

Facts & Statistics

Malawi - Relevant Facts

Pregnancy, Transactional Sex and HIV

- Many girls drop out of school as a result of pregnancy.²⁰
- 35% of all pregnancies involve teenagers.²¹
- Approximately 66% of girls (ages 10-18) reported ever involvement of sexual relations for exchange of money/gifts (Transactional Sex).²²
- The HIV prevalence is the 9th highest in the world and 45% of all new HIV infections are among young people (15-to-24 age group).²³
- Girls are three times more likely to be HIV-positive than boys.²⁴
- Transactional sex is a commonly accepted practice in Malawi and Sub-Saharan Africa. Poverty pushes girls into having sex as a means to support their basic needs (e.g. food, clothing, paying for school fees, books, uniforms and school supplies etc).^{25 26}
- When sex is directly exchanged for money or other resources, women lose the ability to negotiate safe sex.²⁷
- Transactional sexual relationships are associated with unsafe sexual behavior, low condom use, pregnancy and increased risk for HIV.^{28 29}

References 2015

20. <http://www.hrw.org>

21. http://www.thestar.com/news/world/2014/03/03/malawis_child_brides_married_at_15.html

22. <http://www.icrw.org>

23. <http://www.girlup.org/learn/malawi.html> xxiii

24. <http://www.girlup.org/learn/malawi.html> xxiv

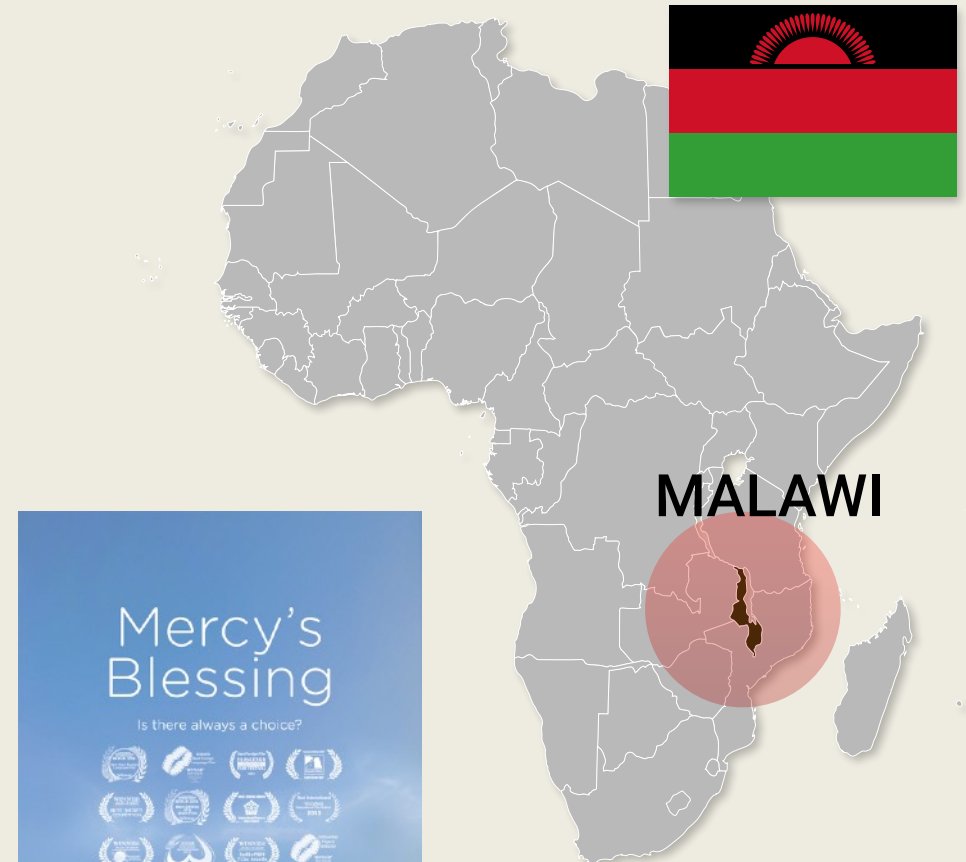
25. <http://www.hrw.org>

26. <http://www.aidstar-one.com>

27. <http://www.cfr.org/world/glimmers-hope-hiv/p22719>

28. <http://www.smartglobalhealth.org/blog/entry/transactional-sex-women-poverty-and-aids>

29. <http://www.aidstar-one.com>



Facts & Statistics

General

- Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world.¹
- The population is around 16 million, 80% of whom live in rural areas.²
- 61% of the population lives below the poverty line of US\$1.25 per day.³
- 45% of the population is under the age of 14.⁴
- Approximately one million children are orphans.⁵

Girls' Education

- Less than 25% of girls finish elementary school.⁶
- Only 5% of girls complete their secondary education.⁷
- If a family has to choose between educating a boy child or a girl, it is usually the boy who will stay in school.⁸
- Educational inequalities for women are driving factors in early marriage, pregnancy, relative poverty for women and increasing underdevelopment for entire communities.⁹

References 2015

1. <https://www.gfmag.com/global-data/economic-data/the-poorest-countries-in-the-world>
2. <http://ageafrica.org/about/why-malawi/>
3. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>
4. <http://ageafrica.org/about/why-malawi/>
5. <https://camfed.org/where-we-work/malawi/>
6. <http://www.girlup.org/learn/malawi.html>
7. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>
8. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>
9. <http://ageafrica.org/about/why-girls-education/>

Facts & Statistics

Child Marriage

- Malawi has the 8th highest rate of child marriage in the world.¹⁰
- Nearly 50% of girls are married by 18, and some are as young as 9 or 10 years old.^{11 12}
- 66% of women with no formal education were child brides compared to 5% of women who attended secondary school.¹³
- Child marriage is deeply entrenched in Malawi's traditions and patriarchal culture. Social and economic pressures compel parents to force girls into early marriage.¹⁴
- UNICEF finds that poverty and lack of education are inextricably linked to the prevalence of child marriage.¹⁵
- With the majority of people living below the poverty line, marrying off their daughters gives families one less mouth to feed, and a little additional income. Many families struggle to look beyond the short term.^{16 17 18}
- Education is seen as the most powerful tool in the fight against child marriage.¹⁹

References 2015

10. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>
11. <http://www.girlup.org/learn/malawi.html>
12. http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/malawi0314_ForUpload.pdf
13. <http://www.buildon.org/2014/07/unicef-report-child-marriage-tied-poverty-lack-education/>
14. <http://www.hrw.org>
15. <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/let-girls-lead/plight-of-a-malawian-girl>
16. <http://www.buildon.org/2014/07/unicef-report-child-marriage-tied-poverty-lack-education/>
17. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>
18. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>
19. <http://www.kidsrights.nl>