

Bridging the Gap: MALAWI COUNTRY PROFILE

Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa

Bridging the Gap: Mapping Gender Data Availability in Africa traces the availability and quality of data for 104 gender-relevant indicators across six key domains: health, education, economic empowerment, political participation, human security, and environment. The study covers 15 African countries.

Malawi has a high level of political support to gender data and has published a relatively large number of gender indicators in its national databases. It has received financial support from the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building and other donors. Malawi is one of the few countries in this study to have sex-disaggregated environmental statistics.

Despite the high availability of gender data in Malawi's national databases, gaps remain at all levels, particularly for human security and education. There is low availability of timely data.

Malawi lacks data on key aspects of women's lives

Bridging the Gap assesses indicators published online between 2010 and 2018 in international databases and in national databases maintained by the Malawi National Statistical Office and other official sources. Gaps were identified in four dimensions.



AVAILABILITY

Malawi's national databases include **77 out of the 104 gender indicators**.



DISAGGREGATION

5 gender indicators lack sex disaggregation in Malawi's national databases.



ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS

32 published gender indicators in Malawi's national databases do not conform to internationally recommended definitions.



TIMELINESS

39 gender indicators in Malawi's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



The 15 African countries included in this study.

Opportunities to improve gender data in Malawi

Closing gender data gaps requires time, resources, and capacity. But there is a path to an improved gender data ecosystem:



Improve the availability of education indicators in international databases by including data available from national databases. These data may be further improved by the use of education management information systems (EMIS) data to construct relevant intake, enrollment, participation, and graduation indicators.



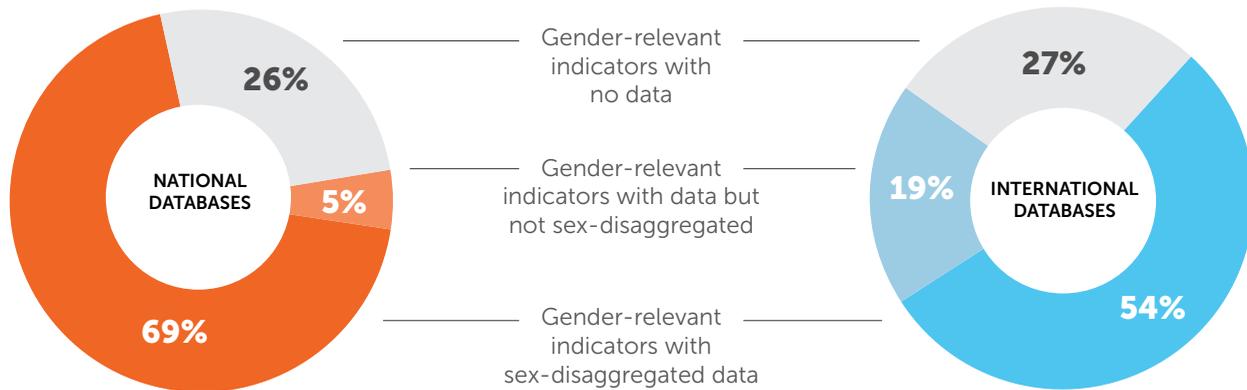
Produce indicators on human security - particularly on female genital mutilation, feeling safe while walking alone, and reporting on violence - that conform to international standards with appropriate disaggregation.



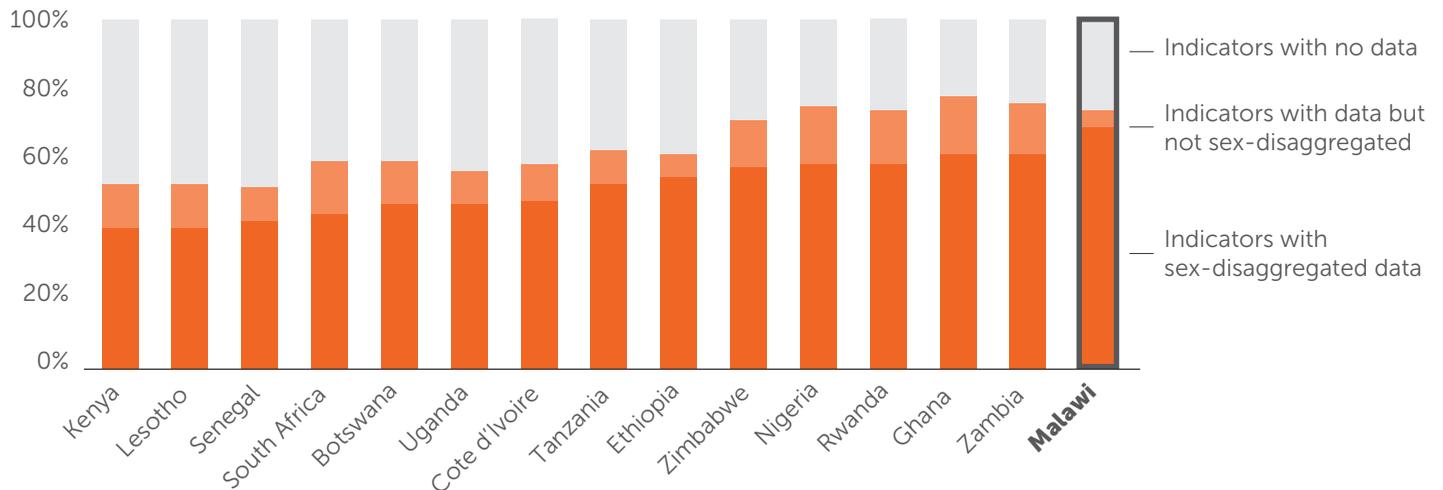
Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems to increase the proportion of children under five who are registered with birth certificates and improve the availability of a crucial source of gender indicators derived from CRVS data.

A closer look at gender data gaps

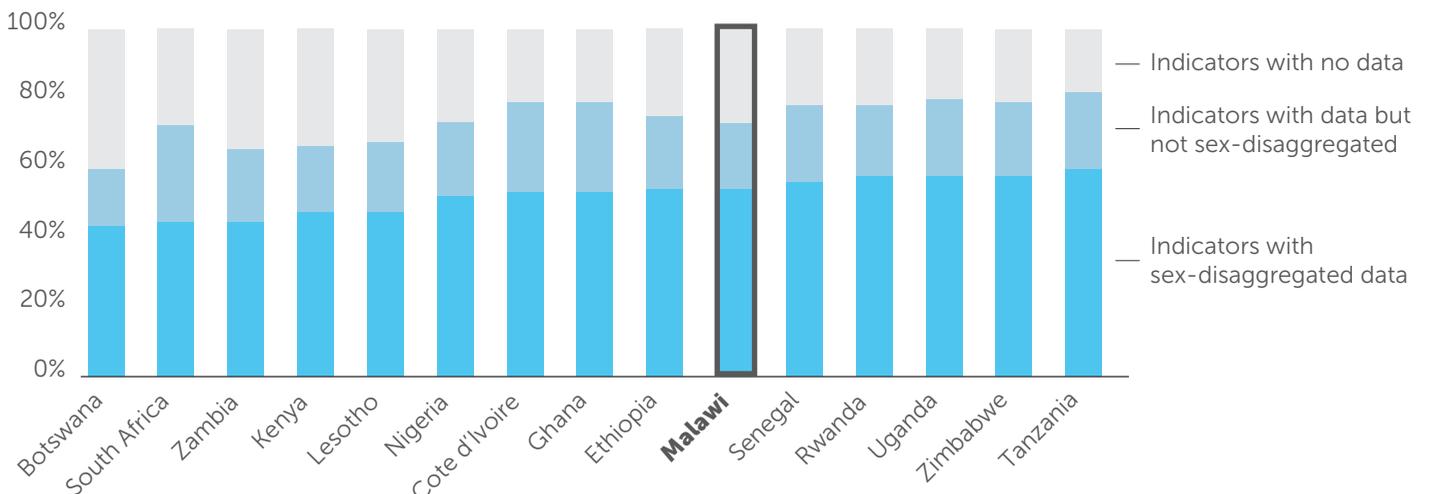
This study assesses data in both national and international databases. Malawi's national databases lack data for 26 percent of the gender indicators reviewed. Databases maintained by international organizations have similar coverage of Malawi's indicators, with 27 percent still missing.



Malawi publishes the highest number of gender indicators in **national databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

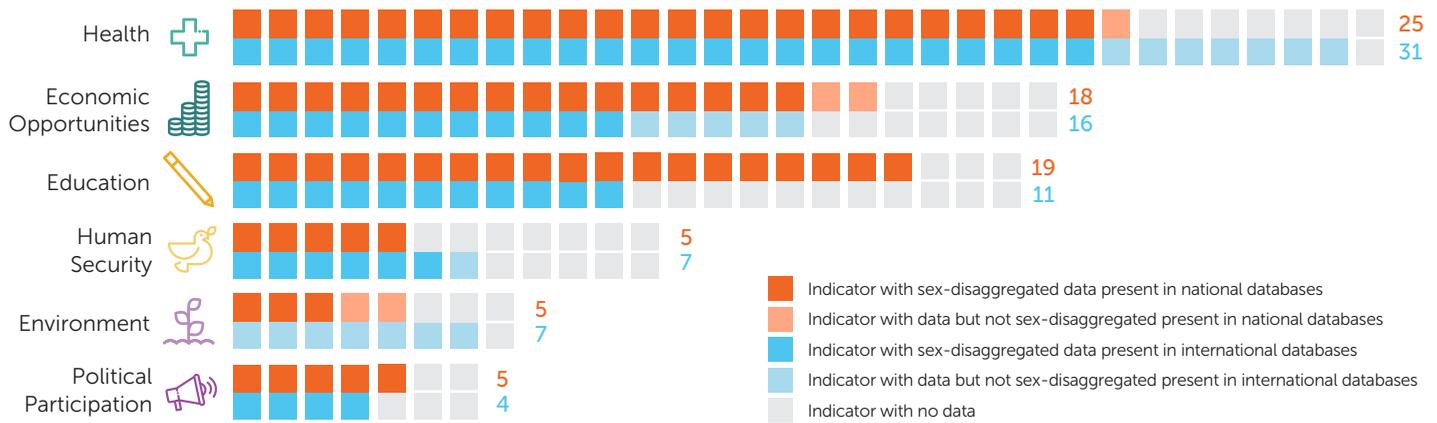


Malawi publishes an average number of gender indicators in **international databases** compared to other countries included in the study.

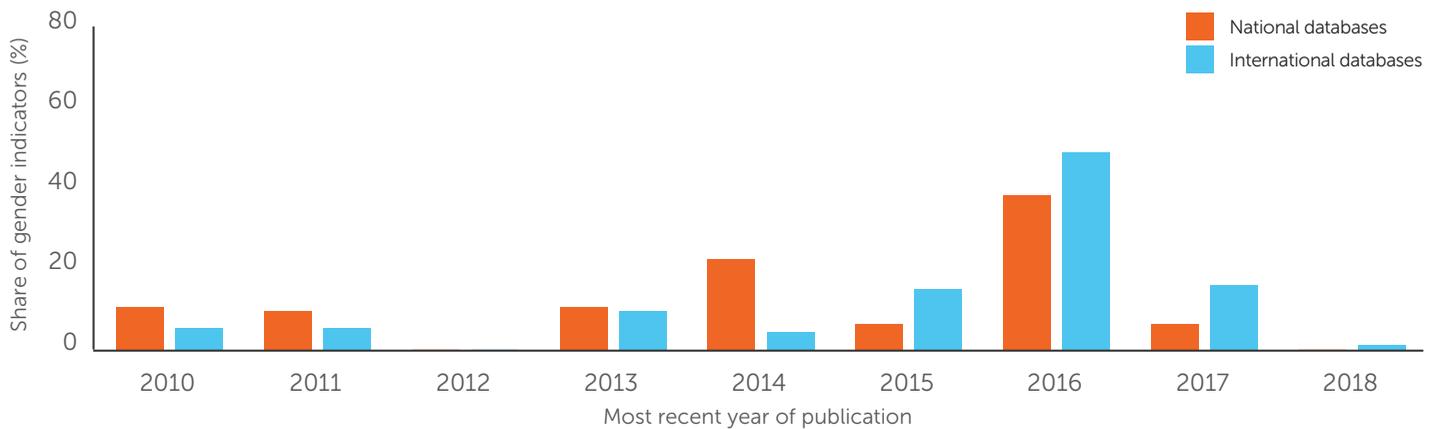


Data availability and timeliness

Health indicators have the highest availability of data in Malawi, but human security indicators have many gaps. And though education indicators have high availability in national databases, there are large gaps in international databases. Malawi is one of the few countries in this study to have any sex-disaggregated data for environment indicators.

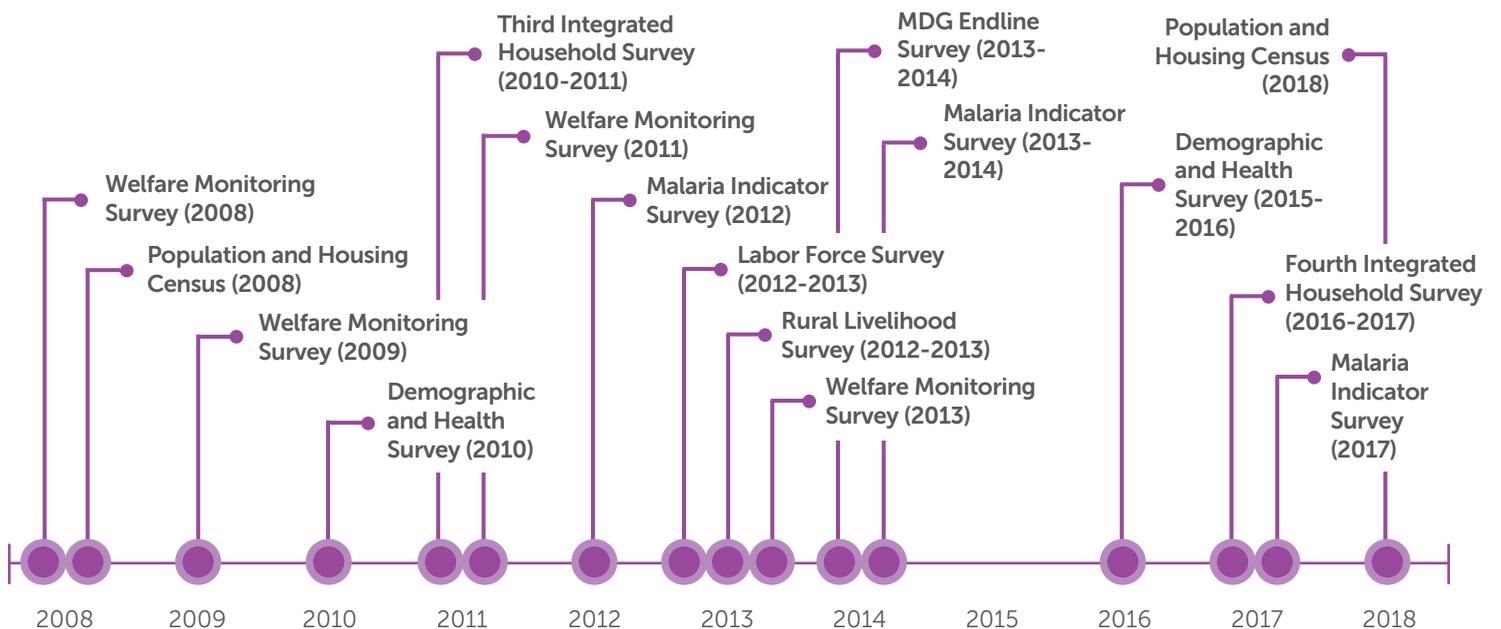


Fifty-one percent of gender indicators in Malawi's national databases have no published observations since 2015.



Core systems to produce gender data

Many of the gender indicators in Malawi are produced through surveys. Although Malawi has conducted a high number of surveys from which gender indicators can be derived, data remain unavailable and not timely for many indicators.



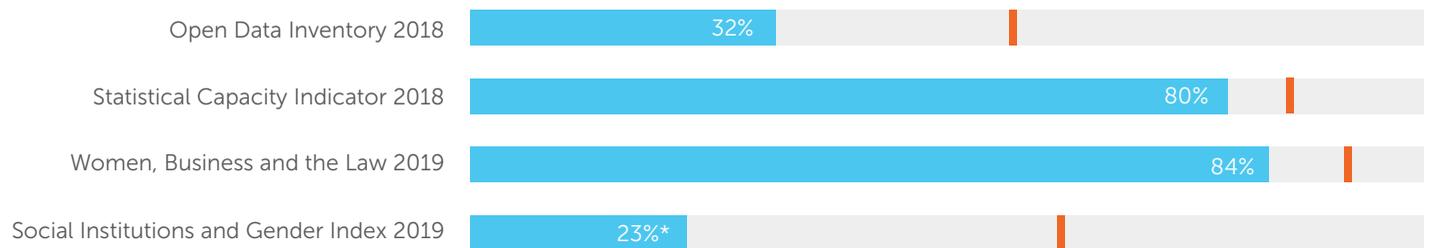
Civil registration and vital statistics provide basic demographic and health information. This is especially important for women and children as the data are foundational and helps to unleash opportunities and combat discrimination and exclusion. Birth registration rates in Malawi remain far below the sustainable development goal (SDG) target of universal registration.

- 67%** Children aged 0 to 4 years in Malawi whose **births were registered**, of which
- 51%** Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered without a birth certificate**
- 17%** Children aged 0 to 4 years were **registered with a birth certificate**

Source: 2015-16 DHS. The DHS Program STATcompiler. <http://www.statcompiler.com>.

Assessments of Malawi’s data ecosystem

Indexes of open data, statistical capacity, and gender equality provide a more complete picture of Malawi’s statistical and legislative environment.



* Percentile rank among 120 countries worldwide with scores.

Vertical orange line: Highest score for a Sub-Saharan African country

Plans, partnerships, and political support for gender data

Malawi is taking steps to improve data availability by mainstreaming gender data into national plans, engaging in partnerships, and mobilizing finances.

- The **National Statistical System Strategic Plan 2013-2017** states that Malawi is committed to collecting, analyzing, and disseminating gender data. As an example, the National Statistical Office of Malawi annually publishes the Malawi Gender Development Index (MGDI) with financial support from the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare.
- The World Bank’s Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB) funded the **Fourth Integrated Household Survey (IHS4)** in collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Malawi to collect intra-household individual-level data on asset ownership. This survey piloted a new approach in gender-sensitive respondent selection and questionnaire design.
- As part of the **National Evaluation Platform Approach for Accountability in Women’s and Children’s Health**, Malawi received approximately 4 million USD for the development of gender statistics from Global Affairs Canada in partnership with Johns Hopkins University. This support was received between 2013 and 2018.

To access the full report, please visit bit.ly/BridgingtheGapTechnicalReport

