

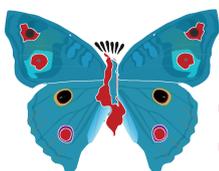


The Program on Governance
and Local Development

The Local Governance Performance Index (LGPI) in Malawi: Selected Findings from 15 Districts

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Overview

The analysis presented in this report draws from the Local Governance Performance Index (LGPI), implemented in Malawi from March 24 to April 27, 2016. The LGPI provides a new approach to the measurement, analysis, and improvement of local governance. The tool aims to help countries collect, assess, and benchmark detailed information concerning issues of local and public-sector performance and service delivery to citizens and businesses. The goals are to provide information to help pinpoint, diagnose, and foster discussion among citizens, policymakers, and the development community regarding areas of need; help formulate policy recommendations; provide a benchmark for assessing policy implementation; and allow us to examine the factors driving good governance and quality service provision.

The survey was fielded in 15 of Malawi's 28 districts, spanning all three administrative regions. Within each region, traditional authorities (TA) or, in urban areas, local council wards were randomly selected for the study. A total of 18 traditional authorities and four urban wards, from three regional strata, were selected according to the principle of probability proportional to size. This document presents key findings from each of the 15 districts sampled. In particular, findings related to livelihoods, health, land, and education are highlighted.

Balaka

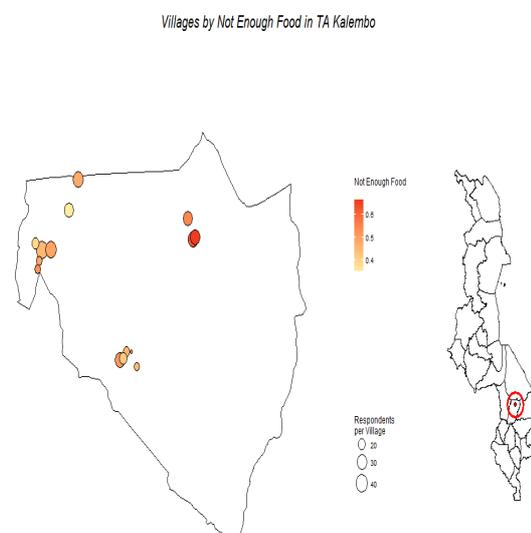
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Balaka compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Balaka compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Balaka scores a 2.3 out of 4 on this index. This is statistically indistinguishable from the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4.¹ However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Balaka when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Saiwala village is 2.7, while the average score for residents of Kapito village score is just 1.2.

We also see that 48 percent of Balaka residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (an insignificant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 67 percent of Dinala village residents reported having gone without food in the week before the survey, which is nearly double the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Kalembo village (35 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.²

Ten percent of Balaka residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, villages within the district exhibit considerable variation—nearly a quarter (24 percent) of Kalembo village residents reported having gone without water in

the week before the survey, compared with fewer than 1 percent of Msaliwa village residents.



Health

With regard to disease incidence, 83 percent of Balaka residents reported having suffered from at least one disease in the two years prior to the survey. This rate is slightly higher than the national mean of 80 percent, albeit the difference is not significant.

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. According to the average citizen in Balaka, the HQI there is 2.1 out of 4 possible points. This is significantly lower than the national average of 2.3 out of 4. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. On average, the health-governance quality was given 1.96 points out of 4, a score not significantly

¹ Whether a given district's score is significantly different from the national average reflects the degree of variation within the district.

² Note that Kalembo traditional authority was the only TA we sampled in Balaka District.

different from the national mean, which is 2 (out of 4).

When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents in Balaka do not differ from the national mean of 2.6. With regard to antenatal care, 82 percent of female residents of Balaka received medical care before their most recent birth, a share lower than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 90 percent of the women in Balaka had their most recent birth outside their district. This rate is the same as the national mean.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Balaka, 20 percent of households hold a document that proves that they own their land. This is not significantly different from the overall mean in the country.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built structures on their land. Eight percent renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Households in the Balaka District generally make improvements to a higher extent than those in the rest of the country. Eighty-five percent of the households in Balaka report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, 71 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds), and 49 percent planted trees. All of these scores are significant higher than the national mean, as is the 10 percent of households in Balaka that built or improved an irrigation system. When it comes to building any structure on the land, 9 percent of the

households in Balaka did so, while 5 percent made an improvement of or renovation on their house. For both of these numbers, there is no significant difference from the national average. Compared to the national mean, the number of households that have done none of the mentioned improvements, 6 percent, was significantly lower in Balaka.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the level of educational attainment for all citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Balaka is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Balaka (EQI of -0.14) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, there is no significant difference between Balaka and the national average. Finally, 42 percent of students in Balaka had experienced school-related problems in the previous year. This is exactly the same as the national average.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Average

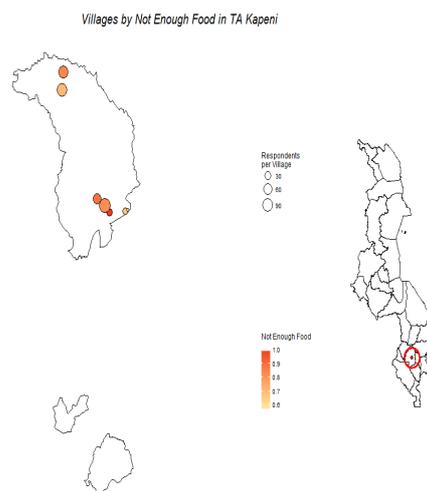
Blantyre

Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Blantyre compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Blantyre compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Blantyre scores a 2.6 out of 4 on this index. This is statistically indistinguishable from the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Blantyre when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Chilambe village is 3.9, while residents of Ching'amba village score just 1.5 on average.

In addition, we see that 57 percent of Blantyre residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (an insignificant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 100 percent of Ching'amba village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey—more than double the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Masala village (41 percent). The accompanying figure depicts the range of variation within Kapeni traditional authority, one of two TAs we sampled in Blantyre.

Twenty-six percent of Blantyre residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national average of 17 percent. As above, there is considerable variation within the district—nearly half (48 percent) of Chilambe village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with just 5.2 percent of Msaliwa village residents.



Health

In Blantyre, 81 percent of the population reported having suffered from at least one disease in the previous two years. This share is only slightly higher than, though not significantly different from, the national mean of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall level of health on a 4-point scale, residents of Blantyre score somewhat lower than the national mean of (2.3 compared with 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. According to the average citizen in Blantyre, the HQI there is 2.3 out of 4 possible points—which is the exact national mean. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The HGI scored 2 points out of 4 in the Blantyre District, which is the same as the national mean.

With regard to antenatal care, 89 percent of the women from Blantyre received medical care before their last birth—a rate indistinguishable from the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 85 percent of the female population in Blantyre had had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate slightly lower, though not statistically different from the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Blantyre, 13 percent of households hold a document that proves that they own their land, which is not significantly different from the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Eighty-five percent of the households in Blantyre report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, and 70 percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds). These differences are significant higher than the national mean. There is no significant difference when it comes to planting trees, something that 28 percent of the households in Blantyre have done in the past two years. Two percent in Blantyre has built or improved an irrigation system on their land, and 3 percent improved or renovated their house. This is not significantly different from the national average. Only 4 percent of households

in Blantyre have built structures on their land in the last two years, which is significant lower than the national average. Compared to the national mean, the number of households that have done none of the mentioned improvements is also significantly lower in Blantyre, 5 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that there is no significant difference between Blantyre and the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Blantyre (-0.5) scores significantly below the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, in this category there is no significant difference between Blantyre and the national average. Finally, 42 percent of students in Blantyre have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is exactly the same as the national average.

Educational attainment: Average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Average

Chikwawa

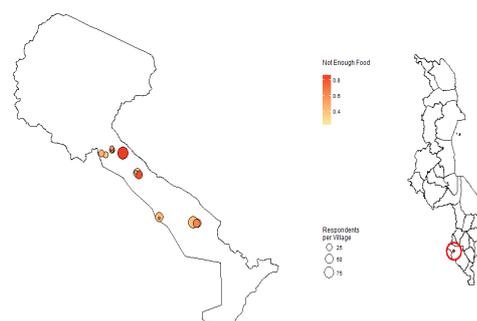
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Chikwawa compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Chikwawa compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Chikwawa scores a 2.7 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly higher than the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Chikwawa when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Chigwata 1 village is 3.3, while the average score for residents of Santo village is just 1.7.

In addition, we see that 51 percent of Chikwawa residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (an insignificant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 88 percent of Chakumanika village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey. This is four times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Gwada village (22 percent). The accompanying figure depicts the range of variation within Chapananga traditional authority, one of two TAs we sampled in Chikwawa.

Twelve percent of Chikwawa residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, there is considerable variation among the villages within the district—nearly half (47 percent) of Mdyamizu village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with just 2.3 percent of Simonzi village residents.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Chapananga



Health

In Chikwawa, 84 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate slightly higher than, yet not significantly different from, the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Chikwawa score slightly lower than the national mean (2.4 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Chikwawa scores 2.3 out of 4 possible points. This rate is equal to the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 1.9 points out of 4 in the Chikwawa District, which is significantly lower than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 95 percent of the women in Chikwawa had received medical care

before their last birth, which is significantly higher than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 98 percent of the female population in Chikwawa had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Chikwawa, 18 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land, which is not significantly different from the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

The most common improvements in Malawi overall, using fertilizers and planting hybrid maize (using improved seeds), are significantly lower in Chikwawa when compared to the national mean; 16 percent of Chikwawa households fertilized their land, and 43 percent planted hybrid maize. However, 47 percent of the households in Chikwawa planted trees in the previous two years and 9 percent built or improved an irrigation system. Fifteen percent of the households in Chikwawa improved or renovated their house, and 26 percent built a structure on their land. All of these are significant higher numbers than the national average. There is no significant difference compared to the national mean, though, for those 18 percent of the households who did none of the mentioned improvements.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

First, the LGPI looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Chikwawa is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no difference between Chikwawa (-0.03) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, there is no significant difference between Chikwawa and the national average. Finally, just under 31 percent of students in Chikwawa have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is significantly lower than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Lower than average

Chitipa

Livelihoods

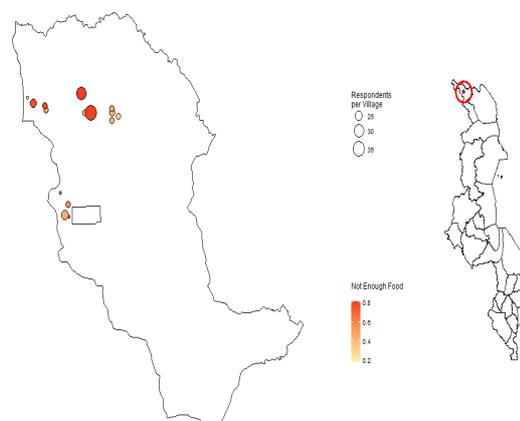
The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Chitipa compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Chitipa compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Chitipa scores a 2.6 out of 4 on this index, which is statistically indistinguishable from the average score for Malawians as a whole (2.4 out of 4). However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Chitipa when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Simwambi village is 3.1, while the average score for residents of Kasisi 1 village is just 1.7.

In addition, we see that 53 percent of Chitipa residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (again an insignificant difference). Still, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 82 percent of Mwakawanga village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is over four times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Kasisi 1 village (20 percent). We see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.³

Seven and a half percent of Chitipa residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is significantly lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, villages within the district exhibit considerable variation—nearly a quarter (24 percent) of Moses Nyondo village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with just 2.4 percent of Msaliwa village residents.

³ Note that Mwalumbya traditional authority was the only TA we sampled in Chitipa District.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Mwalumbya



Health

In Chitipa, 74 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years. This rate is lower, though not significantly, than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Chitipa score significantly higher than the national mean (3.8 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Chitipa scores 2.1 out of 4 possible points. This is somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.2 points out of

4 in the Chitipa District, which is significantly higher than the national mean of 2 points out of 4.

With regard to antenatal care, 100 percent of the women in Chitipa received medical care before their last birth. This is significantly higher than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 42 percent of the female population in Chitipa had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly lower than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Dedza, only 6 percent of households hold a document proving that they own their land, which is significantly lower than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Households in the district of Chipita generally make improvements to a higher extent than households overall. Ninety-one percent of the households in Chitipa report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, 77 percent have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 45 percent have planted trees. All of these numbers are significantly higher than the national mean. Ten percent of the households in Chitipa have built or improved an irrigation system, which is not significantly different from the national average. Twenty-six percent of the households in Chitipa have built any structure

on their land, and 15 percent improved or renovated their house; both of these numbers are significantly higher than the average. Compared to the national mean, the number of households that have done none of the mentioned improvements, 6 percent, is significantly lower in Chipita.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Chitipa is above the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Chitipa at 0.33 scores above the national average, which is -0.03. The LGPI also looks at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. In this category there is no significant difference between Chitipa and the national average. Finally, 34 percent of students in Chitipa have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is lower than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Above average

Education Quality Index: Above average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Lower than average

Dedza

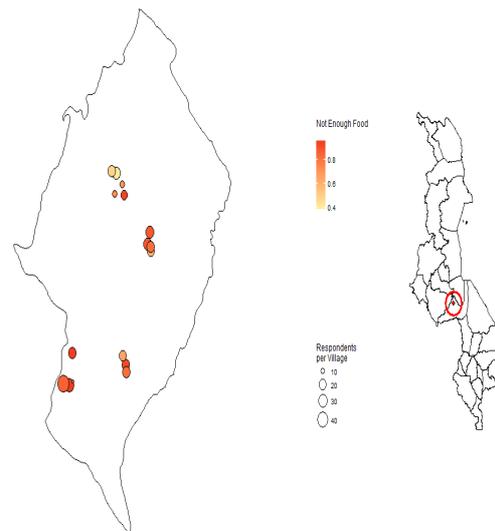
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Dedza compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Dedza compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Dedza scores a 1.8 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly lower than the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Dedza when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Kabinda village is 3.1, while the average score for residents of Kumchiza village was just 1.1.

In addition, we see that 74 percent of Dedza residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 100 percent of Mawere village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey. This is three times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Kuchipala village (33 percent). The accompanying figure depicts the range of variation across villages in Tambala traditional authority, one of two TAs we sampled in Dedza District.

Fifteen percent of Dedza residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is slightly, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, villages within the district exhibit considerable variation—50 percent of Mkwenembera village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with fewer than 1 percent of Chinthankhwa 2 village residents.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Tambala



Health

In Dedza, 87 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Dedza score higher than the national mean (2.9 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Dedza scores 2.2 out of 4 possible points. This rate is somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.2 points out of 4 in the Dedza district, which is significantly higher than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 85 percent of the women in Dedza received medical care before their last birth. This is somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 96 percent of the female population in Dedza had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Dedza, only 6 percent of households hold a document that proves that they own their land. This is significantly lower than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Generally, households in the district of Dedza do not differ much from the national average when it comes to making improvements on their land, except that they plant hybrid maize and trees to a lower extent. Sixty-four percent of the households in Dedza report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, which is not significantly different from the national average. Forty-six percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 17 percent have planted trees; both of these numbers are significantly lower than in Malawi overall. In Dedza, 2 percent of the households have built or improved an irrigation system, 10 percent have built any structure on

the land, and 7 percent have improved or renovated their house. These numbers do not differ significantly from the national average. The number of households who did none of the mentioned improvements stands at 19 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Dedza is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Dedza (0.00) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, there is no significant difference between Dedza and the national average. Finally, just over 48 percent of students in Dedza have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Average

Kasungu

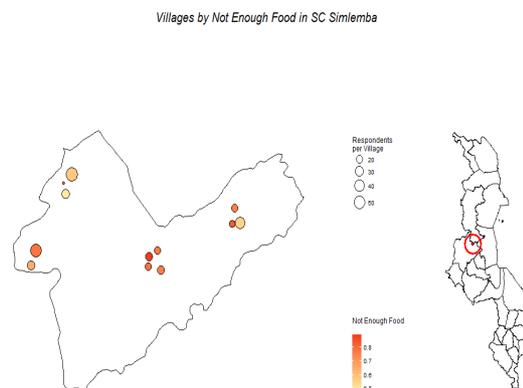
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Kasungu compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Kasungu compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Kasungu scores a 2.0 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly lower than the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Kasungu when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Thomas Kamanga village is 2.5, while the average score for residents of Chikunthu village is just 1.6.

In addition, we see that 74 percent of Kasungu residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 89 percent of Chakondwa village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey. This is nearly double the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Kalembo village (48 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.⁴

Twenty-two percent of Kasungu residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week. This is somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national average of 17 percent. As above, there is considerable variation among villages within the district—two-thirds (67 percent) of Chakondwa village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week

before the survey, compared with just 2.2 percent of Mayira village residents.



Health

In Kasungu, 76 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Kasungu score higher than the national mean (2.9 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Kasungu scores 2.7 out of 4 possible points. This rate is significantly higher than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.2 points out of 4 in the Kasungu District, which is significantly higher than the national mean of 2 points.

⁴ Note that Simiimba TA was the only TA we sampled in Kasungu District.

With regard to antenatal care, 96 percent of the women in Kasungu received medical care before their last birth. This is significantly higher than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 95 percent of the female population in Kasungu had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Kasungu, 21 percent of households hold a document that proves that they own their land, which is significantly higher than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Sixty-four percent of the households in Kasungu report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, 52 percent have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 24 percent have planted trees. All of these numbers are not significantly different from the national mean. Nor is the 3 percent of the households in Kasungu who have built or improved an irrigation system. However, in Kasungu households built any structure on their land at a significantly rate extent than in Malawi overall, 26 percent. Only 3 percent in Kasungu have improved or renovated their house, which is lower than the national average. Compared to the national mean, the number of households that have done none of the mentioned

improvements was significantly higher in Kasungu, 21 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LPGI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Kasungu is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Kasungu (0.2) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, there is no significant difference between Kasungu and the national average. Finally, just under 45 percent of students in Kasungu have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher, although not significantly, than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Average

Lilongwe

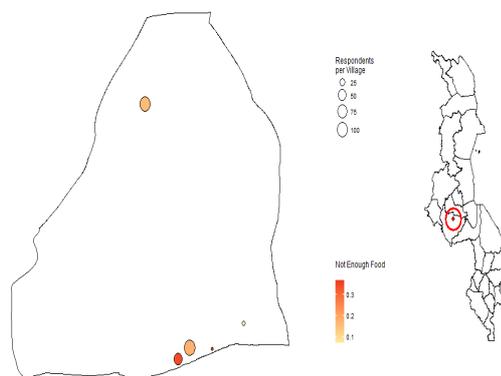
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Lilongwe compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Lilongwe compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Lilongwe scores a 3.2 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly higher than the average score for Malawi as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Lilongwe when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of urban Kanengo is 3.8, while the average score for residents of Mtengowagwa village is just 1.7.

Residents of Lilongwe are also doing better than the national average when it comes to self-reported deprivation. We see that 23 percent of Lilongwe residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 91 percent of Mtengowagwa village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is more than nine times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in the urban neighborhood surrounding Lilongwe Teachers Training College (6.4 percent). The map depicts the range of variation in Area 25 ward, one of two wards sampled in Lilongwe.

Fourteen percent of Lilongwe residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is slightly, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, villages within the district exhibit considerable variation—37 percent of Dzenza residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with just 2.9 percent of Kaondo village residents.

Villages by Not Enough Food in Area 25



Health

In the capital, Lilongwe, 78 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Lilongwe score lower than the national mean (2.0 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Lilongwe scores 2 out of 4 possible points. This rate is significantly lower than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2 points out of 4 in Lilongwe, which is equal to the national average.

With regard to antenatal care, 95 percent of the women in Lilongwe received medical care

before their last birth—a rate significantly higher than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 79 percent of the female population in Lilongwe had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly lower than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Lilongwe, 32 percent of households hold a document that proves that they own their land, which is not significantly different from the national mean.⁵

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Eighty percent of the households in Lilongwe report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, and 73 percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds); both of these are higher than the national average. However, when it comes to planting trees, which 37 percent of the Lilongwe households have done, Lilongwe does not differ significantly from the national mean. The following numbers are also not significantly different from national averages: 1 percent of the households in Lilongwe built or improved an irrigation system, 10 percent built any structure on their land, and 6 percent have improved or renovated their house. Compared to the national mean, the number of households

that have done none of the mentioned improvements was significantly lower in Lilongwe, 7 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education). Lilongwe is above the national average for educational attainment. In fact, it is the best-performing district on the LGPI. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Lilongwe (0.16) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also looks at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, there is no significant difference between Lilongwe and the national average. Finally, just under 45 percent of students in Lilongwe have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher, although not significantly, than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Above average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Average

⁵ That the difference is not significant reflects wide variation in land titling in Lilongwe.

Mangochi

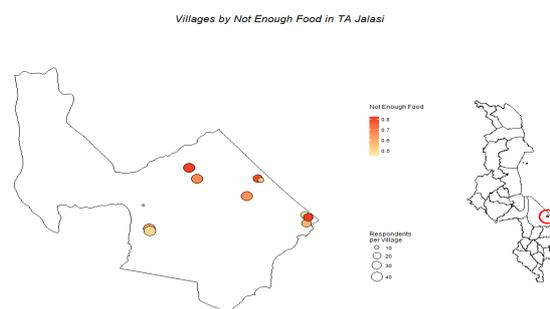
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Mangochi compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Mangochi compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Mangochi scores a 2.1 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly lower than the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Mangochi when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Balakasi village is 2.6, while the average score for residents of Kaliyapa village is just 1.6.

In addition, we see that 66 percent of Mangochi residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 83 percent of Mosiya village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey. This is nearly double the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Mkuti village (45 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.⁶

Eighteen percent of Mangochi residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is slightly, though not significantly, higher than the national average (17 percent). As above, there is considerable variation among villages within the district. Nearly a quarter (23 percent) of Kaliyapa village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week

before the survey, compared with 9.5 percent of Chande village residents.



Health

In Mangochi, 79 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Mangochi score lower than the national mean (2.1 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Mangochi scores 2.8 out of 4 possible points. This rate is significantly higher than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.3 points out of 4 in Mangochi, which is significantly higher than the national mean of 2 points.

⁶ Note that Jalasi traditional authority was the only TA we sampled in Mangochi District.

With regard to antenatal care, 91 percent of the women in Mangochi received medical care before their last birth—a rate somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 99 percent of the female population in Mangochi had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Mangochi, only 1 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land. This is significantly lower than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Seventy-seven percent of the households in Mangochi report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, which is higher than the national average. Forty-eight percent have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), which is significantly lower than Malawi overall. Twenty-six percent have planted trees, a score that does not differ significantly from the national mean. One percent of the households in Mangochi have built or improved an irrigation system in the past two years, and 3 percent have built any structure on the land; these numbers are both significantly lower than the national average. However, the number of households in Mangochi that have improved or renovated their house, 12 percent, was

significantly higher than in Malawi overall. The number of households in Mangochi that did none these improvements, 9 percent, does not differ much from the national average.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education). Mangochi is below the national average for educational attainment. In fact, it is the country's worst-performing district. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Mangochi (-0.15) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also looks at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Mangochi scores higher than the national average and is again the country's worst-performing district. Finally, just over 44 percent of students in Mangochi have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher, although not significantly, than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Above average

Student-related problems: Average

Mulanje

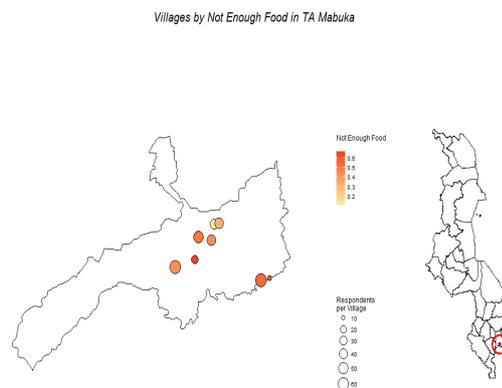
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Mulanje compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Mulanje compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Mulanje scores 2.6 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly higher than Malawians as a whole (2.4 out of 4). However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Mulanje when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Magabwa village is 3.1, while the average score for residents of Nande village is just 2.2.

In addition, we see that 53 percent of Mulanje residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (an insignificant difference). Still, there is variation within the district. For example, 66 percent of Murofinyo village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is nearly six times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Michenga village (12 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.⁷

Residents of this district have worse access to drinking water than the average Malawian. We see that 33 percent of Mulanje residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, a rate that is almost double the national average of 17 percent. As above, there is considerable variation among villages within the district. Over half (53 percent) of Murofinyo village residents reported going without water in the week before

the survey, compared with 19 percent of Michenga village residents.



Health

In Mulanje, 86 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Mulanje do not score any differently from the national mean of 2.6.

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. The quality of the health system in Mulanje scores 2.3 out of 4 possible points. This is equal to the national average. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 1.9 points out of 4 in Mulanje, which is significantly lower than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 79 percent of the women in Mulanje received medical care before their last birth—a rate significantly lower than

⁷ Note that Mabuka traditional authority was the only TA we sampled in Mulanje District.

the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 93 percent of the female population in Mulanje had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Mulanje, 24 percent of the households hold a document that proves they own their land. This is significantly higher than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Forty-six percent of the households in Mulanje report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, and 49 percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds). These scores are significant lower than the national mean. The difference from the national average was, however, significantly higher when it comes to planting trees, something that 36 percent of the households in Mulanje have done in the past two years. Eight percent of the households in Mulanje has built or improved an irrigation system on their land, a number significantly higher than the national mean. Eleven percent of households in Mulanje have improved or renovated their house, and 11 percent have built any structure on the land. Both of these numbers are not significantly different from Malawi overall. Compared to the national mean, the number of households that have done none of the mentioned

improvements was significantly higher in Mulanje, 26 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Mulanje is below the national average for educational attainment. In fact, it is one of the country's worst-performing districts. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Mulanje (-0.33) scores less than the national average (-0.03). In fact, it the worst-performing district in the country. The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts. There is no significant difference between Mulanje and the national average. Finally, just under 50 percent of students in Mulanje have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Below average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Above average

Mzimba

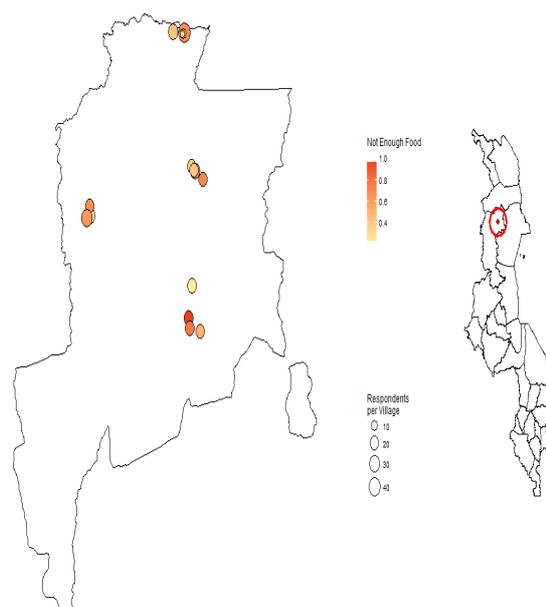
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Mzimba compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Mzimba compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Mzimba scores a 2.7 out of 4 on this index. This is statistically indistinguishable from the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages within Mzimba when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Mapale Masasa village is 3.6, while the average score for residents of Gayo village is just 1.2.

In addition, we see that 37 percent of Mzimba residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall. While this difference is large, it is statistically insignificant given how much self-reported deprivation varies within Mzimba. For example, 100 percent of Jamu Mbeye village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, while just 2.5 percent of Mapale Masasa residents reported the same degree of deprivation. The accompanying figure depicts the range of variation in Mtwalo traditional authority, one of four TAs we sampled in Mzimba District.

Eighteen percent of Mzimba residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week. This is slightly, though not significantly, higher than the national average (17 percent). There is considerable variation among villages within the district. Eighty-three percent of Jamu Mbeye village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with just 1.5 percent of Chapola village residents.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Mtwalo



Health

In Mzimba, 67 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years. This rate appears to be lower than the national average of 80 percent, though the difference is not statistically significant. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Mzimba scored similarly to the national mean of 2.6.

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Mzimba scores 2.5 out of 4 possible points. This rate is somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment.

The quality of health governance was rated at 1.9 points out of 4 in Mzimba, which is significantly lower than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 90 percent of the women in Mzimba received medical care before their last birth—a rate that does not differ significantly from the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 78 percent of the female population in Mzimba had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, lower than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Mzimba, 13 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land, which is not significantly different from the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Improvements on land in Mzimba do not differ significantly from the national mean. Sixty-one percent of Mzimba households report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, 62 percent have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 24 percent have planted trees. Four percent of the households in Mzimba have built or improved an irrigation system, 17 percent have built any structure on their land, and 11 percent have improved or renovated their house. The number of

households in Mzimba that did none of these improvements, 14 percent, does not differ from the national average either.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Mzimba is above the national average for educational attainment. It is one of the best-performing districts on the LGPI. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Mzimba (-0.23) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also looks at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. In this category, Mzimba scores below the national average. Finally, 29 percent of students in Mzimba have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is significantly lower than the national average of 42 percent and makes Mzimba one of the country's best-performing districts in this area.

Educational attainment: Above average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Lower than average

Student-related problems: Lower than average

Nkhata Bay

Livelihoods

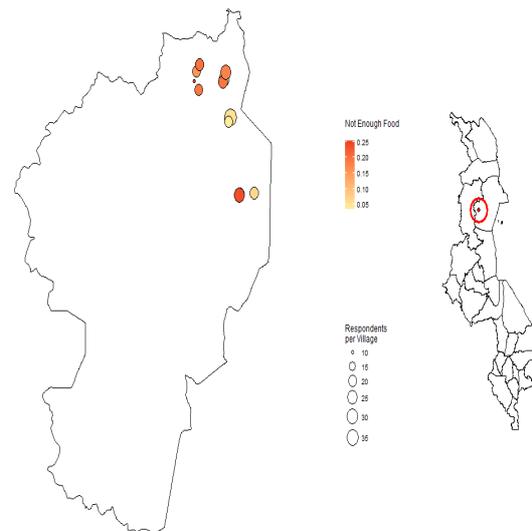
The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Nkhata Bay compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Nkhata Bay compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Nkhata Bay scores a 2.4 out of 4 on this index. This aligns with the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is also 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Nkhata Bay when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Mphade village is 4.0, while the average score for residents of Chinyakula 2 village is just 1.8.

Residents of this district are doing better than the national average when it compares to self-reported deprivation, however. We see that 12 percent of Nkhata Bay residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 24 percent of Mweza village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is more than six times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Vimaso village (3.7 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.⁸

Just 0.3 percent of Nkhata Bay residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is significantly lower than the national average of 17 percent.

⁸ Note that Kabunduli traditional authority was the only TA we sampled in Nkhata Bay District.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Kabunduli



Health

In Nkhata Bay, 69 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate significantly lower than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Nkhata Bay score higher than the national mean (2.9 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Nkhata Bay scores 2.6 out of 4 possible points. This rate is significantly higher than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.1 points out of 4 in Nkhata Bay, which is somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 89 percent of the women in Nkhata Bay received medical care before their last birth—a rate that does not differ significantly from the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 62 percent of the female population in Nkhata Bay had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly lower than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Nkhata Bay, only 4 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land, which is significantly lower than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Fifty-six percent of the households in Nkhata Bay report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, and 14 percent have planted trees. Both of these numbers are significant lower than the national mean. However, 87 percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), which is significantly higher than Malawi overall. One percent of the households in Nkhata Bay have built or improved an irrigation system, and 2 percent improved or renovated their house—this is significant lower than the national average. Nkhata Bay scores above the national average when it comes to building any structure on the land, something that 8 percent of households have done. The number of

households in Nkhata Bay that did none of these improvements, 7 percent, does not differ much from the national average.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that there is no significant difference between Nkhata Bay and the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Nkhata Bay (0.74) scores higher than the national average (-0.03). In fact it is the highest-scoring district on the LGPI for quality of schools. The LGPI also looks at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. Again, in this category, Nkhata Bay is the country's best-performing district, with a score lower than the national average. Finally, just under 26 percent of students in Nkhata Bay have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is significantly lower than the national average of 42 percent. Again, in this particular category, the district is the best-performing on the LGPI.

Educational attainment: Average

Education Quality Index: Above average

Student dropout: Lower than average

Student-related problems: Lower than average

Nsanje

Livelihoods

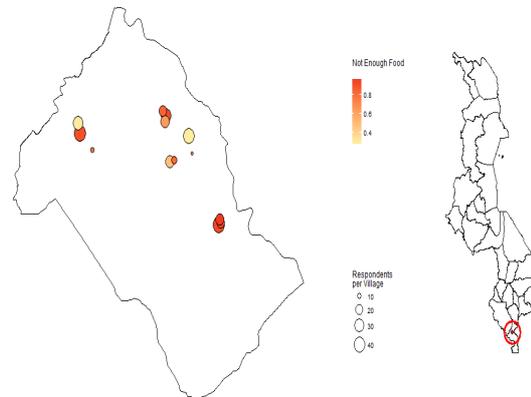
The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Nsanje compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Nsanje compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Nsanje scores a 2.3 out of 4 on this index. This is statistically indistinguishable from the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Nsanje when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Chintedza village is 3.4, while the average score for residents of Samuel village is just 1.4 on average.

On the other hand, we see that 74 percent of Nsanje residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 97 percent of Samuel village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is more than five times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Juma village (17 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.⁹

Just 5 percent of Nsanje residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week. This rate is significantly lower than the national average (17 percent). As above, there was considerable variation among villages within the district—over a quarter (26 percent) of Mithanje village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with just 3.5 percent of Falawo village residents.

⁹ Note that Mbenje SC was the only SC we sampled in Nsanje District.

Villages by Not Enough Food in SC Mbenje



Health

In Nsanje, 92 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Nsanje score lower than the national mean (2.2 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Nsanje scores 2.2 out of 4 possible points. This rate is somewhat, though not significantly lower than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.1 points out of 4 in Nsanje, which is not significantly higher than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 84 percent of the women in Nsanje received medical care before their last birth. This is not significantly different from the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 93 percent of the female population in Nsanje had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Nsanje, only 2 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land, which is significantly lower than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

The use of fertilizers is significantly lower in Nsanje than on average in Malawi; 40 percent of the households in Nsanje report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years. However, 76 percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), which is significantly higher than the national mean. The number of households in Nsanje that have planted trees, 24 percent, does not differ from the national mean. Neither does the 4 percent of the households that have built or improved an irrigation system or the 8 percent that have built any structure on their land. Two percent of the households in Nsanje improved or renovated their house, which is higher than the national average. The number of households in Nsanje

that did none of these improvements, 13 percent, does not differ from the national average.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Nsanje is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Nsanje (0.25) has a higher score than the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also looks at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. In this category there is no significant difference between Nsanje and the national average. Finally, just over 60 percent of students in Nsanje have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is significantly higher than the national average of 42 percent. In fact, it is the worst-performing district in this regard.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Above average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Above average

Ntcheu

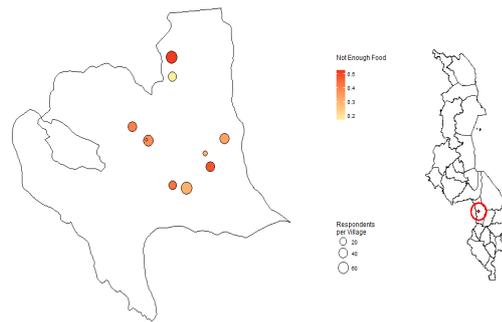
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Ntcheu compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Ntcheu compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Ntcheu scores a 2.1 out of 4 on this index. This is significantly lower than the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Ntcheu when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Ndadzala village is 2.5, while the average score for residents of Chikala village is just 1.8.

On the other hand, we see that 37 percent of Ntcheu residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (a significant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 52 percent of Chikala village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is nearly three times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Kalazi village (18 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.¹⁰

Seventeen percent of Ntcheu residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is in keeping with the national average of 17 percent. As above, there is considerable variation among the villages within the district—100 percent of Chikala village residents reported having gone without water sometime during the week before the survey, compared with just 7.9 percent of Nenekeza village residents.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Kwataine



Health

In Ntcheu, 88 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Ntcheu score lower than the national mean (2.2 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Ntcheu scores 2.2 out of 4 possible points. This rate is somewhat, though not significantly lower than the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 1.9 points out of 4 in Ntcheu, which is significantly lower than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 86 percent of the women in Ntcheu received medical care before their last birth, a rate not significantly different from the national average (88 percent).

¹⁰ Note that Kwataine traditional authority was the only TA we sampled in Ntcheu District.

Moreover, 93 percent of the female population in Ntcheu had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Ntcheu, 11 percent of households hold a document proving that they own their land, which is not significantly different from the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Ninety-one percent of the households in Ntcheu report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, a rate that is significantly higher than the national mean. Sixty-four percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 29 percent have planted trees, which does not differ from the national average. Fifteen percent of the households in Ntcheu have built or improved an irrigation system, which is significantly higher than the national mean. However, 3 percent of the households reported that they built any structure on the land, which is significantly lower than in Malawi overall. The number of households that have improved or renovated their house in the past two years, 4 percent in Ntcheu, does not differ significantly from the rest of Malawi. Compared to the national mean, the number of households that have done none of the

mentioned improvements was significantly lower in Ntcheu, 5 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Ntcheu is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, there is no significant difference between Ntcheu (-0.09) and the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts. In this category Ntcheu scores higher than the national average. Finally, just under 50 percent of students in Ntcheu have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Average

Student dropout: Above average

Student-related problems: Higher than average

Rumphi

Livelihoods

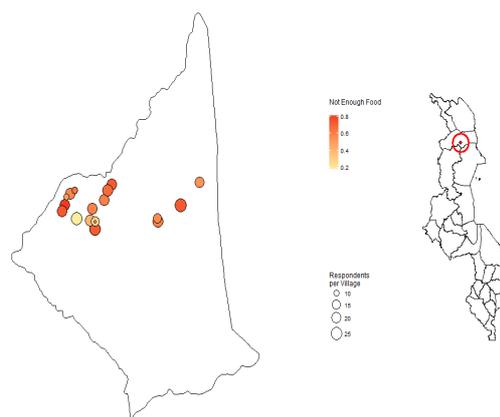
The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Rumphi compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Rumphi compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Rumphi scores a 2.0 out of 4 on this index. This aligns with the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is also 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Rumphi when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Chilipapa village is 3.5, while the average score for residents of Kasimba Mwachuka village is just 1.9.

In addition, we see that 57 percent of Rumphi residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (an insignificant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 82 percent of Kasimba Mwachuka village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is nearly five times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Chiphwantha village (17 percent). We can see the full range of variation in deprivation among sampled villages in the accompanying figure.¹¹

Twelve percent of Rumphi residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is slightly, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, villages within the district exhibit considerable variation—one-third (33 percent) of Kayunga village residents reported having gone without water sometime during the week before the survey, compared with just 1.9 percent of Nkhalikali B village residents.

¹¹ Note that Mwanhunikira SC was the only SC we sampled in Rumphi District.

Villages by Not Enough Food in SC Mwanhunikira



Health

In Rumphi, 82 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate slightly, though not significantly, higher than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Rumphi score significantly higher than the national mean (3.4 as compared to 2.6).

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Rumphi scores 2.3 out of 4 possible points. This rate is equal to the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2 points out of 4 in Rumphi, which, again, is equal to the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 83 percent of the women in Rumphi received medical care before

their last birth—a rate somewhat lower than, though not significantly different from, the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 53 percent of the female population in Rumphi had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly lower than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Rumphi, 14 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land, which is the same as the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Seventy-eight percent of the households in Rumphi report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years. This does not differ from the overall mean. Seventy-seven percent of the households have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 43 percent of the households have planted trees; both of these numbers are significant higher than the national average. Two percent of the households in Rumphi have built or improved an irrigation system; this number is lower than the national mean. There is no significant difference compared to Malawi overall when it comes to building any structure on the land, which 15 percent of the households in Rumphi had done. Furthermore, 13 percent improved or renovated their house, which is just about the same as the national average. Compared to the national

mean, the number of households that have done none of the mentioned improvements was significantly lower in Rumphi, at 7 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Rumphi is above the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Rumphi (0.45) is again above the national average (-0.03). The LGPI also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. In this category there is no significant difference between Rumphi and the national average. Finally, just under 33 percent of students in Rumphi have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is lower than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Above average

Education Quality Index: Above average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Lower than average

Zomba

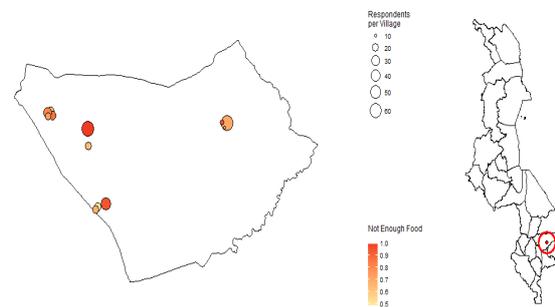
Livelihoods

The LGPI reveals how living conditions for the average resident of Zomba compare with those for residents of the rest of Malawi. First, we examine how Zomba compares in terms of an asset index that takes into account household ownership of such items as motor vehicles, mobile phones, radios, and bicycles. The average resident of Zomba scores a 2.4 out of 4 on this index. This aligns with the average score for Malawians as a whole, which is also 2.4 out of 4. However, there is considerable variation among the villages we surveyed within Zomba when it comes to asset ownership. For instance, the average score for residents of Chimtedza village is 3.4, while the average score for residents of Somba village is just 1.4.

In addition, we see that 57 percent of Zomba residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, compared with 52 percent of Malawians overall (an insignificant difference). Again, though, we observe variation within the district. For example, 100 percent of Chapalaki village residents reported having gone without food at some point during the week before the survey, which is more than three times the proportion reporting the same degree of deprivation in Chimtedza village (30 percent). The map depicts the range of variation in Mwambo traditional authority, one of two TAs we sampled in Zomba district.

Twelve percent of Zomba residents reported having gone without water at some point during the previous week—a rate that is slightly, though not significantly, lower than the national average of 17 percent. As above, villages within the district exhibit considerable variation—over half (54 percent) of Somba village residents reported having gone without water at some point during the week before the survey, compared with less than 1 percent of Bokosi village residents.

Villages by Not Enough Food in TA Mwambo



Health

In Zomba, 85 percent of the population reported having had at least one disease during the previous two years, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 80 percent. When asked to rate their overall health on a 4-point scale, residents of Zomba do not score any differently than the national mean of 2.6.

The LGPI also allows for the realization of two indexes, one measuring the quality of the health system and the other the quality of health governance. The Health Quality Index (HQI) captures whether the restrooms were clean, a doctor was present, patients were treated with respect, treatment expenses and waiting time were reasonable, and the necessary medicines were available. On average, the quality of the health system in Zomba scores 2.3 out of 4. This is the same as the national average of 2.3 points. The Health Governance Index (HGI) records whether fees were explained ahead of time, a bribe was paid, personal contacts were used to get better treatment, or the respondent was referred to a private clinic for further tests and treatment. The quality of health governance was rated at 2.2 points out of 4 in Zomba, which is somewhat, though not significantly, higher than the national mean of 2 points.

With regard to antenatal care, 89 percent of the women in Zomba received medical care before their last birth—a rate slightly higher than, though not significantly different from, the national average of 88 percent. Moreover, 97 percent of the female population in Zomba had their most recent birth outside the district, a rate significantly higher than the national mean of 90 percent.

Land

Official government land titles are quite rare in Malawi: 14 percent of Malawians have one. The LGPI allows us to compare land titling between the districts. In Zomba, 7 percent of households hold a document that proves they own their land, which is significantly lower than the national mean.

The LGPI also tells us something about improvements made on land in every district. Overall in Malawi 69 percent of households have, in the past two years, used fertilizers on their land, and 61 percent have planted hybrid maize (used improved seeds). Twenty-nine percent of households have planted trees in the past two years, and 12 percent have built some structures on their land. Eight percent have renovated or improved their house, while only 4 percent have built or improved an irrigation system. Twelve percent of the households in Malawi did none of these improvements.

Generally, households in the district of Zomba do not differ much from the national average when it comes to making improvements on their land. Seventy-five percent of the households in Balaka report that they have used fertilizers in the past two years, 67 percent have planted hybrid maize (or used improved seeds), and 35 percent have planted trees. In the past two years, 7 percent of the households in Zomba have built or improved an irrigation system, while 11 percent improved or renovated their house. All of these show no significant difference from the national average. In only one regard does Zomba score higher than the national average: 19 percent have built any structure on their land. Compared to the

national mean, the number of households that did none of the mentioned improvements was not significantly different in Zomba, 8 percent.

Education

Educational standards vary across Malawi. The LGPI allows for the assessment of such issues as education levels, the quality of schools, dropout rates, and the number of problems experienced by students; it also allows for comparisons between districts.

The LGPI first looks at the educational levels of citizens (no formal education, some primary education, primary education, intermediate to undergraduate education) and reveals that Zomba is below the national average for educational attainment. The Education Quality Index (EQI) looks at four items: whether classrooms are crowded, whether ethnic favoritism is prevalent, the level of teacher absenteeism, and whether the school runs multiple shifts. According to the EQI, Zomba scores higher (0.27) than the national average (-0.03). We also look at the number of student dropouts across districts in the country. In this category there is no significant difference between Zomba and the national average. Finally, just over 50 percent of students in Zomba have experienced school-related problems in the last year. This is higher than the national average of 42 percent.

Educational attainment: Below average

Education Quality Index: Above average

Student dropout: Average

Student-related problems: Above average