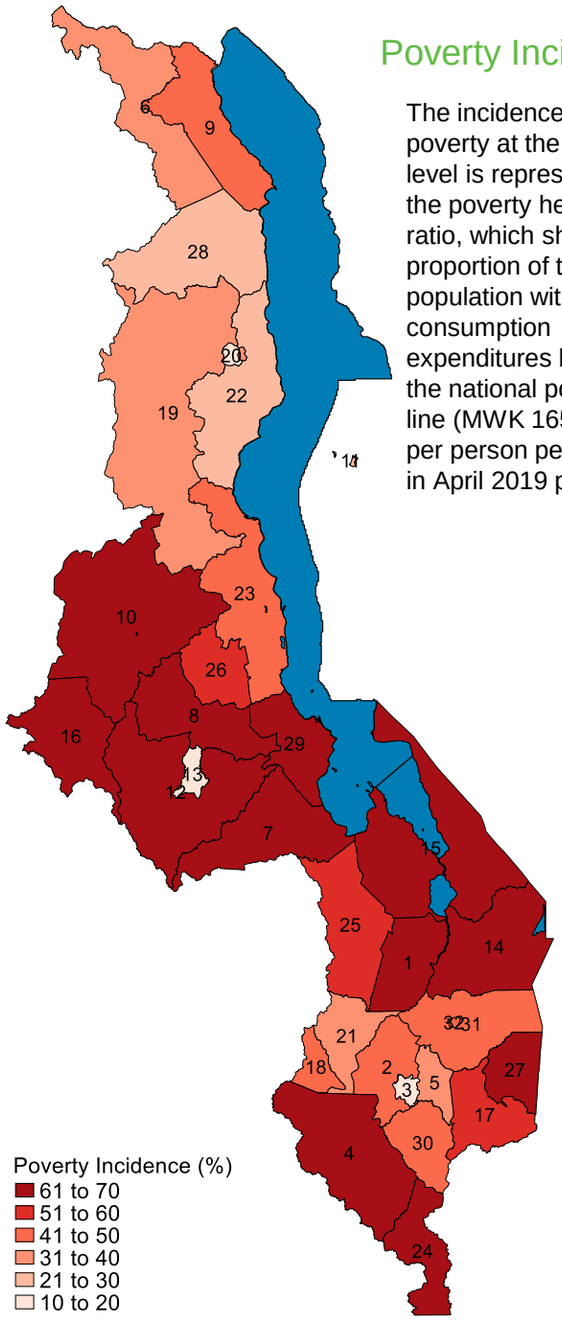
Poverty in Malawi

2019–2020



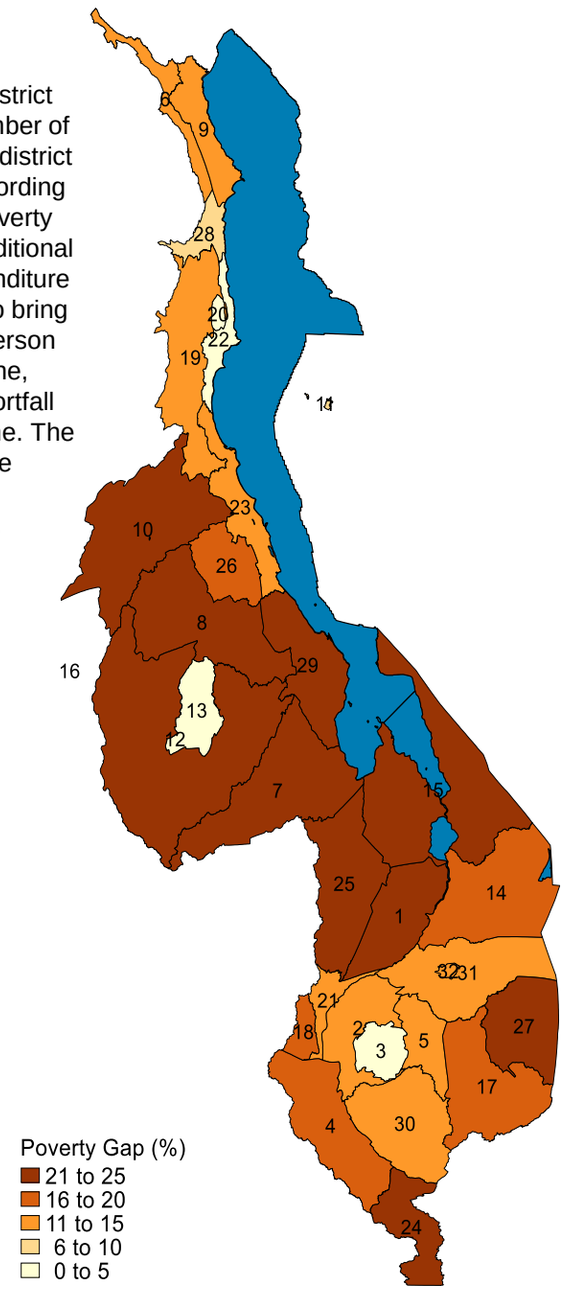
Poverty Incidence

The incidence of poverty at the district level is represented by the poverty headcount ratio, which shows the proportion of the population with consumption expenditures below the national poverty line (MWK 165,879 per person per year, in April 2019 prices).

	District	Poverty Headcount (%)	Number of Poor	Poverty Gap (%)
1	Balaka	62.7	285,311	21.2
2	Blantyre rural	43.9	204,644	13.3
3	Blantyre City	14.9	121,921	2.8
4	Chikwawa	61.2	355,967	19.5
5	Chiradzulu	38.4	140,357	11.7
6	Chitipa	38.6	92,738	12.2
7	Dedza	61.6	527,800	22.9
8	Dowa	65.1	520,655	22.7
9	Karonga	41.1	153,954	10.8
10	Kasungu	67.0	583,121	23.1
11	Likoma	25.9	3,856	5.6
12	Lilongwe rural	63.5	1,071,650	24.1
13	Lilongwe City	15.6	161,255	3.6
14	Machinga	62.3	478,556	20.3
15	Mangochi	63.5	760,402	21.6
16	Mchinji	68.5	424,988	26.0
17	Mulanje	54.8	386,617	18.3
18	Mwanza	47.0	64,085	16.2
19	Mzimba	38.6	370,343	11.1
20	Mzuzu City	11.5	26,703	2.2
21	Neno	40.1	56,969	10.9
22	Nkhata Bay	22.0	63,969	3.9
23	Nkhotakota	43.0	173,932	15.0
24	Nsanje	62.8	192,612	23.0
25	Ntcheu	56.8	388,319	20.9
26	Ntchisi	55.2	181,790	17.4
27	Phalombe	63.7	283,413	20.6
28	Rumphi	26.4	62,027	5.7
29	Salima	62.4	310,047	24.5
30	Thyolo	49.4	364,484	13.9
31	Zomba rural	48.8	374,829	14.9
32	Zomba City	13.5	14,556	3.3
	National	50.7	9,201,870	17.0

Poverty Gap

The size of each district represents the number of poor people. Each district is also shaded according to the size of its poverty gap. This is the additional consumption expenditure that it would take to bring an average poor person up to the poverty line, expressed as a shortfall from the poverty line. The map thus shows the depth of poverty throughout Malawi.



This poster complements our fifth Key Facts Sheet on poverty in Malawi, published in May 2022.
The maps and table are based on data from the fourth Integrated Household Survey (IHS5), which was collected in 2019–2020.

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