

Malawi



Languages:	Official Languages: Chichewa and English; further Bantu languages are common
Capital:	Lilongwe, with 723'576 residents (2010)
Area:	118'480 km ² ; see CH: 41'285 km ²
Population:	14'212'000 (2010); see CH: 7'997'000 (2012)
Population density:	120 res./km ² ; see CH: 198 res./km ²
Income:	320 US\$/year (2014)
HDI:	0.418 (170th place of 186)
Life expectancy:	47.1 – 54.6 years (depending on the source)
Illiteracy:	36% (more women than men)
Birth rate in %:	4.31 (CH: 0.97)
Death rate in %:	1.93 (CH: 0.85)
Population growth:	2.38% per year
Religions:	80% Christian (thereof 23% Catholic), 12% Muslim, additionally Bahá'í faith, Atheism and traditional religions

Geography

Borders: Malawi is situated in Southeast Africa and is adjacent to Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique.

Landscape: Malawi lies in the East African Rift Valley. Its landscapes include plateaus, individual inselbergs, far planes and Lake Malawi. This lake represents the third largest inland waters in Africa. The Mulanje Massif is the largest elevation (up to 3'000 m). The longest river (402 km) is the Shire (the Southern effluent of Lake Malawi).



Climate: Subtropical climate with 4 seasons:

- Cool from May to August
- Hot from August to November
- Rain from November to April
- Post raining season from April to May

The coolest month is July, with potentially cold nights in mountain areas.

History

The history of Malawi is partially unexplored. The earliest verifiable settlements occurred through tribes of the San. Between 1000 and 1480 AD, the Chewa tribe immigrated to Malawi. Before Colonialism, the kingdom of the Maravi allegedly existed. Slave trade and tribal warfare dominated the country for many centuries.

1859	Livingstone (British explorer of Africa) reaches Lake Malawi
1891	Malawi becomes a British protectorate
1907	Under the name of "Njassaland" Malawi becomes a colony of Great Britain
1915	Revolution of the population under the preacher John Chilembwe
1953	Njassaland becomes a member of the Central African Confederation, which is partially independent
1964	Independence. The first prime minister is Hastings Kamuzu Banda.
1966	Banda becomes the first president of the Republic and rules dictatorially as the head of the Malawi Congress Party (MCP)
1993	With the support of Roman Catholic Bishops the dictatorship ends in a peaceful procedure
1994	Free elections. Bakili Muluzi of the United Democratic Front (UDF) becomes president.
1999	Re-election of Muluzi
2004	Bingu wa Mathurika becomes president
2009	Re-election of Mathurika, he leads the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Opposition is weak.
2012	Death of Mathurika. The hitherto vice president Joyce Banda becomes president.
2014	Voting out of Mrs Banda following a corruption scandal, austerity and currency depreciation. New president: Peter Mathurika (brother of Bingu wa Mathurika, also DPP).

Government and politics

Governmental form:	Based on the constitution of 1966, Malawi is a presidential Republic within the Commonwealth. 1993 introduction of a multiple party system. National assembly with 177 representatives. Every five years elections of the national assembly and the president. The legal system orientates itself on British law.
Head of State:	President (since 2014): Peter Mathurika (DPP). At the same time, he is also prime minister.

Economy and trade

Import:	Food, petroleum products, semi-finished products, consumer items and transport equipment
Export:	Tobacco, tea, coffee, sugarcane
Issues:	Enormous poverty, more than 50% of the population live with less than one dollar per day. Corruption is widespread.