



Joined: March 2011  
Population: 17.57 million

# Malawi



\*DHS 2016 or Micronutrient survey 2016

## Institutional transformations in 2016-2017



### Bringing people together into a shared space for action

Multi-sectoral platforms (MSPs) in Malawi are in place and functional at national, district and community levels. The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) is the convening and coordinating institution for nutrition and the secretariat for all MSPs. All key sectors are part of the MSP and contribute to development and review of policies and plans. Currently, in the review of the National Development Agenda, nutrition is coming out as a

stand-alone priority under other development areas. There is continuous engagement of the political leadership through the MSP, with high-level nutrition meetings and monitoring visits taken place with parliamentarians and Permanent Secretaries. The First Lady of the Republic of Malawi, Dr Gertrude Mutharika, has been instrumental to increase the visibility and public awareness of nutrition.



### Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework

The National Nutrition Policy & Strategic Plan has been reviewed and aligned with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDS III), which has redefined the National Nutrition Programme. Stakeholders have started aligning interventions to the Policy & Strategic Plan. A draft Food and Nutrition Bill has been developed, with consultation with different stakeholders taking place. The MSP has been consulted on the review and validation of key

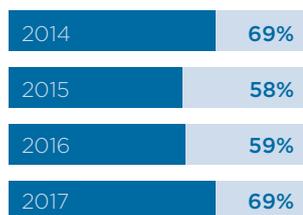
policies and plans, including the Food and Nutrition Bill (awaiting Cabinet approval), as well as development of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework. Sector-specific policies and plans, especially for agriculture, gender equality and climate change have also been reviewed, to ensure alignment with the MGDS III, the National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy, the global nutrition agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



### Aligning actions around a common results framework

A national Multi-Sectoral Nutrition M&E Framework has been developed and rolled out to districts. This framework guides all nutrition stakeholders in planning, monitoring and reporting, and is aligned with both national and international goals and targets, e.g. the SDGs and World Health

Assembly (WHA) targets. Institutional arrangements and implementation frameworks define roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the coordination, implementation and monitoring of nutrition interventions.



### Financing tracking and resource mobilisation

The Nutrition Resource Tracking System (NURTS) seeks to provide projections for nutrition, resource gaps and financing by different sectors. However, a validation exercise of the functionality of NURTS showed that less than fifty per cent of partners are reporting adequately (21 stakeholders in 2016). Despite these limitations, the NURTS

has been integrated into nutrition M&E systems. The Civil Society Organisation Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) tracks nutrition financing in Malawi towards Nutrition for Growth commitments. Malawi, through the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, is in the process of developing sustainable nutrition financing.



## 2017-2018 PRIORITIES

- Finalise of the Food and Nutrition Bill;
- Approve and launch the Multi-Sectoral National Nutrition Policy and National Nutrition Strategic Plan;
- Finalise the Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy;
- Review the nutrition research agenda.