

MALAWI



Country Snapshot



Percentage of population living below poverty line:	65.3%
Life expectancy (2002):	38 years ⁶
HIV-Seroprevalence (2003):	14.4%
Infant mortality per 1,000 births (2000):	104 ⁹
Under-five mortality rate (2000):	189 ⁹
Chronic malnutrition – stunting (2000):	49% ⁹
Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births (2000):	1,120 ⁹
Population with improved access to water sources:	65%
National literacy rate:	42%

Source: 1998 Integrated Household Survey (IHS) National AIDS Commission, 2000 Malawi Demographic And Health Surveys (MDHS), Malawi Government & UNESCO, Education For All 2000 Assessment, Malawi 2000.

Program Overview

CARE established operations in Malawi in 1998. Malawi is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, with a population of some 12 million people, half of whom are below the age of 15. CARE's programs include food security, agriculture, health, education, and social and economic empowerment, especially for women.

Health

CARE is part of the Hope for African Children Initiative (HACI), a community-based, pan-African effort established along with other leading humanitarian organizations to address the challenges faced by children orphaned and affected by AIDS.

The goal of the project is to support children and adolescents harmed by HIV and AIDS, prevent further spread of the infection, and improve the general welfare of the children and their families. CARE is working with community groups to strengthen their capacity to help adolescents adopt safer sexual practices. So far, the project has benefited more than 20,000 children. The program also strives to improve access to education for orphans and vulnerable children. There is special emphasis on income generating activities for orphaned girls. The project also provides care and support to parents and guardians living with HIV and AIDS.

CARE has provided small grants to 10 community organizations to improve their capacity to mitigate the long term effects of HIV and AIDS. Through the project, vulnerable families, including orphans and vulnerable children and those caring for the ill, gain access to food and income. In addition, CARE is

finalizing training manuals to be published and disseminated with the Southern Africa Regional Poverty Network (SARPN).

Another project facilitates access to land for vulnerable groups who also receive training in agriculture and irrigation water. The second objective is to raise agricultural productivity through crop diversification under irrigation practices.

The project also aims to improve and maximize the use of wetlands by encouraging and training volunteers and farmers to grow irrigated crops at least twice before the rain season begins.

Photography: ©Jesse Moore/CARE

CARE aims to support a more transparent, equitable, representative and accountable health care system.

It trains Malawian community organizations to better organize themselves in demanding health care from government and private donors.





The project also aims to improve hygiene practices and sanitation facilities.

The project focuses on improving key health care practices for children under 5, pregnant and lactating women and those infected with HIV. Finally, the project increases the food and livelihood security of vulnerable households by establishing village savings and loans groups at the community level.

Major Donors

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Department For International Development (DFID), The Canadian International Aid Agency (CIDA), European Union (EU), Australian Agency for Development (AusAID), Community Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic (CORE), Plan International (Norway), Private anonymous donors.

CARE International members supporting current programs

CARE Austria, CARE Australia, CARE Canada, CARE Deutschland, CARE UK and CARE USA,

Education

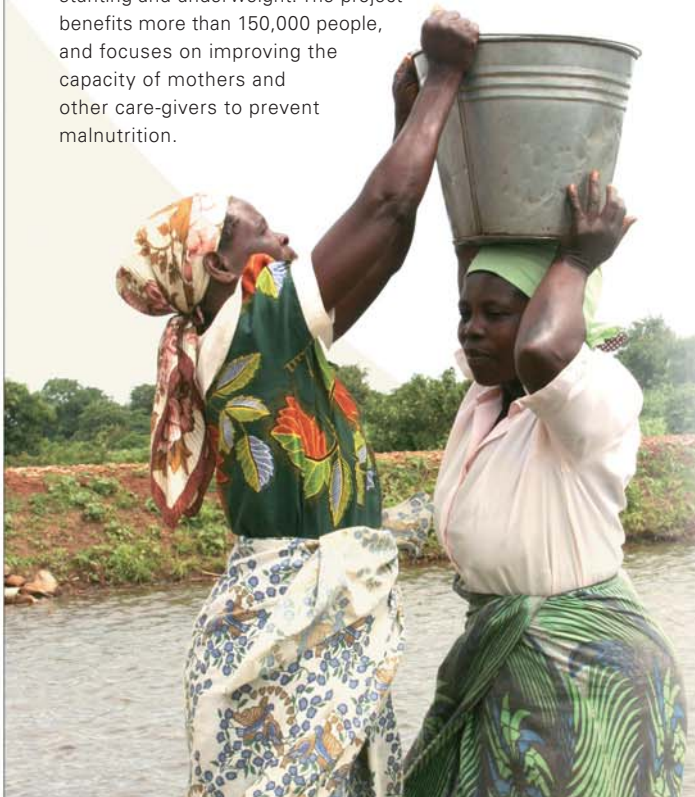
CARE has several projects that seek to ensure that girls and boys have equal access to safe education. It also strives to help prevent and encourage quick responses to gender based violence in schools. The projects focus on helping children, especially girls, to recognize, address and report incidents of violence.

Food Security

CARE is reducing food insecurity among vulnerable households and communities in rural Malawi. Projects are designed to promote and strengthen the delivery of food to those affected by HIV and AIDS. The program benefits 30,000 households with 165,000 secondary beneficiaries. It focuses on improving knowledge and understanding of the relationship between HIV and AIDS and food security. The project also strengthens the capacity of community-based organizations to address the nutritional needs of those affected by HIV and AIDS. The program is expected to benefit over 420,000 people.

By working through community- organizations, CARE targets benefits toward the most vulnerable households, including female-headed households, households hosting orphans, those caring for chronically ill persons, and child-headed and elderly-headed households.

Another project targets chronic malnutrition as evidenced by high levels of stunting and underweight. The project benefits more than 150,000 people, and focuses on improving the capacity of mothers and other care-givers to prevent malnutrition.



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