop out of school, why should we stop that? These are important personal milestones and rites of passage.

A. Marriage and childbearing are important personal rites of passage. We want to encourage communities and leaders to think about young people's health and well-being first, and how that can impact our nation. When girls begin childbearing early, they are at greater risk for disability and death. Early pregnancy can also force girls to withdraw from school, which can affect their earning power and empowerment later in life. When girls can learn and gain important skills, they are prepared to enter the formal workforce, contribute to Malawi's innovation and growth, and make informed choices about having children when they are physically, emotionally, and financially prepared to do so.

Q. Why focus on only girls' education? Why not boys too?

A. Educational attainment and other outcomes are a priority for both boys and girls. Despite progress, however, girls around the world and in Malawi face additional barriers related to their gender. A lack of hygienic facilities, early marriage, and teenage pregnancy disproportionately affect girls. For girls in rural areas, these barriers are even more severe.² The recommendations we make here address the barriers that young men and women both share, and barriers that are unique to girls.

QUESTIONS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Q. What steps can we take to reduce the problems of unemployment and underemployment, which are significant burdens on the economy?

A. Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are facing the challenges of unemployment and underemployment. These challenges are particularly true for countries that have growing numbers of youth entering the labor force. For this reason, investing in labor-intensive economic sectors that can create many new jobs is critical for achieving the demographic dividend. Education systems also need to be flexible and responsive to the needs of these sectors to ensure that workers have the right skills for the growth in jobs.

Q. Why should young people be included in all decision-making processes? Youth do not have the experience and knowledge of their elders.

A. Young people are the experts on their lived experiences. They are the only ones who can explain how policy implementation (or lack thereof) affects their well-being. While they may not have the same academic credentials or experiences as some policymakers or other leaders, they bring a unique perspective and knowledge to forums where important decisions are made. Young people's knowledge of civic procedures and development increases as they become more educated, highlighting the links between education, civic engagement, and youth participation.

Q. You say that good governance is important for strong economic growth, yet many wealthy countries are not transparent democracies, like Saudi Arabia.

A. Good governance enhances and boosts economic growth. Although some countries may achieve growth in the absence of good governance, committing to sound principals of governance like transparency and anticorruption increases opportunities for and strengthens economic growth and development.

Q. The presentation mentions that youth are sometimes included only symbolically, without opportunities to contribute their own thoughts. How can we strengthen young people's capacity to contribute meaningfully on important matters?

A. Youth participation in governance increases with their levels of education, so improving education is one important way to ensure that young people understand issues and how to communicate about them. In addition, leaders in the community—including traditional and religious leaders, district and national policymakers, and others—can mentor young people. The National Youth Council of Malawi, which was established with the aim of promoting and coordinating youth development and youth empowerment, can also play an important role in ensuring that young people have the knowledge and skills to participate effectively in personal, community, and national development.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FERTILITY, POPULATION GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

Q. In some countries, like South Africa, fertility dropped but it did not spur economic growth. How do you explain this?

A. Although decreased fertility is a necessary first step toward economic growth, it will not automatically lead to the accelerated growth known as the demographic dividend. South Africa is a good illustration: While its fertility rate has dropped, the country has not yet made the necessary investments in other strategic sectors or applied the appropriate policies to stimulate economic growth and achieve the associated benefits. All the pieces—reduced fertility, investments in health and education, economic policy, and good governance—must be in place to realize the demographic dividend.

Q. Isn't it true that some large countries, like China, India, and Brazil, are doing so well economically because of their large population size? Isn't having a large youth population sufficient to drive economic growth?

A. While it is true that countries like China and Brazil have large economies and large populations, their fertility rates (or the average number of children per woman) are very low and have declined over time. When fertility declined in these countries and the right investments were in place, their economic growth took off. At the same time, many countries with very small populations, like South Korea, Singapore, and Rwanda, have made similar investments and were also able to spur strong economic growth as fertility declined. As we explain in this presentation, a large youth population benefits from strong health and education systems, progressive economic policies, and transparent governance. With multisectoral investments and commitments, these sectors collectively play a much greater role in spurring economic growth than youth population size alone.

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. No standard definition for an ideal population growth rate exists. What is important is that population growth is manageable for a country's infrastructure and economy. When population growth is too high, it can act as a constraint on improvements in per capita income and per capita well-being.

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

A. The youthfulness of Malawi's population—78 percent of Malawians are younger than age 35—has several implications for planning and implementation of development policies that directly aim to reduce poverty, particularly in providing social services, managing the environment, and fostering economic empowerment. One consequence of the youthful nature of Malawi's population is that the working age population will grow faster than the rate at which jobs are being created by the economy. Failure to address unemployment might negatively impact both the stability and sustainability of economic development. Youth are more than a demographic force—they are a force for progress. That potential for progress is why empowering young people is a major platform for action in the coming years.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FAMILY PLANNING

Q. Some people say family planning or small family size is a Western idea being forced onto developing nations by outsiders. What do you think about this statement?

A. Women and couples have the right to decide freely the number and spacing of their children. Yet, 21 percent of married women in sub-Saharan Africa and 19 percent of married women in Malawi want to delay their next birth or not have any more children but are not using any form of family planning.³ This gap can lead to unintended pregnancies, which pose risks for women, their families, and societies. These vulnerabilities can harm economic growth and development for many nations, including Malawi. Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol, developed by African countries through the African Union, supports women's rights, stating that "parties shall ensure that the right to health for women" is respected and promoted. According to Article 14 this includes: the right for women to control their fertility; the right for women to decide whether to have children; the number of children and the spacing of children; the right to choose any method of contraception; the right to family planning education; and the right to adequate, affordable, and accessible health services including information, education, and communication programs to women, especially in rural areas.⁴

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 unintended pregnancies because unintended pregnancies have higher risks of poor health outcomes for mothers and babies. By promoting family planning, we hope that women and couples can choose the timing, spacing, and size of their families, leading to better health and well-being for the family, community, and ultimately the entire nation.

Q. You talked about youth-friendly services. What makes reproductive health services youth-friendly? Don't young people have the same needs as adults?

A. As they transition from children into adults, young people face a variety of challenges and have their own unique needs, especially when it comes to reproductive health. Essential elements of youth-friendly services include specially trained staff, accessibility, clinic space and hours specifically for young people, affordability, confidentiality and privacy, comprehensive services, and a range of sufficient supplies. Ideally, youth-friendly health services are offered as part of a broader set of support services, in a variety of settings, and with input from young people themselves. Ensuring access to youth-friendly services helps young people meet those needs and, ultimately, reach their full potential.

Q. You say young people need access to reproductive health information and services starting at a young age. Why?

A. Malawi cannot ignore the reproductive health needs of the largest generation of young people in its history. Young people are at a stage in their lives when they are establishing values, attitudes, and beliefs that will shape their behaviours throughout their lives. If we reach individuals early in life, we can instill attitudes and behaviours that expand opportunities for our young people to lead healthy and productive lives. Investments in health programmes for young people will provide them with skills and competencies relevant to their age and stage in the life cycle, and encourage positive attitudes about relationships and healthy behaviours.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FUNDING AND PARTNERS

Q. Who developed this presentation?

A. This presentation was developed by the Health Policy Plus (HP+) project with the guidance of a Malawian task force of experts, advocates, academics, and others. Young people represented about 25 percent of the task force.

Q. What is the HP+ Project?

A. HP+ is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the United States Agency for International Development. The project's HIV activities are supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

HP+ strengthens and advances health policy priorities at global, national, and subnational levels. The project aims to improve the enabling environment for equitable and sustainable health services, supplies, and delivery systems through policy design, implementation, and financing. HP+ is a partnership between Palladium Group, Avenir Health, Futures Group Global Outreach, Plan International USA, Population Reference Bureau (PRB), RTI International, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, and ThinkWell.

Q. Are PRB or Palladium advocacy groups? Is HP+ an advocacy project?

A. PRB is a nonprofit, private, educational organization that focuses on providing accurate data and facts. The Palladium Group is a global impact firm, working to link social progress and commercial growth. They do not directly advocate for or plead in favour 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.

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- 3 National Statistical Office (NSO) [Malawi] and ICF, Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16 (Zomba, Malawi, and Rockville, Maryland: NSO and ICF, 2017).
- 4 African Union, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 11 July 2003, available at: <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/women-protocol/>

Additional Resources

YOUTH, POPULATION, AND DEVELOPMENT

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Francis Chigunta, “Entrepreneurship as a Possible Solution to Youth Unemployment in Africa,” in *Laboring and Learning*, vol. 10, ed. Tracey Skelton, Tatek Abebe, and Johanna Waters (Singapore: Springer, 2017).

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Kate Gilles, “Malawi: Investing in Our Future Now” (Washington, DC: PRB, 2012), accessed at www.prb.org/malawi-engage/.

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