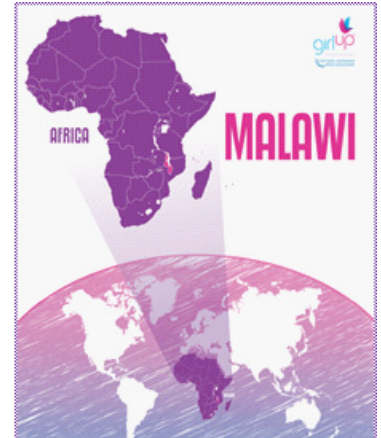


MALAWI







Malawi, often called the “Warm Heart of Africa,” is a beautiful country in Southern Africa tucked between Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. Malawi has one of the worst records in the world in the areas of health and education, and a high level of poverty. More than 50 percent of its population falls below the poverty line. In rural areas, only 40 percent of the population has access to safe water.



Issues Facing Adolescent Girls

Many more girls than boys drop out of primary school in Malawi. While many girls would like to continue their education, they have to help support their families, and school fees, poverty, early marriage and early childbearing lead most girls to drop out. Girls in Malawi face a number of health risks resulting from high rates of child marriage, including medical complications from teen pregnancy and HIV. More than half of girls experience some form of abuse during their lifetime.

Did You Know?

-  Nearly half of all girls in Malawi are married by age 18, and one in four teen girls already has a child.
-  Less than a quarter of girls finish elementary school in Malawi.
-  Malawi has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, ranking 9th globally. Girls are four times more likely to be HIV positive than boys in Malawi.
-  In Malawi, approximately 65 percent of girls experience some form of child abuse during their lifetime, compared to 35 percent of boys.

ABOUT MALAWI

- Located: Southeast Africa
- Population: 15 million
- Capital: Lilongwe
- Official Language: Chichewa
- Fun Fact: Lake Malawi is sometimes called the “Calendar Lake” as it is 365 miles long and 52 miles wide!

WHAT IS GIRL UP DOING IN MALAWI?

Girl Up supports adolescent girls in Malawi by funding United Nations (UN) programs that deliver a holistic package of services. UN agencies work closely with government partners and local organizations to ensure a community-based response in supporting the hardest-to-reach girls.





Girl Up is supporting the UN's work in two districts in the southern region of Malawi through education, protection, health and leadership. Over the next three years, the program will directly impact the lives of 30,000 adolescent girls, and through indirect support to other girls and their families, the program will impact more than 550,000 adolescent girls ages 10-19. By focusing on rural adolescent girls, the program is addressing the needs of some of the hardest-to-reach adolescent girls in the country.

WORKING WITH THE UN

In Malawi, Girl Up invests in UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and UNESCO.

Where Do Girl Up Funds Go?

To ensure girls in Malawi have the chance to reach their full potential, funds raised through Girl Up help provide:

-  **Access To Education.** With Girl Up's help, girls are getting a 'second chance' at education through programs that enable girls who have never been to, or have dropped out of school, to learn how to read and write. Funds also provide scholarships for orphans and other at-risk girls that pay for school fees and uniforms. All-girls science camps provide role models and classes that increase girls' participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).
-  **Improved Health Services.** By training health care workers to provide health information and services specifically for girls and young people, and by creating youth-friendly health clinics at health facilities, the program addresses a number of health risks that girls face in Malawi – including high rates of child marriage, teen pregnancy and HIV.
-  **Safe Spaces And Protection.** In an effort to end harmful practices, a "stop child marriage" campaign and "say NO to gender-based violence" campaign educates girls and their communities about the harmful effects of these practices and about girls' rights. The campaigns empower girls to speak out for themselves about decisions that impact their lives, and supports girls who have experienced violence by providing child protection services.
-  **Leadership Opportunities.** To promote girls' empowerment and leadership, the program includes girls-only clubs and a mentorship program where girls learn about their rights and are trained to reach out as role models to their peers and younger girls. The program also supports job skills training for older teen girls who have dropped out of school and otherwise would have few skills and limited employment opportunities. These activities encourage girls to become leaders in their communities and in the world.