



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

## PRESS RELEASE

### LAUNCH OF THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE 2008 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

In June 2008, the National Statistical Office (NSO), on behalf of the Malawi Government, conducted the fifth post-independence Population and Housing Census (PHC). The objective of the census was to collect necessary data for planning, monitoring and evaluation of development programmes, more specifically the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The preliminary results from the Census were released in September, 2008. The preliminary results provided a general picture of the population size, distribution and annual growth rates.

The NSO is pleased to inform the general public that the report of the final results has now been finalised. This report will be launched on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 at Sunbird Capital Hotel at 9:30 am, by Honourable Minister of Development Planning and Cooperation Abbie Marambika Shawa MP.

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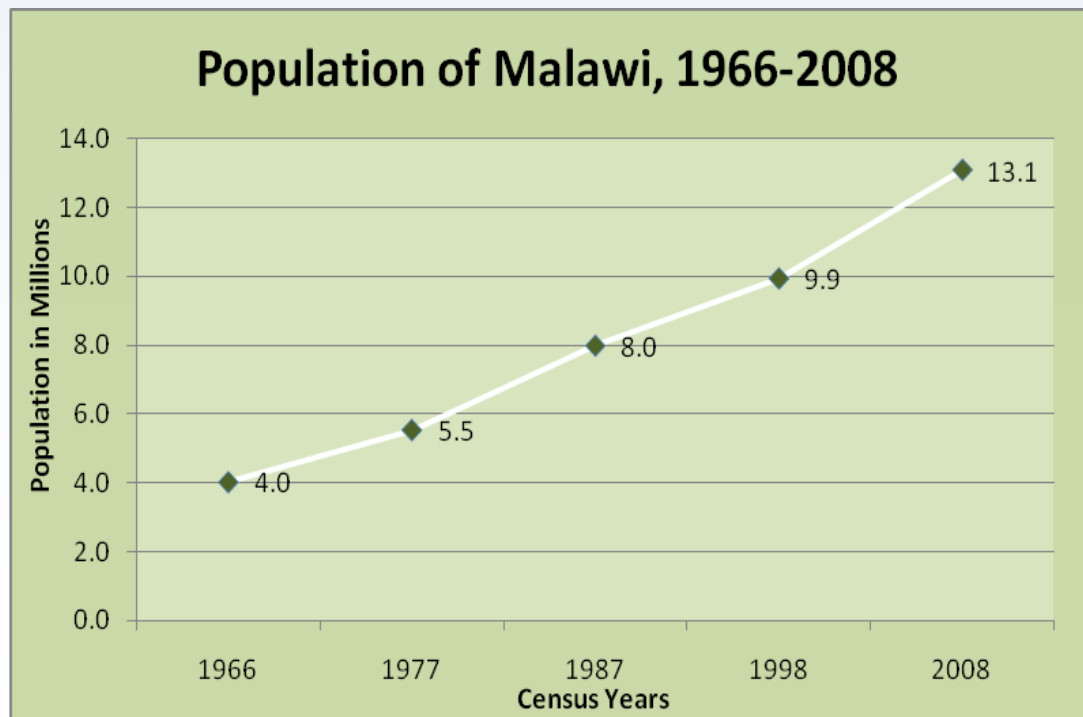
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## 2008 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS

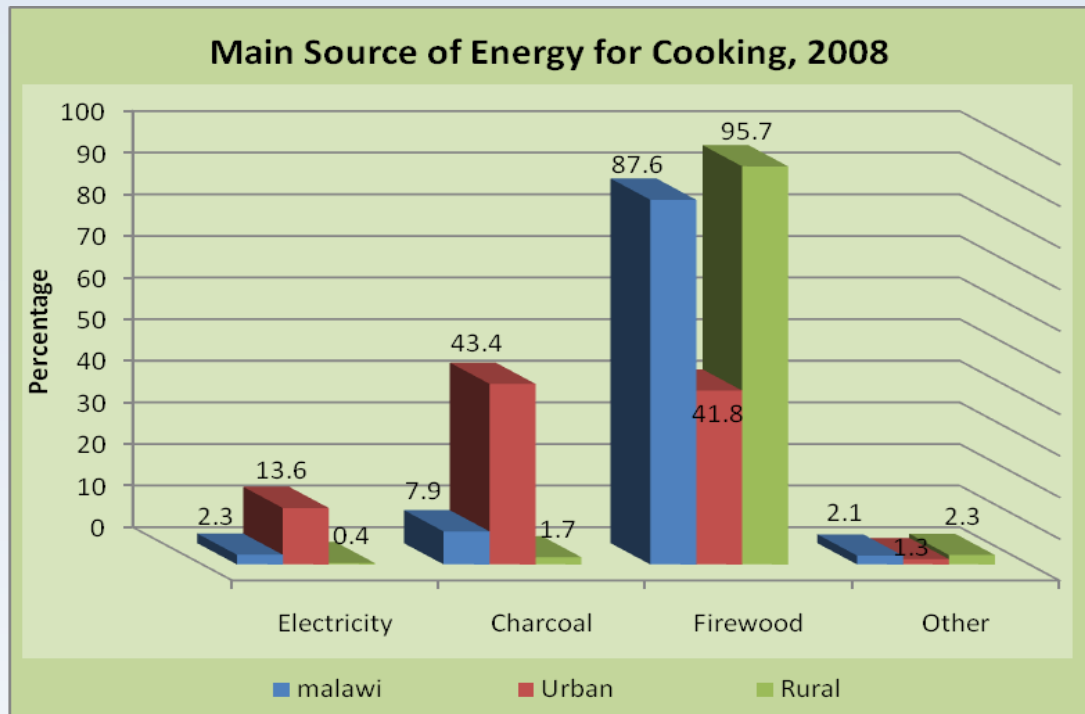
### Major Highlights

- Total population in June 2008 was 13, 077, 160 persons
- Lilongwe district had the largest population with 1, 905, 282 persons
- The average annual population growth rate between 1998 and 2008 was 2.8%
- Population density was 139 persons per square kilometre
- Of the population 15.3% lived in urban areas
- The sex ratio was 94.7 males per 100 females
- Children below 5 years constituted 22% of the population
- Persons aged below 15 years constituted 45.9% of the population
- Persons aged 18 to 64 years constituted 50.2% of the population
- Persons aged 65 years and older constituted 3.8% of the population
- The literacy rate was 64% for persons aged 6 years and older
- Of the male population 69% were literate as compared to 59% among the females





## Major Highlights



- Of the total population 4% had a disability
- The labor population constituted 50.2% of the total population
- The mean household size was 4.6 persons
- Of the population 42.9% were living in traditional dwelling units
- Of the population 48% used boreholes as a main source of drinking water
- The majority of persons 82.1% used traditional pit latrines
- Of the population 11.7% had no access to a toilet facility
- Of the population 85.7% used paraffin as a source of energy for lighting
- Of the population 88% used firewood as a source of energy for cooking
- Of the urban population 43.4% used charcoal as a source of energy for cooking
- Of the population 64.1% owned a radio
- Of the population 45% owned a bicycle
- The Crude Birth Rate was 39.5 births per 1,000 population
- The Crude Death Rate was 10 deaths per 1,000 population

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1: Background:**

Population and housing censuses have regularly been conducted in Malawi since the colonial era. However, the most comprehensive censuses have only been undertaken during the post-colonial period starting with the 1966 census and every ten years thereafter. Censuses have been conducted as part of the Integrated Household Survey programme. The four yearly Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), the five yearly Integrated Household Survey (IHS) and the annual Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS) are part of this program.

In addition to providing benchmark data on demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the Malawi population, censuses are unique sources of information for small geographical areas and sub-national groups. Such information is vital for planning and decision-making at lower levels of the country's administrative structures.

### **1.2: The 2008 Population and Housing Census**

#### **1.2.1: The enumeration period and census management**

The 2008 census enumeration was undertaken for a period of three weeks, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> June. The exercise involved the deployment of large numbers of enumerators who canvassed the entire country and administered a structured questionnaire to all persons in regular households, institutions and the homeless. In order to ensure full coverage of the population, both de facto (place where respondent slept the census night) and the de jure (usual household members) methodologies were adopted.

The Census is a major source of data for measuring progress towards the achievement of targets/goals of the major development frameworks: the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

The management, planning and implementation of the 2008 Census was undertaken by the National Statistical Office, which is mandated under the Statistics Act of 1967 to compile and disseminate all official statistics. The planning exercise started in 2003 by the demarcation of the country into small Enumeration Areas (EAs). Other critical activities in the census process included questionnaire development and data processing.

#### **1.2.2: The census questionnaire and data capture**

The development of the census questionnaire was undertaken in consultation with stakeholders and efforts were made to include adequate information that would satisfy most data needs in the country without overloading it. The Census collected data on sex, age and

place of birth and residence; disability; parental survivorship; education and literacy status; employment status and industry; marital status and children ever born, household amenities and assets; housing conditions; emigration; and, maternal and general deaths in the household. The census questionnaire is attached as annex 2.

Data capture was undertaken by scanning technology, which enabled shortening of data entry period to two months.

### **1.3: Quality of census data**

It was recognized that data quality enhances credibility of census and ensures that decision-making process is more effective. Efforts were therefore made in ensuring that the quality of census data was not compromised at critical stages of census implementation. Specifically, it was necessary to ensure that quality was not compromised due to use of poor maps, untested methodologies/instruments, inadequate supervision, poor training, inadequate support from the general public and inadequacies in data processing.

A number of strategies were therefore put in place to address issues mentioned above. These strategies involved the demarcation of the country into small administration areas to ensure complete coverage; preparation of comprehensive supervisors' and enumerator' manuals; pretesting questionnaires and other procedures; providing adequate training to all staff involved in census activities, more especially enumerators; providing adequate publicity in order to gain public support; and undertaking key corrections and other edits immediately after scanning of the data.

### **1.4: Organization of the report**

The report is organized into five chapters. Chapter 1: Introduction which includes background to the census. Chapter 2: Population size and composition, which includes annual population growth since 1966; inter-censal population growth rates, trends and sex ratios, population distribution; geographical/spatial distribution, urban population and population density. Chapter 3: Population characteristics covering nationality, religion, education/literacy, disability and orphan hood. Chapter 4: Household and housing characteristics covering household size, dwelling unit characteristics, household utilities that covers sources of energy for lighting, sources of energy for cooking, sources of drinking water, type of facility and household assets. Chapter 5: Population dynamics covering fertility and mortality.

## 2.0 POPULATION SIZE AND COMPOSITION

### 2.1 Population Size

Malawi conducted its Population and Housing Census in June 2008, making it the fifth during the post-independence period. Since 1966, the country has regularly participated in the recommended UN decennial census programme.

Table 2.1 shows that the population has grown from 4,039,583 in 1966 to 13,077,160 in 2008 an increase of 9 million. The table also shows annual population growth rates since 1966, as depicted in Figure 1

**Table 2.1: Total population 1966-2008**

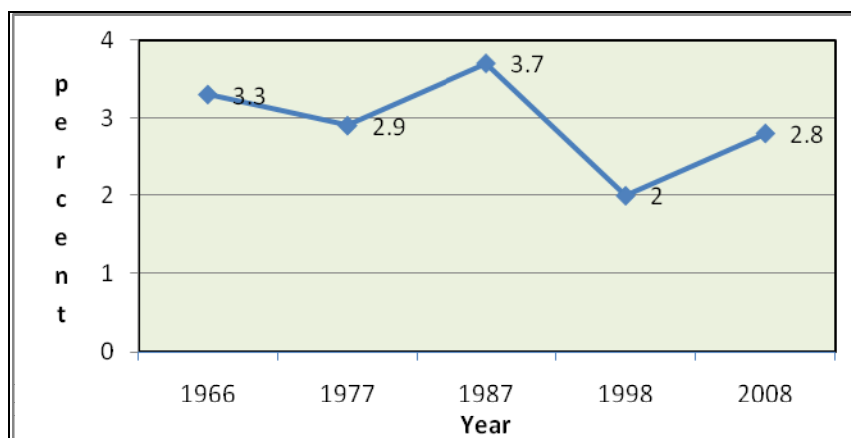
Year of Census	Total Population	Average Annual/Intercensal Growth rate
1966	4,039,583	3.3
1977	5,547,460	2.9
1987	7,988,507	3.7
1998	9,933,868	2.0
2008	13,077,160	2.8

De-facto population;

### 2.2 Population Growth

Table 2.2 shows inter-censal annual growth rates and inter-censal population increase for the period, 1998 – 2008, at national, regional and district level. The annual growth rate in the Northern Region was 3.3 percent, Central Region 3.1 percent and Southern Region 2.4 percent.

**Figure 1: Annual inter-censal growth rates 1966-2008**



The annual growth rate for Lilongwe and Mzuzu cities is 4.4 percent, Zomba city (3.0 percent) and Blantyre city (2.8 percent). The table also show that at district level, Mwanza

had the highest growth rate of 4.1 percent; Chitipa and Mchinji 3.5 percent and Karonga 3.4 percent. The lowest annual population growth is observed for Zomba rural at 0.6 percent.

Across the regions, the table shows a 39 percent inter-censal growth in Northern Region, 36 percent in the Central Region and 26 percent in the Southern Region. Mzuzu City has the highest inter-censal growth rate of 54 percent and the lowest is Zomba rural with 6 percent.

**Table 2.2: Annual population inter-censal growth rates and increase 1998-2008, by sex, region and district**

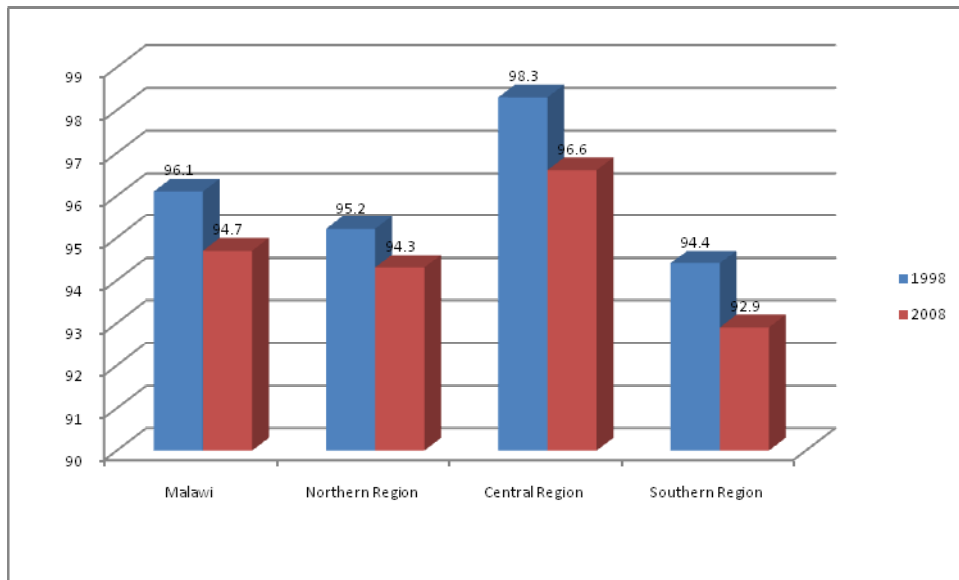
Region /District	Intercensal Annual Growth Rate (%), 1998-2008			Intercensal Population Increase 1998-2008	
	Both sexes	Male	Female	Number	Percent
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3,143,292</b>	<b>31.6</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>475,370</b>	<b>38.5</b>
Chitipa	3.5	3.6	3.5	52,105	41.1
Karonga	3.4	3.4	3.3	75,318	38.7
Nkhatabay	2.8	2.8	2.8	51,028	31.0
Rumphhi	3.0	3.0	3.0	43,674	34.0
Mzimba	3.4	3.3	3.5	203,917	38.9
Mzuzu City	4.4	4.1	4.7	46,988	54.0
Likoma	2.6	2.8	2.4	2,340	29.0
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>1,443,855</b>	<b>35.5</b>
Kasungu	2.7	2.4	3.1	146,808	30.5
Nkhota kota	2.9	2.8	3.0	74,199	32.3
Ntchisi	3.0	2.8	3.2	56,992	33.9
Dowa	3.1	3.0	3.2	147,083	35.8
Salima	3.2	3.1	3.2	89,681	36.1
Lilongwe Rural	3.1	3.1	3.2	324,945	35.9
Lilongwe City	4.4	4.1	4.7	233,977	53.1
Mchinji	3.5	3.3	3.6	131,575	40.5
Dedza	2.6	2.6	2.5	137,763	28.3
Ntcheu	2.5	2.5	2.4	100,832	27.2
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>1,224,067</b>	<b>26.4</b>
Mangochi	2.7	2.7	2.8	186,822	30.6
Machinga	2.9	2.8	3.0	120,965	32.7
Zomba Rural	0.6	0.4	0.8	32,978	6.0
Zomba City	3.0	2.8	3.2	22,399	34.0
Chiradzulu	2.1	2.0	2.1	52,496	22.2
Blantyre Rural	1.1	0.9	1.2	33,384	10.9
Blantyre City	2.8	2.5	3.1	159,203	31.7
Mwanza	4.1	4.0	4.1	30,570	49.0
Thyolo	2.5	2.5	2.6	128,077	27.9
Mulanje	2.0	2.0	2.0	93,069	21.7
Phalombe	3.1	3.1	3.0	81,139	35.0
Chikwawa	2.0	2.0	2.1	77,966	21.9
Nsanje	2.1	2.0	2.1	43,179	22.2
Balaka	2.3	2.4	2.3	64,226	25.4
Neno	2.7	2.6	2.8	24,666	29.8



### 2.3 Sex Ratio

Sex ratio is defined as the number of males per 100 females. Figure 2 shows the sex ratio for 1998 and 2008 at national and regional levels. At national level in 2008, the sex ratio is 94.7, meaning there were more females than males.

**Figure 2: Sex ratios by region, 1998 and 2008**



The sex ratios at regional level were 94.3 for the Northern Region, 96.6 Central Region and 92.9 for Southern Region.

Table 2.3 shows that in the four cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba there are more males than females. The table also shows that there are more females in the rural areas of the country. Almost similar patterns are observed in the 1998 census.

**Table 2.3: Sex ratio at regional and district levels, 1998 and 2008**

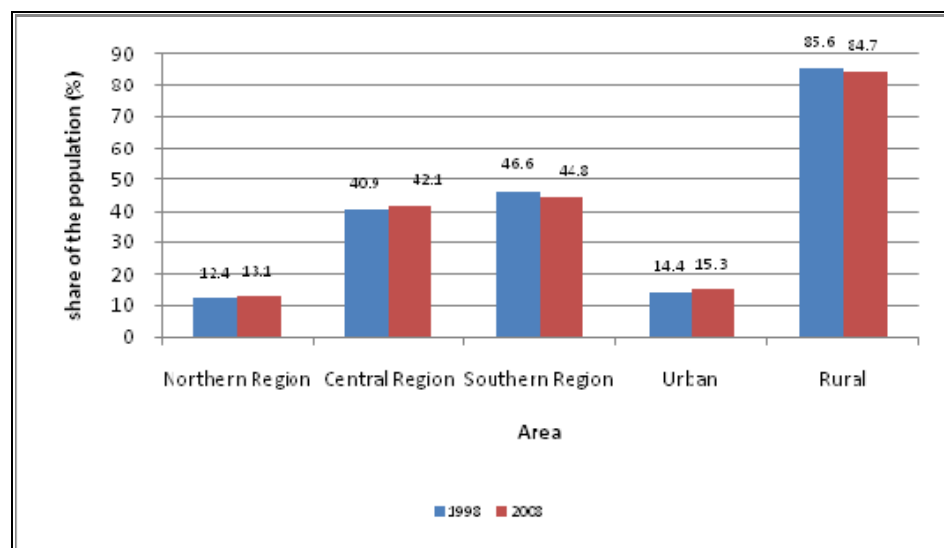
Region /District	Sex Ratio	
	1998	2008
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>96.1</b>	<b>94.7</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>94.3</b>
Chitipa	91.8	93.1
Karonga	92.8	93.7
Nkhatabay	94.6	94.8
Rumphi	97.2	97.0
Mzimba	95.1	93.1
Mzuzu City	106.4	100.6
Likoma	85.9	89.4
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>96.6</b>
Kasungu	106.5	99.6
Nkhota kota	100.2	98.7
Ntchisi	99.2	95.7
Dowa	98.2	96.5
Salima	96.7	95.5
Lilongwe Rural	95.4	95.2
Lilongwe City	110.8	104.7
Mchinji	102.0	99.2
Dedza	89.8	91.0
Ntcheu	90.2	91.1
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>94.4</b>	<b>92.9</b>
Mangochi	92.5	91.2
Machinga	91.7	90.7
Zomba Rural	94.7	91.3
Zomba City	106.9	102.7
Chiradzulu	89.3	88.3
Blantyre Rural	96.1	93.6
Blantyre City	109.9	103.4
Mwanza	93.4	92.6
Thyolo	90.8	90.0
Mulanje	88.3	87.9
Phalombe	89.0	90.1
Chikwawa	99.9	98.4
Nsanje	94.0	93.8
Balaka	91.2	92.0
Neno	95.6	93.9

## 2.4 Population Distribution

### 2.4.1 Spatial distribution

Figure 3 shows the percentage distribution of the population among regions. The population is unevenly distributed among the regions of the country. In 2008 about 45 percent of the total population was enumerated in the Southern Region. The corresponding figures for the Central and the Northern Regions were 42 percent and 13 percent, respectively (see figure 3). The regional distribution pattern shows some changes in the population distribution since 1998. There is a reduction in the population residing in the Southern Region from 47 percent in 1998 to 45 percent in 2008. However there have been corresponding increases in the population shares residing in the Central Region from 41 to 42 percent and for the Northern Region from 12 to 13 percent. (Annex 1)

**Figure 3: Percentage distribution of population by region, urban and rural, 1998 – 2008**



At district level, the largest population was enumerated in Lilongwe rural (9.4 percent), Mangochi (6.1 percent), Mzimba (5.6 percent). The least populated districts were Likoma (0.1 percent), Neno (0.8 percent) and Rumphi (1.3 percent).

### 2.4.2 Urban population

In Malawi, Urban Areas refer to the four major cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba and other urban areas, which consist of Bomas and gazetted town planning areas. Table 2.4 shows that 15.3 percent of the population resided in the urban areas of the country in 2008. Of the total urban population, 12 percent resided in the four major cities and 3.3 percent resided in the other urban areas. Urban population in Malawi has been on the increase from about 850,000 in 1987 to 1.4 million in 1998 and to 2.0 million in 2008.

**Table 2.4 Percentage distribution of population by region, urban, rural and district 1987, 1998 and 2008**

Region /District	Distribution Share (%)		
	2008	1998	1987
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>
Urban	15.3	14.4	10.7
Rural	84.7	85.6	89.3
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Chitipa	1.4	1.3	1.2
Karonga	2.1	2.0	1.9
Nkhatabay	1.7	1.7	1.6
Rumphi	1.3	1.3	1.2
Mzimba	5.6	5.3	4.9
Mzuzu City	1.0	0.9	0.1
Likoma	0.1	0.1	0.6
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>42.1</b>	<b>40.9</b>	<b>38.9</b>
Kasungu	4.8	4.8	4.0
Nkhota kota	2.3	2.3	2.0
Ntchisi	1.7	1.7	1.5
Dowa	4.3	4.1	4.0
Salima	2.6	2.5	2.4
Lilongwe Rural	9.4	9.1	9.4
Lilongwe City	5.2	4.4	2.8
Mchinji	3.5	3.3	3.1
Dedza	4.8	4.9	5.2
Ntcheu	3.6	3.7	4.5
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>46.6</b>	<b>49.6</b>
Mangochi	6.1	6.1	6.2
Machinga	3.8	3.7	3.8
Zomba Rural	4.4	5.5	5.0
Zomba City	0.7	0.7	0.5
Chiradzulu	2.2	2.4	2.6
Blantyre Rural	2.6	3.1	3.2
Blantyre City	5.1	5.1	4.2
Mwanza	0.7	0.6	0.8
Thyolo	4.5	4.6	5.4
Mulanje	4.0	4.3	5.3
Phalombe	2.4	2.3	2.7
Chikwawa	3.3	3.6	4.0
Nsanje	1.8	2.0	2.6
Balaka	2.4	2.5	2.7
Neno	0.8	0.8	0.8

### **2.4.3 Population density**

Population density is the number of persons per square kilometer. Table 2.5 gives population density by region and district for 1987, 1998 and 2008. Over the three decades, population density has shown an upward trend. The population density increased from 85 persons per square kilometer in 1987 to 105 persons per square kilometer in 1998 and further to 139 persons per square kilometer in 2008. Across the regions, there are more persons per square kilometer in the Southern Region (184) than in Central region (155) and Northern region (63).

Among the districts, Likoma had the highest population density of 579 persons per square kilometer, Chiradzulu and Thyolo had 376 and 342 persons per square kilometer respectively. Rumphi district has the lowest population density of 36 persons per square kilometer followed by Mwanza with 40 persons per square kilometer.

**Table 2.5: Population density by region and district, 1987-2008**

Region /District	Land Area (Sq. Kms)	Population Density		
		2008	1998	1987
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>94,276</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Northern Region</b>	<b>26,931</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>34</b>
Chitipa	4,288	42	30	23
Karonga	3,355	80	58	44
Nkhatabay	4,071	53	40	32
Rumphi	4,769	36	27	20
Mzimba	10,382	70	50	38
Mzuzu City	48	2791	1812	921
Likoma	18	579	449	455
<b>Central Region</b>	<b>35,592</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>87</b>
Kasungu	7,878	80	61	41
Nkhota kota	4,259	71	54	37
Ntchisi	1,655	136	101	73
Dowa	3,041	184	135	106
Salima	2,196	154	113	86
Lilongwe Rural	5,703	216	159	132
Lilongwe City	456	1,479	966	490
Mchinji	3,356	136	97	74
Dedza	3,624	172	134	114
Ntcheu	3,424	138	108	105
<b>Southern Region</b>	<b>31,753</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>125</b>
Mangochi	6,273	127	97	79
Machinga	3,771	130	98	80
Zomba Rural	2,541	228	215	157
Zomba City	39	2,264	1,690	1,109
Chiradzulu	767	376	308	275
Blantyre Rural	1,792	190	172	143
Blantyre City	220	3,006	2,282	1,514
Mwanza	2,295	40	28	26
Thyolo	1,715	342	268	251
Mulanje	2,056	254	208	204
Phalombe	1,394	225	166	156
Chikwawa	4,755	91	75	67
Nsanje	1,942	123	100	105
Balaka	2,193	145	115	97
Neno	1469	73	56	42

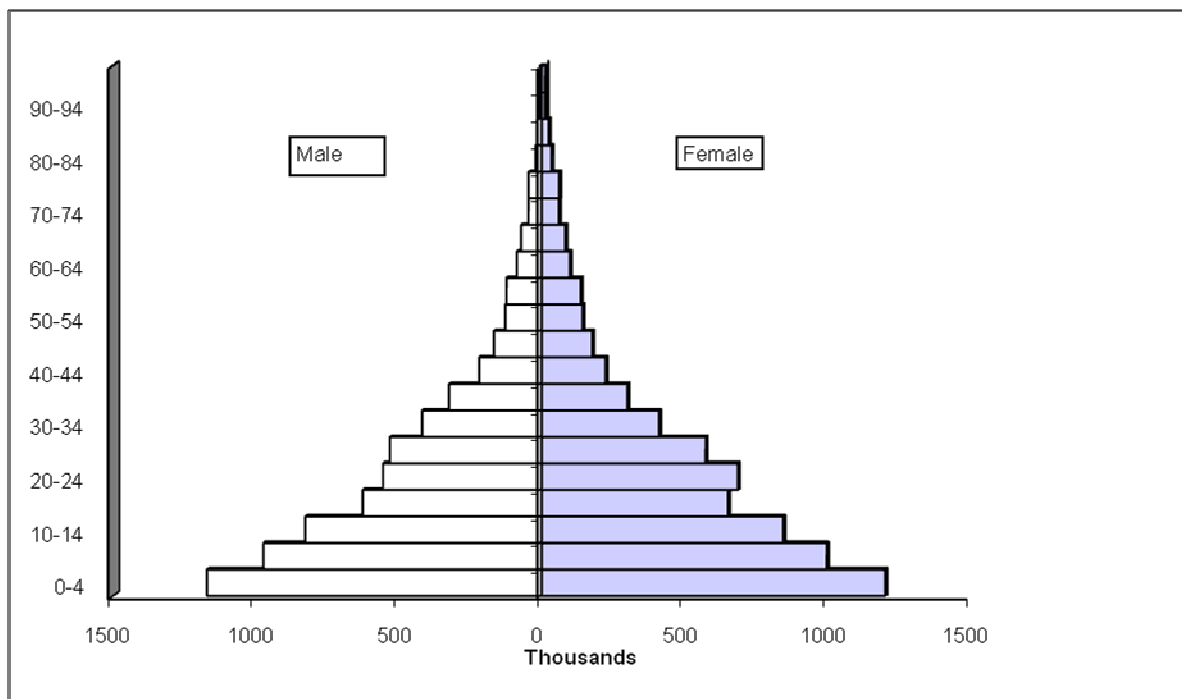
## 2.5 Age and Sex Distribution

The results show that in Malawi 2.8 million were aged under-five years and about 6.0 million were aged 18 years or more.

At national level the census results reveal that about 7 percent of the total population in Malawi comprised infants aged less than 1 year, 22 percent were aged under-five years and about 46 percent were aged 18 years or older, while a further 4 percent were aged 65 years or older. The median age of the population in Malawi is 17 years.

The age and sex pyramid shows that Malawi has a youthful population.

**Figure 4: Population pyramid of Malawi**



## 3.0 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

### 3.1 Nationality

The Census classified the population by nationality. Table 3.1 shows foreign population was 51,554 representing less than one percent of the population. Of the foreign population, Mozambicans represented 37 percent followed by Zambians who constituted 11 percent.

**Table 3.1 Foreign born population by age and nationality**

Nationality	15 Years age Group					
	Total	Percent	0-14	15-29	30-44	45+
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,554</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,961</b>	<b>14,177</b>	<b>13,526</b>	<b>12,896</b>
Mozambique	19,020	37	2,870	4,446	4,874	6,830
Zambia	5,772	11	1,131	2,046	1,644	951
Zimbabwe	4,442	9	347	928	1,500	1,667
Burundi	2,943	6	1,329	815	636	163
Rwanda	2,820	5	1,248	715	573	284
India	2,388	5	562	650	797	379
Tanzania	2,487	5	577	873	686	351
United Kingdom	1,604	3	426	361	353	464
Congo	1,506	3	677	488	290	57
South Africa	1,439	3	248	271	339	581
Others	7,133	14	1,546	2,584	1,834	1,169

The table also shows that there were more Mozambicans aged over 45 years than the rest of the foreign born population.

### 3.2 Religion

Table 3.2 shows that there were 13 million usual residents of whom 10.8 million (83 percent) were Christians, 1.7 million (13 percent) were Muslims, 2 percent were other religions and 2 percent did not belong to any religion.

**Table 3.2: Population distribution by religion, 1998 and 2008\***

Area	1998		2008	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Malawi	9,933,963.0	100	13,029,498.0	100
Christian	7,933,868.0	79.9	10,770,229.0	82.7
Muslim	1,272,429.0	12.8	1,690,087.0	13.0
Other	304,961.0	3.1	242,503.0	1.9
None	422,705.0	4.3	326,679.0	2.5

\**de-jure population*



### 3.3 Literacy and Education

#### 3.3.1 Literacy

Literacy is defined as ability to read and write in any language. During the census, respondents aged 3 years and above were asked questions related to education and literacy status. In this report, literacy is reported for population aged 5 years and over.

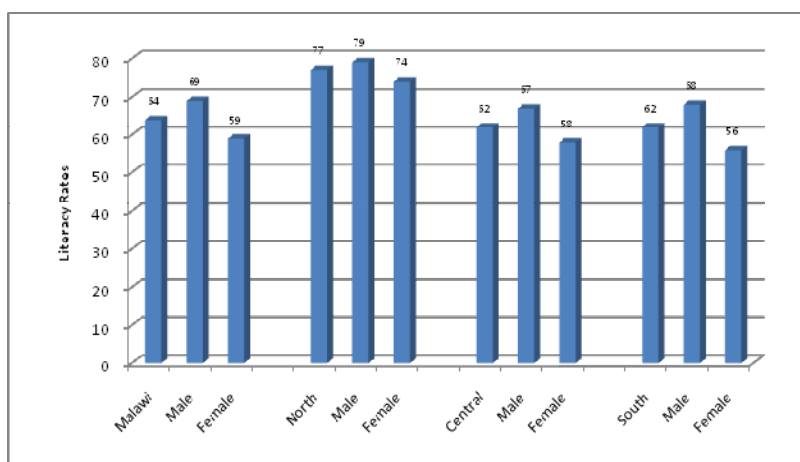
Table 3.3 gives literacy status of persons aged 5 years and over and Figure 5 provides literacy rates by sex and region. There were 10.6 million people aged 5 years and older. Out of this 6.8 million were literate, representing 64 percent literacy rate. The table also shows that there were 2.9 million literate people in Southern Region, 2.8 million in Central Region and 1.1 million in Northern Region. There were 5.4 million (59 percent) literate women and 5.2 million men (69 percent) in Malawi during the census period.

**Table 3.3 Literacy status of persons aged 5 years and older by sex and region**

Literacy	Total	North	Central	South
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,676,345</b>	<b>1,381,055</b>	<b>4,503,802</b>	<b>4,791,488</b>
Illiterate	3,844,575	322,062	1,693,905	1,828,608
Literate	6,831,770	1,058,993	2,809,897	2,962,880
<b>Male</b>	<b>5,209,074</b>	<b>671,279</b>	<b>2,223,327</b>	<b>2,314,468</b>
Illiterate	1,612,998	138,599	727,588	746,811
Literate	3,596,076	532,680	1,495,739	1,567,657
<b>Female</b>	<b>5,467,271</b>	<b>709,776</b>	<b>2,280,475</b>	<b>2,477,020</b>
Illiterate	2,231,577	183,463	966,317	1,081,797
Literate	3,235,694	526,313	1,314,158	1,395,223

**Figure 5: Percentage distribution of literacy Rates**

Figure 7 shows the literacy rates. The figure shows that of the Northern Region, 77 percent were literate. It also shows that of the total population aged 5 years and over, 79 percent of males and 74 percent of females were literate. In Central Region, 62 percent of the population were literate, (males 67 percent and females 58 percent). Of the Southern region 62 percent of



the population were literate, (males 68 percent and females 56 percent).

### 3.3.2 Education

#### 3.3.2.1 School attendance

The official standard entry age for primary education in Malawi is 6 years. Table 3.4 shows that out of a population of 10,241,359 persons aged 6 years and over, 2,856,101 (28 percent) were currently attending school. Out of those currently attending school, 2.1 million (74 percent) were aged 6-13 years, 581,606 (20 percent) were aged 14-17 and 170,114 (6 percent) were 18 years and older.

**Table 3.4 School attendance for persons aged 6 years and older.**

School attendance	Total	School Age		
		6-13	14 – 17	18+
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>10,241,359</b>	<b>2,872,917</b>	<b>1,089,130</b>	<b>6,279,312</b>
Never attended	2,211,957	404,580	92,098	1,715,279
Ever attended	5,173,301	363,956	415,426	4,393,919
Currently attending	2,856,101	2,104,381	581,606	170,114
<b>Northern region</b>	<b>1,324,741</b>	<b>379,235</b>	<b>148,494</b>	<b>797,012</b>
Never attended	129,574	23,449	3,408	102,717
Ever attended	759,030	47,565	45,937	665,528
Currently attending	436,137	308,221	99,149	28,767
<b>Central region</b>	<b>4,323,164</b>	<b>1,207,684</b>	<b>469,546</b>	<b>2,645,934</b>
Never attended	983,248	189,557	45,191	748,500
Ever attended	2,180,050	156,475	190,586	1,832,989
Currently attending	1,159,866	861,652	233,769	64,445
<b>Southern region</b>	<b>4,593,454</b>	<b>1,285,998</b>	<b>471,090</b>	<b>2,836,366</b>
Never attended	1,099,135	191,574	43,499	864,062
Ever attended	2,234,221	159,916	178,903	1,895,402
Currently attending	1,260,098	934,508	248,688	76,902

The table also shows in Southern Region there were 1,260,098 persons (27.4 percent) aged 6 years and older attending school, 1,159,866 persons (27 percent) in Central Region and 436,137 (33 percent) in Northern Region.

### 3.4: Orphan hood

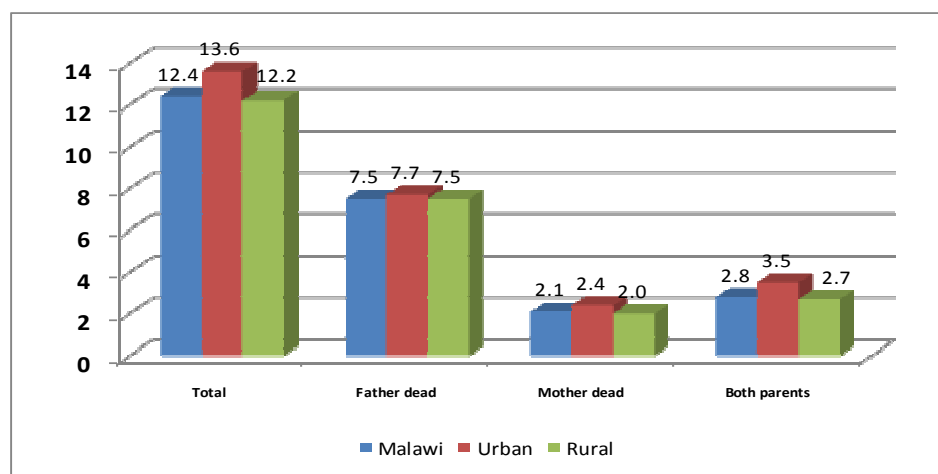
An orphan is defined as a person aged below 18 years, who has lost at least one biological parent. The results show that of the 6,793,986 persons aged below 18 years, 837,300 (12.4 percent) were orphans. Figure 8 also shows that 508,967 (7.5 percent) had their father dead

as compared to 138,394 (2.1 percent) whose mother had died. There were 189,939 (2.8 percent) who had lost both parents. Refer to the Annex tables

In urban areas, orphan hood was slightly higher than in rural areas registering 13.6 percent and 12.2 percent, respectively.

There were no major orphan hood differentials by sex. Male orphans were 12.5 percent and female orphans were 12.3 percent.

**Figure 6: Percentage distribution of orphan hood at national, urban and rural, 2008**



### 3.5 Disability

Disability was defined as having difficulties or problems in one or all of the following areas; seeing, hearing, speaking and walking/climbing. Table 3.4 shows that the total number of persons with disabilities was 498,122, representing about 4 percent of the total population. There are differences between urban and rural areas. Of the persons with disability, there were 452,743 in the rural and 45,379 in the urban.

**Table 3.3: Disabled persons by type of disabilities, national, urban and rural**

Area	Total persons with disabilities	Type of disability				
		Seeing	Hearing	Speaking	Walking	Other
Malawi	498,122	133,273	82,180	30,198	108,870	143,601
Urban	45,379	14,689	6,462	3,291	9,712	11,225
Rural	452,743	118,584	75,718	26,907	99,158	132,376

Table 3.3 also show that 133,273 (26.7 percent) had problems with sight, 108,870 (21.9 percent) had problems with walking, 82,180 (16.5 percent) had hearing problems and 30,198 (less than one percent) had speech problems.

## 4.0 HOUSEHOLD AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

### 4.1 Household Size

**Figure 7: Household sizes by region**

The mean household size is calculated as the ratio of the total household population to the number of households in an area. Figure 7 shows the average household size by region and the results indicate an average household size of 4.6 in 2008. Household size varies across the regions. Average household size in the Northern Region is 5.2, Central Region 4.7 and Southern Region 4.4.

### 4.2 Dwelling unit characteristics

There were 12,615,298 persons enumerated in regular households and 461,862 were in institutions and homeless. Table 4.1 shows that the majority of persons (42.9 percent) were living in traditional dwelling units, 34.1 percent of persons lived in semi-permanent dwellings and 22.9 percent lived in permanent dwelling units.

The table also shows that there were 2,869,933 dwelling units. Of these, 44 percent were traditional, 34 percent were semi-permanent and 21 percent were permanent.

**Table 4.1: Number of persons and type of dwelling unit by region**

Type of dwelling units	Malawi		Northern Region		Central Region		Southern Region	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Persons in dwelling Units</b>	<b>12,615,298</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,630,046</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,339,926</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,645,326</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Permanent	2,894,291	22.9	444,615	27.3	1,028,733	19.3	1,420,943	25.2
Semi-permanent	4,306,883	34.1	509,136	31.2	1,462,176	27.4	2,335,571	41.4
Traditional	5,414,124	42.9	676,295	41.5	2,849,017	53.4	1,888,812	33.5
<b>Number of Dwelling Units</b>	<b>2,869,933</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>336,602</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,192,139</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,341,192</b>	<b>100</b>
Permanent	614,068	21.4	85,938	25.5	211,812	17.8	316,318	23.6
Semi-permanent	980,896	34.2	102,165	30.4	322,343	27.0	556,388	41.5
Traditional	1,274,969	44.4	148,499	44.1	657,984	55.2	468,486	34.9

There are more persons living in permanent dwelling units in the Northern Region (27 percent) than in Southern Region (25 percent) and Central Region (19 percent).

### 4.3 Household Utilities

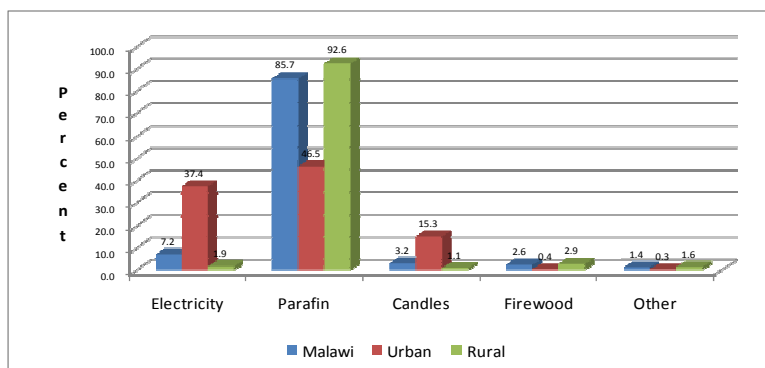
#### 4.3.1 Source of energy for lighting

The households were asked to indicate main source of energy for lighting which included electricity, paraffin, candles and firewood.

Figure 8 shows that paraffin remains the most commonly used source of

energy for lighting in Malawi (85.7 percent) .In urban areas 46.5 percent used paraffin for lighting and 92.6 percent in rural areas. The proportion of total population that used electricity as a source of energy for lighting was 7 percent, out of which 37 percent were in urban areas and 2 percent in rural areas. The figure also shows that 15 percent of the urban population used candles for lighting.

**Figure 8: Main source of Energy for lighting**



#### 4.3.2 Source of energy for cooking

The households were asked to indicate main source of energy for cooking which included electricity, paraffin, gas, charcoal, firewood and other. Table 4.2 shows that firewood is the most commonly used source of energy for cooking (88 percent) in Malawi. Firewood usage accounts for 96 percent in the rural areas and 42 percent in the urban.

**Table 4.2 Population distribution by main source of energy for cooking**

Source of Energy for Cooking	Malawi		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,615,298</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,881,010</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,734,288</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Electricity	292,678	2	254,979	13.6	37,699	0.4
Paraffin	144,960	1	13,073	0.7	131,887	1.2
Gas	1,776	0	1,019	0.1	757	0.0
Charcoal	1,000,846	8	816,128	43.4	184,718	1.7
Firewood	11,054,103	88	785,970	41.8	10,268,133	95.7
Other	120,935	1	9,841	0.5	111,094	1.0

More urban households use charcoal (43 percent) and electricity (14 percent) for cooking than rural areas (1.7 percent and 0.4 percent), respectively.

### 4.3.3 Source of drinking water

Household information regarding sources of drinking water in dry season is used as a proxy of general population welfare of the country. Table 4.3 shows that about 48 percent of the population used boreholes as a main source of drinking water in the dry season, 18.3 percent used unprotected well and 11.9 percent used community stand pipe.

**Table 4.3 Main Sources of drinking water in dry season.**

Main source of drinking water in dry season	Malawi		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,615,298</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,881,010</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,734,288</b>	<b>100</b>
Piped into dwelling	370,568	2.9	303,781	16.1	66,787	0.6
Piped into yard/plot	570,228	4.5	407,116	21.6	163,112	1.5
Community stand pipe	1,500,485	11.9	778,201	41.4	722,284	6.7
Unprotected well	2,305,756	18.3	90,459	4.8	2,215,297	20.6
Protected well	774,787	6.1	78,758	4.2	696,029	6.5
Borehole	6,061,290	48.0	198,810	10.6	5,862,480	54.6
Spring	70,001	0.6	4,647	0.2	65,354	0.6
River/Stream	857,253	6.8	8,867	0.5	848,386	7.9
Pond/Lake	72,701	0.6	1,395	0.1	71,306	0.7
Dam	14,104	0.1	635	0.0	13,469	0.1
Rain water	1,179	0.0	43	0.0	1,136	0.0
Tanker truck/Bowser	4,839	0.0	792	0.0	4,047	0.0
Bottled water	326	0.0	137	0.0	189	0.0
Other	11,781	0.1	7,369	0.4	4,412	0.0

Urban population (41.4 percent) used community stand pipe as a source of drinking water, while boreholes (54.6 percent) are the main sources of drinking water in the rural areas.

#### 4.3.4 Type of toilet facility

Households were asked questions regarding type of toilet facility used. Table 4.4 shows that 82.1 percent of persons used traditional pit latrines and 11.7 percent had no facility at all. The urban-rural differentials for pit latrines were 78.1 percent urban and 82.8 percent rural.

**Table 4.4 Population distribution by type of toilet facility**

Type of Facility	Malawi		Urban		Rural	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,615,298</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,881,010</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,734,288</b>	<b>100</b>
Flush toilet	386,662	3.1	308,101	16.4	78,545	0.7
Traditional pit toilet	10,351,329	82.1	1,468,444	78.1	8,882,807	82.8
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine	216,254	1.7	71,179	3.8	145,071	1.4
No facility	1,477,794	11.7	28,390	1.5	1,449,402	13.5
Other	183,359	1.5	4,896	0.3	178,463	1.7

The table also shows that among the urban population, 16.4 percent use flush toilets and in the rural areas the proportion is 0.7 percent. The table also shows that 78.1 percent and 82.8 percent of the population used traditional pit toilet in urban and rural areas respectively.

#### 4.4 Household Assets

Assets owned by a household are a proxy measure of the socio-economic status. Information was collected on ownership of household assets such as radio, bicycle and oxcarts. Table 4.5 shows that 64.1 percent owned radios, 45 percent owned bicycles and 2.2 percent owned oxcarts.

**Table 4.5: Percentage of households by type of assets, 1998 and 2008**

Type of Assets	Malawi		Northern Region		Central Region		Southern Region	
	1998	2008	1998	2008	1998	2008	1998	2008
Owned a Radio	49.9	64.1	51.1	66.0	47.6	63.3	51.6	64.3
Owned a bicycle	40.7	45.0	36.8	39	42.7	45.1	40	46.6
Oxcart	5.2	2.2	7.5	4.2	7.3	3.4	2.6	0.5

Table 4.5 shows that there was an increase in the ownership of radios in Malawi from 49.9 percent in 1998 to 64.1 percent in 2008. The table also shows an increase in national ownership of bicycles from 40.7 in 1998 to 45.0 percent in 2008.

## 5.0: POPULATION DYNAMICS

### 5.1: Fertility

#### 5.1.1 Crude Birth Rate

The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) is defined as number of births that occurred in a particular year per 1,000 population. There were 516,629 children born to all women in the 12-months prior to the census date. This gives the reported or unadjusted CBR of 39.5 births per 1,000 population. The CBR was higher in rural areas (40.4) than in urban areas (34.6). At regional level the CBR was 39.9 births per 1,000 population in the Northern Region, 40.5 in the Central Region and 38.6 in the Southern Region.

#### 5.1.2 Total Fertility Rate (TFR)

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is defined as the number of births a woman would have if she survived to the end of her childbearing age, which ranges from 15-49 years, and experienced the current observed age-specific fertility rates. Table 5.1 shows that the unadjusted TFR was at 5.2 children per woman.

**Table 5.1: Number of women (15-49 years) and births in the last 12 months, ASFR and TFR**

Age group	Women 15-49	Birth in last 12 months	ASFR <sup>i</sup>
15-19	635,927	70,737	0.11
20-24	678,071	169,406	0.25
25-29	566,350	130,331	0.23
30-34	405,602	79,232	0.20
35-39	298,004	43,747	0.15
40-44	221,274	15,956	0.07
45-49	174,875	5,599	0.03
	<b>2,980,103</b>		<b>1.04 TFR=5.2</b>

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ASFR stands for Age Specific Fertility Rate



## 5.2: Mortality

### 5.2.1 Crude Death Rate

Crude Death Rate (CDR) is defined as the number of deaths that occurred in a given calendar year per 1,000 population. Table 5.2 shows that a total of 135,865 deaths occurred during the 12 months prior to the census which gives a CDR of 10 deaths per thousand population.

**Table 5.2: Reported number of deaths and CDR by sex, urban, rural and region**

Area	Number of Deaths	CDR ( <i>de-jure</i> ) 2008
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>135,865</b>	<b>10</b>
Male	70,991	11
Female	64,874	10
Urban	17,502	9
Rural	118,363	11
Northern	16,439	10
Central	45,496	8
Southern	73,930	13

## **STATISTICAL TABLES**