



Government of Malawi



The

2007

Malawi Millennium Development Goal
Report





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Malawi signed the Millennium Declaration adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September, 2000. This global initiative is aimed at alleviating abject poverty, which is affecting more than one- sixth of the world's population. There are eight goals in the declaration namely: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empowerment of women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, Combat HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases, Ensure environmental sustainability, and organise a global partnership for development.

Malawi, like many other member countries that signed the Millennium Declaration is committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As such the Malawi Government has already oriented its work around the goals. In Malawi, the MDGs will be implemented through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy(MGDS), which is an overarching medium term development strategy to run from 2006 to 2011.

It must be noted however, that while implementation of the MDGs in middle income countries is integrated with regular budget processes and long term development strategy, least developed countries like Malawi, medium term development strategies are the most appropriate instruments. However, their achievements depend on the availability of right policies and sufficient resources. This implies that without sufficient resources, issues of economic development in Malawi articulated in the Vision 2020, MGDS, and the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) will not be achieved.

This Report, therefore, is devoted to assessing progress made towards the achievement of the MDGs, taking into account that 2007 is the mid-point for Millennium Development Goals. The report will also highlight challenges that are being faced in the course of implementing the MDGs and come up with ways of addressing the challenges.

Lastly, I would like to thank the team that came up with this report. I would like also to thank UNDP MDG country team and EU Capacity Building Project for Economic Management for the financial support rendered towards production of 2007 Millennium Development Goal Report.



Ted Kalebe M.P

MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT.

List of Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DAS	Development Assistance Strategy
DOTS	Direct Observable Treatment Short
EHP	Essential Health Package
EU	European Union
HIPC	Highly Indebtedness Poor Country
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistant
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
IHS	Integrated Household Survey
IMCI	Integrated Management of Child Illness
MASEDA	Malawi Social Economic Database
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDHS	Malawi Demographic and Health Survey
MDRI	Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MPVA	Malawi Poverty Vulnerability Assessment
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
ODA	Overseas Development Assistant
PSIP	Public Sector Investment programme
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SWAP	Sector Wide Approach
UNICEF	United Nation Children Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population
UPE	Universal Primary Education
WMS	Welfare Monitoring Survey

The UN General Assembly for Heads of State and Governments adopted long-term development agenda for low-income countries in partnership with high-income countries. The long-term international development agenda is called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it is to be implemented over a period of 25 years starting in the year 1990. This is the third report on MDGs implementation in Malawi. The first two reports produced in 2003 and 2005 focused on selected goals and reports revealed that the country was off target on most of the indicators on poverty, gender and maternal health. This report, which provides a mid-point assessment, Government and its stakeholders have reviewed progress on all the MDGs.

The first goal is to reduce poverty levels of the country. The poverty levels have declined from about 54 percent in 1998 to 45 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, poverty is projected to reduce to about 27 percent by 2015. This implies that the country will meet the MDG target. The poverty gap ratio increased from 16 percent in 1992 to about 19 percent in 2000 and then dropped slightly to about 18 percent in 2006. All other things being the same, if this rate of change continues, the poverty gap will have declined to around 17 percent by the year 2015. Hence, it looks unlikely that Malawi will reduce by half the poverty gap ratio by the year 2015. The share of the poorest quintile in Malawi has not improved between 1998 and 2005. The 1998 Integrated Household Survey revealed that the poorest 20 percent of the population controlled only around 10 percent of national consumption implying that inequality is not decreasing

The second goal is to increase enrolment in schools. Primary school enrollment increased from 58 percent in 1992 to 78 percent in 2000 and 82 percent in 2004. It must be noted however that there has been a decline in net enrolment from 82 percent in 2004 to 73 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, by 2015, net enrollment ratio in primary education is projected to be at 83 percent, which is below the MDG target of 100 percent. The proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5 without repeating a grade increased from 69 percent in 2000 to about 86 percent in 2004 and dropped to 75 percent in 2006. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 is projected to reach 87 percent by 2015, which is below the MDG target of 100 percent. Youth literacy has increased from 68.1 percent in 2000 to about 76 percent in 2006. At this rate of improvement, youth literacy would reach 90 percent by 2015. In order to achieve gender equality, the disparities between girls and boys in all spheres of education need to be eliminated. The ratio of literate females to males 15-24 years-old has increased from 0.82 in 2000 to 0.88 in 2006.

Women's share in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector has moved from 13 percent in 2000 to 15 percent in 2006. This trend seems to suggest that there has been very little improvement with respect to the share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector. Hence, Malawi is unlikely to reach a target of having an equal ratio of men and women in wage employment as projections show that women's share in wage employment will be 19 percent by 2015. During the 1999 presidential and parliamentary elections, out of 193 elected members of parliament, only 18 members of parliament were women, representing 9 percent. In the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections, there were 193 elected members of parliament and only 27 of them were women. This represents an increase of about 50 percent. In absolute terms, the total number of women in relation to men is still regarded low as the women have only about 14 percent (2004) of the seats, far below 50 percent that may be indicative of equal representation

Malawi is making good progress towards reducing under-five mortality. The country recorded an under-five mortality rate of 234 deaths per 1000 live births in 1992. This rate declined to 189 in the year 2000 and has further declined to 133 in 2005. At this rate, under-five mortality would decline to as low as 41 deaths per 1000 live births by the year 2015, implying that the country is likely to reduce under-five mortality by more than two-thirds of 1992 levels. According to the 1992, 2000 and 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys, infant mortality rate has been

steadily declining in Malawi from a very high level of 134 in 1992 to 69 in 2006. At this rate of decline, Malawi is likely to achieve this target by 2015. The proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles has dropped from 86 percent in 1992 to 77 percent in 2006. The projection shows that by 2015, only about 71 percent of the 1-year old children will be immunized against measles and this percentage is below the MDG target of about 95 percent.

The maternal mortality ratio in Malawi has increased sharply from 620 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1992 to 1,120 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000. The 2004 MDHS indicated that maternal mortality ratio had declined to 984 deaths per 100,000 live births. If the recent rate of improvement is maintained, Malawi would have a maternal mortality ratio of about 610 deaths per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Under the MDG target 6, Malawi is expected to have a maternal mortality ratio of about 155 per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Hence, unless additional measures are put in place, it is unlikely that the MDG target will be met. The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel was about 55 percent in 1992, about 56 percent in 2000, and 62 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in 2015 will have increased to about 67 percent. Hence Malawi is not on track to reach the target .

According to the National AIDS Commission Sentinel Surveillance report, HIV prevalence amongst 15-24-year-old pregnant women was 17 percent in 1994. The prevalence rate increased to 24 percent by 1998. However, it started to decline, reaching 15 percent amongst 15-24-year-old pregnant women as of 2005. At this rate of change, the country is reducing HIV prevalence rate at 2 percentage points per annum. As such, a linear projection of the recent trend would imply that the prevalence rate may drop to about 3 percent by 2015. This would be a remarkable achievement for Malawi.

In 1990, a total of 12,333 tuberculosis cases were detected in Malawi. Since then, the incidence of tuberculosis has been increasing overtime. In 1995 a total of 19,153 cases were detected and incidence went further up to 27,672 in 2001. This increase in the incidence of tuberculosis may be to some extent attributed to HIV incidence. It is estimated that about 77 percent of tuberculosis patients are also infected with HIV. The proportion of tuberculosis cases cured under Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) was 66 percent in 1990 and decreased to 63 percent in 1996. The cure rates have however increased to 67 percent in 2001 and to 75 percent in 2005. This may likewise be attributed to the success of the DOTS strategy. The projection shows that by 2015, proportion of Tuberculosis cases cured under DOTS will be 91 percent.

The proportion of land area has been declining from around 41 percent in 1990 to around 36 percent in the year 2006. If this rate of deforestation continues, by 2015 only about 33 percent of land area will be covered by forest. The proportion of protected area has remained constant since 1990. In the year 2000 about 98 percent of population were using solid fuels and by 2006 the percentage had only reduced to 97. This then implies that the country is far from achieving an MDG target of 0 percent because the projection shows that by the year 2015, the proportion of population using solid fuel will be around 95 percent.

By the year 2015 about 74 percent of the Malawi population should have access to safe drinking water. Access to water resources had significantly improved from 47.1 percent in 1992 to 75 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, the projection shows that by 2015 about 94 percent of population will have access to an improved water source, which is above the MDG target of 73 percent. In 2000, the proportion of households with access to improved sanitation was 81.4 percent. Access has increased to 83.9 percent in 2006. At this rate of improvement, about 89 percent of households will have access to improved sanitation by 2015, which is above the MDG target of 86.2 percent.

The Net Official Development Assistance has increased from 11 percent of Gross National Income in 1990 to 19 percent in 2006. In nominal terms Net Official Development Assistance has increased from US\$ 216 million in 1990 to US\$ 409 million in 2006. At the Completion Point, Malawi's outstanding debt stock was reduced significantly from US\$2.97 billion as of end-2005 to US\$488.00 million as of end-2006. Multilateral creditors provided US\$2.1 billion or 88 percent of the debt stock cancellation while bilateral creditors provided US\$292 million. Most of the bilateral debt relief was provided by the Paris Club creditors through 100 percent cancellation of the bilateral debt stock as of end-2006.

The urban unemployment of 15- 24 year old has increased from 1 percent in 1998 to 9 percent in 2006. The projection shows that by 2015, urban unemployment will be reduced to 4 percent. The reason for the increase in unemployment could be as a result of closure and downsizing of companies, increase in rural- urban migration, which is currently estimated at 6.3 percent as well as restructuring of the civil service, which resulted in some employees losing their jobs.

According to 2004-2005 Integrated Household Survey (IHS), more households in Malawi have mobile phones than landlines representing 3 percent of households with mobile phones and only less than 1 percent with landline telephones. There has been an increase in the number of subscribers from about 0.4 percent in 2000 to about 2 percent in 2005. There has also been an increase in the number of subscribers for the fixed landlines from about 0.4 percent in 2000 to about 0.6 percent in 2005. The number of subscribers for the internet services has increased from about 0.05 percent in 2002 to about 0.07 percent in 2005.



The UN General Assembly for Heads of State and Governments adopted long-term development agenda for low-income countries in partnership with high-income countries. The long-term development agenda is prescribed in the 2000 Millennium Declaration which has eight goals, eighteen targets and forty eight indicators. The long-term international development agenda is called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and it is to be implemented over a period of 25 years starting in the year 1990. However, most developing countries lacked vibrant monitoring and evaluation system in the early years of 1990's. Consequently, in most developing countries baseline social economic database for monitoring and evaluating goals, targets and indicators of MDGs is hardly available. However, in the recent years, there has been harmonised approach to the development and production of statistics that can be used in monitoring and evaluating Millennium Development Goals and other national development strategies.

The 2007 Malawi Millennium Development Goal Report uses information from various reports of Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS), Integrated Household Surveys (IHS) 2005, Welfare Monitoring Surveys (WMS) 2006, Malawi Social Economic Database (MASEDA), Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2006, Malawi Poverty Vulnerability Assessment (MPVA) and Routine Administrative Data. The progress reports on the implementation and achievement of MDGs will benefit from monitoring and evaluation systems currently running in most developing countries and comprehensive data development systems taking place across the global in the developing countries as we are approaching 2015 and beyond.

The implementation of MDGs is done through medium term strategies which is then translated into the annual budget. The first three year medium development strategy was the formulation of Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy (MPRS) 2002-2005. Currently, government and its stakeholders is implementing its development initiatives by using a five year medium term strategy called Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) 2006-2011). In addition, the government uses Medium Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) to ensure smooth implementation of the MGDS. The government has set up an implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework to enable regular feedback mechanism of MDGs and MGDS.

As in the past, a significant proportion of financing for MGDS will come from development partners. A central norm of the Paris Declaration (PD) on Aid Effectiveness is that national strategies, owned by the Government, should provide the road map for development, and that development partners should seek to align their support to these strategies in the most effective and efficient ways possible. In view of this, the Government is finalising the Development Assistance Strategy (DAS), which seeks to increase the alignment of Malawi's development partners to the MGDS using the most practical and efficient balance of aid modalities. The DAS sets out the policy and strategies for increasing efficiency and effectiveness in the mobilization and utilization of such aid in achieving the development results set out in the MGDS.

The DAS seeks to achieve these outcomes through the operationalisation of the five norms of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, namely: National Ownership of the Development Agenda; Alignment of Development Partners to the National Development Strategy and Government Systems; Harmonization of Development Partner's Systems and Activities; Managing resources and decision-making for results and; Mutual Accountability for Development Results. These norms are expected to contribute to overall achievement in the implementation of the MDGs

This is the third report on MDGs implementation in Malawi. The first two reports produced in 2003 and 2005 focused on selected goals and reports revealed that the country was off target on most of the indicators on poverty, gender and maternal health. In this report, which provides a mid-point assessment, Government and its stakeholders have reviewed progress on all the MDGs.

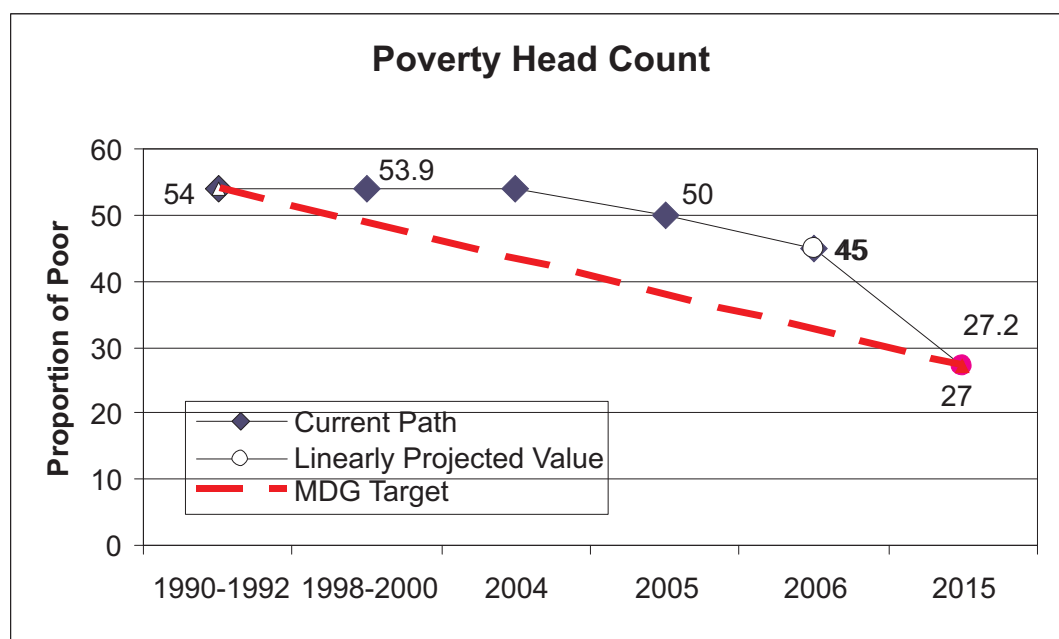
Goal 1. Eradicating Extreme Poverty

There are two main targets under this goal. The first target is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day. Three indicators were selected to monitor progress towards this target: the proportion of population below the national poverty line; the poverty gap ratio; and finally the share of the poorest quintile in national consumption. The second target is to halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Two indicators have been selected; the prevalence of underweight children under five years of age; and the proportion of population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Target 1. Halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar per day.

Indicator: Proportion of people below the poverty line (Poverty Head Count)

Chart 1: Poverty Head Count



Source: 1991 HESSEA, 1998, 2000 IHS and 2005, 2006 WMS

Note: This graph has been linearly projected from the value of the year 1998-2000

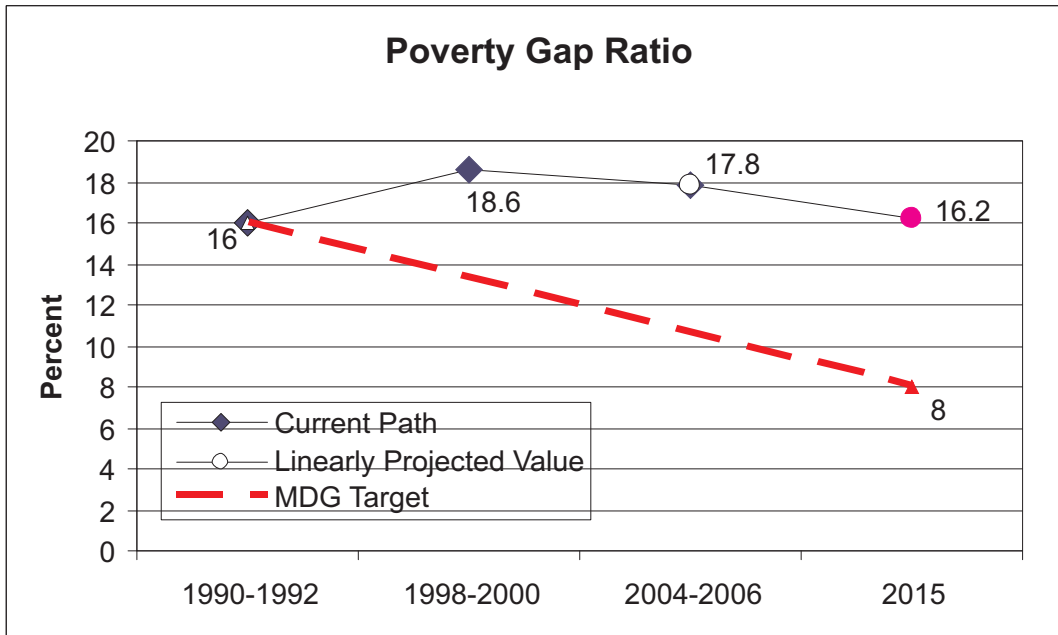
Chart 1 depicts the changes in poverty rates between 1992 and 2006. The figure shows that poverty has declined from about 54 percent in 1998 to 45 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, poverty is projected to reduce to about 27 percent by 2015. This implies that the country is on track to achieve the MDG target. The sharp decline in poverty levels between 2005 and 2006 is due to input subsidy the Government has introduced.

Indicator: Incidence of depth of poverty as measured by the poverty gap.

The second indicator under Target 1 is the extent of the poverty gap ratio. The poverty gap ratio is the average distance separating the poor from the poverty line, expressed as a percentage of the poverty line. Hence the poverty gap counts not only the number of the poor, but also it considers how poor the people are.

Goal 1. Eradicating Extreme Poverty

Chart 2: Poverty Gap Ratio



Source: 1991 HESSEA and 1998, 2000 IHS

Chart 2 above shows that poverty gap ratio increased from 16 percent in 1992 to about 19 percent in 2000 and then dropped slightly to about 18 percent in 2006. All other things being the same, if this rate of change continues, the poverty gap will have declined to around 17 percent by the year 2015. Hence, it looks unlikely that Malawi will reduce by half the poverty gap ratio by the year 2015.

Indicator: Share of poorest quintile in national consumption.

The third indicator under Target 1 is the share of poorest quintile in national consumption. Like the other two indicators above, the main sources of this indicator are household surveys. The target under this indicator is to double the share of the poorest quintile in the national consumption.

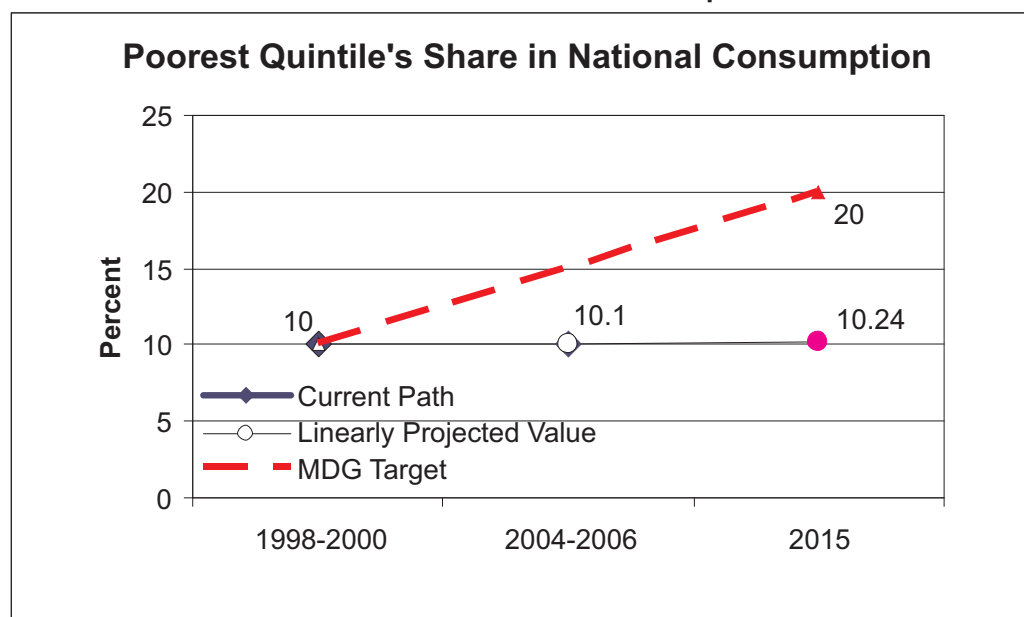
Chart 3 below shows the current and projected trend in the poorest quintile share in national consumption. As indicated in the figure, the share of the poorest quintile in Malawi has not improved between 1998 and 2005. The 1998 Integrated Household Survey revealed that the poorest 20 percent of the population controlled only around 10 percent of national consumption implying that inequality is not decreasing. At this rate the MDG target will not be achieved by 2015.



Common sight in Malawi since Input Subsidy

Goal 1. Eradicating Extreme Poverty

Chart 3: Poorest Quintile's Share in National Consumption



Source: IHS 1998 and 2005.

Target 2. Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from Hunger.

The second target under goal number one is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. As mentioned above, there are two indicators under this target. The current status and trends on these indicators is discussed below.

Indicator: Prevalence of underweight children (Under five years of age)

The nutritional well being of young children reflects the household's, community and national investments in family health, and contributes to the country's development both directly or indirectly. Prevalence of underweight children is taken as a proxy indicator of the proportion of the population that is undernourished. This is the proportion of persons whose food intake falls below the minimum requirement or food intake that is insufficient to meet dietary energy

requirements continuously. They are the people who suffer from hunger.

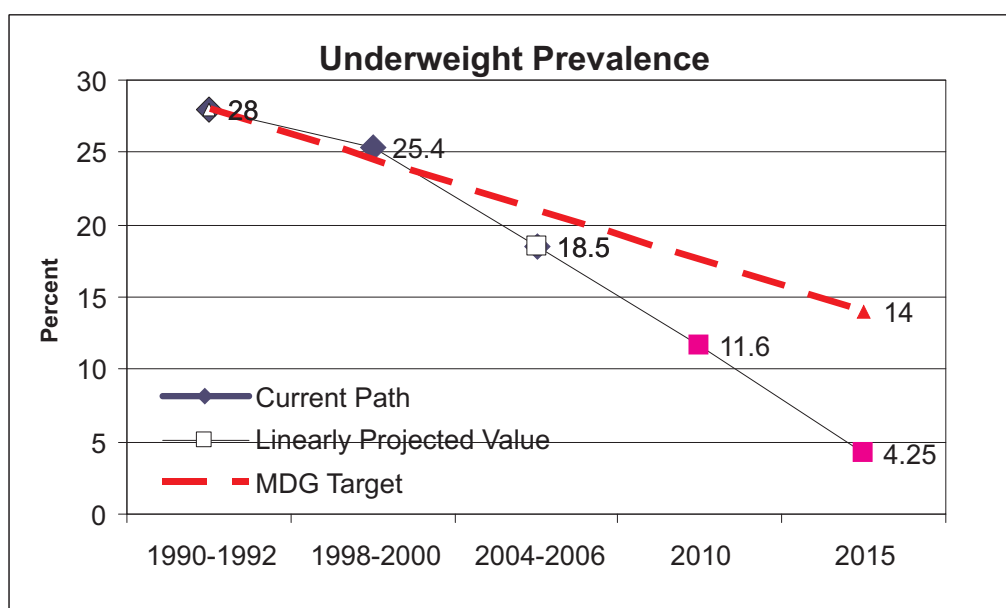


Chart 4 : Underweight Prevalence

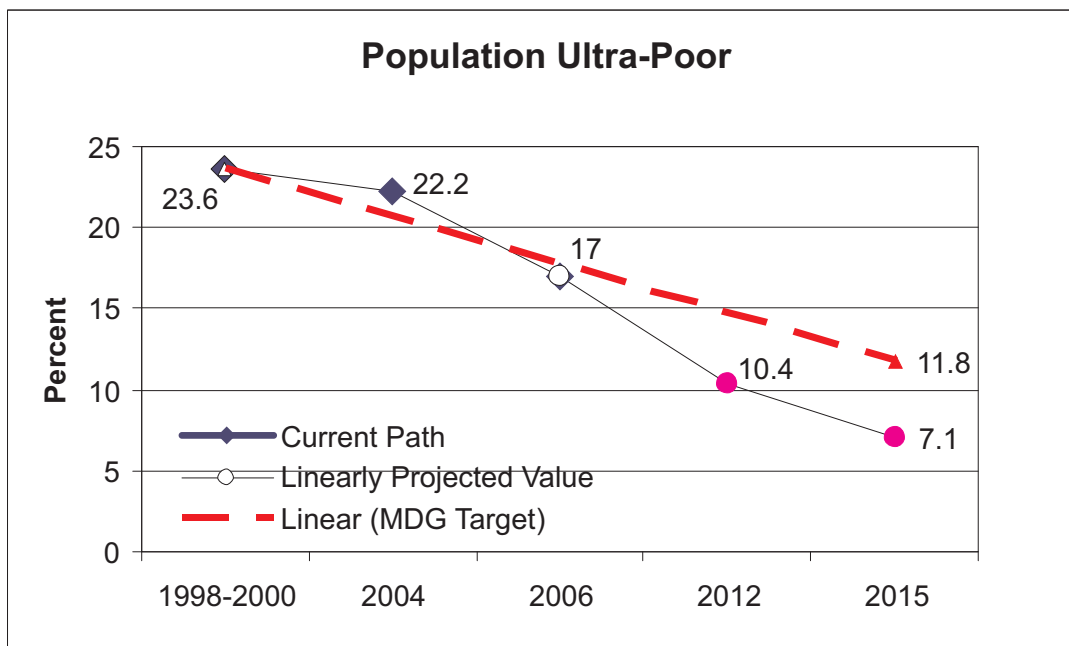
Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2005, 2006 WMS

Goal 1. Eradicating Extreme Poverty

Chart 4 above shows that prevalence of underweight in children five years of age has decreased steadily from 28 percent in 1992 to about 25 percent 2000 and to about 19 percent in 2006. If progress continues at this rate, only about 4 percent of children under five years will be underweight by 2015. This implies that the country is on track to achieve the MDG target.

Indicator: Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption.

Chart 5: Population of Ultra Poor



Source: 1998, 2005 IHS and 2005, 2006 WMS

The 1998 and 2005 poverty profiles of Malawi estimate the proportion of population below minimum dietary energy requirement by defining a food poverty line. All persons below this line were deemed ultra-poor. In 1998 about 24 percent of the population was deemed ultra poor. After five years, the proportion of ultra poor persons has stayed more or less constant at 22 percent. However, in 2006 the proportion of ultra poor persons has dropped to 17 percent. At this rate, the projected proportion of persons deemed ultra poor will be about 7 percent by the year 2015. Therefore based on the current trends, Malawi is on track to reduce by half the proportion of persons below minimum level of dietary energy consumption by the year 2015 as shown in Chart 5 above.

Challenges

There are several challenges that the country is facing with respect to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, some of which include the following:

- High illiteracy rates that make it hard to introduce new programmes for poor farmers;
- Poor food storage facilities that result in food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition;
- Critical shortage of capacity and skills in many institutions that are involved in the delivery of development programmes;
- Inadequate finance to supplement the necessary programmes that could have a significant impact on poverty;
- Lack of produce markets for rural agriculture, which discourages poor farmers from growing cash crops.

Goal 1. Eradicating Extreme Poverty

Policy Framework and Strategies

In an effort to reduce extreme poverty and hunger the government is implementing a number of strategies, which include the following:

- Initiated a number of agriculture programmes to improve the agriculture sector including intensifying production of other cash crops such as cotton, wheat, and cassava;
- Established the MK5 billion Malawi Rural Development Fund to disburse loans to the poor in rural and urban areas;
- Established One Village One Product (OVOP) Scheme to encourage people to get into value adding processes;
- Introduced input subsidy targeting poor smallholder farmers
- Rehabilitated abandoned irrigation schemes for smallholder agriculture production for maize, rice and vegetables;
- Identified other sectors for economic growth such as manufacturing and agro- processing, tourism, small scale mining and infrastructure development;
- Zero tolerance to corruption

Goal 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

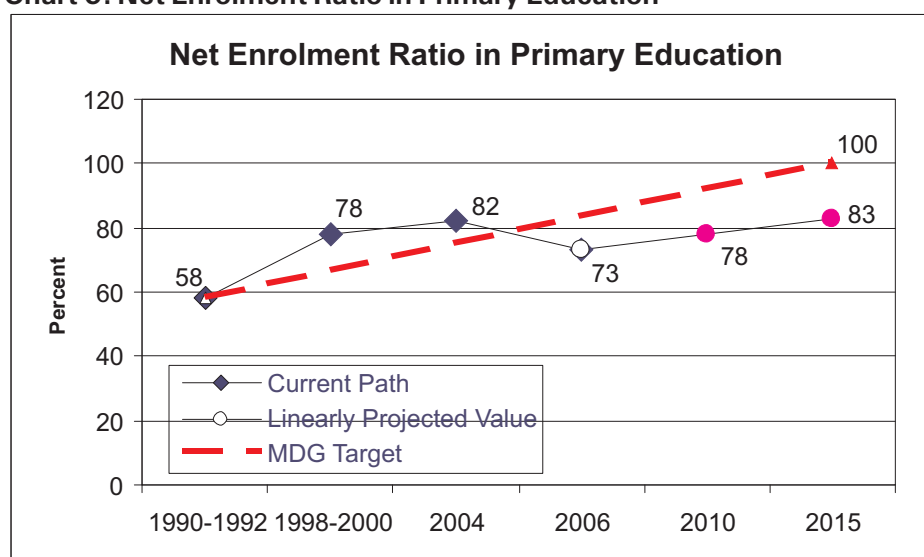
Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Target 3: Ensure that by 2015, all boys and girls should be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Indicator: Net Enrolment Rate (NER) in primary education

The Net Enrolment Rate in primary education indicates the extent to which the school going age (6-13) is enrolled in schools. It is calculated by weighing down the number of school going age enrolled in schools as a proportion of the school going age in the population.

Chart 6: Net Enrolment Ratio in Primary Education



Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2006 WMS

Chart 6 above presents a graphical trend highlighting repetition rate and survival rates from period 1992 to 2006. Primary school enrollment increased from 58 percent in 1992 to 78 percent in 2000 and 82 percent in 2004. It must be noted however that there has been a decline in net enrolment from 82 percent in 2004 to 73 percent in 2006. The decreasing trend in enrolment may be as a result of differences in the methodology used in calculating net enrolment since the data was obtained from different data sources. At this rate of change, by 2015, net enrollment ratio in primary education is projected to be at 83 percent, which is below the MDG target of 100 percent.

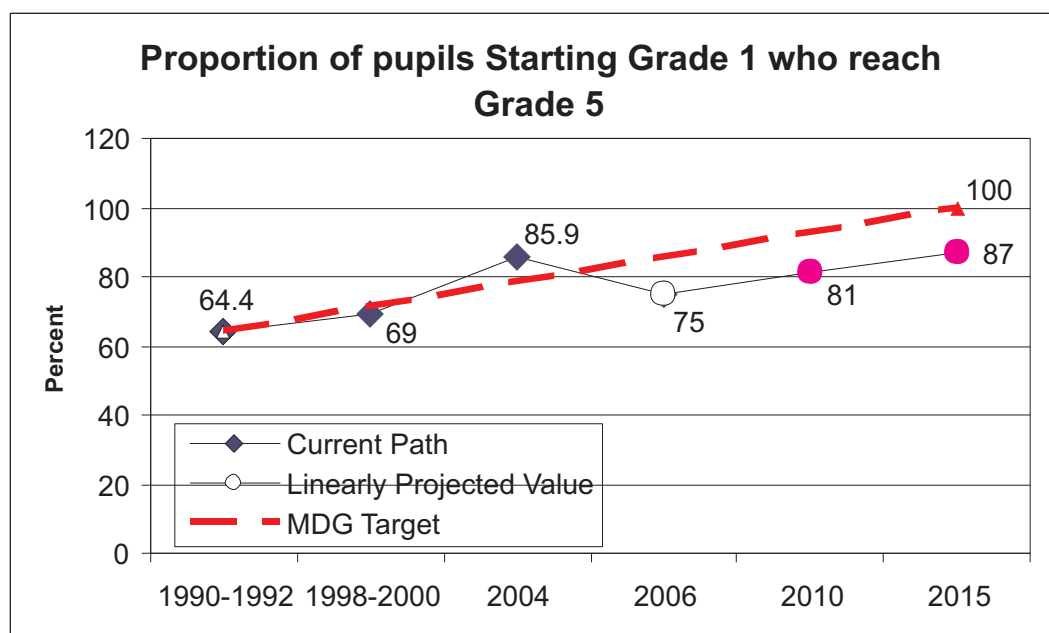


Primary school Pupils

Goal 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

Indicator: Proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5

Chart 7: Proportion of Pupils Starting Grade 1 reaching Grade 5

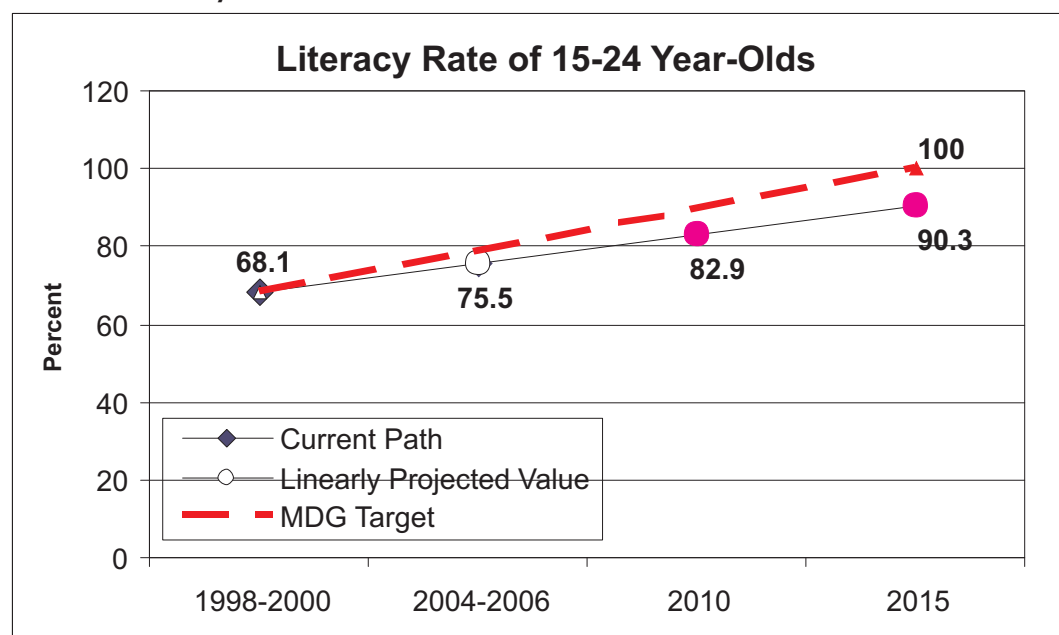


Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2006 WMS

This indicator measures the extent of drop out in primary education. Chart 7 above shows that the proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5 without repeating a grade increased from 69 percent in 2000 to about 86 percent in 2004 and dropped to 75 percent in 2006. Proportion of pupils starting grade 1 who reach grade 5 is projected to reach 87 percent by 2015, which is below the MDG target of 100 percent.

Indicator: Literacy Rate of 15-24 year-olds

Chart 8: Literacy rate of 15-24 Year Olds



Source: 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2005, 2006 WMS

Goal 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

Note: The 2004-2006 value is the average of 70.6%, 78% and 78% for 2004, 2005 and 2006 values respectively.

Chart 8 above highlights the trend of literacy rate of 15 to 24 year olds. Youth literacy has increased from about 68 percent in 2000 to about 76 percent in 2006. At this rate of improvement, youth literacy would reach 90 percent by 2015. This percentage is not only below the MDG target but also Education for All target of 100 percent.

Challenges

Several challenges continue to hamper the efforts to achieve universal primary education. Some of these challenges include the following:

- High dropout rates especially among girls due to early marriage and/or pregnancy;
- Low household income which hinders opportunities to complement education schooling needs of pupils other than those from public expenditure on education e.g. balanced diet in households, child health care and essential clothing for children attending schools;
- Low value attached to education due to household head level of education and low value of qualifications at completion of both primary and secondary education;
- Poor school environment and sanitary facilities, which impacts negatively on girl children especially on toiletries for adolescents in the primary education system and classroom sitting facilities during winter.

Policy Framework and Strategies

In an effort to achieve Universal Primary Education (UPE), government introduced free primary education in 1994/95 and abolished school uniform as a requirement to attend classes. In addition, the education sector is engaged into policy re definition aimed at mitigating the emerging challenges on UPE, some of which include:

- Reforming primary school curriculum so that it is pupil centered and learning outcomes based with the aim of improving primary school survival rates and completion rates;
- Promoting equitable access to quality of education so that regional and locality educational resource endowments are at parity to ensure every school going aged child is accessing quality education;
- Improving and expanding basic education infrastructure so that classroom pupil ratio is reduced and school environment improved to cater for pupils with all learning needs;
- Improving provision of teaching and learning materials so that the pupil textbook ratio is reduced.



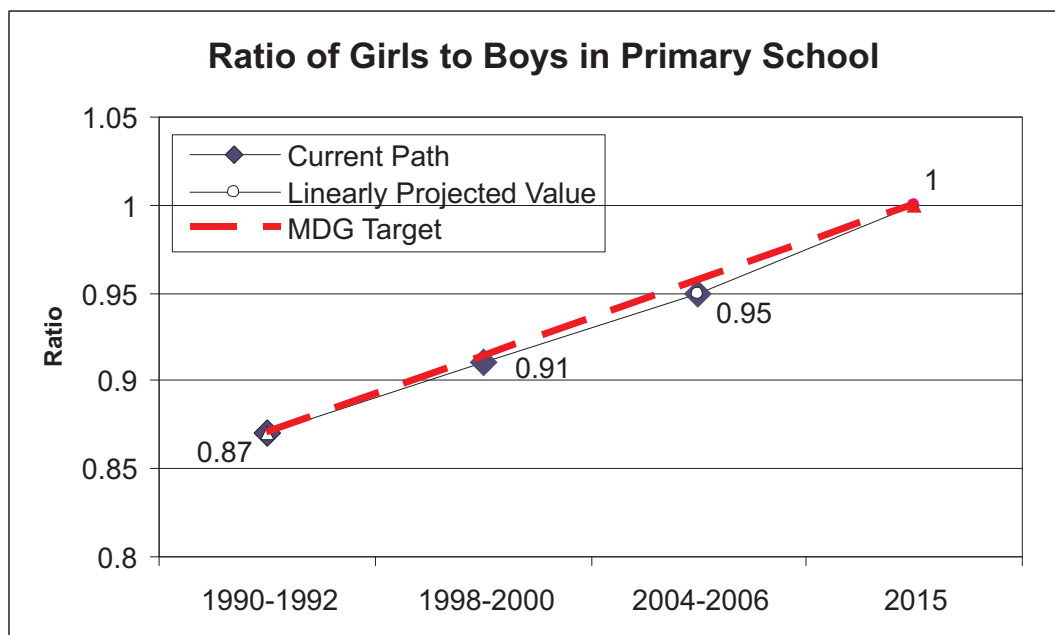
Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary school and at all levels, preferably by 2005 and at all levels by 2015.

Indicator : Ratio of Girls to Boys in Primary education.

Chart 9: Ratio of Girls and Boys in Primary School



Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

The ratio of girls to boys in primary school has increased from 0.87 in 1992 to 0.91 in 2000 and further to 0.95 in 2006 as seen in Chart 9 above. The projected figure shows that by 2015 a ratio of 1:1 will be reached thereby meeting the MDG target. This trend therefore shows that gender disparity, in aggregate terms, will have been achieved at primary education level.

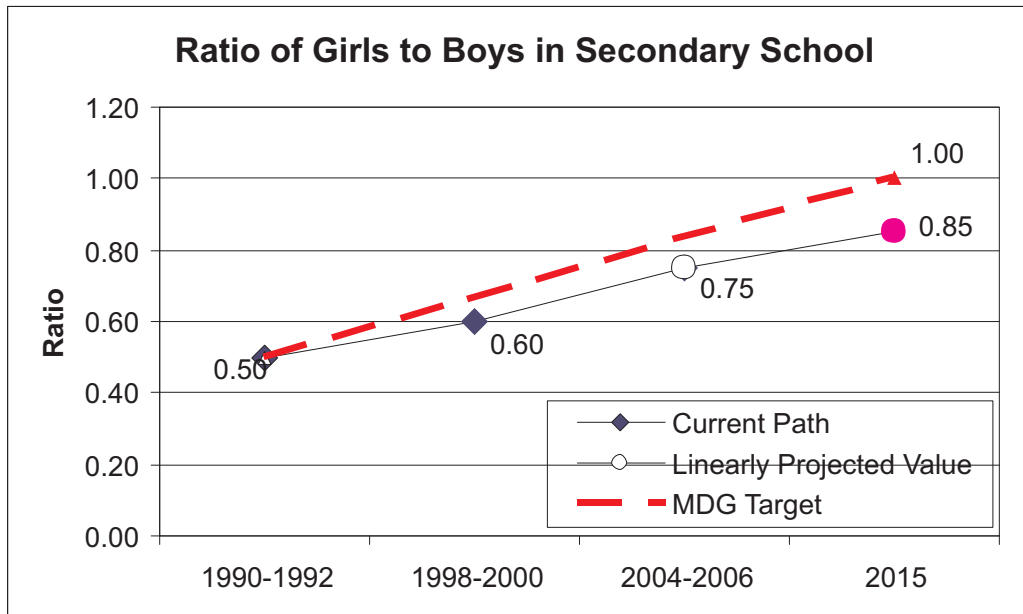
Chart 10 below shows that the ratio of girls to boys in secondary school has moved from 0.50 in 1992 to 0.60 in 2000 and 0.75 in 2006. The projection shows that a ratio of 1 will not be attained by 2015. This implies that the elimination of gender disparities remains a challenge at secondary level, which in turn affects the ratio of girls to boys at tertiary level.



Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

Indicator : Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary education.

Chart 10: Ratio of Girls to Boys in Secondary School



Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

The trend above seems to reveal that the education system loses a significant number of girls with progressive levels of education. The reason for this is that many girls dropout out of school or repeat as they progress through the grades in primary education, thereby resulting in low girl intake at secondary level and consequently at higher education level. Therefore, the attainment of gender parity at primary education is in aggregate terms and abstracts disparities between classes in primary education.

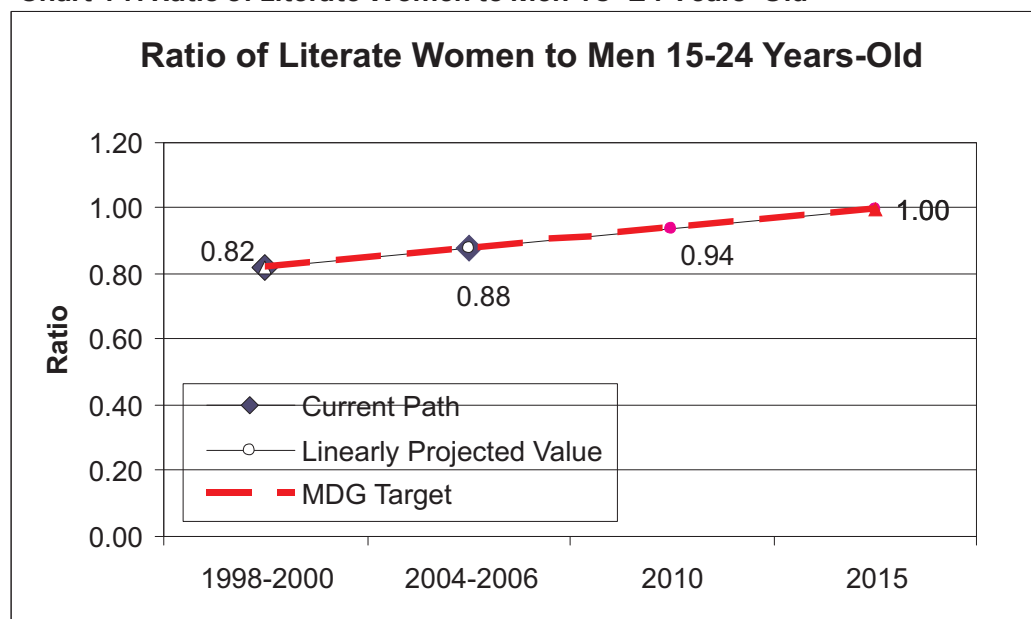
The education sector has for the past years been implementing a number of interventions to address gender disparities at all levels of education some of which include: school feeding programmes, school health and nutrition programmes and direct support to schools. However, the results shown on the figure above seem to suggest that the impact of these interventions on gender disparities are yet to filter through the various levels of education. There is therefore need to put strategies in place that will ensure that the targeted interventions are having impact at all levels of education.



Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

Indicator: Ratio of Literate Women to Men 15-24 year olds

Chart 11: Ratio of Literate Women to Men 15- 24 Years- Old



Source: 1992, 2000 and 2004 MDHS

Note: The 2004-2006 value is the average of 0.86, 0.91 and 0.88 which are ratios for 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively.

In order to achieve gender equality, the disparities between girls and boys in all spheres of education need to be eliminated. The ratio of literate females to males 15-24 years-old has increased from 0.82 in 2000 to 0.88 in 2006. Assuming the same rate of improvement continues, the ratio of literate females to males would reach equality in 2015 as shown in Chart 11 above.

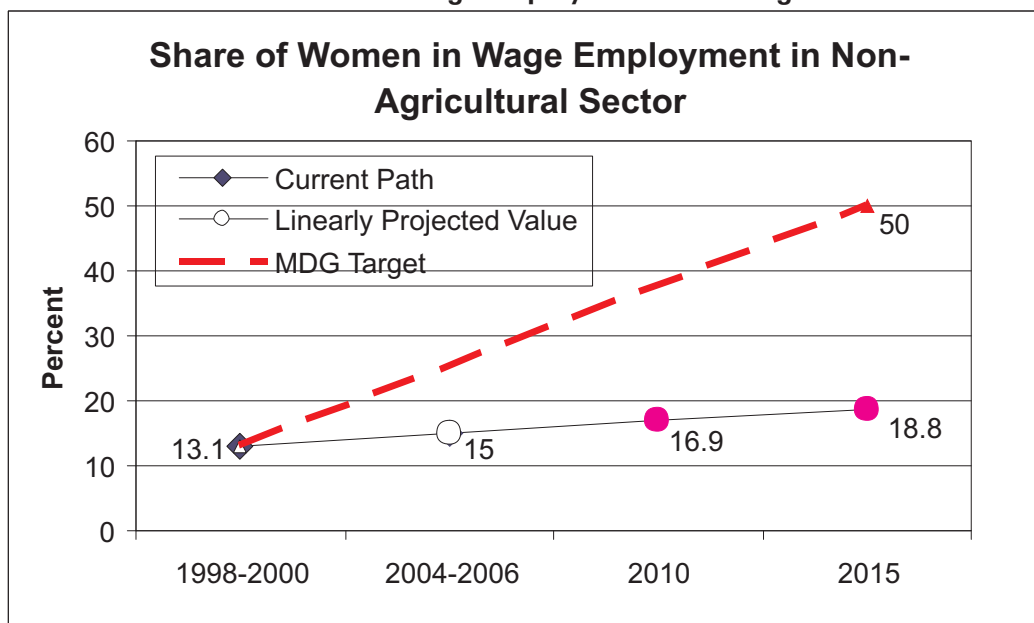
Indicator: Share of Women in Wage Employment in the Non-Agriculture Sector

It has been widely accepted that gender inequality exists in Malawi and that this status quo affects women more than their male counterparts. The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy clearly recognizes that poverty, social vulnerability and gender inequality cannot be divorced from each other. Gender inequalities in accessing productive resources, development opportunities and decision making affect economic growth and development. Malawi has a gender development index of 0.374, which is an indication that large disparities between men and women exist. Women who constitute about 51 percent of the population are marginalized in social and economic spheres such that they are unable to effectively contribute to social, economic and political development.

Strongly related to the above scenario is the high illiteracy level among women (56 percent as compared to 28 percent for men). This is initially fuelled by high girl drop out rates from the formal schooling system, a trend that eventually feeds back into the vicious cycle where one will once again expect to have very few women in formal employment.

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

Chart 12: Share of Women in Wage Employment in non- Agricultural Sector



Source: 1998 and 2005 IHS

Chart 12 above shows the current status and trends in the share of women in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector as well as projections to the year 2015. Women's share in wage employment in the non-agriculture sector has moved from 13 percent in 2000 to 15 percent in 2006. This trend seems to suggest that there has been very little improvement with respect to the share of women in wage employment in the non- agriculture sector. Hence, Malawi is unlikely to reach a target of having an equal ratio of men and women in wage employment as projections show that women's share in wage employment will be 19 percent by 2015.

Challenges

As noted above, holistic attainment of elimination of gender disparities in the education sector has been slow. Below are some of the challenges faced:

- High dropout rates especially among girls in primary schools due to long distances to schools, especially in rural areas. This poses a security challenge to girls who are prone to sexual abuse among other cases of violence on girls.
- Low capacity in the education sector to implement gender mainstreaming strategies at all levels
- Inadequate policies that are pro active in addressing gender disparities in the education sector (e.g. selection policies) especially at secondary and higher levels of education.
- Poor learning environment which affects girls in primary and secondary schools (e.g. sanitary facilities) especially girls undergoing through adolescence.

Policy Framework and Strategies

In an effort to eliminate gender disparity challenges as noted above, the following strategies have been put in place:

- Establishments of gender focal points at all education levels, including education management.
- Construction of girls boarding facilities in secondary schools so that distance to schools

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

for girls is reduced.

- Construction of new primary schools in rural areas to reduce school distance.
- Rehabilitation of primary and secondary schools to improve on learning environment (including water and sanitary facilities)
- Expansion of girls boarding facilities in teacher training institutions so that numbers of female teachers is increased specifically targeted for rural area deployment. These teachers apart from teaching are also expected to role model for girl pupils and students.
- Revision of the re-admission policy in 2006, which makes it friendly for students who withdraw on pregnancy grounds.
- Introduction of equitable selection policy at secondary schools (i.e. girls' alike boys' share 50% of student places) and handicapped entry requirements for girls in higher education institutions.

Indicator: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments

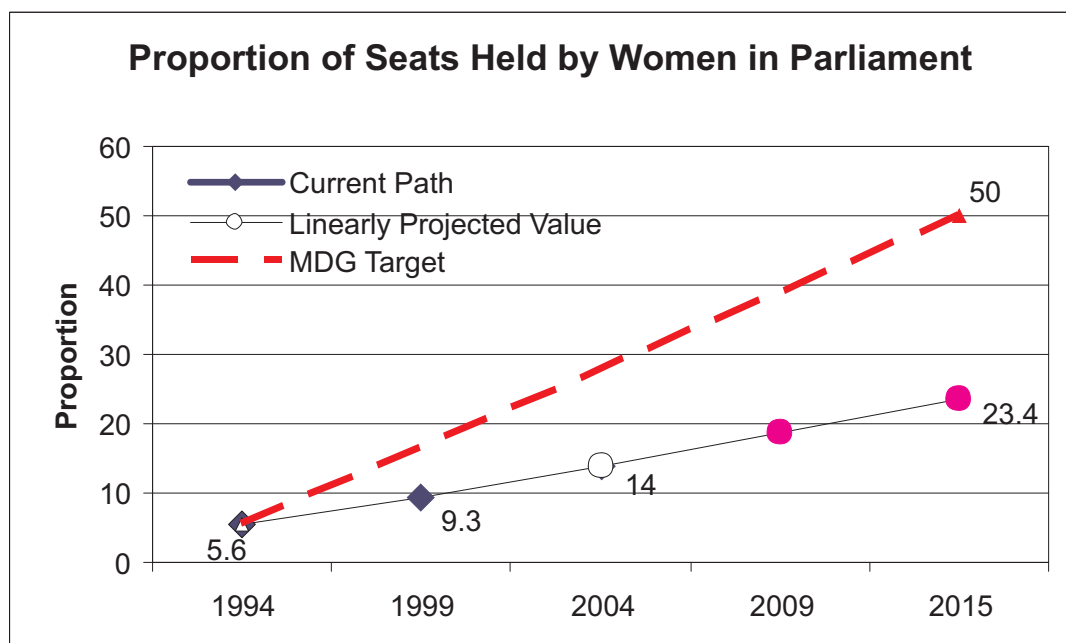
The proportion of seats held by women in national parliament has improved significantly over time. During the 1999 presidential and parliamentary elections, out of 193 elected members of parliament, only 18 members of parliament were women, representing 9 percent. In the 2004 presidential and parliamentary elections, there were 193 elected members of parliament and only 27 of them were women. This represents an increase of about 50 percent. In absolute terms, the total number of women in relation to men is still regarded low as the women have only about 14 percent (2004) of the seats, far below 50 percent that may be indicative of equal representation



Women Parliamentarian Caucus

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment

Chart 13: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in Parliament



Source: Malawi Electoral Commission (2006)

Chart 13 shows that the proportion of seats held by women in Parliament has increased from 5.6 percent in 1994 to 14 percent in 2004. The results show that there has been a substantial increase in the number of women in the national assembly. However, this proportion remains far below the Southern African Development Community (SADC) target of 30 percent share of women in parliament by 2005. There are many challenges that can be attributed the slow pace in achieving fair representation of women in parliament. Lack of adequate constitutional provisions for effective implementation of affirmative action in relation to women is one of such challenges. In addition, socio stereotypes in our society such as the line of thinking that men should always be Leaders and women should follow contribute to low number of women elected into parliament.

Malawi Government will address these challenges by:

- Taking affirmative action to increase women in decision making positions in the public and private sectors.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity for effective co-ordination of gender policy implementation.
- Breaking the cultural/traditional factors which create and perpetuate gender inequalities.
- Promoting gender equality through advocacy.

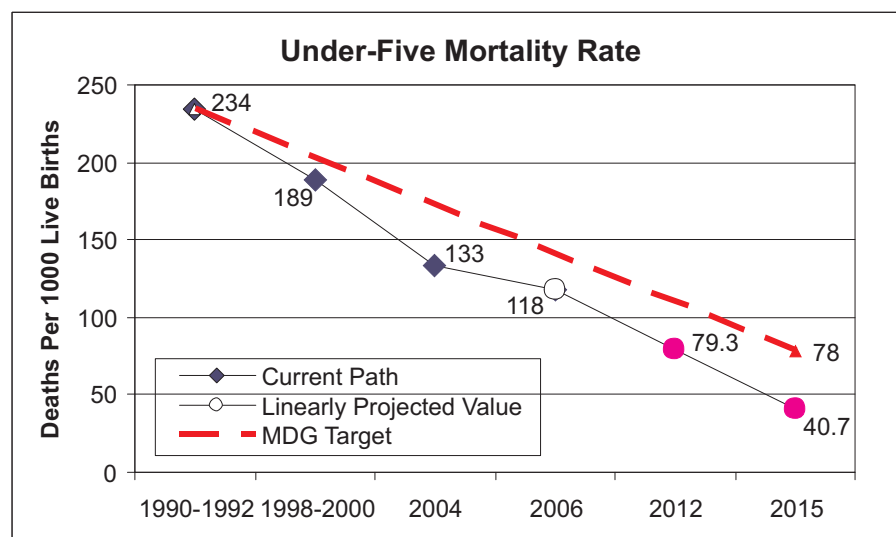
Goal 4. Reduce Child Mortality

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

Target 5: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

Indicator: Under-five Mortality Rate

Chart 14: Under-five Mortality Rate

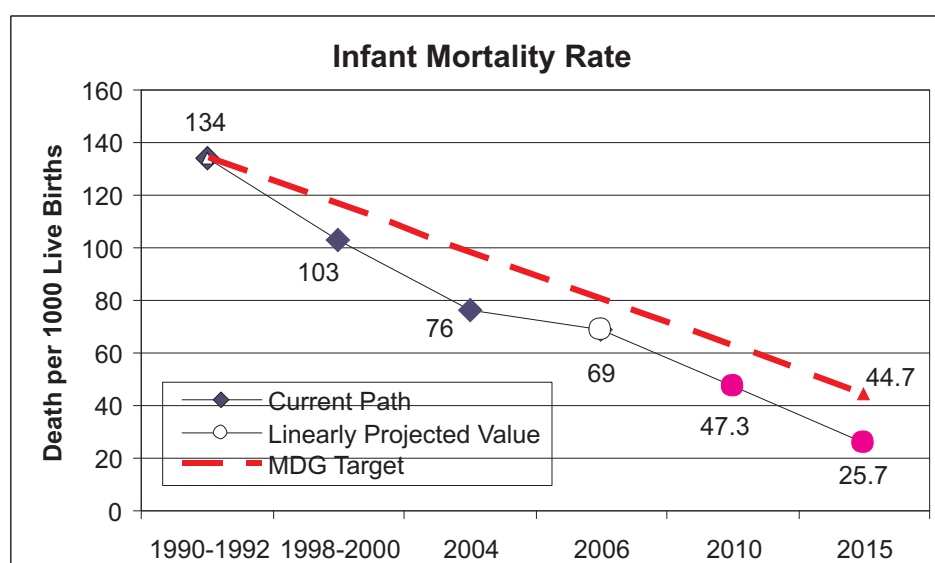


Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2006 MICS

Malawi is making good progress towards reducing under-five mortality. The country recorded an under-five mortality rate of 234 deaths per 1000 live births in 1992. This rate declined to 189 in the year 2000 and has further declined to 133 in 2005 as shown in Chart 14 above. At this rate, under-five mortality would decline to as low as 41 deaths per 1000 live births by the year 2015, implying that the country is likely to reduce under-five mortality by more than two-thirds of 1992 levels.

Indicator: Infant Mortality Rate

Chart 15: Infant Mortality Rate



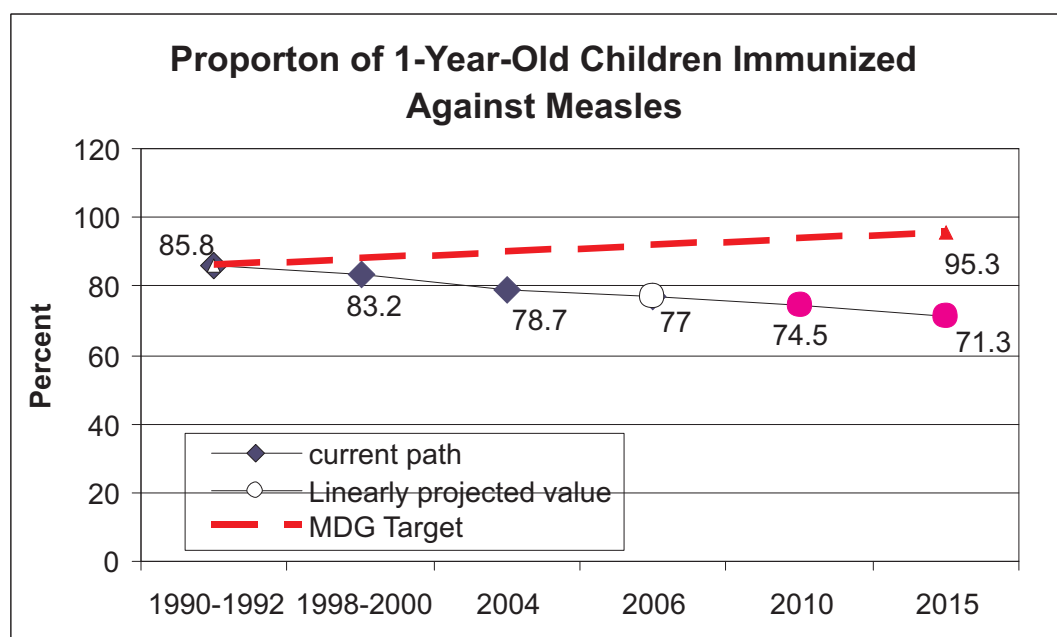
Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2006 MICS

Goal 4. Reduce Child Mortality

According to the 1992, 2000 and 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Surveys, infant mortality rate has been steadily declining in Malawi from a very high level of 134 in 1992 to 69 in 2006 as shown in Chart 15 above. At this rate of decline, Malawi is likely to achieve this target by 2015.

Indicator: Proportion of 1-year-old children immunised against measles.

Chart 16: Proportion of 1-year-old Children Immunized against Measles



Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2006 MICS

Chart 16 above shows the changes in the share of 1-year-old children immunized against measles, and the projections to 2015. The proportion of 1-year old children immunized against measles has dropped from 86 percent in 1992 to 77 percent in 2006. The projection shows that by 2015, only about 71 percent of the 1-year old children will be immunized against measles and this percentage is below the MDG target of about 95 percent.

Progress towards meeting the MDG targets for child mortality, infant mortality and immunization against measles by 2015 reflects the success of government interventions in the health sector, supported by its development partners. The interventions include implementation of an Integrated Management of Child Illnesses (IMCI) Approach; continuous and accelerated training of health workers, including Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs), on IMCI and prevention of child illnesses; implementation of child feeding programmes in a number of health facilities; a successful expanded immunization programme; and implementation of an Essential Health Package (EHP) through the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp), which has focused on both the implementation of interventions and development and strengthening of related health systems (Malawi Government, 2005).

Challenges:

While some progress has been made, Malawi still faces challenges in its efforts to reduce child mortality. The health sector is still resource constrained to successfully provide the high impact essential health interventions. The total expenditure on health equivalent to US\$20 per capita still falls short of the minimum expenditure of US\$34 recommended by the World Health Organisation

Goal 4. Reduce Child Mortality

Commission on Macroeconomics and Health. This financial constraint has translated into a host of problems that result in poor access to services by the population and consequent high incidence of preventable diseases and conditions. Weak inter-sectoral collaboration has also constrained the health sector from dealing with other determinants of poor child health, such as water and sanitation and malnutrition. The HIV/AIDS pandemic also poses a challenge to the accelerated reduction of child mortality.

Policy Framework and Strategies:

The launch of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) has renewed Government commitment to improving access to essential health care services, including integrated management of childhood illness and immunisation. Through this strategy, which is aligned to the sector's Programme of Work, the government will intensify investment in essential health care services, with a special focus on human resources development and retention, procurement of essential basic equipment, drugs and other medical supplies, and provision of infrastructure. Implementation of the health SWAp provides an opportunity for improved collaboration between the Ministry of Health on the one hand, and other government departments and non-state providers in the health sector on the other hand.

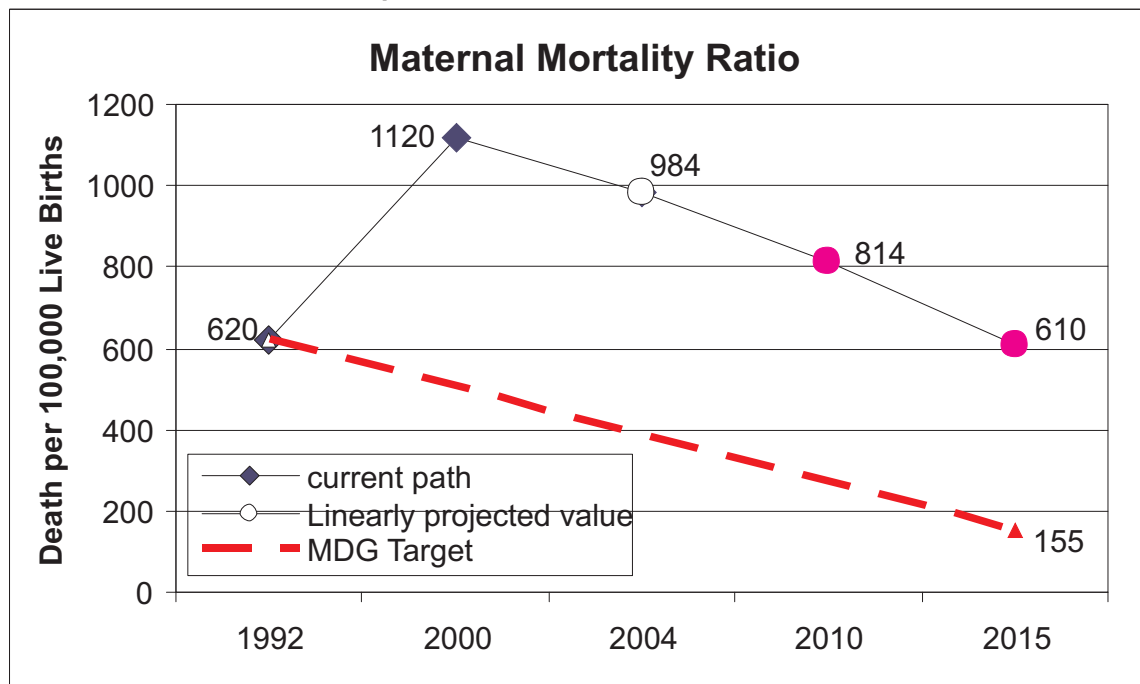
Goal 5. Improve Maternal Health

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Target 6: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio.

Indicator: Maternal Mortality Ratio

Chart 17: Maternal Mortality Ratio



Source: 1992, 2000 and 2004 MDHS.

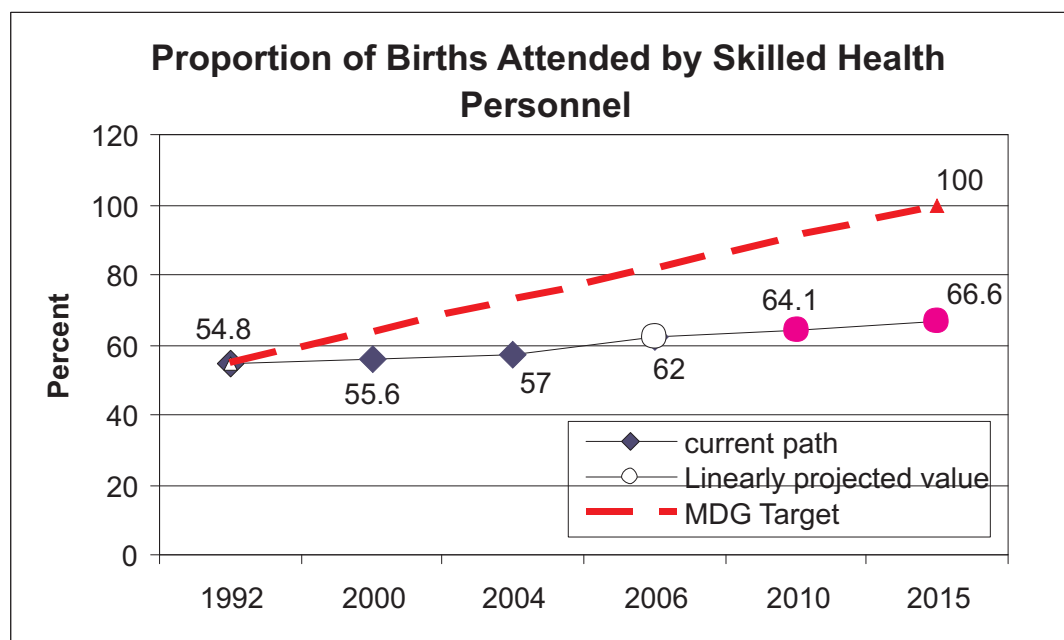
According to the year 2000 estimates by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNFPA, Malawi is among the countries with the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. Chart 17 shows that maternal mortality ratio in Malawi has increased sharply from 620 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1992 to 1,120 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000. The 2004 MDHS indicated that maternal mortality ratio had declined to 984 deaths per 100,000 live births. If the recent rate of improvement is maintained, Malawi would have a maternal mortality ratio of about 610 deaths per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Under the MDG target 6, Malawi is expected to have a maternal mortality ratio of about 155 per 100,000 live births by the year 2015. Hence, unless additional measures are put in place, it is unlikely that the MDG target will be met.

Indicator: Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel



Goal 5. Improve Maternal Health

Chart 18: Proportion of Births attended by Skilled Health Personnel



Source: 1992, 2000, 2004 MDHS and 2006 WMS

The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is a measure of the health system's ability to provide adequate care for pregnant women. It combines information on the presence of skilled health personnel and the accessibility of facilities with skilled health personnel. According to the Demographic and Health Surveys and the Welfare Monitoring Survey, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel was about 55 percent in 1992, about 56 percent in 2000, and 62 percent in 2006 as shown in the Chart 18 above. At this rate of change, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel in 2015 will have increased to about 67 percent. Hence Malawi is not on track to reach the target of having about 99 percent of births attended by skilled health personnel by that date.

Challenges:

The challenges that the country is facing in relation to maternal mortality and the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel include critical shortages of human resources, which result in deliveries being attended to by untrained health providers and attendants. Access to emergency obstetric care is also poor due to inadequate and poorly equipped health infrastructure. Cultural practices, which encourage early marriages and discourage the use of modern contraceptive methods, exacerbate the problem.

Policy Framework and Strategies

In view of this situation, Malawi has developed a strategy dubbed 'The Road Map', whose goal is to accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality. The nine point strategy aims at increasing the availability and accessibility of antenatal services as well as utilization of skilled health personnel during pregnancy, childbirth and postnatal period at all levels of the health system. It also aims at strengthening the capacity of individuals, families, communities, civil society organisations and Government to improve maternal and neonatal health

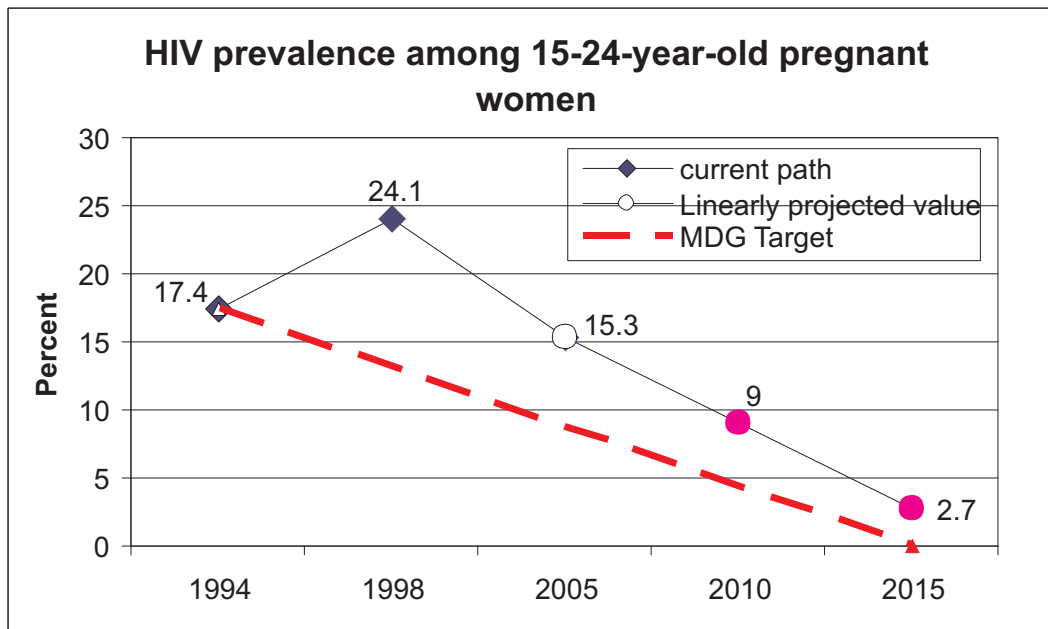
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Target 7: Halt and Begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Indicator: HIV prevalence among 15 to 24 year old pregnant women

Chart 19: HIV prevalence among 15-24 year old pregnant women in Malawi.



Source: NAC Sentinelle Report, 1994, 1999 and 2005.

Note: Indicator should focus on women age 15-24; however data by age group is not readily available.

Chart 19 shows Malawi is making progress towards reducing the spread of HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). According to the National AIDS Commission Sentinel Surveillance report, HIV prevalence amongst 15-24-year-old pregnant women was 17 percent in 1994. The prevalence rate increased to 24 percent by 1998. However, it started to decline, reaching 15 percent amongst 15-24-year-old pregnant women as of 2005 as shown in Chart 19 above. At this rate of change, the country is reducing HIV prevalence rate at 2 percentage points per annum. As such, a linear projection of the recent trend would imply that the prevalence rate may drop to about 3 percent by 2015. This would be a remarkable achievement for Malawi.



Challenges:

Malawi is facing a number of challenges in containing the spread of HIV and AIDS. These challenges include hunger and poverty, which make people vulnerable to infection; inadequate supply of Anti-retrovirals (ARVs) and access to nutritious diets; low levels of education; limited institutional capacity; deep-rooted harmful social-cultural values and practices, beliefs and traditions and poor coordination amongst service providers (Malawi Government, 2006).

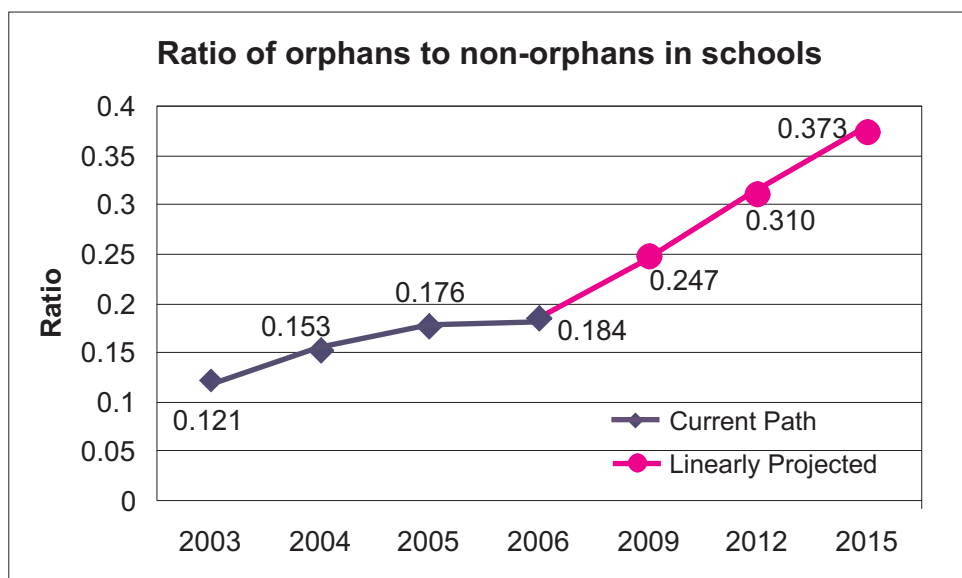
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

Policy Framework and Strategies:

The main strategies for combating HIV/AIDS include improving knowledge and capacity of vulnerable groups to practice safer sexual intercourse and increase their access to HIV testing and counseling; implementing and increasing equitable access to ARVs and treatment of opportunistic infections; expanding services for the prevention of mother to child transmission, testing and counseling, access to condoms, management of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and access to behaviour change communication; producing and enacting HIV and AIDS legislation; and improving the support and protection of the infected and affected groups (Malawi Government, 2006).

Indicator: Ratio of School Attendance of Orphans to School Attendance of Non-orphans aged 10-14.

Chart 20: Ratio of Orphans to non-orphans in schools



Source: Ministry of Education Annual school census

Chart 20 above shows a trend on the ratio of orphans to non-orphans in school attending children. The trend shows that the number of orphans being captured in the education system has increased from 0.121 in 2003 to 0.184 in 2006. This implies that the intervention on HIV and AIDS that have been put in place are having impact with respect to sustaining education of orphaned pupils. Over the last four years, the average growth rate in capturing enrolled orphans to non-orphans have been at 2.1 percent. This is a significant effort considering that with parallel interventions on preventive and curative health care the country expects a reduced death rate of parents and guardians; therefore reduced numbers of orphans.

Challenges

- Whilst the orphans access have equitable to education in schools, it remains a challenge for the education community to see that the orphans are taken care of and are mentally and physically prepared for school attendance.
- Low capacity within the sector to facilitate psychosocial support to improve on coping strategies for the integration of orphaned pupils with the non-orphaned at school and in the community.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

Policy Framework and Strategies

In an effort to address the above challenges, the country plans to implement a number of strategies, some of which include the following:

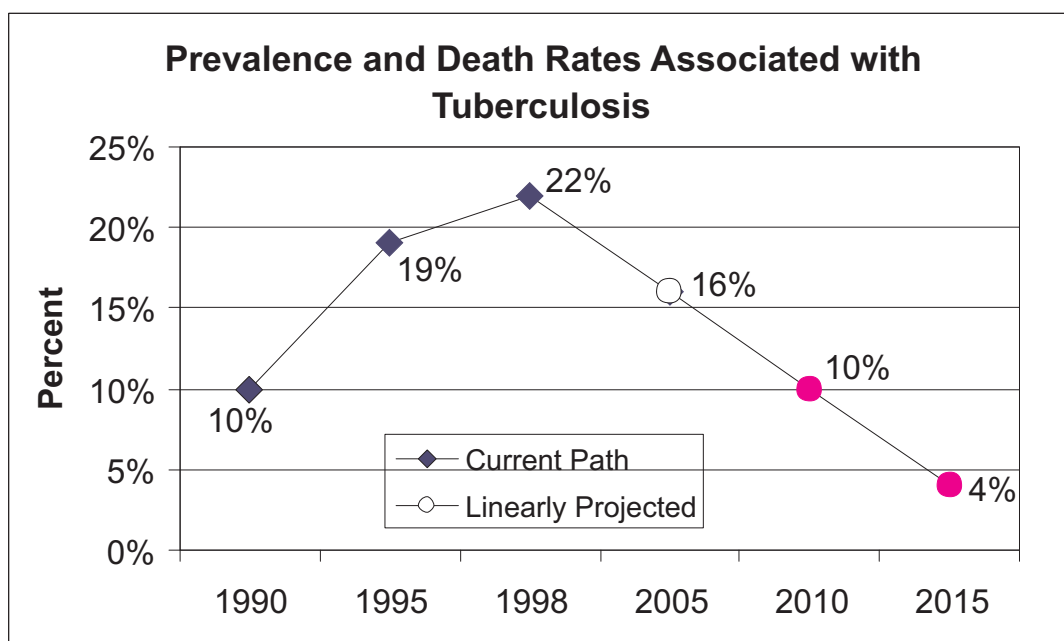
- Intensification on training of teachers in life skills education pedagogy so that they in turn inclusively and participatively engage pupils on coping strategies irrespective of social and economic differences in classroom composition
- Introduction of Center for Guidance, Counseling and Youth Development aimed at facilitating training of trainers on psychosocial support, care giving and mental preparedness of pupils at school level.
- Establishment of HIV and AIDS focal persons at the division and district levels and government education institutions such as Malawi Institute of Education and Teacher Training Colleges with the aim of coordinating, managing and supervising the education sector response to HIV and AIDS
- Implementation of HIV and AIDS Workplace Programme to support teachers who are living positively with HIV and AIDS.

Target 8: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of Malaria and other major diseases.

Indicator: Prevalence and Death Rates Associated with Tuberculosis

In 1990, a total of 12,333 tuberculosis cases were detected in Malawi. Since then, the incidence of tuberculosis has been increasing overtime. In 1995 a total of 19,153 cases were detected and incidence went further up to 27,672 in 2001. This increase in the incidence of tuberculosis may be to some extent attributed to HIV incidence. It is estimated that about 77 percent of tuberculosis patients are also infected with HIV. Incidence of tuberculosis seems to have stabilized, as in 2006, 27,015 new cases were detected.

Chart 21: Prevalence and Death rates associated with Tuberculosis



Source: Ministry of Health

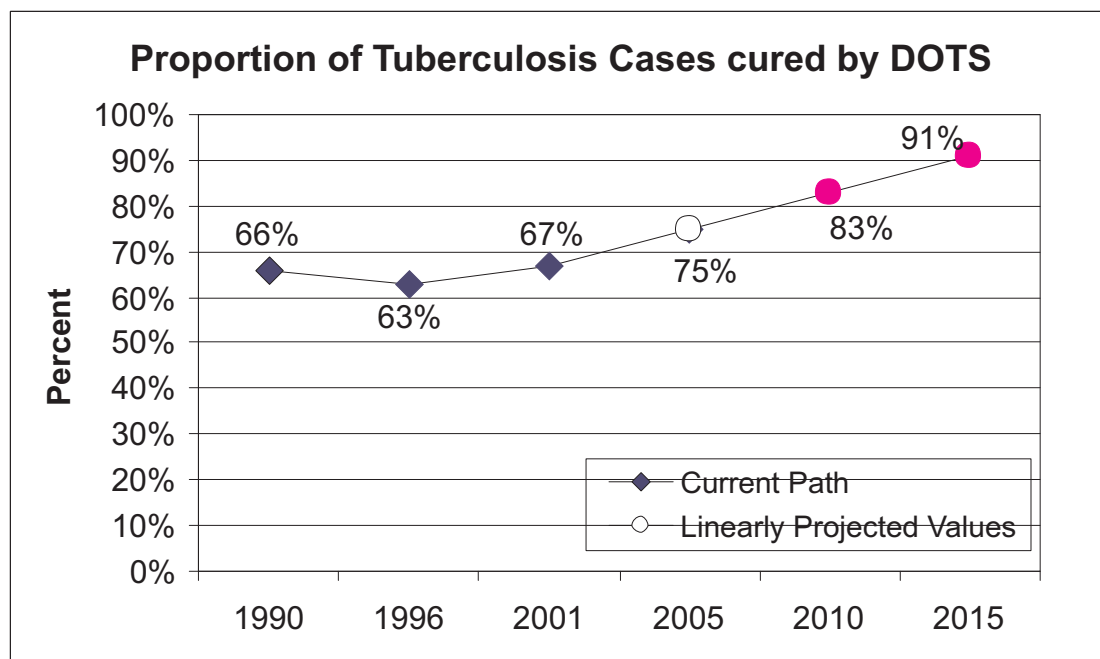
Chart 21 above shows that death rates of TB smear positive patients increased sharply from 10 percent in 1990 to 19 percent in 1995 and further to 22 percent in 1998. The increase in death

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases

rates of TB smear positive patients could be due to co-infection with HIV and AIDS. However the deaths due to tuberculosis have declined from 22 percent in 1998 to 16 percent in 2005. The drop in the death rates may be due to the success of the Directly-Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS). The projection shows that by 2015, death rate associated with tuberculosis will be reduced to 4 percent.

Indicator: Proportion of Tuberculosis cases cured under Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS).

Chart 22: Proportion of Tuberculosis Cases cured under DOTS



Source: Ministry of Health

Chart 22 shows that proportion of tuberculosis cases cured under Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS) was 66 percent in 1990 and decreased to 63 percent in 1996. The cure rates have however increased to 67 percent in 2001 and to 75 percent in 2005. This may likewise be attributed to the success of the DOTS strategy. The projection shows that by 2015, proportion of Tuberculosis cases cured under DOTS will be 91 percent.



Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

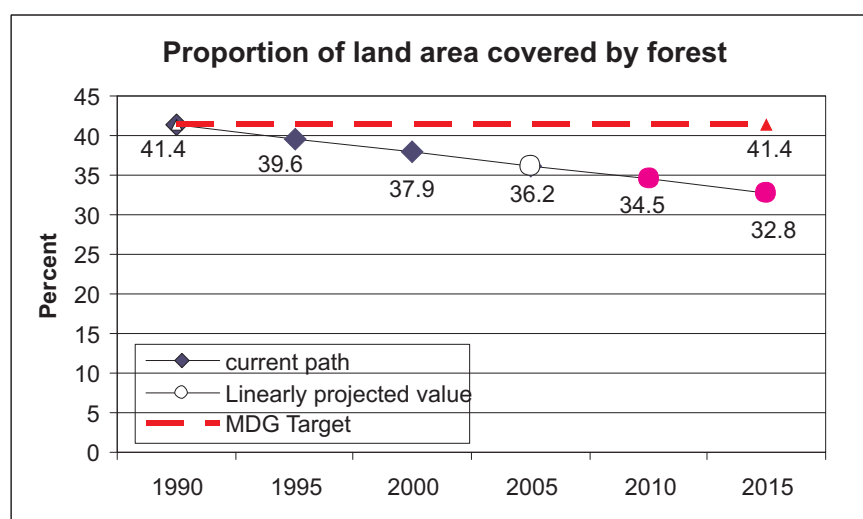
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Indicator: Proportion of land area covered by forest

Since Malawi became independent, the country has continued to experience rapid environmental degradation. Some of the causes of degradation include increasing population growth, poverty as well as inadequate alternative livelihoods and affordable energy technologies. This has resulted in various forms of environmental degradation including soil erosion, siltation of rivers and lakes, over growth of water weeds, deforestation, over fishing, decline in wildlife, and air and water pollution.

Chart 23: Proportion of Land Area covered by Forest

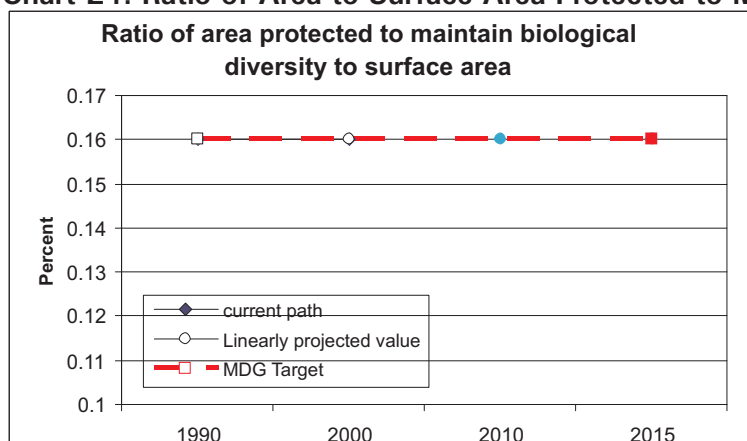


Source: FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment, 1990, 2000 and 2005

Chart 23 above shows that the proportion of land area has been declining from around 41 percent in 1990 to around 36 percent in the year 2006. If this rate of deforestation continues, by 2015 only about 33 percent of land area will be covered by forest. This implies that the country will have failed to increase or maintain the area under forest.

Indicator: Proportion of area protected to maintain biological diversity

Chart 24: Ratio of Area to Surface Area Protected to Maintain Biological Diversity



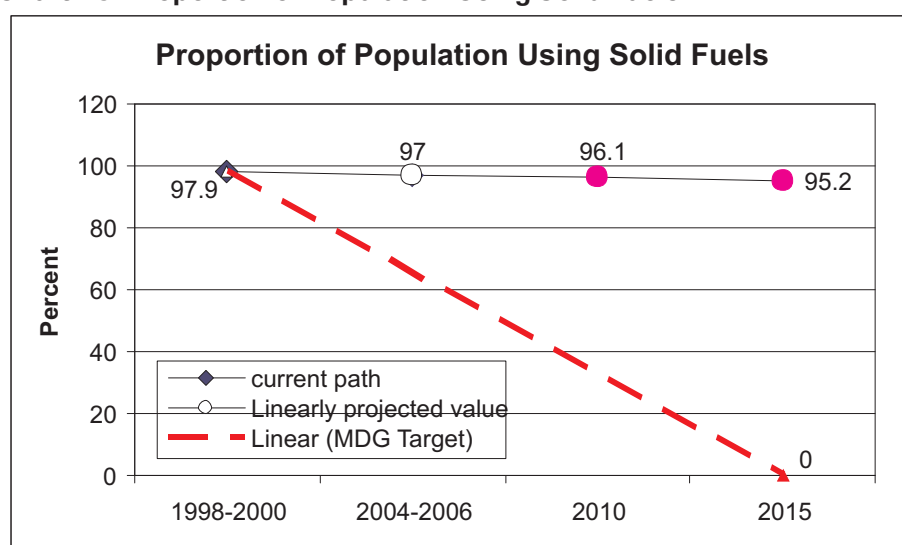
Source: UNEP, online databank: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_series_results.asp?rowed=616

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

The proportion of protected area has remained constant since 1990 as shown in Chart 24 above. Even though no specific target has been set for this indicator, under the Millennium Development Goals, the requirement is that either a country increases the proportion of protected area or keeps it constant. By keeping the proportion of protected area constant, it can be concluded that the country is in line with the MDGs requirement.

Indicator: Proportion of population using solid fuels

Chart 25: Proportion of Population Using Solid Fuels



Source: 1998 Census and 2004 MDHS

The proportion of population using solid fuel has not declined much as can be seen from Chart 25 above. The Figure above shows that in 2000 about 98 percent of population were using solid fuels and by 2006 the percentage had only reduced to 97. This then implies that the country is far from achieving an MDG target of 0 percent because the projection shows that by the year 2015, the proportion of population using solid fuel will be around 95 percent. As already indicated, the country has been experiencing environmental degradation such as soil erosion, deforestation, over fishing, among others.

Policy Framework and Strategies

In order to address these problems several initiatives have been put in place, some of which include the following:

- Revision of the natural resources policies, National Environmental Policy including the Environmental Management Act with an aim of halting the rate of environmental degradation;
- Development of regulations on waste disposal management and sanitation, toxic substance and chemicals;
- Promoting community participation in environment and natural resources management;
- Implementation of a tree planting season to address deforestation;
- Developed measures for mitigating the negative impacts of climate by reducing green house gas emissions and the use of clean energy technologies such as wind and solar powered energy;
- Implementing the Malawi Rural Electrification Programme to bring electricity to rural areas with an aim of minimizing recourse to biomass energy, which remains the main source of energy, accounting to over 90 percent of total energy consumption in the country.

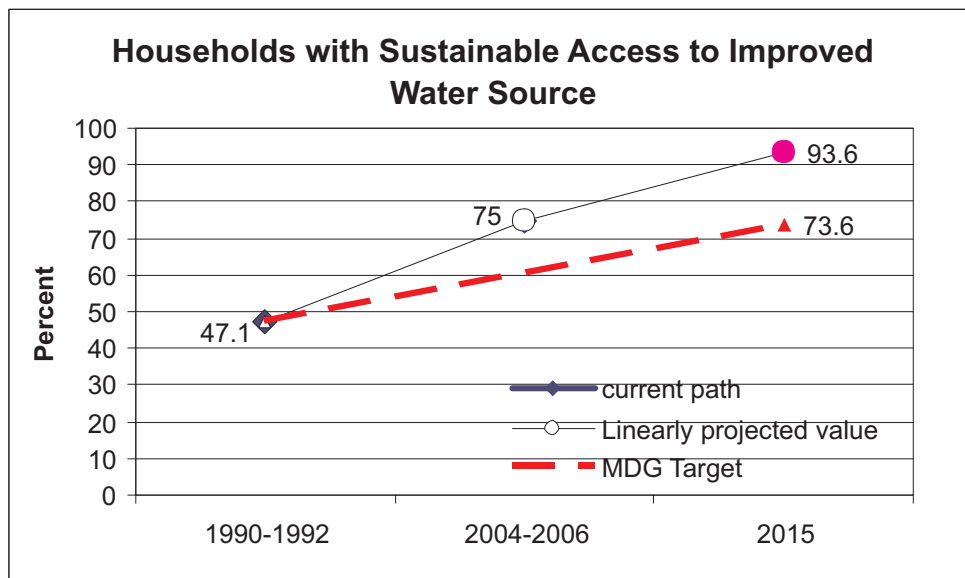
Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Target 10: Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water

Indicator: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved Water Source

The MDG on Water and Sanitation declares that the population without sustainable water and basic sanitation be reduced by 2015. It is reported that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target, about 1.6 billion people in the whole world should have access to improved safe water supply and basic sanitation between 2005 and 2015.

Chart 26: Household with Sustainable Access to Improved Water Source



Source: 1992, 2000 and 2004 MDHS

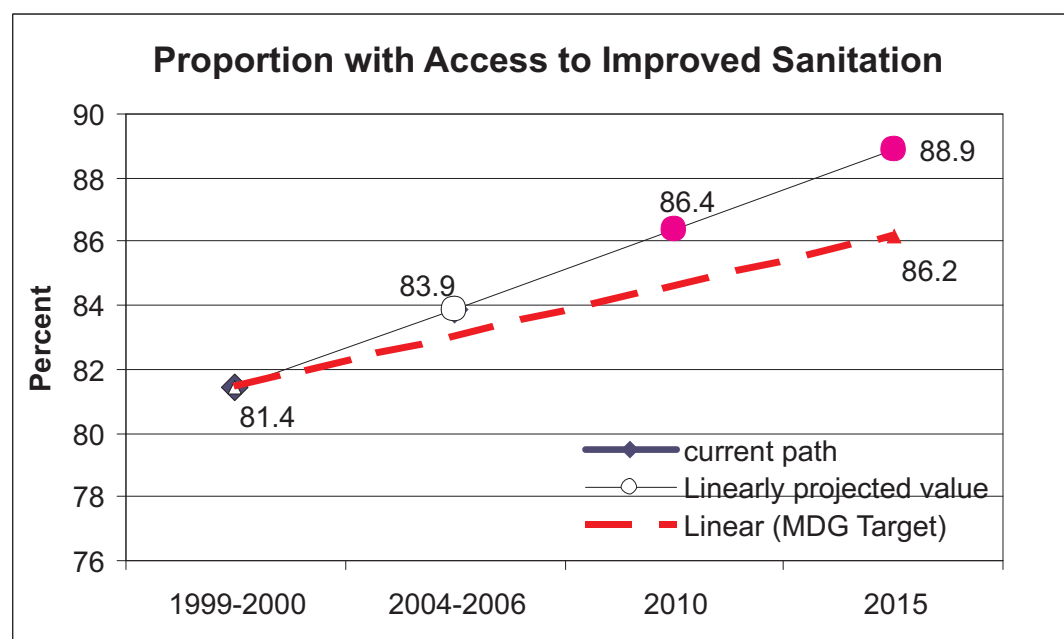
The MDG target portrays that by the year 2015 about 74 percent of the Malawi population should have access to sustainable safe drinking water (from an improved water source). Chart 26 above shows that the country is making good progress towards attainment of the MDG target. Access to water resources had significantly improved from about 47 percent in 1992 to 75 percent in 2006. At this rate of change, the projection shows that by 2015 about 94 percent of population will have sustainable access to an improved water source, which is above the MDG target of 73 percent.



Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Indicator: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation

Chart 27: Proportion of the Population with Access to Improved Sanitation



Source: 1992, 2000 and 2004 MDHS

Chart 27 above shows that Malawi is making good progress towards achieving improved access to good sanitation. In 2000, the proportion of households with access to improved sanitation was about 81 percent. Access has increased to about 84 percent in 2006. At this rate of improvement, about 89 percent of households will have sustainable access to improved sanitation by 2015, which is above the MDG target of 86.2 percent.

The water and sanitation sector is facing many challenges. These challenges include degradation of water resources, inadequate service coverage, increasing water demand as a result of increasing population, HIV and AIDS prevalence, insufficient capacity, inadequate promotion of hygiene and sanitation, climate change and lack of mitigation measures for water-related disasters. These challenges will be addressed through a number of strategies, some of which include:

- Improving the quality of surface and ground water by developing a system for pollution control;
- Improving sustainable access to water supply and sanitation in urban, peri urban and rural areas by establishing water supply and sanitation systems using demand responsive and demand driven approaches;
- Establishing contingency water supply reserves and sanitation backups;
- Integrating rural water supply with participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation;
- Establishing good monitoring systems; and
- Empowering national authorities to manage water resources using integrated water resource management approaches.

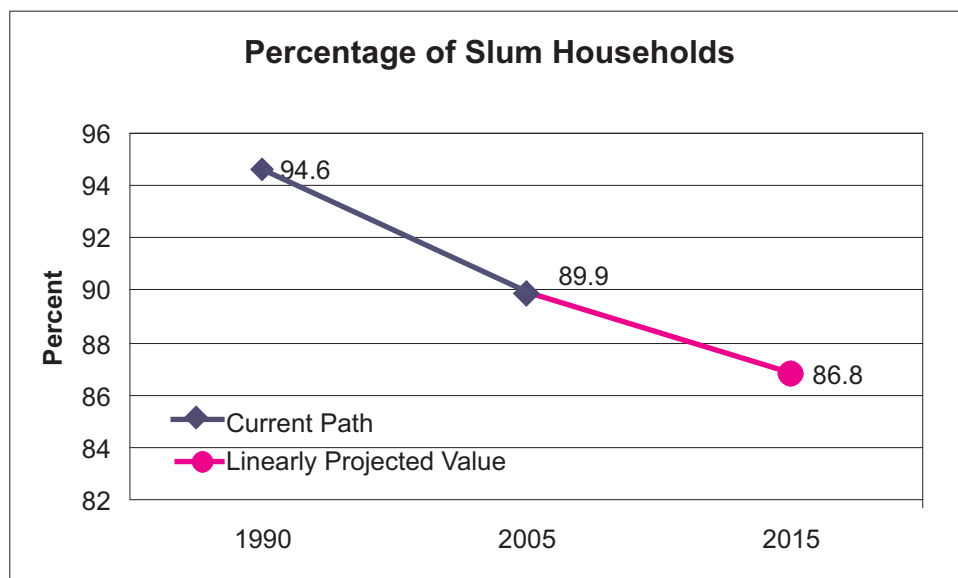
Target 11: Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Indicator: Slum population as a percentage of urban population

A slum household refers to a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following five conditions: durable housing, sufficient living area, access to improved water, access to sanitation and secure tenure.

Chart 28: Percentage of Slum Households



Source: UN-HABITANT State of the World Critics Report 2006/2007

Although Chart 28 above is showing that slum percentage has declined from about 95 percent in 1990 to 90 percent in 2005, absolute numbers of slum dwellers have almost doubled between 1990 (1.03million) and 2005 (1.9 million) as reported in the 2006 UN Habitant State of the World Report. Malawi has been experiencing a high urbanization rate of 6.3 percent, despite the fact that the cities do not have the capacity to absorb on a sustainable basis this rate of urbanization. This has in turn compounded the problem of slum formation. It is clear therefore that unless effective interventions are put in place, the country may not be in a position to address this problem by 2015.

Some of the challenges that the country is facing in relation to the achievement of cities without slums' include the following:

- Inequitable access to land especially land that is serviced with basic facilities including water and sanitation by the urban poor
- Low priority that has over the years been placed on shelter (and urban development) issues by Government and its cooperating partners which has resulted in low public sector investment in ensuring that the urban poor have access to decent shelter and basic services.
- Lack of access to affordable housing finance
- High cost of building materials
- Lack of appropriate building standards/regulations
- Capacity of urban assemblies to formulate pro-poor policies and city development strategies that would support inclusive cities and accelerate local economic development.

To address the above challenges, government has embarked on a number of programmes some of which include:

Goal 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- Formulated a National Housing Policy (under preparation) to help upgrade slums and reduce slum formation in the cities;
- Introduced “Cities without Slums” initiative with the support from UN-HABITAT which will help mobilize resources for slum upgrading in the cities;
- Developed a national slum upgrading programme to improve the conditions of life in slums in the country's major cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba.
- Initiated a Water and Sanitation project to be supported by the World Bank in the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe targeting the urban poor to enable them access portable and safe water.

Goal 8. Develop Global Partnership for Development

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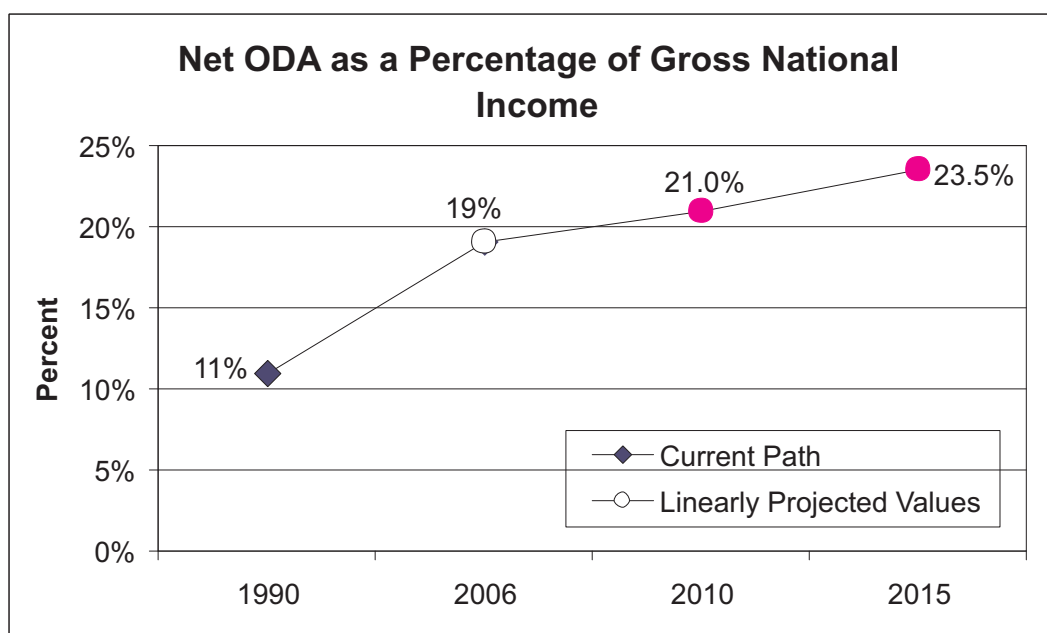
Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

Malawi has been and remain a highly aid dependent country since attaining independence in July, 1964, which is being used to finance about 80 percent of development budget and about 20 percent of the a recurrent budget. The budget is being financed through grants and concessional loans from external creditors and donors.

Trends in Aid Flows to Malawi

The trends in ODA indicate that most of the foreign Aid to Malawi is provided towards social development activities such as health, education and nutrition. The proportion of ODA to basic social services was 21 percent in 2006 while the ODA funding for the transport sector was 7.61 percent.

Chart 29: Net ODA as a Percentage of Gross National Income



Source: Ministry of Finance

Chart 29 shows above Net Official Development Assistance to Malawi from 1990 to 2006. Net Official Development Assistance has increased from 11 percent of Gross National Income in 1990 to 19 percent in 2006. In nominal terms Net Official Development Assistance has increased from US\$ 216 million in 1990 to US\$ 409 million in 2006. If this rate of improvement continues, Net Official Development Assistance will increase to about 24 percent by 2015.

Challenges and priorities on aid flows

Although aid flows to Malawi have increased significantly since the early 1990s, there are some challenges which have to be addressed in order to make aid more effective. One of the major concerns for Government is on the level of alignment of donor support towards Government processes. For aid to be effective, it must be aligned with national development strategies and plans. However, a significant proportion of the donor aid by-passes the Government's budgeting process. A survey conducted in 2006 indicated that only 55 percent of the ODA makes use of

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Malawi's budget, financial reporting and auditing systems.

Progress on Debt Relief in Malawi (Indicators 41, 42, 43, 44)

Debt relief was recognised by the international community as one of the avenues for providing resources to HIPC's such as Malawi in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. Malawi attained the Completion Point under the Enhanced HIPC Initiative in August 2006 having reaching the Decision Point December 2000.

At the Completion Point, Malawi's outstanding debt stock was reduced significantly from US\$2.97 billion as of end-2005 to US\$488.00 million as of end-2006. Multilateral creditors provided US\$2.1 billion while bilateral creditors provided US\$292 million. Most of the bilateral debt relief was provided by the Paris Club creditors through 100 percent cancellation of the bilateral debt stock as of end-2006. With 84 percent of the external debt stock cancelled, Malawi's annual debt service has been reduced from about US\$125 million to US\$15 million, thereby saving an average of US\$110 million for spending on priority programmes for meeting the MDGs.

Malawi's external debt is expected to be highly sustainable after receiving all the debt relief from its creditors under the HIPC and Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). The results of the Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) conducted in March 2007 indicated that the ratio of the Net Present Value (NPV) of external debt to exports of goods and services was significantly reduced from an unsustainable position of 229.0 percent as of end-2005 to 34.5 percent as of end-2006, which is below the HIPC acceptable threshold of 150 percent. The ratio of debt service to exports was also reduced from an unsustainable position of 24 percent as of end-2005 to 8.9 percent as of end-2006 and remains below the acceptable level of 15 percent beyond 2015 provided that new loans are contracted on highly concessional terms.

Major challenges and priorities on debt sustainability

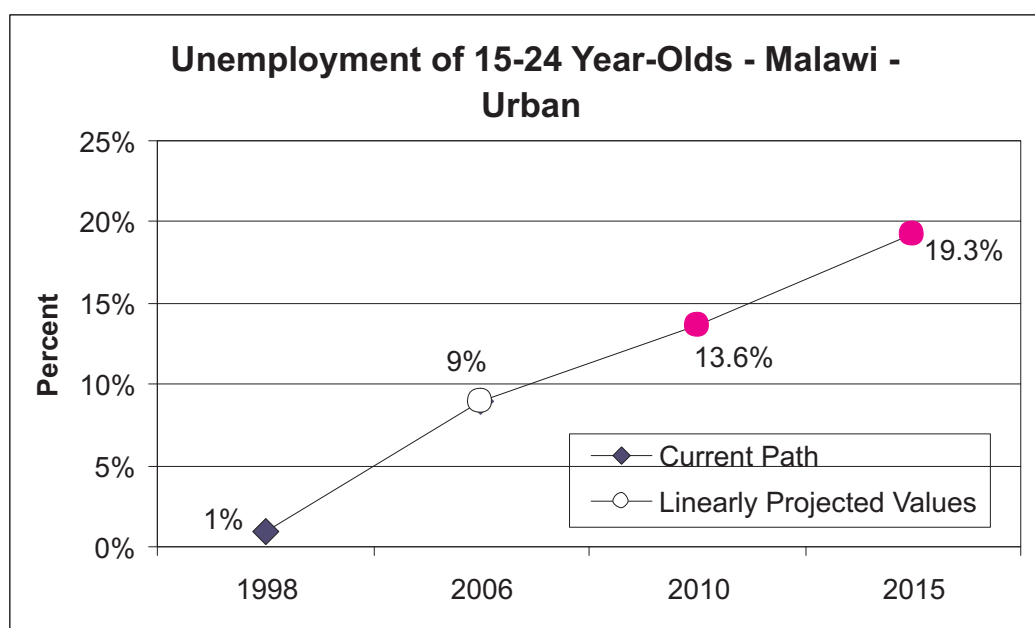
The Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) presents an opportunity for post-completion point HIPC's such as Malawi to attain long-term debt sustainability since it will lead to significant reductions in the external debt stock. However, although Malawi's debt will remain sustainable after Completion Point to the year 2015, she risks reverting back to state of indebtedness should she continue contracting loans to unsustainable levels. Additionally narrow export base, lack of market access and other trade barriers as well periodic shocks to the economy may affect debt sustainability levels.

Long term debt sustainability in post HIPC's such as Malawi can be attained if the international community goes beyond provision of debt relief and address critical issues of trade access to ensure there is no new accumulation of a heavy debt burden. On its part, the Government will address local constraints to debt management by building debt management capacity, contracting loans on highly concessional terms, sustained policy reforms and insulating the economy from periodic shocks.

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Indicator: Unemployment of 15-24 Year olds

Chart 30: Unemployment of 15-24 Year Old (Urban)



Source: 1998 Malawi Population & Housing Census and 2006 WMS

Chart 30 shows that urban unemployment of 15-24 year old has increased from 1 percent in 1998 to 9 percent in 2006. The projection shows that by 2015, urban unemployment rate will be about 19 percent. The reason for the increase in unemployment could be as a result of closure and downsizing of companies, increase in rural-urban migration, which is currently estimated at 6.3 percent as well as restructuring of the civil service, which resulted in some employees losing their jobs.

Policy framework and strategies

Government is addressing problems of unemployment through a number of programmes some of which include the following:

- Establishing Rural Growth Centres, which will help make rural areas attractive thereby reducing rural-urban migration;
- Introduced fertilizer subsidy targeting smallholder farmers which has in turn resulted in increased agriculture productivity and more income for the rural people through sales of their agriculture produce;
- Established and rehabilitated abandoned irrigation schemes, which have made it possible for the rural people to engage in agriculture production throughout the year which will in the long run help curb problems of rural-urban migration as a result of increased income;
- Maintaining a stable macroeconomic framework with low inflation, low interest rates and stable exchange rates thereby making it possible for the business community to access loans for expanding their businesses with an aim of creating more employment;
- Established loan schemes such as Malawi Rural Development Fund which has provided capital to rural people to engage in gainful employment;
- Implemented the One Village One Product programme which is promoting value adding processes thereby creating employment;
- Implemented the Public Works Programme, which is creating employment.

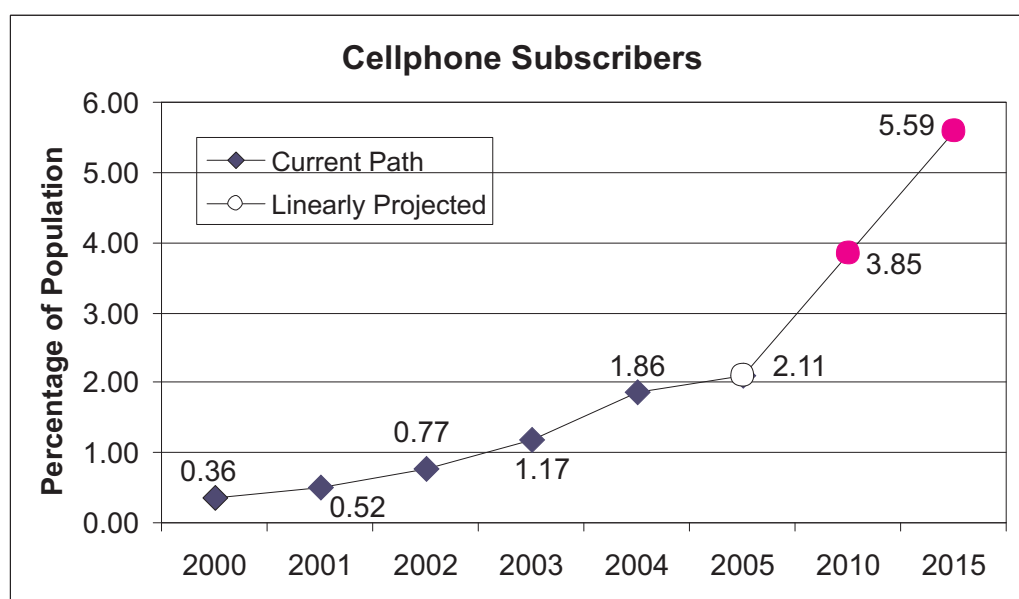
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Indicator: Telephone Lines and Cellular Subscribers per 100 Population

Malawi faces a great challenge in achieving goal 8, which focuses on developing a global partnership for development. However, significant progress has been achieved especially in the area of telecommunication, which plays a vital role in economic development and poverty reduction.

According to 2004-2005 Integrated Household Survey (IHS), more households in Malawi have mobile phones than landlines representing 3 percent of households with mobile phones and only less than 1 percent with landline telephones.

Chart 31: Cell phone Subscribers



Source: Malawi Communication Regulation Authority and NSO's Projected Population

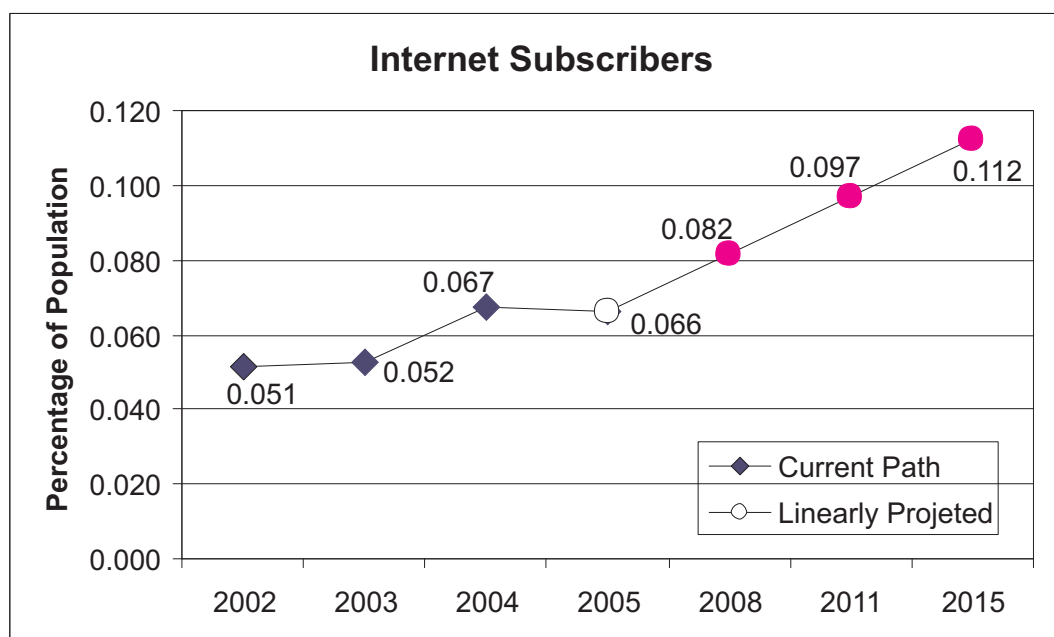
The trend of progress shown in Chart 31 above indicates that there has been an increase in the number of subscribers from about 0.4 percent in 2000 to about 2 percent in 2005. The increase in the number of subscribers can be attributed to availability of cheaper cell phone handsets and improved telecommunication.



Cellphone Users

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Chart 32: Landline Subscribers



Source: Malawi Communication Regulation Authority and NSO's Projected Population

Chart 32 shows there has been an increase in the number of subscribers for the fixed landlines from about 0.4 percent in 2000 to about 0.6 percent in 2005. It must be noted however, that with the coming of cell phones it appears more people are subscribing to mobile phones than landlines implying that mobile phones have taken the lion's share of the telecommunication industry.

Challenges

Malawi government's policy regarding telecommunication is to ensure universal access to connectivity and affordable information and communications technology. However, the country faces a challenging uphill in meeting this MDG indicator. Some of the major constraints include the following;

- Lack of technical know how in respect to Information Communication and Technology (ICT);
- Underdeveloped regulatory framework in the telecommunication sector;
- High tariff rates;
- Inadequate distribution of ICT services and infrastructure;
- Slow adaptation to global regulatory challenges;
- Lack of competition.

Policy Framework and Strategies

The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) recognizes that the creation of a conducive environment to attract investment in telecommunication will accelerate the process of attaining the Millennium Development Goals and enhance economic growth and poverty reduction through economic and social development. The policy framework also aims at enhancing the capacity of the regulatory body, Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA), to act as a competent referee in order to level the playing field. Further, developing, monitoring and periodically receiving regulations would play a vital role in ensuring that the standard of better telecommunication services are achieved.

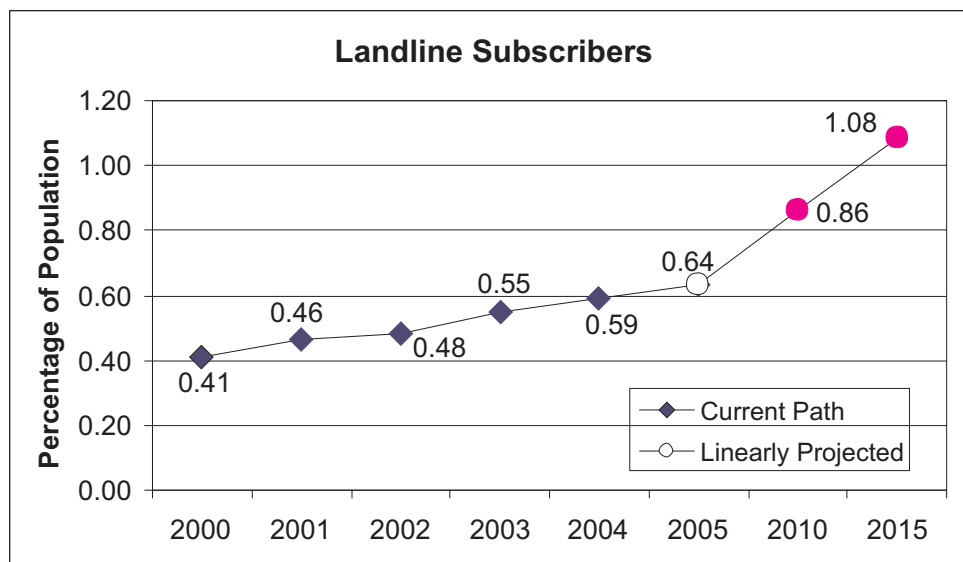
Conclusion

Indicator: Personal Computers in Use and Internet Users per 1000 Population



Internet User

Chart 33: Internet Subscribers



Source: Malawi Communication Regulation Authority and NSO's Projected Population

Chart 33 shows that there has been an increase in the number of subscribers for the internet services from about 0.05 percent in 2002 to about 0.07 percent in 2005. The growth in the internet industry indicates that the country is on the right course of attaining this MDG goal, which is important and necessary for the acceleration of economic growth and development.

Challenges

The challenges that are being faced in the internet industry include: high cost of internet and Information Technology (IT) equipment and poor internet and IT support infrastructure.

Policy Framework and Strategies

- Developing a reliable, fast, adaptive and robust national IT infrastructure;
- Improving IT and Internet access by all communities;
- Enacting an appropriate legislation that promotes and facilitates the country's participation in the information age.

Conclusion

The government of Malawi has been pursuing long-term objective of sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction since independence. However, poverty levels still remain very high. The mid point evaluation on progress made towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goals shows that Malawi has made tremendous progress in some MDG goals while as in others not much progress has been made. The results of the mid-term evaluation show that by 2015 Malawi will be able to reduce child mortality, Combat HIV and AIDS and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development. However, by 2015 Malawi will not be able to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empowerment of women and improve maternal health. If extra resources are made available in areas of maternal health and household food production, the government will be able to achieve these goals which are lagging behind.

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