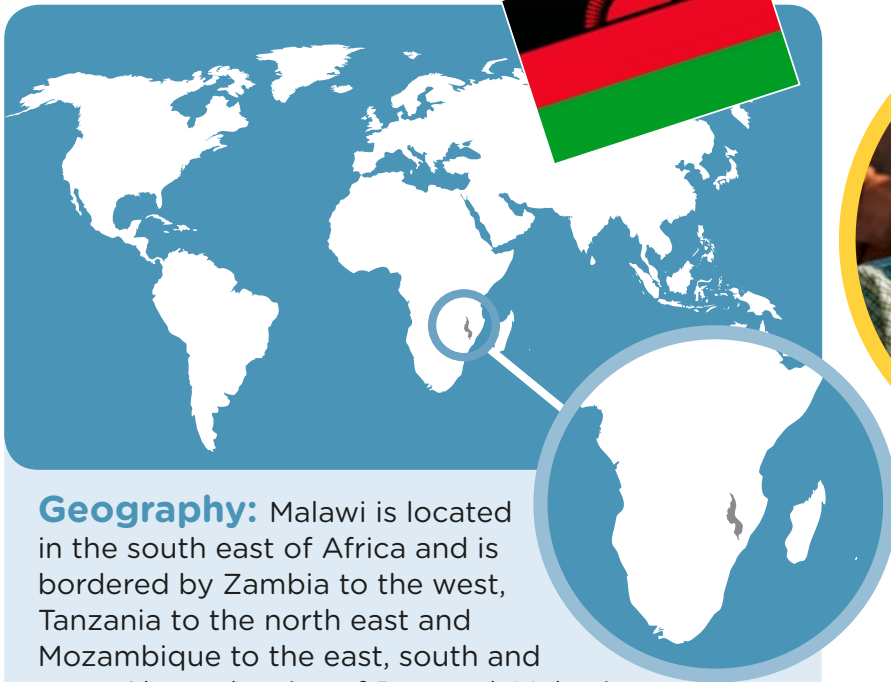


Fairtrade: a World of Difference

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Malawi, Kasinthula, Sugar

Malawi



Geography: Malawi is located in the south east of Africa and is bordered by Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north east and Mozambique to the east, south and west. About the size of Portugal, Malawi is divided into 3 regions and 27 districts. The capital city is Lilongwe but the biggest city and commercial centre of the nation is Blantyre.

In the east of the country is Lake Malawi, the twelfth largest freshwater lake in the world. Much of Malawi is flat but there are high mountains in the Nyika Plateau in the north.

Nyanja (chinyanja), also known as Chewa (chicheŵa) after the largest tribe speaking it, is a Bantu language spoken by over 15 million people in southern Africa.

Quick Chewa lesson:
For "hello," say "Moni"

Language

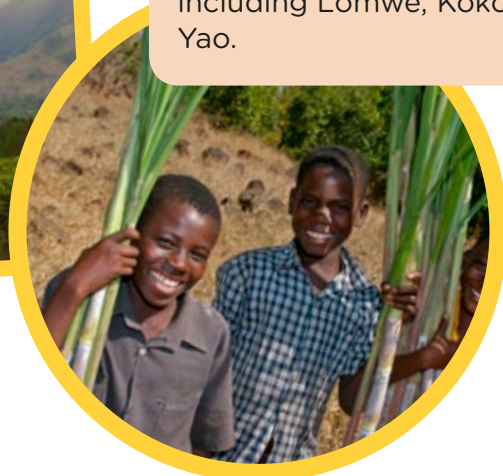
National or official languages in Malawi are Nyanja (Chewa), Tumbuka and English. 13 other languages are also spoken in Malawi including Lomwe, Kokola and Yao.



Photos: Traidcraft/Richard Else

The main Malawi exports are... tobacco, tea and sugar.

Did You Know?



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Meaning of the Flag

The Malawi flag consists of three horizontal stripes. Black, which represents the people of Africa; red which symbolises the blood spilt in Malawi's struggle for

independence and green which stands for the country's vegetation. The rising sun on the flag represents the dawn of freedom and hope on the African continent.



Population: **14.85 million**

Population Density: **129 people per sq km**

Literacy: **72.8%**

Children enrolled in Primary Education: **90.6%**

Children enrolled in Secondary Education: **25%**

HIV/AIDS prevalence in population (15-49 years old): **11.9%**



Religion: Protestant 55%, Muslim 20%, Roman Catholic 20%, traditional indigenous and other religions 5%.



Climate

The climate of Malawi varies because of the terrain. In general the seasons are divided into the cool season from May to mid August; the hot period from August to November and the rains which fall from November to May. Along the northern coast of Lake Malawi the average rainfall is more than 163cm per year. The majority of the country (about 70%) averages 75-100cm annually.

Did You Know?

In 1859 David Livingstone, the Scottish missionary and explorer, reached Lake Malawi which he named Lake Nyasa.

David Livingstone set up a Christian mission in Malawi.

Blantyre, now an important commercial and industrial centre in Malawi, was named after the birthplace of David Livingstone in Scotland.

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History

1st Century AD	13th-15th Centuries	1480	17th Century	1790-1860
Bantu - speaking tribes invade region inhabited by Twa and Fulani tribes	Further migrations of Bantu-speaking people to the area and work with iron tools.	Maravi Confederacy established by Bantu speaking peoples, at its height including large parts of present day Zambia and Mozambique as well as Malawi	Portugese explorers arrive.	Slave trade increases dramatically.
1891	1964	1964-1994	1994	2004
Colonized and ruled by the British under the name of Nyasaland	Granted independence from Britain and named Malawi.	Existed as a one-party state ruled by President Hastings Kamuzu Banda.	First multiparty elections held. Banda was ousted from power	Present Bingu Mutharika is the current president of a democratically elected multi-party government.

Country Focus: Chikwawa

Chikwawa, where Kasinthula sugar farmers are based, is a district in the southern region of Malawi. It is an inhospitable, malaria endemic area which suffers from long droughts and twice yearly rains that often bring floods. The low altitude makes it hot even in the cooler months. Chikwawa is one of the poorest regions in Southern Africa. Most families practice a subsistence way of life or work in sugar production.



Bathing and washing clothes in irrigation canals