

# Malawi

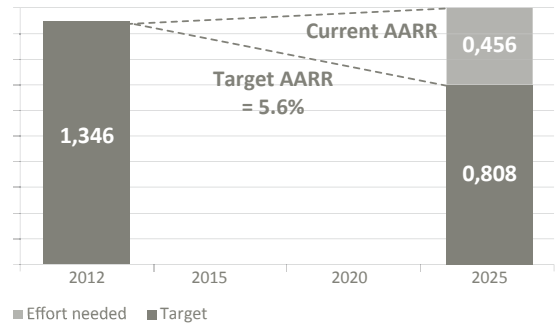
Joined: March 2011



## Highlights

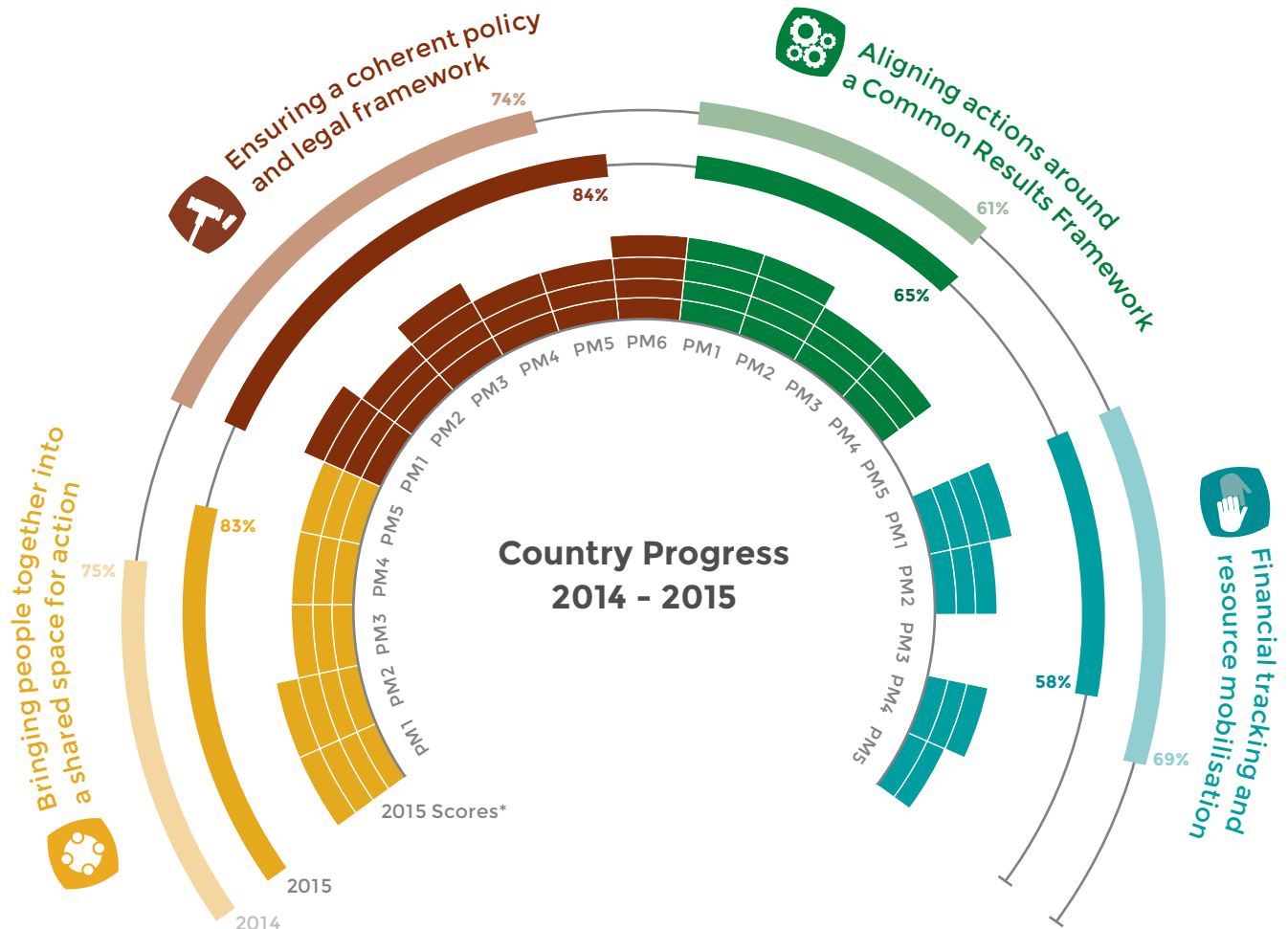
- The National Monitoring and Evaluation framework aligned with the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan is in place with clearly defined indicators. A web-based database has been developed linking the district to national level to ensure timely reporting.
- An online financial tracking system with a dashboard has been developed to help track current resources and focus areas of donors. It will also provide forecasting projections and identify resource gaps.
- The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS conducts Joint Multi-sectoral Annual Reviews on nutrition that bring together stakeholders at national and district-levels to analyse progress made and draft plans for coming years.

Beginning prevalence: 47.8% **Targeted Stunting Reduction (million U5 stunted children)** Target prevalence: 22.5%



Under five stunting:	42.4%
Low-birth weight:	12.9%
0-5 months old exclusive breastfeeding:	70.2%
Under five wasting:	3.8%
Under five overweight:	5.1%
Women Anaemia 15-49 years:	28.8%

\*data sources detailed in Annex 1



\*See page 29 for more information about 2015 scoring against each progress marker

## Bold text denotes progress reported in the last year



In Malawi, the National Nutrition Committee (NNC) is the convening body for coordinating action on scaling up nutrition. The NNC provides technical guidance on the implementation of the National Nutrition Policy and Strategic Plan (NNPSP) across related sectors.

This multi-stakeholder platform (MSP) is replicated at the decentralised level including District Nutrition Coordination Committees with district nutrition focal persons, Village Development Committees and Community Leaders for Action on Nutrition groups.

Other established high-level political coordination structures for nutrition include the Cabinet Committee, Parliamentary Committee, Principal Secretaries Committee, and the Government Development Partners Committee.

The Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) is mandated to spearhead the integration of nutrition in the line Ministries

of Health, Agriculture, Gender, Information, Civic Education and Local Government to ensure multi-sectoral coordination.

**The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Donor group on Nutrition Security (DoNutS) have been re-defined to harmonise the work of the development partners to better support national efforts.** The United States Agency for International Development chairs the group with Irish Aid appointed as the Donor convener.

The United Nations (UN) Network is key in rolling out the national plans to the districts to ensure that the most vulnerable are reached.

The Civil Society Alliance in Malawi (CSONA) plays a leading role in supporting national efforts through meaningful dialogue and advocacy. Concern Worldwide supports the CSONA Secretariat.

Partners from the private sector have been active through the National Fortification Alliance.

Bringing people together into a shared space for action



The overarching policy and strategic plan for Malawi is the NNPSP (2007-2015). **The NNPSP has now been reviewed and is awaiting approval for dissemination.**

Nutrition was positioned as a priority in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) I and II making it one of the government's priority areas of investment. **Efforts are underway to sustain the focus on nutrition and to include it in the MGDS III.**

Other strategic documents that facilitate the operationalisation of the NNPSP and the MGDS include:

- National Micronutrient Strategy
- National Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy (NECS)
- Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) Strategy
- Nutrition Care and Support Strategy

- Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWA), and
- National Social Protection Policy.

The UN Network coordinates their actions along the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and DoNutS and CSONA have their own policy and strategy aligned to the national nutrition agenda. Partners from the private sector have no defined own policy but ensure compliance with national guidelines, regulations and standards.

The Employment Act mandates paid maternity leave up to 12 weeks in the public sector and up to 8 weeks in the private sector. Malawi has adopted many provisions of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes (BMS) into law as part of the Public Health Act (Chapter 34:01).

**The Food and Nutrition Act is currently being finalised by the Government which will provide guidance on adequate nutrition, standards for food fortification and food labelling guidelines.**

Ensuring a coherent policy and legal framework



Malawi has a clear programme with specific strategies aligned to the NNPSP. The NECS explicitly includes a list of steps for rolling out activities as part of a national multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder effort called the SUN – 1000 Special Days Movement that translates policy into action.

**A national level monitoring and evaluation framework is in place with clear defined indicators to guide the roll out of the NNPSP. It has already taken effect in 70% of districts.**

**To ensure timely reporting, the government developed a web-based database, which is linked from district to national level. All monitoring and evaluation officers in districts have been trained and supported with relevant equipment.**

Progress is also tracked through the annual multi-stakeholder SUN learning forum, and through routine monitoring surveys including demographic health surveys and multiple indicator cluster surveys.

Aligning actions around a Common Results Framework



Malawi has **developed a web-based financial tracking system with a dashboard that will help to provide information on current and forecasted resources from external sources with projections and gaps.**

The process is 80% complete and has been disseminated to key nutrition stakeholders at national level. The next steps include dissemination of the system and training of end users

at all levels. The resource tracking system comprehensively captures the financing commitments of partners and will enable increased alignment. This financing tracking system is being coordinated with the support of DoNutS.

**Malawi also recently launched the Cost of Hunger report which is now used as a tool for resource mobilisation.**

Financial tracking and resource mobilisation