

# Malawi "The Warm Heart of Africa"



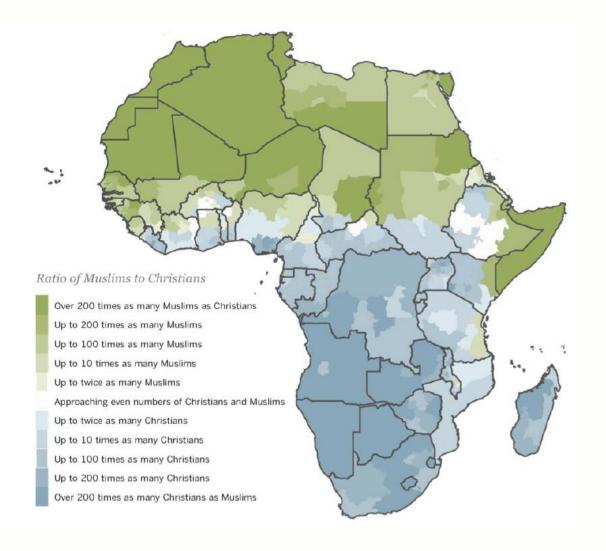
#### **Agenda**

- Islam in Malawi
- Christianity in Malawi
  - Brief history
  - Congregations & Education
  - Missions
- Understanding Malawi
  - People
  - Economy
  - Challenges
- The path forward











#### Islam in Malawi

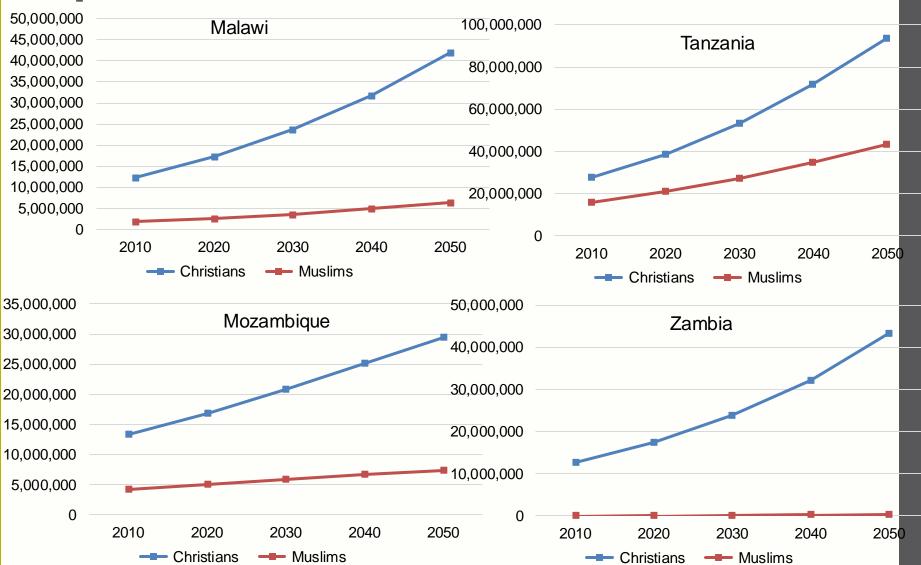


## **Brief History of Islam**

- Introduced in the 1860s
- Originally at Nkhotakota
- By slave-trading Muslims (the Jumbe) from Easter Coast of Africa
- Traders from the coast brought it to the Yao of the Shire Highlands in the 1870s and 80s.



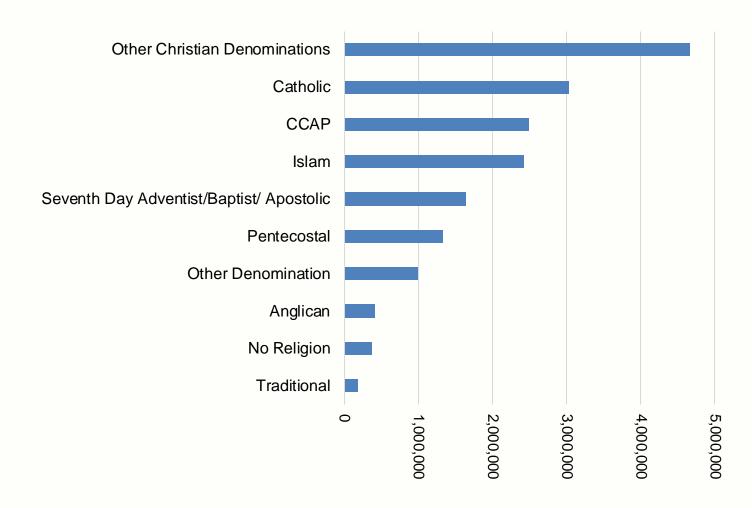
#### **Population Growth**



Source: United Nations



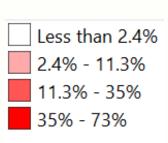
#### Islam = 14% of Population in 2018

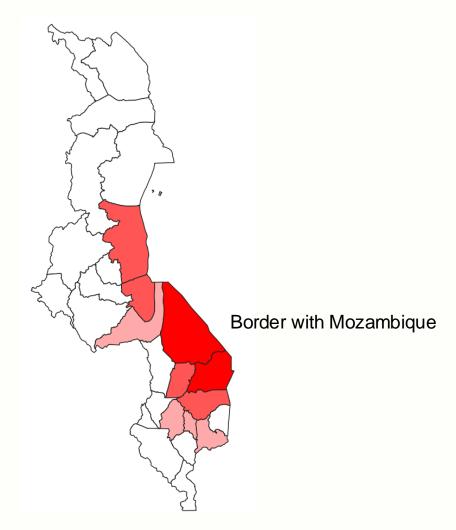


Source: 2018 Census



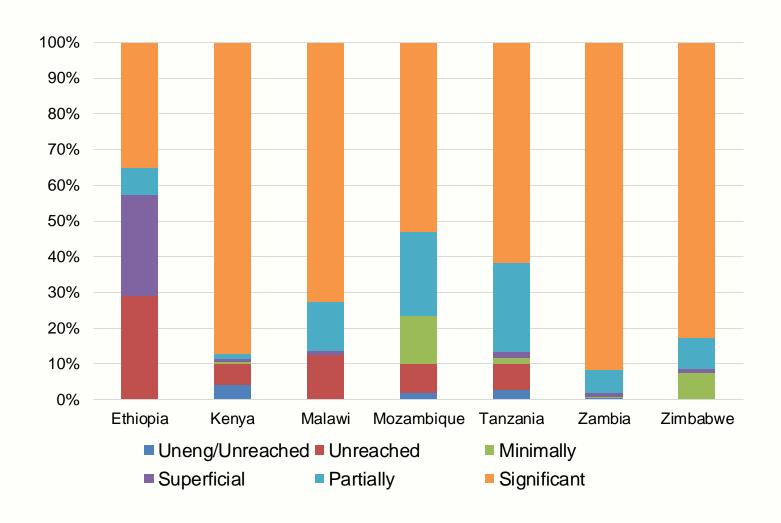
#### **Muslims in Southeastern Districts**





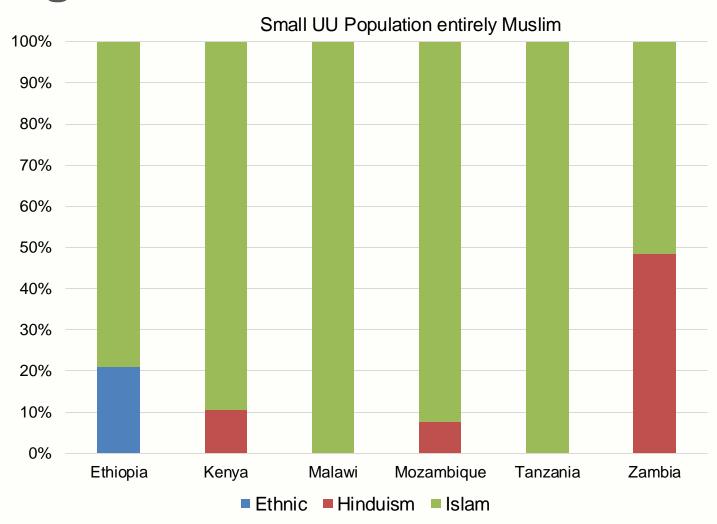


#### Reached Status of Malawi



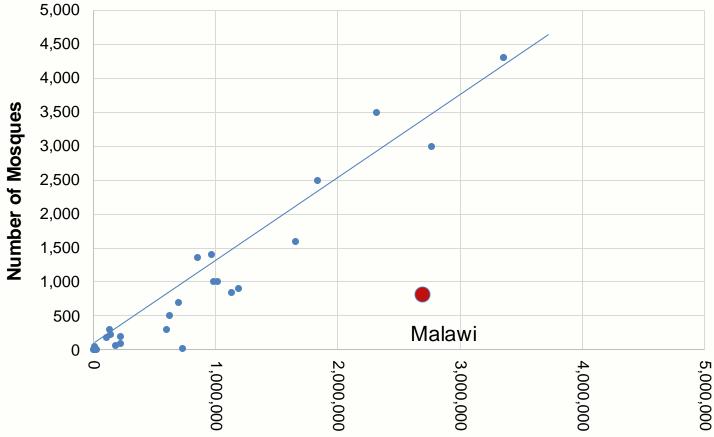


#### Religious Profile of UUPGs





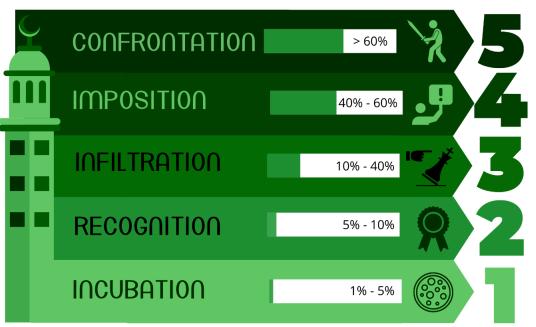
## "Under-Mosqued" Relative to Other African Countries





## Malawi in Infiltration Stage

"I was ordered to fight all men until they say 'There is no God but Allah.'" (Muhammud March 632, Muhammad ibn Umar al-Waqidi)



Sharia law imposed across the region, which is then locked down against non-Islamic influences, including the Gospel

Demand incorporating elements of the Sharia law into legal system. Often, under threat of "rogue" elements of the Muslim community

Front and umbrella organizations lobby the government, support pro-Muslim political candidates, conduct public relations campaigns, accusations of Islamophobia, imams as 'chaplains' in armed forces and prisons, Islamic studies at universities, and public schools with Muslim students to pray toward Mecca

Sharia law within own community, publicly condemn "radical" Islam, seek well-publicized inter-faith dialogue and gatherings. Islam as a religion of peace

Low profile, make few if any demands on host nation. Making good first impressions and gaining vocational respect



## **Christianity in Malawi**



## **Brief History of Christianity**

- 1859 Arrival of the Portuguese
- 1859 British missionary David Livingstone
- 1875 First permanent Christian presence (Presbyterians)
- 1880s First Catholic presence. Now largest church in Malawi.
- 1880s First permanent presence by Anglicans.
- 1890s First evangelical presence (Baptist)
- 1980s Pentecostals and charismatics
- Early 1990s African Independent Churches

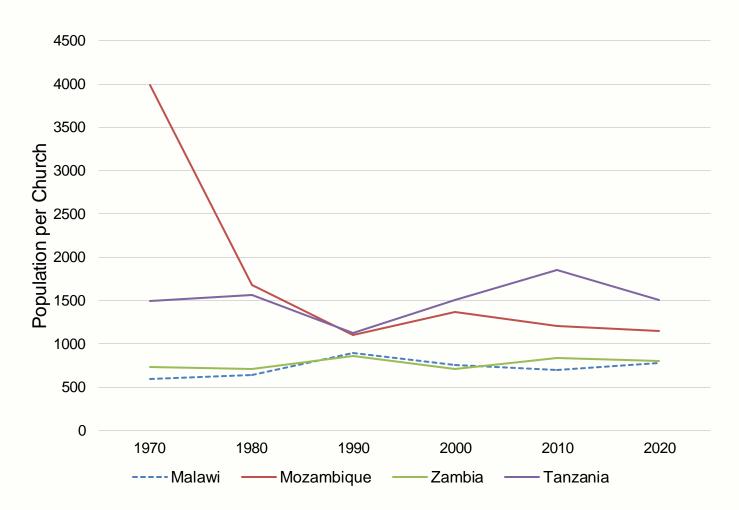


#### **Profile of Churches**

TEN LARGEST DENOMINATIONS	NUMBER OF CHURCHES
Church of Christ (Non-Instrumental)	3,951
Church of Central African Presbyterian	3,892
Assemblies of God in Malawi	2,194
Baptist Convention of Malawi	2,000
New Apostolic Church	1,825
Seventh Day Adventist	1,408
African Baptist Assembly Malawi	800
Living Waters Church	700
Evangelistic Church	600
Zambezi Evangelical Church	500
TOTAL (of 25,172 in Malawi, 71%)	17,870

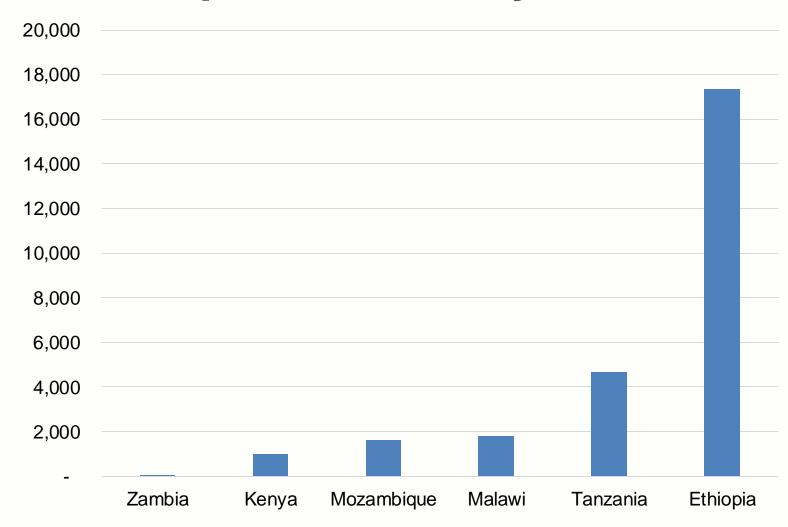


#### Church Growth ~= Population Growth





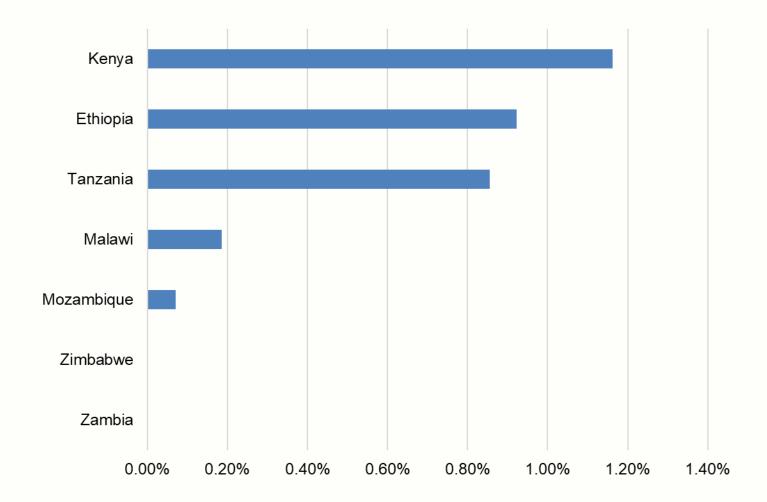
#### Muslims per Missionary Received



Source: City Vision



#### Percent of Muslims that are MBBs



Source: City Vision



# **Build Missiological Focus of Seminaries is Critical**

- Current focus lacking
- Inherited from (post)colonial model of theological training
- African Christianity fragile due to lack of focus on missionary identity in theological training
- Africa is Christianized, but without impact
- Increasing awareness to increase missiological focus
- Increasing efforts to build missiological focus
  - Fohle Lygunda Li-M's "Antioch" model



## **Understanding Malawi**

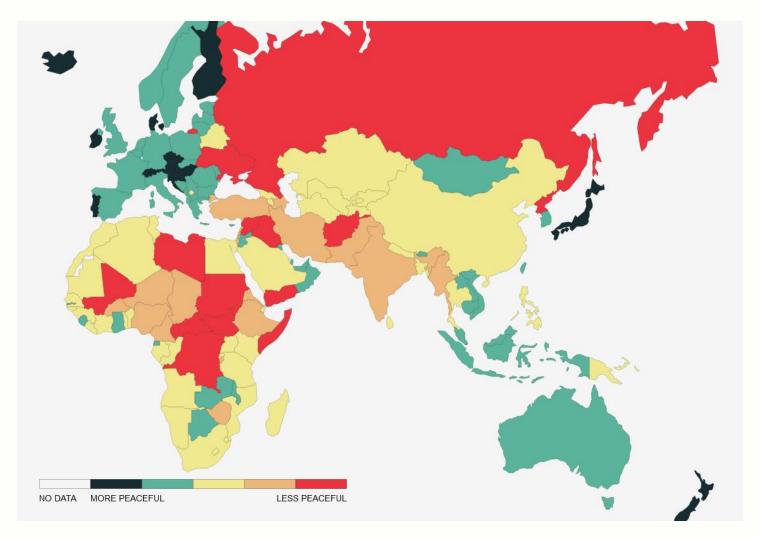


#### **Brief Political History**

- British occupation began in 1880s
- British protectorate in 1891
- Encouraged growth of Christianity, discouraged Islam
- Nationalist movement gathered momentum in 1950s
- 1953 Protectorate within the semi-independent Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland
- 1964 Full independence Malawi
- 1970-94 Totalitarian one-party state under Hastings Banda
- Current president Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera. Former theologian, former president of Malawi Assemblies of God

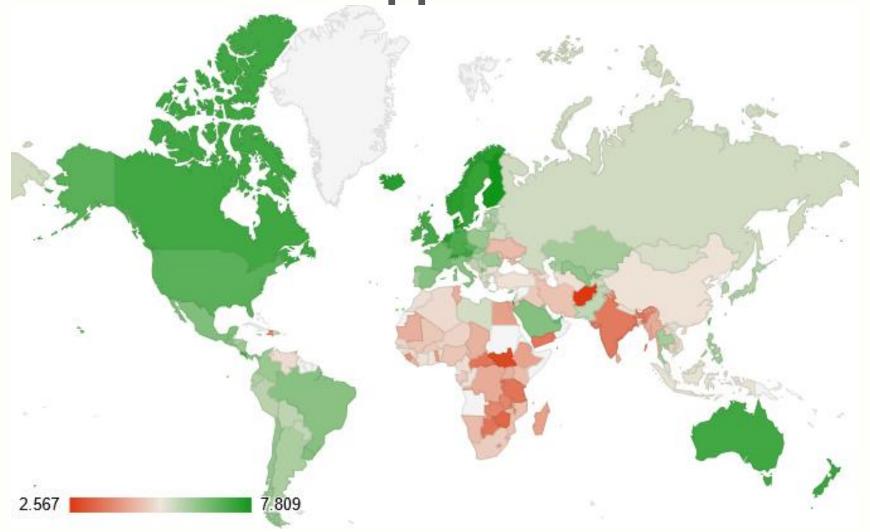


#### **Global Peace Index**



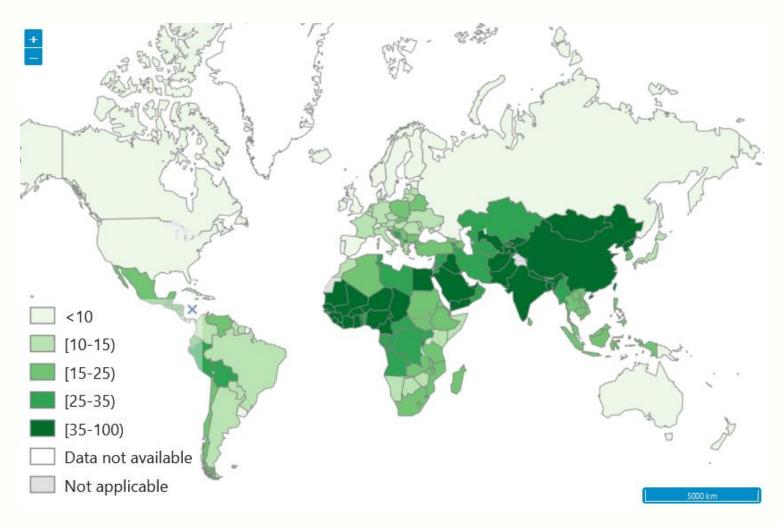


**Low Level of Happiness** 





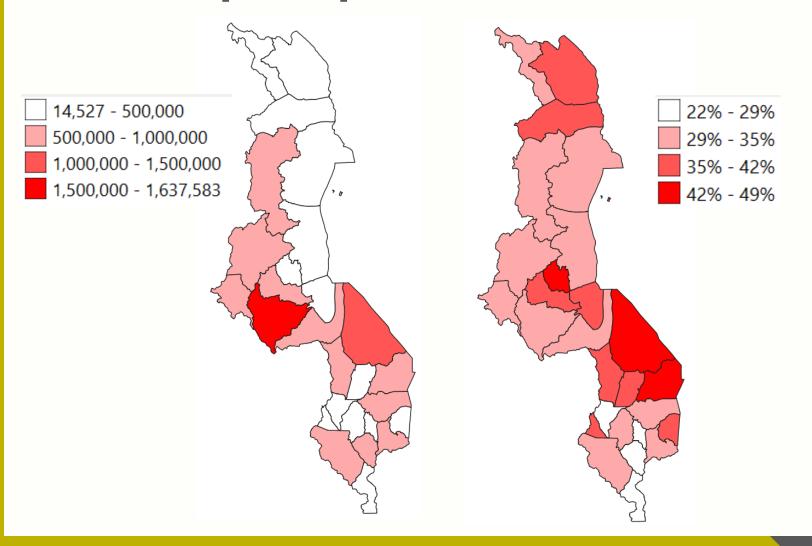
#### **Medium Air Pollution Levels**



Source: WHO

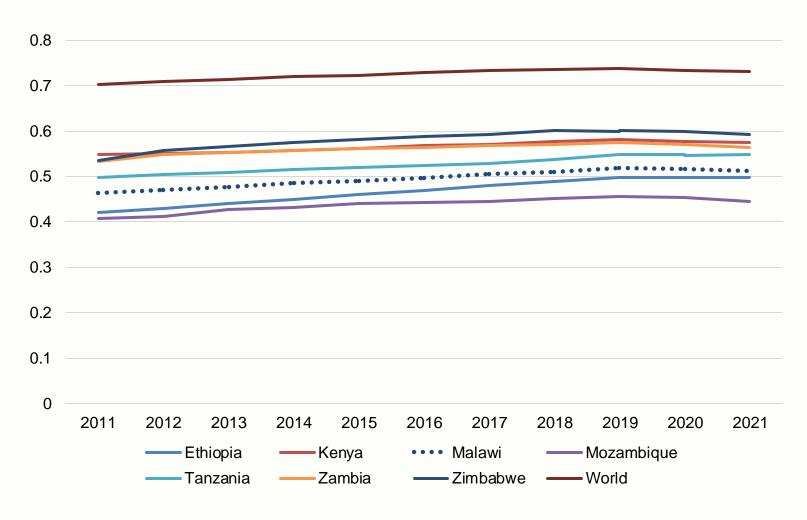


## 2018 Pop, Pop Growth 2008-18



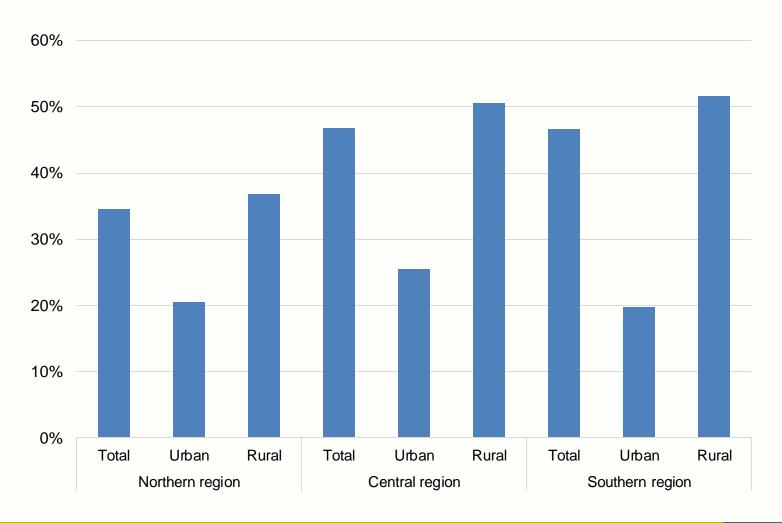


## **Human Development Index**





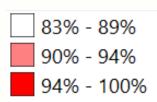
## **High Rural Illiteracy 2018**

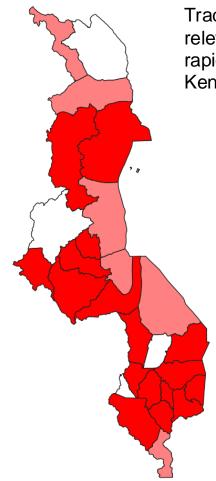


Source: Census



#### **Percent Rural 2018**



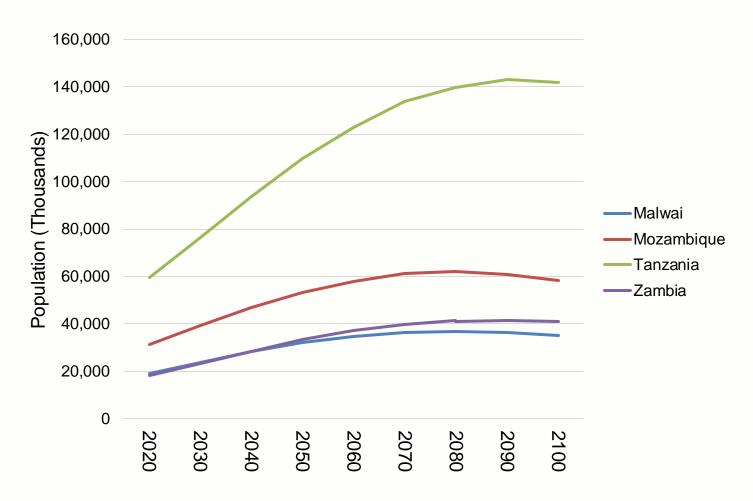


Traditional models of missions are still relevant in Malawi compared to more rapidly urbanizing countries such as Kenya.

Source: Census

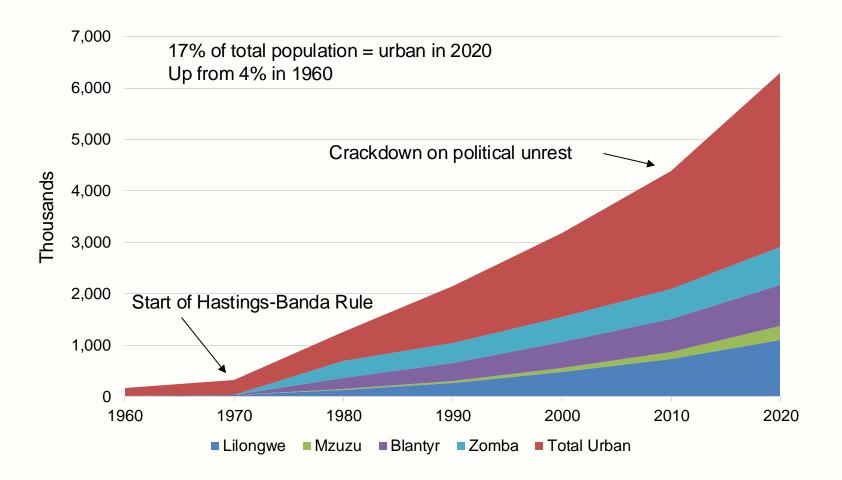


#### Manageable Population Growth





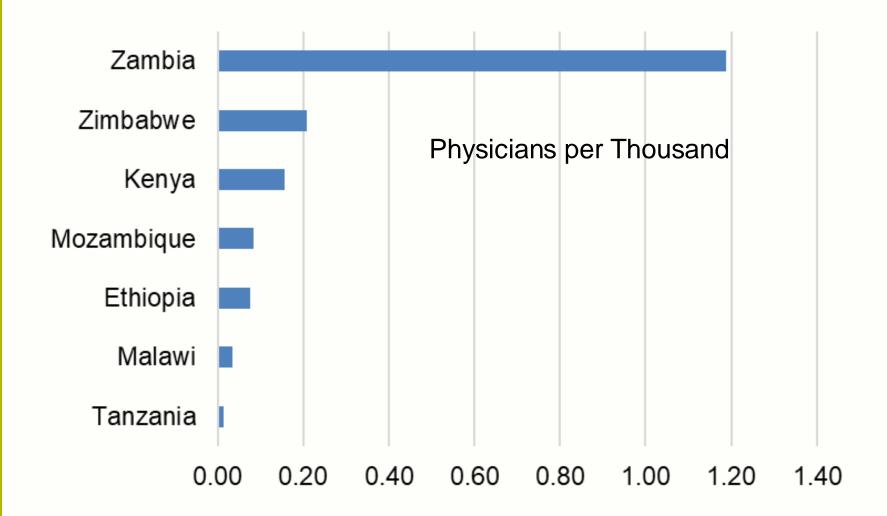
#### **Urban Composition**



Source: Census

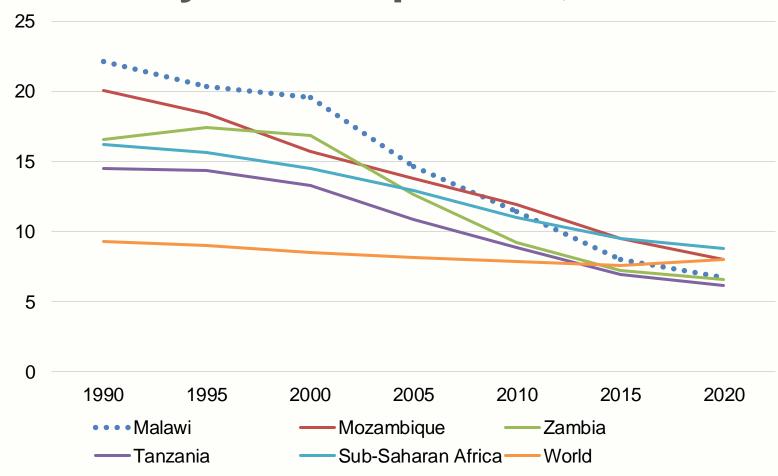


#### **Poor Health Care Access**



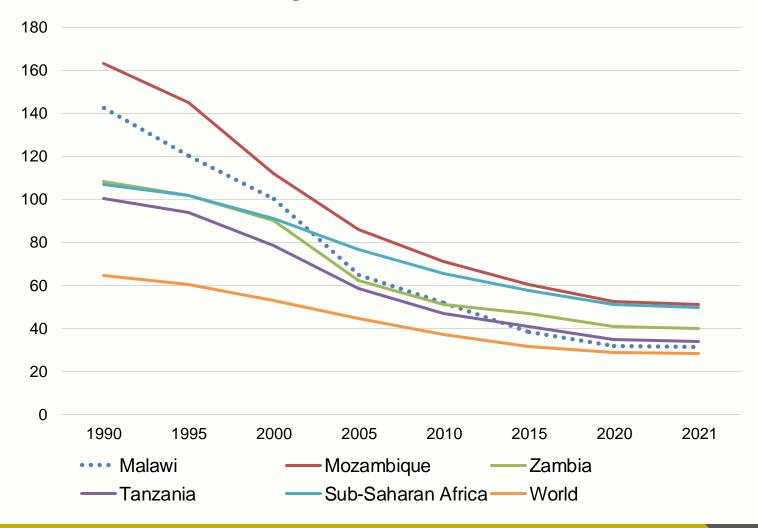


#### Maternity Deaths per 100,000 Births



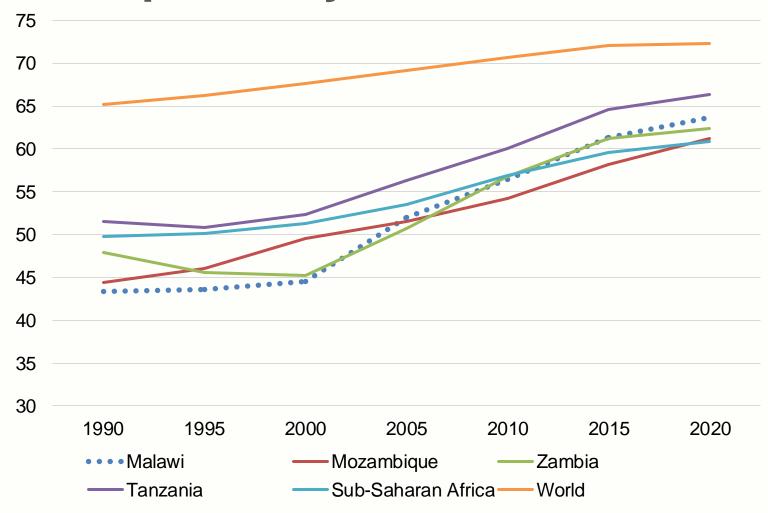


## **Infant Mortality**



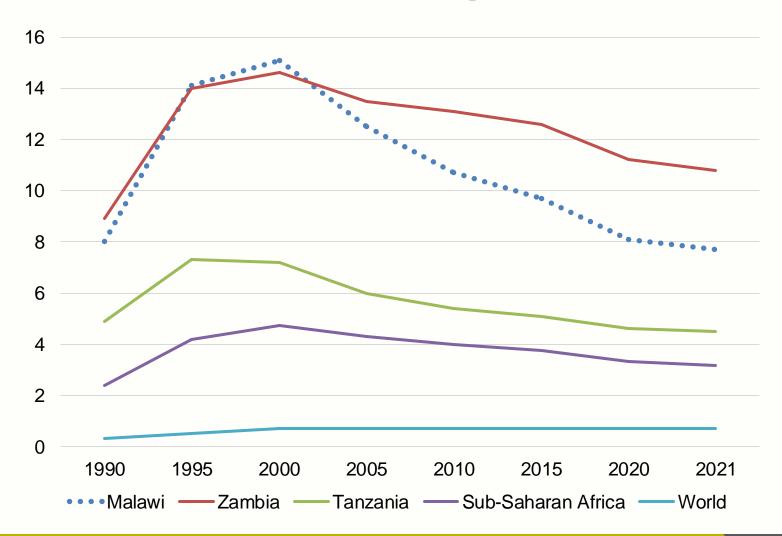


#### Life Expectancy at Birth





## **HIV Infection Rate (ages 15-49)**



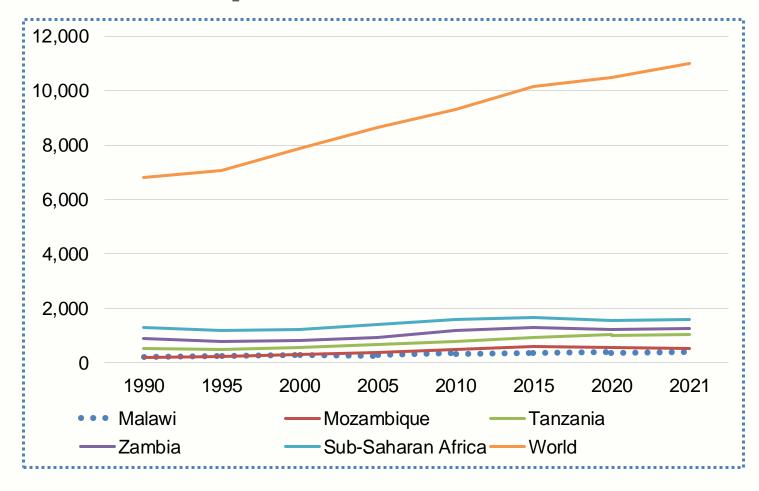


## **Economic Profile**

- A least developed economy according to the UN
- Composition of GDP (2017) by Origin:
  - Agriculture 23%
  - Industry 18%
  - − Services − 52%
- Occupation (2017)
  - Agriculture (77%)
  - Industry (4%)
  - Services (19%)

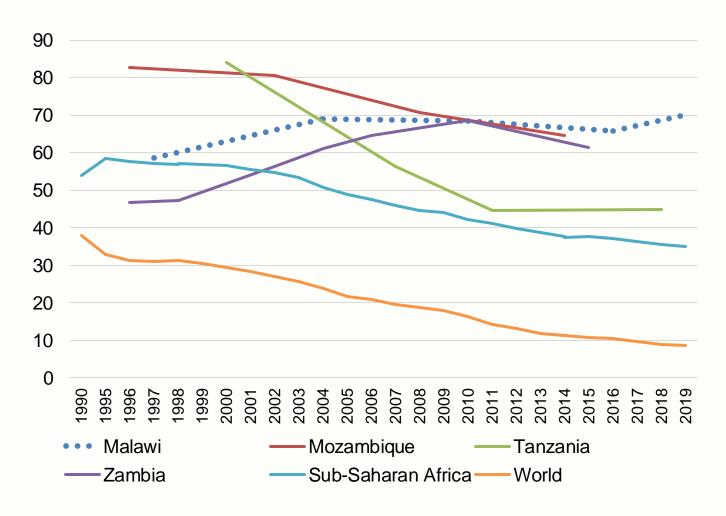


# **Low Per Capita GDP**





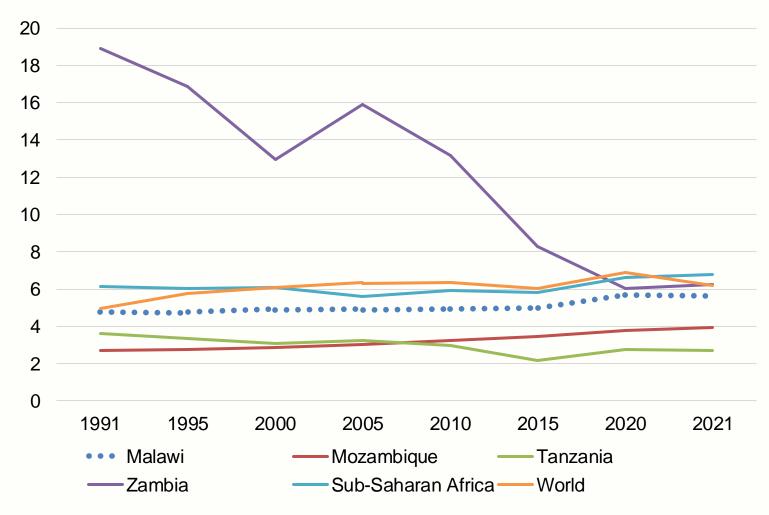
# Percent Living on < \$2.15 per Day



Source: World Bank



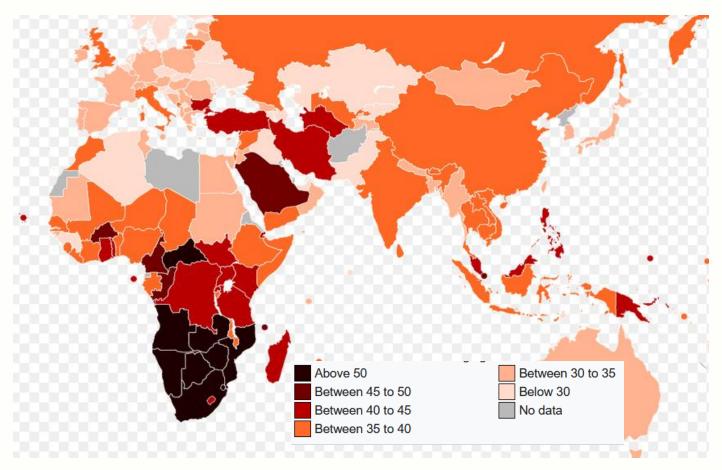
# **Steady and Low Unemployment**



Source: World Bank



# **Medium Gini Inequality Index**

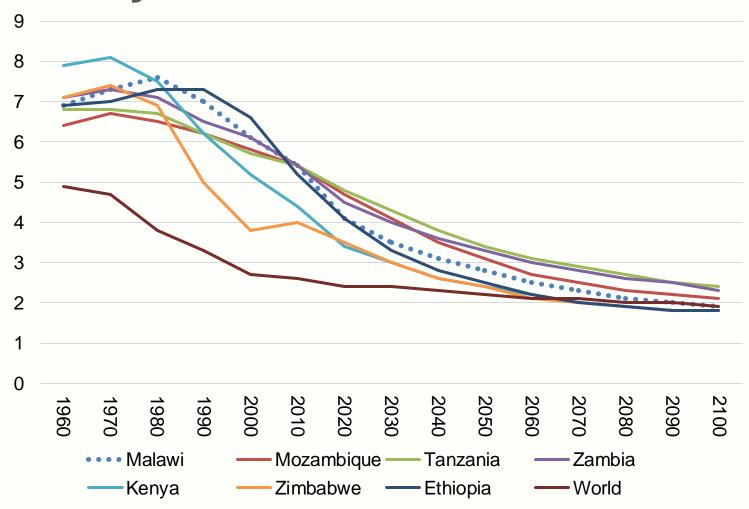


Steady between 32 and 33 since 1994

Source: World Bank



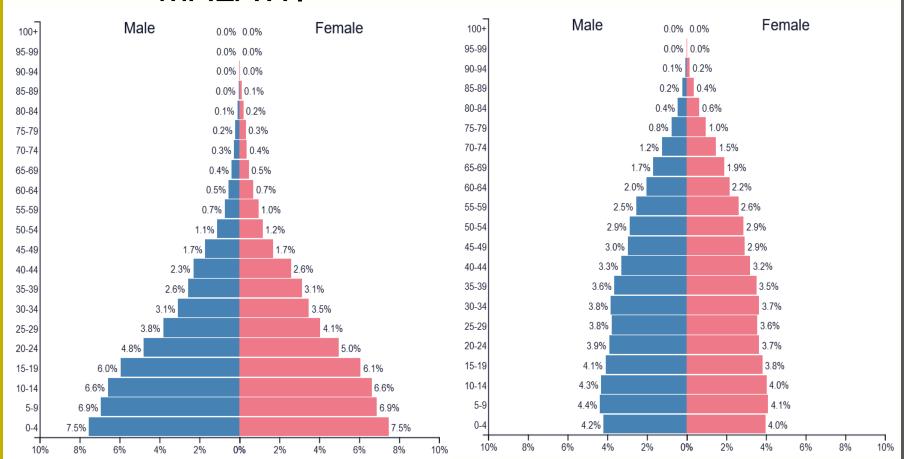
# **Fertility Rates**





#### **MALAWI**

### **WORLD**





# **Moving Forward**



## **Foundations**

- UNITY in the Body of Christ Christian Umma
- Enhance missiological focus of theological training
- Build capacity for focus on Muslim outreach among mission agencies



## **Christian Umma**

- Cross denominational/organizational HOP
- Unity among congregations and churches
- Unity among active mission agencies
- Unity among churches and mission agencies
- Fragrance of servitude in wake of colonialism
- Common understanding of who is doing what where



# **Enhance Missiological Focus of Theological Training**

- Focus on Muslim outreach
- Mobilizing and equipping students
- Discipleship for MBBs
- Persecution avoidance/response



# **Build Capacity of Muslims Outreach Among Missionaries**

- Mobilizing churches and mission agencies
- Equipping churches and mission agencies
- Discipleship for MBBs
  - Persecution avoidance/support
  - Theological and mission training
  - Counseling
- Persecution avoidance/response
  - Network of safe houses
  - Emergency funding
  - Relocation services
  - Legal services



# **Peoples of Focus**

- 4,000 unreached/unengaged in Malawi
- 2.5 million unreached
- All Muslim
- Youth
  - Sports ministries
  - Education



# Platforms for the Gospel

- Jesus Film (highly oral, low literacy)
- Education (arts, athletics, academics)
  - Focus on rural areas
- Deforestation
- Micro-business development
- Off-grid energy access (e.g. solar panels, windmills)
- Health care
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Malaria



# Platforms for the Gospel (cont'd)

- Traditional rural models of missions
  - Health
  - Clean water
  - Literacy/education
  - Farming/ranching