

# 10 facts about

# MALAWI

1. Malawi is a country in Africa that shares borders with:  
**Tanzania** (north),  
**Zambia** (west), and  
**Mozambique** (south/east).

2. It is an extremely small country:  
**118,484 km<sup>2</sup>**  
 In relation to its neighbours, it is  $\frac{1}{7}$  the size of Mozambique,  $\frac{1}{8}$  the size of Tanzania,  $\frac{1}{10}$  the size of South Africa and  $\frac{1}{20}$  the size of the Congo!!

It is even smaller than England:  
**130,395 km<sup>2</sup>**

3. **Lake Malawi** (situated between Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest lake in Africa and the 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the world, so although Malawi is landlocked it still enjoys a huge coastline.



← Lake Malawi

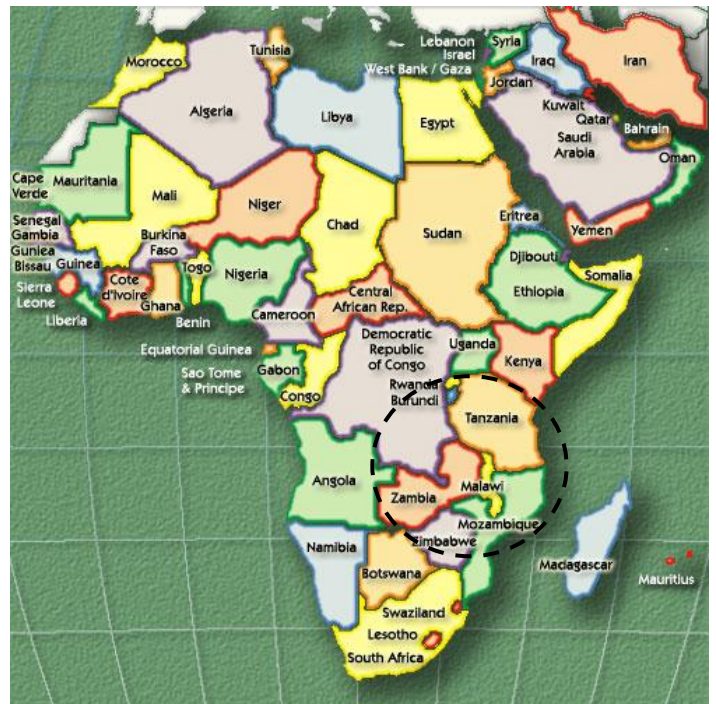
4. We sometimes think of Africa as being very dry, but Malawi has a 6 month rainy season. The **Northern Region** is mountainous, filled with rocky valleys and peaks that reach over 8,200 ft. The **Central Region** is primarily an agricultural area, and is home to the Capital Lilongwe. The **Southern Region** is mostly flat and low, other than the Zomba Plateau and Mount Mulanje (10,000 ft).



5. Its population is approximately **14 million** making it one of Africa's most densely populated countries. 85% of the population are living in rural areas rather than cities. Malawi currently has 4 cities; England has 50!



← Mount Mulanje

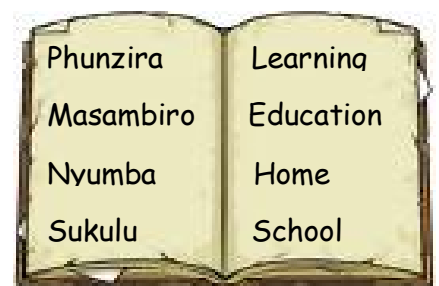


6. Although **Chichewa** is the national language of the country, there are 16 recognised languages and some speculate that up to 35 languages are in use. The official language (for education, business and law) is English.
7. The average Malawian will expect to live till the age of 41. This short life is mainly due to AIDS and malaria - around **1 in 7 people** in Malawi has AIDS (in England it is 1 in 500), and around  $\frac{1}{3}$  of hospital beds are occupied by AIDS patients. This has a huge effect on the economy.
8. Malawi is one of the poorest countries on Earth - a massive 40% of its people are living below the poverty line. Of the 85% of people living in rural areas, half of them do not have access to safe drinking water. Most villages do not have power or electricity. The minimum wage is about **62p per day** - as a daily average, a person on minimum wage working in England earns at least 50 times what they would earn in Malawi.
9. **Families** play a very central role in Malawian culture. On average women have 6 children per family. By law men can marry more than one person, so often families are very large and complicated, with children speaking of their second or third mother.
10. In terms of politics, Malawi has a **multiparty democracy** like England. Although (like many places in the world) there is some corruption in the government, it is in general a **peaceful** and **safe** country where people rely on the protection of their communities.

Countries in Southern Africa:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. M _ _ A _ I           | 7. A _ G _ L A        |
| 2. S O _ _ H _ F R _ C A | 8. Z _ _ B I _        |
| 3. Z _ _ B _ B W _       | 9. N A _ _ B _ A      |
| 4. B O _ _ _ A N A       | 10. M _ U R _ T _ U S |
| 5. _ O Z _ M _ _ Q _ E   | 11. S W _ Z _ L _ _ D |
| 6. M _ D A _ _ S _ _ R   | 12. L _ S O _ _ O     |

Chichewa



**Phunzira**

is a 100% non-profit charity that wants to set up links between schools in Malawi and schools in England. We are raising money to run an education centre in the north of Malawi, helping school children and members of the community access learning resources free-of-charge.

For more information visit: [www.phunzira.org](http://www.phunzira.org)