



## **ZOMBA DISTRICT SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE**

**2017-2022**



**December, 2017**

### **Front Cover Page Photo**

The front cover photo shows low water levels of Mulunguzi Dam in October, 2017. The water level was low mainly due to the deforestation and bush fires happening in its catchment area that left most of the land bare. Deforestation is one of the critical issues in Zomba and it is mainly taking place outside the city boundary in the catchment areas of mulungwai river which is the source of Mulunguzi Dam. Consequently it is the Zomba City residents who experience the most negative impacts when the dam dries. The communities downstream also face the impact because of flow of water in Mulunguzi River is affected. Picture courtesy of Sylvia Ambali, Environmental District Officer.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>FRONT COVER PAGE PHOTO.....</b>	<b>III</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS.....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES.....</b>	<b>VIII</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>IX</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>CHAPTER I: GENERAL FEATURES.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1.1 Location and Size.....	1
1.1.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrology.....	2
1.1.3 Soil .....	3
1.1.4 Climate and Climate Change .....	3
1.1.5 Underlying Causes of Communities' Vulnerability to Disasters .....	4
1.1.6 Early Warning Systems and Monitoring.....	4
1.1.7 Possible Disaster Adaptation and Mitigation measures .....	5
<b>1.2 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES AND LOCAL POLITICS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.2.1 Administrative and Governance Structures .....	5
1.2.2 Local Government System and Functions .....	6
1.2.3 Informal Administrative Structures.....	14
1.2.4 Politics .....	14
<b>3. THE PEOPLE .....</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1. Tribes .....	15
3.2. Languages .....	15
3.3. Religion.....	15
<b>1.4 DEMOGRAPHIC TREND SCENARIOS.....</b>	<b>16</b>
1.4.2 Birth and Death Rates .....	17
1.4.3 Total Fertility Rate .....	17
1.4.4 Migratory Patterns .....	17
1.4.5 Settlement Patterns.....	17
<b>CHAPTER 2: LAND TENURE AND USE SYSTEMS .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2.1 LAND TENURE SYSTEM .....</b>	<b>19</b>
2.1.1 Public Land .....	19
2.1.2 Private Land .....	19
<b>2.2 LAND USE SYSTEM .....</b>	<b>19</b>
2.2.1 Land for Agriculture .....	19
2.2.2 Irrigated Land under Estate Farming .....	20
Source: Zomba District Council .....	21
2.2.3 Major Settlements and Settlement Patterns .....	21
2.2.4. Forestry and Protected Areas .....	22
<b>2. 3 LAND ISSUES .....</b>	<b>22</b>
2.3.1 Land disputes .....	22
2.3.2. Worsening Land Pressure.....	22
2.3.3. Insufficient Knowledge of Land Matters .....	23
2.3.4. Uncontrolled Development.....	23
2.3.5 Rampant Customary Land Privatisation .....	23

2.3.6 Challenged Land Rights To Men .....	23
2.3.7 Challenged Land Administration System.....	23
2.3.8 Residual Effects of Colonial Land Policies .....	23
<b>2.4. PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.1 FOREST RESERVES AND WILD LIFE .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>3.2 AQUATIC RESOURCES.....</b>	<b>26</b>
3.2.1 Aquatic Ecosystems .....	26
3.2.2 Wetlands.....	26
3.2.3 Threats to Aquatic Resources Management.....	26
<b>3.3 ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS.....</b>	<b>27</b>
3.3.1 Conservation Measures.....	28
<b>3.4 WASTE AND SANITATION.....</b>	<b>32</b>
3.4.1 Solid Waste Management.....	32
3.4.2 Liquid Waste Management .....	32
<b>3.5 BIODIVERSITY .....</b>	<b>33</b>
3.5.1 State of Biodiversity .....	34
3.5.2 Opportunities provided by Biodiversity.....	34
3.5.3 Threats to Biodiversity.....	34
3.5.4 Strategies for Improving Biodiversity .....	36
<b>CHAPTER 4: THE ECONOMY OF ZOMBA DISTRICT.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4.1 POVERTY IN MALAWI.....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>4.2 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>38</b>
4.2.2 Livestock.....	54
4.2.3 Fisheries .....	56
4.2.4 Forestry .....	67
4.2.5 Mining.....	74
4.2.6 Commerce and Industry .....	75
4.2.7 Labour and Employment.....	81
4.2.8 Tourism .....	87
<b>CHAPTER 5: SOCIAL SERVICES.....</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>5.1.2 LIFE EXPECTANCY.....</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>FIGURE 26: LIFE EXPECTANCY .....</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>5.1.6 HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE SECTOR .....</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>5.1.7 FAMILY PLANNING .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>5.1.8 KEY HEALTH ISSUES .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>5.2 WATER AND SANITATION .....</b>	<b>105</b>
5.2.1 Main Sources and Condition of Water Facilities .....	105
5.2.2 Access to Safe Water.....	105
5.2.3 Access to Sanitary Latrines.....	110
5.2.4 Methods of Waste Disposal.....	110
5.2.5 Key Issues and Trends from Water and Sanitation .....	110
5.3.1 Education Indicators .....	112
5.3.2 Education Services.....	115
5.3.3 Education Facilities.....	119
5.3.4 Education Manpower .....	121

5.3.5 Key Issues and Trends from the Education Sector .....	121
<b>5.4 SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>122</b>
5.4.1 Social Welfare and Community Development Services .....	123
<b>5.5 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>138</b>
5.6.4 Drug and Alcohol Abuse .....	143
5.6.5 Sports .....	143
5.6.6 Recreation facilities .....	143
<b>5.6 HIV AND AIDS .....</b>	<b>146</b>
5.6.1 Coordination Structures .....	146
5.6.2 HIV & AIDS Services .....	147
5.6.3 Workplace Programmes .....	147
5.6.4 Capacity and HIV & AIDS Policy Framework .....	147
5.6.5 Key Drivers of the Epidemic in the District .....	147
<b>5.7 NUTRITION .....</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>CHAPTER 6: INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES.....</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>6.1 ROADS .....</b>	<b>149</b>
6.1.1 Main Roads .....	149
6.1.2 Secondary Roads .....	150
6.1.3 Tertiary Roads .....	150
6.1.3 District Roads .....	150
6.1.4 Feeder Roads .....	151
<b>6.2 BRIDGES .....</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>6.3 ROAD TRANSPORT .....</b>	<b>152</b>
6.3.1 Rail Transport .....	153
6.3.2 Transport Terminals .....	153
<b>6.4 COMMUNICATION .....</b>	<b>153</b>
6.4.1 Postal Services .....	153
6.4.2 Telephone Network .....	153
6.4.3 Mobile Network .....	153
6.5.4 Radio and Television Network .....	153
6.5.5 National Publications .....	154
6.5.6 Internet Services .....	155
<b>6.6 POWER/ENERGY .....</b>	<b>155</b>
<b>6.7 HOUSING .....</b>	<b>155</b>
6.7.1 Sites and Services for Housing .....	155
6.7.2 Public Housing .....	157
6.7.3 Rural Settlement Pattern .....	158
6.7.4 Issues in Rural Housing .....	158
<b>CHAPTER 7: GOVERNANCE .....</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>7.1 SECURITY SERVICE FACILITIES.....</b>	<b>159</b>
7.1.1 The Police .....	159
7.1.2 Judiciary .....	160
7.1.3 Prisons .....	160
7.1.4 Fire Brigade .....	160
<b>CHAPTER 8: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES.....</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>8.1 VISION 2020 .....</b>	<b>162</b>
<b>8.2 MALAWI GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY .....</b>	<b>162</b>

<b>8.3 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>CHAPTER 9: PRIORITIZED DISTRICT ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS.....</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>CHAPTER 10: PRIOTIZED DEVELOPMENT REFORMS AND STRATEGIES.....</b>	<b>179</b>
<b>11.1 PRIORITIZED DEVELOPMENT REFORM AREAS.....</b>	<b>179</b>
11.1.1 Financial Management Services .....	179
11.1.2 Good Governance .....	179
11.1.3 Human Resource Management .....	179
11.1.4 Agriculture Services .....	179
11.1.5 Youth Development Services .....	179
6. Education Services .....	180
11.1.7 Social Welfare Service .....	180
11.1.8 Health Services .....	180
11.1.9 Community Development Services .....	182
11.1.10 Fisheries Services .....	182
11.1.11 Forestry Extension Services .....	182
11.1.12 Urban Planning and Development .....	182
11.1.13 Tourism Services .....	182
11.1.14 Disaster Risk Management Affairs .....	182
<b>11.2 PRIORITIZED DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES .....</b>	<b>182</b>
11.2.1 Integrated rural development strategy.....	183
11.2.2 Sustainable development strategy .....	183
11.2.3 Endogenous development strategy.....	183

## LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE 1 MAP OF ZOMBA DISTRICT .....	2
FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF CO-MANAGEMENT BLOCKS IN ZOMBA/MALOSA FOREST RESERVE.....	29
FIGURE 3 ENVIRONMENTAL HOTSPOTS IN ZOMBA DISTRICT .....	31
FIGURE 4: COMMUNITY IN TREE PLANTING EXERCISE.....	34
FIGURE 5 HANGING A BEEHIVE AND PROCESSED HONEY, CHISUPULI GROUP .....	36
FIGURE 6 ZOMBA CITY COUNCIL SOLID WASTE DUMPSITE AT 4 MILE ON THE ZOMBA-BLANTYRE ROAD ..	38
FIGURE 7 HOUSEHOLDS USING IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITY WHICH IS NOT SHARED .....	39
FIGURE 8: TOP SOIL LOSS RATE IN 2014 BY EPA .....	58
FIGURE 9 NUMBER OF FISHERS AND CREW PER YEAR .....	69
FIGURE 10 FISH PRODUCTION TREND BY YEAR .....	71
FIGURE 11 FISH PRODUCTION TREND IN METRIC TONS BY SPECIES.....	71
FIGURE 12 NUMBER OF FISHING GEARS PER YEAR.....	73
FIGURE 13 EMERGENT AQUATIC PLANTS (TYPHADOMINGENSIS).....	74
FIGURE 14 CONFISCATED ILLEGAL FISHING GEARS .....	75
FIGURE 15 SOLAR DRIER AT KACHULU LANDING BEACH .....	76
FIGURE 16 MARKETS FOR LAKE CHILWA FISH .....	77
FIGURE 17 PRODUCTION AREA COVERAGE ON ZOMBA TIMBER PLANTATION .....	80
FIGURE 19 VILLAGE FOREST AREAS SPECIE COVERAGE .....	81
FIGURE 20 VNRMCS TRAINED AND UNTRAINED BY EPA.....	81
FIGURE 18: CURRENT SPECIES IN THE STOCKED AREA ON THE PLANTATION .....	82
FIGURE 21 ENCROACHED AREA IN ZOMBA MOUNTAIN FOREST.....	86
FIGURE 22 REGISTERED ENTERPRISES BY SIZE .....	91
FIGURE 23 NUMBER OF REGISTERED BUSINESSES BY TA.....	92
FIGURE 24 NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY SECTOR .....	94
FIGURE 25 TYPES OF LABOUR IN ZOMBA DISTRICT .....	100
FIGURE 26 NUMBER OF LABOUR COMPLAINTS .....	102
FIGURE 27 NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS (N) .....	105
FIGURE 1: GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF LEADING CAUSES OF MORBIDITY IN U/5 IN ZOMBA ...	119
FIGURE 32 NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER WATER POINT .....	129
FIGURE 33 EFFECTS OF VANDALISM AND THEFT OF WATER FACILITIES .....	130
FIGURE 34 NO OF CBCCS PER TA .....	147
FIGURE 35 NUMBER OF CHILDREN ATTENDING CBCC PER TA .....	148
FIGURE 36 NUMBER OF OVC IN ZOMBA .....	149
FIGURE 37 DISTRIBUTION OF CBOs BY TA IN ZOMBA .....	156
FIGURE 38 NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLDS BY TA.....	158
FIGURE 39 HOUSEHOLD HEAD BY GENDER.....	159
FIGURE 40 BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLD HEAD BY STATUS .....	159
FIGURE 41 PERCENTAGE OF ELDERLY HEADED HOUSEHOLDS.....	160
FIGURE 42NUMBER OF CHILD HEADED HOUSEHOLDS BY TA .....	160
FIGURE 43 PERCENTAGE OF BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLD HEADS WITH DISABILITY .....	161
FIGURE 44 PERCENTAGE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARY HOUSEHOLD HEADS WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS .....	161
FIGURE 45 RADIO LISTENERSHIP PERCENTAGE BY RADIO STATION .....	183
FIGURE 46 NEWSPAPER READERSHIP PERCENTAGE BY PUBLICATION .....	184

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1 ANNUAL DISASTER TRENDS IN ZOMBA .....	3
TABLE 2 TRADITIONAL DISASTER EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS.....	4
TABLE 3 NUMBER OF VDCS PER TA .....	7
TABLE 4 NGOs OPERATING IN ZOMBA DISTRICT AND THEIR FOCAL AREAS .....	7
TABLE 5 AGRICULTURAL LAND USE, SIZE (HA) AND CONDITIONS BY EPA.....	13
TABLE 6 TOTAL IRRIGABLE AREA AND DEVELOPED AREA BY EPA.....	13
TABLE 7 IRRIGATED LAND UNDER PRIVATE ESTATES.....	14
TABLE 8 PARTICIPATORY TREE PLANNING AND NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED 2012-2016.....	23
TABLE 9 STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION IN FORESTRY ACTIVITIES .....	25
TABLE 10 SUBJECT WELLBEING (%) IN 2014.....	32
TABLE 11 AREA GROWN TO MAJOR CROPS 2012-2016.....	33
TABLE 12 YIELD OF MAJOR CROPS (KG/HA).....	34
TABLE 13 NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL HOUSEHOLDS 2012-2016 .....	35
TABLE 14 ADMARC MARKETS PER TA.....	36
TABLE 15 STAFFING SITUATION AND STAFF FARMER RATIO BY EPA .....	38
TABLE 16 AVERAGE SMALLHOLDER FARMING LAND HOLDING SIZE.....	39
TABLE 17 AGRICULTURAL LAND USE, SIZE (HA) AND CONDITION BY EPA .....	39
TABLE 18 TOTAL IRRIGABLE AREA AND DEVELOPED AREA BY EPA.....	40
TABLE 19 NUMBER OF SCHEMES, AREA COVERED AND BENEFICIARIES AND TECHNOLOGY IN USE.....	40
TABLE 20 SUMMARY OF IRRIGATED AREA UNDER PRIVATE ESTATES .....	41
TABLE 21 LIVESTOCK POPULATION SPECIES 2012-2016.....	42
TABLE 22 NUMBER OF DIP TANKS AND SLAUGHTER SLABS .....	43
TABLE 23 NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK KEEPERS .....	44
TABLE 24 FISH CATCH TREND (METRIC TONS) 2008-2015 .....	46
TABLE 25 TOTAL NUMBER OF FARMERS AND CLUBS PER EPA .....	48
TABLE 26 FISHING LICENSES ISSUED 2014-2016.....	51
TABLE 27 AVERAGE BEACH PRICES OF FRESH FISH AT LAKE CHILWA (MWK/KG) .....	53
TABLE 28 STATUS OF PONDS AFFECTED BY 2015 FLOODS.....	54
TABLE 29 LOCATION AND NUMBER OF DRY FISH PONDS .....	54
TABLE 30 AREA PLANTED AND HARVESTED.....	57
TABLE 31 AREA DESTROYED BY BUSH FIRES.....	59
TABLE 32 BAGS OF CHARCOAL CONFISCATED 2012-2016 .....	60
TABLE 33 ITEMS CONFISCATED FROM ILLEGAL PIT SAWYING .....	62
TABLE 34 NUMBER OF BUSINESSES BY SECTOR AND SIZE .....	67
TABLE 35 NUMBER, TYPE AND SIZE OF TRADE AND SERVICES.....	70
TABLE 36 TYPES OF LABOUR IN ZOMBA COMPARE TO SOUTHERN REGION AND MALAWI.....	73
TABLE 37 TYPES OF EMPLOYER AND DISTRIBUTION BY WORKERS.....	73
TABLE 38 LABOUR INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED 2012-2016 .....	74
TABLE 39 REGISTERED ACCOMMODATIONS 2017.....	81
TABLE 40 LEADING CAUSES OF MORBIDITY (%) 2013-2017 .....	83
TABLE 41 TOP TEN CAUSES OF MORTALITY .....	83
TABLE 42 HEALTH FACILITIES DISTRIBUTION BY TA.....	85
TABLE 43 HEALTH PERSONNEL BY FACILITY .....	87
TABLE 44 CURRENT WATER POINTS PER TA.....	90
TABLE 45 CURRENT FUNCTIONALITY OF TAPS IN RURAL GRAVITY FED SCHEMES .....	91
TABLE 46 CURRENT FUNCTIONALITY OF MARKET CENTRE SCHEMES .....	91
TABLE 47 CURRENT FUNCTIONALITY OF BOREHOLES.....	92
TABLE 48 AVERAGE DISTANCE BETWEEN WATER POINTS PER TA .....	94
TABLE 49 PRIMARY SCHOOL PASS RATES 2012-2016 .....	96
TABLE 50 PRIMARY SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES 2012-2016 .....	97
TABLE 51 TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS BY LEVEL AND TA .....	97
TABLE 52 PRESCHOOLS BY TA, ENROLMENT AND SEX .....	98
TABLE 53 PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT BY SEX AND TA.....	98
TABLE 54 TEVETA COLLABORATED COURSES WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS IN ZOMBA DISTRICT 2016-2017 .....	100
TABLE 55 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS AND TYPE BY TA AND LEVEL .....	101



TABLE 56 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS BY TA, LEVEL AND OWNERSHIP .....	101
TABLE 57 NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS AND CLASSROOM-LEARNER RATIO .....	101
TABLE 58NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS BY TYPE AND CLASSROOM-LEARNER RATIO.....	102
TABLE 59 DESK LEARNER RATIO BY TA AND LEVEL.....	102
TABLE 60 TEACHER HOUSE RATIO BY TA AND LEVEL .....	103
TABLE 61TEXT BOOK TO LEARNER RATIO BY TA, LEVEL, CLASS AND SUBJECT .....	103
TABLE 62NUMBER OF LABORATORIES AND LIBRARY FACILITIES BY TA AND LEVEL.....	103
TABLE 63 QUALIFIED PRIMARY TEACHER TO LEARNER RATIO BY TA .....	104
TABLE 64 QUALIFIED SECONDARY TEACHER TO LEARNER RATIO BY TA .....	104
TABLE 65 FOCAL AREAS FOR THE NGOS IN CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES .....	110
TABLE 66 SECONDARY ROADS IN ZOMBA DISTRICT .....	124
TABLE 67 TERTIARY ROADS IN ZOMBA DISTRICT .....	125
TABLE 68 DISTRICT ROADS BY TA .....	125
TABLE 69 NUMBER OF BRIDGES AND CONDITION.....	126
TABLE 70 INDIVIDUAL HOUSE LOANS DISTRIBUTION BY TA.....	130
TABLE 71 DISTRIBUTION OF DAHSP BENEFICIARIES IN PHASE 1 2015-2016 .....	131
TABLE 72 POLICE FACILITY BY LOCATION AND NUMBER OF OFFICER.....	133
TABLE 73 ZOMBA DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORK (DDPF) .....	138



## **Foreword**

Zomba District, our common home represents a place of dreams, hopes and opportunities. Zomba District Council together, with various development partners, aims at providing an enabling environment for men, women, girls and boys to realize their potential and meet their social and economic endeavours. The vision is to have a vibrant and self-sustaining District Council that is capable of providing quality socio-economic services to the citizenry. It is envisaged that in meeting this vision the communities of Zomba will lead a productive, competitive and resilient life.

The Council has made remarkable strides in socioeconomic development over the years. However, this Socio Economic Profile identifies several challenges that erode this effort. It therefore prioritizes agriculture and natural resources management, education, health and transport infrastructure as key areas of focus in the next five years. These are interrelated and have a major impact on the local economy and the livelihoods of the people.

Zomba District Council can only pave the roads but for true progress it will require all of us together make Zomba District our place of dreams.

Chikumbutso Likandawe

**Council Chairman**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The 2017- 2022 edition of the District Socio-Economic Profile has been produced through a participatory process involving various stakeholders and individuals. Zomba District Council is very grateful to each and every person who participated in the process and is indebted to them for their valuable contributions particularly in the provision of data. Special gratitude goes to the following formulation Task Force for their effort and technical input into the actual compilation of this SEP:

Walter Chikuni, the Director of Planning and Development (DPD); Willard Chirwa (the former DPD); Dr. Gift Kawalazira, the District Health Officer and Thomas Lweya (EHO); Charles Sakwata, the District Education Manager and Oster Chagamba (Inspector of Schools); Harry Kwenda Marra, the Director of Public Works; Patterson Kandoje, the District Agriculture Development Officer and Cleopas Lameck (Land Resources Officer); Chikondi Mangulenje, the District Irrigation Officer and Nicklas Kumasala (Assistant District information Officer); Davis Bonga, the Water Development Officer; Sylvia Ambali, the Environmental District Officer; Flora Mvuta, the District Community Development Officer; Eric Kenamu, the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer; Duncan Masonje, the District Forestry Officer and Violet Msukwa (Assistant District Forestry Officer); Noel Shema, Business Promotion Officer; Lapkin Chikoko, District Fisheries Officer; Daniel Mzungu, District Sports Officer; Kettie Mwalweni, The District Youth Officer; Anastanzio Matewere, District Social Services Officer; Stephano Joseph, the District Social Welfare Officer; Yohane Dzowa, the District Lands Officer; Jacob Nyasulu, the District Labour Officer; Mercy Satumba, the Assistant District Registrar and Tobias Lutepo (Logistician); Florence Harawa, the Assistant District Disaster Risk Management Officer and Arthur Mapanje the District Rural Housing Officer.

The District would also like to thank the Fisheries Integration of Society and Habitat Project (FISH) for initiating the process, the Local Government Accountability and Performance (LGAP) Project for the financial support and technical support through both the Lead Consultant, Dr. Milton Kutengule, and the District Consultants, Macward Themba, Gilbert Chilinde, respectively. They provided very crucial support for the development and production of this Social Economic Profile.

Lastly but not least, the Council Secretariat would like to commend the District Executive Committee (DEC), Development Committee of the council and the Full Council itself for contributions, recommending and approving the document respectively.

Emmanuel Bambe

**District Commissioner**

## Executive Summary

This District Socio Economic Profile (SEP) has been prepared to gain a clear understanding of the physical, social, political and economic environment of the district which provides valuable input to the process of preparing the District Development Plan (DDP). The SEP gives the situation analysis of the district and uses both primary and secondary data from the communities and national statistics to do so.

The Socio-economic Profile has, at all stages during its development, been responsive and aligned to the global Sustainable Development Goals in general, the Malawi Vision 2020 and the priority areas in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, in particular, as well as sector-specific policy instruments, as will be noted in the respective chapters. This Zomba Socio Economic Profile 2017 – 2022, while giving a general district situation, has a focus on the critical and interdependent areas of agriculture, education and skills development, health and population and transport infrastructure development.

The economy of Zomba is predominantly agro-based. Agriculture is a major source of employment and livelihoods to over 80% of the communities. Investment in this sector is therefore key to the improvement of the well-being of the communities. However, this sector faces challenges that impede growth. Crop and animal production is low. While 20% of fish in Malawi come from Lake Chilwa, recent figures show downward trends. Crop diversification remains a challenge with 56% of land under maize cultivation. Irrigation is underutilized with only 5.2% of total potential areas for irrigation developed. The devastating effects of climate change have also manifested themselves through persistent droughts and flooding which have lowered agricultural production and productivity.

Efforts in health service delivery are also paramount. The leading causes of morbidity in the district, such as malaria and respiratory infections, are preventable. Additionally, energies should be focused on interventions that will reduce the total fertility rate of our women. Zomba District population projections based on the 2008 Population and Housing Census indicate that the total population of Zomba district in 2017 is 685,755 representing 4.5% of the total population of Malawi. It is projected to reach 767,739 by 2023 and 871,244 by 2030. More than half (52.6%) of the population of the district are 18 years or younger and is the district is the third most populous in the Southern Region of Malawi, after Mangochi and Thyolo. The rate at which our population is growing undermines the efforts to provide quality services in education, health, water, and food security initiatives, among other areas of development. This is exacerbated by our overdependency on natural resources hence the population factor is a leading cause of high environmental degradation in the district.

Finally, emphasis should be put on improving transport infrastructure and accessibility. This will in the end facilitate transportation of inputs to the communities and produce to markets. In addition, accessibility to social service delivery points such as health centres, schools, water points and mills requires significant improvement to improve the quality of life among the people. Furthermore, increased focus on ICT infrastructure in the next five years will make hard to reach rural parts of the district access ICT related services thereby spurring and even distribution of socio-economic development.



## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Area Development Committee
ADFO	Assistant District Forestry Officer
ADIO	Assistant District Information Officer
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
AEC	Area Executive Committee
AEDC	Agriculture Extension Development Coordinator
AEDO	Agriculture Extension Development Officer
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
APES	Agriculture Production Estimate Survey
ART	Anti Retrovirus Therapy
ATC	Agricultural Trading Company
AU	African Union
AVO	Assistant Veterinary Officer
BVC	Beach Village Committee
CADECOM	Catholic Development Commission
CAMFED	Campaign for Female Education
CBCC	Community Based Childcare Centre
CBO	Community Based Organization(s)
CC	Children's Corner
CCI	Child Care Institution
CCJP	Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
CCPW	Community Child Protection Workers
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women
CHAM	Christian Health Association of Malawi
CHRR	Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation
CPC	Child Protection Committees
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CRECCOM	Creative Centre for Community Mobilization
CSG	Community Support Groups
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CVSU	Community Victim Support Unit
DADO	District Agricultural Development Officer
DC	District Commissioner
DCCMS	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
DDP	District Development Plan
DEC	District Executive Committee
DEM	District Education Manager
DFO	District Forestry Officer
DNPW	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
DPP	Democratic Progressive Party
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EHO	Environmental Health Office
EPA	Extension Planning Area
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations
FEWSNET	Famine Early Warning Systems Network
HBC	Home Based Care
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IHS	Intergrated Household Survey
ILO	International Labour Organisation
JTI	Japan Tobacco International
LDF	Local Development Fund
LEAD	Leadership in Environment and Development

LED	Local Economic Development
LGAP	Local Government Accountability Programme
MACRO	Malawi AIDS Counseling and Resource Organization
MADD	Machinga Agricultural Development Division
MARDEF	Malawi Rural Development Fund
MASAF	Malawi Social Action Fund
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDRRP	Malawi Drought Recovery and Resilient Project
MES	MDG Endline Survey
MFERP	Malawi Flood Emergence Response Programme
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MICS	Malawi Indicator Cluster Survey
MIRTDC	Malawi Industrial Research Training and Development
MRFC	Malawi Rural Finance Company
NAC	National AIDs Commission
NASFAM	National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPDP	National Physical Development Plan
NRB	National Registration Bureau
NSO	National Statistical Office
NWDP	National Water Development Programme
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
PASI	Paralegal Advisory Services
PFM	Project Finance Management
PP	Peoples Party
PVHO	Plant and Vehicle Hire Organisation
PWD	People with disabilities
RVC	Riverine Village Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEP	Socio-Economic Profile
SFFRFM	Smallholder Fertilizer Revolving Fund of Malawi
SNIC	Support for Nutrition Improvement Component
SRBMP	Shire River Basin Management Programme
SRWB	Southern Region Water Board
STA	Sub Traditional Authority
TA	Traditional Authority
TEVETA	Technical Entrepreneurial Vocational Education and Training Authority
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
TLC	Total Land Care
UDF	United Democratic Front
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VDC	Village Development Committee
VFA	Village Forest Areas
VNRMC	Village Natural Resources Management Committee
WESM	Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi
WFP	World Food Programme
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WUA	Water Users Association
WVI	World Vision International
YEDEF	Youth Enterprise Development Fund
YEE	Youth Economic Empowerment
YONECO	Youth Net and Counseling
ZCH	Zomba Central Hospital
ZDC	Zomba District Council
ZDADO	Zomba District Agriculture Development Office







## **CHAPTER I: GENERAL FEATURES**

This Zomba District Council 2017-2022 Socio Economic Profile has been developed following a thorough consultative and structurally guided technical process. The major sources of reliable data and technical information were documents from which reference has constantly been made.

In this chapter, Zomba District Council has taken special recognition of the specific issues which need attention in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III, as well as the United Nations' global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, particular citation has been made of Priority Area #6, Sub section 6.2 in the MGDS III which clearly exemplifies how agricultural and climate change potentials and dynamics in Malawi, in general and Zomba, in particular, can economically be exploited and negative factors mitigated. In this regard, Zomba is richly endowed in such natural resources as rivers, lakes, and forests, as will be discussed in the chapter.

Furthermore, MGDS III underlines the importance of good governance in all programme implementation. The chapter also discusses the important roles of the local government development administration structures in district development processes.

### **1.1 Physical Description**

#### **1.1.1 Location and Size**

Zomba District covers an area of 2,580 km<sup>2</sup>, representing about 3% of the total land area of Malawi. It is located on latitude 15.3860S and longitude 35.3188E south-east of Malawi, about 70km from Blantyre City to the south, and 49.4kms from Liwonde Town to the east. It is also located some 333.2kms south-south east of Lilongwe, the capital city. The District shares boundaries with Machinga District to the north, Balaka District to the north west, Mulanje and Phalombe Districts to the south, Chiradzulu and Blantyre Districts to the south west and the Republic of Mozambique to the east. The main natural features are the Zomba Plateau, Lake Chilwa and the Shire Valley. The district is bounded by Lake Chilwa to the east, the Shire valley to the west, the Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve to the north and Namadzi River marks the southern boundary of the district as shown in Figure 1. The district has Zomba City, an independent local government and the former Capital of Malawi, within its boundaries. The district is sub divided into seven Traditional Authorities (TAs), with nine major trading centres and 1,561 villages in its jurisdiction.

The location of Zomba is strategic in that it offers some developmental advantages to the people of Zomba and the surrounding districts. It is along the main road transport network connecting Lilongwe, the Lakeshore areas including Mangochi, Liwonde, Blantyre, Phalombe and Mulanje, hence providing easy travel access to these very important destinations in the economy of Malawi.

[illegible]

### 1.1.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrology

The geology of Zomba District is also very diverse. Generally, the base complex is composed of metamorphic rocks derived from sedimentary and igneous rocks of Precambrian origin. These zones contain mineral limestone, which are mined on a commercial basis; sand, which is suited for glass manufacturing and minerals of economic significance such as amethyst, tourmaline and aegerine, found in Mpyupyu and on the slopes of the Zomba-Malosa Mountain. The plains surrounding Lake Chilwa are characterized by sandy and rocky solids that show some stratification. In essence, minerals are not found in great quantities in the district although crude stones and sands are being commercially extracted. Dispersed pockets of surface gemstones have been reported in the area of Traditional Authority Mlumbe.

2

### 1.1.3 Soil

The soils in Zomba District are mostly well-drained, yellowish-brown to reddish-brown, medium to fine textured and slightly medium acidic and of great depth. Generally, soils in the district can be grouped as lithol soils for the high areas and ferruginous soils for the low-lying areas. West of Lake Chilwa, moderately deep sandy soils occur over either ironstone or soil parent materials with a high percentage of iron oxides or concretions. At the lowest sites in the landscape around Lake Chilwa, soils have developed under the influence of groundwater or stagnant water, resulting in poorly to imperfectly drained soils with a dark grey colour and classified as eutric and mollic gleysols. Generally, the overall type and texture of the soils in the low lying areas are suitable for agricultural production. The upland soils, though less fertile, are suitable for developments in agro- forestry and riverine farming. In general, the soils are moderately fertile, with the fertility rising with proximity to either Zomba Plateau or Lake Chilwa. Due to rapid and high deforestation and poor agricultural practices, soil erosion is a major concern.

### 1.1.4 Climate and Climate Change

#### 1.1.4.1 Climate

Zomba experiences a tropical climate with three main seasons – cold-dry, hot-dry and hot-wet experienced from April to July, August to October and November to March respectively. The hottest months are September, October and November, with average temperatures ranging between 28° and 30°C. June and July are the coldest months, with minimum temperatures as low as 10°C. The annual rainfall varies between 600mm and 1,500mm on average and February is the wettest month. More rainfall tends to fall on the windward side to the east of Zomba Plateau while areas on the leeward side to the west experience less rainfall throughout the year. Since most rivers and streams in Zomba originate from Zomba Plateau, the falling of more rain on the eastern side of the plateau, where most rivers originate, helps to supply water to these rivers and streams which is required for irrigation and domestic use, more so on the leeward side which receives relatively low rainfall.

#### 1.1.4.2 Climate Change

Climate change has been manifesting itself in Zomba in the form of disasters such as the flooding of rivers, dry spells, cyclones, heavy rains, hail storms and thunderstorms. These disasters have been occurring in specific areas like dry spell mostly in areas along the Phalombe plain in Ngweleru, Chingale, Dzaone, Mpokwa, and Likangala Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) and is superseded by outbreaks of diseases like cholera, other water related diseases and outbreaks of pests especially army worms, red locusts particularly around Likangala, Chilipa, Domasi, Chipini and along the lake. The district is mainly prone to drought, floods, Cholera, crop pests and strong winds. Based on the profile, disasters like thunderstorms, landslides, fire, wash-aways and measles have shown a pattern to occur in different periods of the year. Table 1 shows occurrences of selected disasters by year and locality.

**Table 1 Annual Disaster Trends in Zomba**

Year	Nature of Disaster	Location
2009	Drought	T/A Mkumbira
2010	Strong winds	T/A Chikowi
	Measles	T/A Chikowi Inner T/A
2011/20	Drought	The whole district
2012	Drying up of Lake Chilwa	T/A Mkumbira and TA
	Cholera	Chisi Island
2013	Strong winds, storms, floods	Chikowi, Mwambo

2014	Floods heavy winds and drought	The whole district
2015	Floods heavy winds and drought	The whole district
2016	Army worms	The whole district

Source: Zomba District Council, 2016

### 1.1.5 Underlying Causes of Communities' Vulnerability to Disasters

There are a number of factors behind increased vulnerability of communities over time. High population growth with a total fertility rate (TFR) at 5.41 creates pressure on the natural resources and reduces land holding size per household. This acts as a push factor for people to cultivate in marginal areas like mountain slopes, river banks and forest reserves thus resulting in weakened soils and making the areas susceptible to flooding. The HIV and AIDS scourge has led to losses in the productive age group (15 to 64 years olds) which has reduced the much needed labour force for development. In addition, gender inequalities in rural communities' pose challenges in addressing disaster risks and over dependence on chemical fertilizers negatively affects the soil structure leading to low agricultural production per hectare overtime.

### 1.1.6 Early Warning Systems and Monitoring

The district has adapted Early Warning Systems like rain gauges placed in all the EPAs to monitor rainfall patterns. Community based army worms monitoring is also done by way of providing communities with Philemon traps to monitor pest outbreaks. Cholera outbreak is monitored through newspaper and radio reports from the neighboring districts. A continuous downpour of rains also acts as an early warning for floods in flood prone areas. The district also uses the weather forecasts from the Department of Climate Change and Metrological Services and the FEWSNET Food Security Outlook Report to predetermine disasters. There are some traditional Early Warning Systems which are key indicators of disasters as the communities are aware of the hazards that may affect them upon noticing such signs. Table 2 shows Traditional Early Warning Systems that are used to predetermine disasters.

**Table 2 Traditional Disaster Early Warning Systems**

<b>Disaster</b>	<b>Traditional Early Warning Systems</b>
Crop Pests	Over wintering of butterflies (moths) Outbreak in neighboring areas or districts Short break of rainfall soon after the first rains. Previous year's outbreak.
Floods	Lots of/persistent rainfall for 3 days or over Animals become restless, especially underground animals Water logging Meteorological Reports Local knowledge, skills and experiences. High temperatures
Cholera	When neighbouring districts/areas are affected Un hygienic conditions especially during rainy season Lack of latrines (open defecations) Unsafe water supply Outbreaks of ordinary diarrhea

Drought and dry spells	Poor rainfall distribution, Inadequate, erratic or no rains. Dry spell during critical cropping stages. Late onset of rain season Traditional knowledge based on past history
------------------------	---

*SOURCE: ZOMBA DISTRICT COUNCIL, 2016*

### **1.1.7 Possible Disaster Adaptation and Mitigation measures**

Some existing mitigation practices for disasters in use include tree planting, regeneration of natural forests, use of alternative sources of energy like solar and dry manure. For instance, World Fish Centre Malawi (which is based in Zomba) promotes use of solar driers for fish processing at Kachulu fish landing beach on Lake Chilwa unlike use of wood to mitigate deforestation.

Major adaptation practices include promotion of agro-forestry, irrigation farming, and construction of physical soil and water conservation structures, planting early maturing and drought tolerant varieties and diversifying livelihood sources and rehabilitation of river banks especially in Mpokwa EPA and in the areas of T/As Mwambo, Kuntumanji and Mkumbira.

## **1.2 Administrative Structures and Local Politics**

### **1.2.1 Administrative and Governance Structures**

Zomba District Council is composed of a political body, (the Council), and an administrative body, (the Council secretariat). The Council consists of elected representatives who are Ward Councilors and Members of Parliament (MP). In addition, Traditional Authorities and representatives of special interested groups are ex-officio members of the Council in tandem with section 5 of the Local Government Act No 42 of 1998. The administrative body of the council consists of public servants. The Chairperson is elected from amongst the ward councilors and is the political head of the council. The District Commissioner (DC) on the other hand heads the secretariat of the Council. Several directorates are responsible for the secretariat's work in particular areas. The Council secretariat coordinates activities of the Council and provides technical support to the Council (i.e. implementing Council decisions).

In terms of accountability, the DC is mandated to manage all district service provision and development implementation regardless of sector which makes the DC answerable in any case requiring accountability and ownership of the system. Thus the DC is in charge of all district sector heads including agriculture, education, health and public works among others. This ensures coordination and orderly planning and execution of development interventions, in line with the National Decentralisation Policy. The DC is the Controlling Officer.

At the national level, the Government of Malawi has consolidated this enabling environment through the deliberate inclusion of specific sections in the Malawi Vision 2020 like the 'Separating powers and creating checks and balances' and 'Improving the role and performance of the public sector' as contained on page 36. Included also is Chapter 3 (Section 3.5) of the MGDS III. This section supports the establishment and implementation of governance structures. In particular, this section of the MGDS III highlights Malawi Government commitment to providing a platform on which a development strategy can thrive under good governance.

The institutional set up does answer most of the questions regarding effectiveness of local governance, mechanisms for accountability and citizen participation. For example, it provides community with space or opportunities for policy dialogue participation through the Area Development Committee (ADC), Area Executive

Committee (AEC) and Village Development Committee (VDC). The Directorate of Planning and Development coordinates all activities related to development planning in pursuing the District Development Plan and sectoral plans and encourages information sharing among local governance players so that interventions are not implemented in a disjointed nature.

### **1.2.2 Local Government System and Functions**

Zomba District Council was established under the Local Government Act No 42 of 1998. The Council is a body corporate with perpetual succession and can sue or be sued. It also has powers to enter into and terminate contracts. The Act mandates the Council to carry out the following functions:

- i. Policy formulation and decisions on governance and development for the local government area.
- ii. Support local democratic institutions and participation.
- iii. Promote socio-economic development through District Development Planning.
- iv. Mobilize resources within the local government area for governance and development.
- v. Maintain peace and security in the area in conjunction with the Malawi Police Service.
- vi. Pass bylaws for improving governance of the local government area.
- vii. Appoint, develop, promote and discipline staff.
- viii. Cooperate with other Local Councils to learn from their experience and exchange ideas.

The Act further provides for the Council to manage and maintain postal services, dispensaries, home craft centres, markets, rest houses, roads and bridges within its jurisdiction. It empowers the council to borrow or lend money; levy rates of land or property; collect taxes and fees; maintain and manage disposal and treatment of waste; establish, maintain and manage markets; and supervises market buildings and premises. It also provides for the establishment of service committees such as finance committee, development committee, education committee, works committee, health and environment committee and appointments and disciplinary committee.

#### *1.2.2.1 The District Executive Committee*

The District Executive Committee (DEC) is the technical and advisory body of the Council and the committees under it. The DEC is responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the District Development Planning System. Zomba DEC is composed of the DC who is the Chief Executive Officer, the Directors of Planning, Finance, Public Works, Administration, the heads of devolved sectors like Forestry, Agriculture, Education, Environment, Fisheries, Water, Youth, Labour, Trade, Rural Housing, Irrigation, National Registration Bureau, Social Welfare, Community Development; other government entities like Information, Police, Judiciary, Prison, PVHO, Physical Planning, Lands, Transport and Roads, District Monitoring and Evaluation Office, and the District AIDS Coordination Office and NGOs/CSOs representatives are also part of the DEC.

The DEC, as a technical arm of the Council, identifies, prioritizes and analyse the feasibility of community projects, development proposals and supervises and trains



the VDCs, AECs, ADCs and other relevant bodies. It also oversees and monitors the implementation of approved projects.

#### 1.2.2.2 Traditional Authorities

The powers and functions of Traditional Authorities (TAs) are rooted in the Chiefs Act in tandem with tradition and culture. The TAs act as overseers of customary land, gate keepers of traditions and culture and also supervise development within their jurisdiction. In addition to these tasks, the TAs mobilize people for development work, grace traditional ceremonies and functions; handle dispute settlements aimed at maintaining peace, law and order in the community, and sit as ex-officio members in the District Council. The TAs and Group Village Headmen oversee the functions of the Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Area Development Committees (ADCs) in their respective jurisdictions but the committees are chaired by ordinary members from the community.

The district has seven TAs namely; Kuntumanji, Malemia, Mkumbira, Mwambo, Chikowi, Mlumbe and M'biza, and four Sub-Traditional Authorities (STAs) namely; Ngwelero, Nkagula, Ntholowa and Nkapita making eleven ADCs as per number of TAs and STAs. There are 85 GVHs with 119 VDCs because some GVHs have more villages. The list of VDCs by TA is shown in Table 3.

All the ADCs and VDCs are functional. The ADCs receive, scrutinize, prioritize, and prepare project proposals from the VDCs for onward submission to the DEC. ADCs also mobilize community resources, including labour, for the implementation, monitoring and supervision of projects. The AEC advises the ADC on all technical aspects of the projects. The VDCs are responsible for facilitating the planning of development activities in their areas of jurisdiction, which is the smallest and lowest level of participatory planning. They also identify, supervise and monitor development projects.

**Table 3 Number of VDCs per TA**

<b>Traditional Authority</b>	<b>Number of VDCs</b>
Kuntumanji	7
Chikowi	18
Mlumbe	12
M'biza	7
Mkumbira	2
Mwambo	21
Malemia	16
Nkagula	7
Nkapita	17
Ngwelero	7
Ntholowa	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>

*Source: District Council Planning Department, 2016*

#### 1.2.2.3 Malawi Government Sectors/Departments

Most government ministries and departments at district level have been devolved into Sectors which directly report to the DC. Nevertheless, all sectoral activities are channeled through the DEC, with the DC coordinating and overseeing the activities. NGOs are actively promoting development throughout the district. The number and distribution of NGOs in the district is shown in Table 4.

**Table 4 NGOs Operating in Zomba District and their Focal Areas**

NO.	NGO	LOCATION	FOCAL AREAS
1	Action Hope Malawi	TAs Chikowi M'biza, Ntholowa and Ngwelero	1. Adolescent development 2. Citizen voice & action 3. Self-help group approach 4. HIV prevention among commercial sex workers
2	AGE Africa	Whole District	1. Education: Bursaries/ scholarships in secondary schools 2. Life skills 3. Livelihood programme
3	AICC	T/A Mwambo & Nkagula	Agriculture 1. Rice Platform 2. Legumes Platform
4	Banja La Mtsogolo (BLM)	Whole District	1. HIV and AIDS 2. Family Planning & Safe motherhood
5	Baobab Health Trust	Whole District	HIV and AIDS
6	Byounique Malawi	Prisons of Children with conflict with the Law	1. Human Rights 2. Psychosocial Support to children in Rehabilitation centres (prisons)
7	Bwalo Initiative	Whole District	1. Child Protection 2. Governance
8	Campaign For Female Education(Camfed)	Whole District (Rural)	Education: Keeping Girls in School
9	CEGORE	T/As Mwambo and Chikowi	1. Good Governance 2. Human Rights
10	CEDEP	Whole District	STIs and HIV & AIDS
11	Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR)	Whole District	Good Governance & Human Rights: Strengthening community mechanism to prevent and respond to violence
12	CRECCOM	Whole District	1. Education 2. Gender Based Violence
13	CHAI	Whole District	HIV & AIDS
14	Child Care Organisation	Whole District	Health: MNH
15	Coalition For Women Living With HIV/AIDS (COWLHA)	Whole District	HIV and AIDS

16	Dignitas International	Whole District	Medical and Research:  People Living With HIV/Aids Related Diseases
17	Eagles Relief	T/A Mwambo	1.HIV/AIDS 2.Education
18	Emmanuel International	T/A Mwambo	1. Child Protection 2. Health: MNH
19	Evidence Action	Whole District	WASH: Dispensers for Safe Water
20	Face Malawi	Whole District: Mikuyu 1 & Zomba Maximum Prisons	Prison Health
21	FHI 360	Whole District	1. Education for Girl Child 2. Health for Girl Child (i.e. SRH)
22	Friends of Many Inmates (FOMI)	Prisons in the district	Pastoral Care (Psychosocial support)
23	Future Vision Ministries – Canada	T/A Chikowi (GVH Tauro)	1. Education 2. Water and Sanitation 3. Evangelism & Pastoral Care 4. Early Childhood Development
24	Glory for All	T/A Kuntumanji (STA Nkagula)	1. Water and Sanitation 2. Climate Change and Environmental Issues, 3. Child Protection and 4. Education (OVC).
25	Good Vision	Whole District	Health (Eye Care)  1. Providing Glasses To People With Vision Impairments 2. Manufacturing Frames Locally
26	Hand of Mercy	T/A Chikowi	1. Humanitarian aid 2. Early Childhood Development 3. HIV and AIDS  4. Sexual & Reproductive Health (young people) 5. Education 6. 2Prison Rehabilitation
27	Health Communication for Life (HC4L)	T/As Mlumbe and T/A Malemia	Health:  1. Malaria 2. HIV & AIDS 3. 27Family Planning /Reproductive Health 4. Nu28trition 5. MNH29

28	Hunger Project Malawi	T/As Mwambo & Ta Kuntumanji	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food Security</li> <li>2. Microfinance &amp; Economic Empowerment</li> <li>3. Nutrition, Women Empowerment</li> <li>4. HIV &amp; Aids, Health</li> <li>5. Water and Sanitation</li> <li>6. Literacy and Education</li> <li>7. Community Mobilisation For Mindset Change</li> </ol>
29	JHPIEGO	Whole District	HIV and AIDS (VMMC)
30	Likhubula Youth Organisation (LYO)	STA Nkagula	Climate Change: Improving Ecosystem In Mpyupyu Hill
31	Malawi CARER	Whole District	Right to Development
32	Mary Meals	T/A Mulumbe and T/A Chikowi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education</li> <li>2. Early Childhood Development</li> </ol>
33	Malawi Red Cross Society	T/A Mwambo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Disaster Management</li> </ol>
34	Malawi Schools Parents Association (MASPA)	Whole District	Education
35	Maternity Worldwide	Whole District	<p>Health:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Sexual &amp; Reproductive health</li> <li>3. Safe motherhood</li> <li>4. HIV &amp; AIDS</li> </ol>
36	Millennium Promise	Whole District (Rural)	<p>Sustainable District Program:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education</li> <li>2. Infrastructure</li> <li>3. Agriculture</li> <li>4. Education</li> </ol>
37	Mubarak Complex	Whole District	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Professional Studies &amp; Vocational Training</li> <li>2. HIV/Aids</li> <li>3. Preventing Malnutrition (nutrition)</li> </ol>
38	NASFAM	Whole District	Agriculture
39	NEFABO (not yet appeared to DEC)	T/A Chikowi	Health (HIV) & Education
40	National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE)	Whole District	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transparency and Accountability</li> <li>2. Advocacy (civic education)</li> </ol>
41	One Acre Fund	Whole District	Agriculture
42	One Community	Whole District	Health (HIV & AIDS)
43	Public Affairs Committee (PAC)	Whole District	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transparency and Accountability</li> <li>2. Human Rights</li> </ol>
44	PACT	Whole District	HIV and AIDS

45	Parent And Child Health Initiatives (PACHI)	Whole District	Accountability:  1. Evidence generation packadging and sharing  2. Capacity development on evidence generation process  3. Amplification of specific evidence on accountability
46	Paralegal Advisory Services(PAS)	Whole District	Penal Reform
47	UN Women	Whole District	Health: HIV & AIDS
48	Passion Centre for Children	T/A Mwambo	1. Education 2. HIV & AIDS 3. Orphan Care & OVC 4. Pastoral Care (ministerial)
49	Shine Relief Trust	T/A Malemia	1. Early Childhood Development 2. Care for the elderly 3. Education sponsorship and 4. Humanitarian aid
50	Save the Children	T/A Mbiza & T/A Chikowi	1. Education (ECD, BE, SHN & AD) 2. Child health
51	Sub-Saharan African Family Enrichment (SAFE)	T/A Malemia	Programmes--Not Projects:  1. Youth Development  2. Early Childhood Development,  3. Gogo Grandparent Support
52	Sparkle Foundation	T/A Mwambo	1. Education • Early childhood development & Primary education  2. Health & Nutrition : HIV & AIDS and Feeding 3. Community Empowerment : Gender Based Violence
53	Tilinawo Community Development Organisation (TICODO)	T/A Chikowi	1. Agriculture  2. Good Governance  3. Health  4. Education
54	United Purpose (UP) (Formerly Concern Universal)	T/A Mlumbe and T/A Malemia	Enhancing Forests for Sustainable Livelihoods (EFSL)
55	Wild Life And Environmental Society Of Malawi (WESM)	Whole District	Environmental Education & Extension

56	Women's Legal Resources Centre (WOLREC)	STA Nkagula, T/A Malemia, and T/A Kuntumanji	1. Good Governance 2. Human Rights & Paralegal services 3. Gender & Economic Empowerment  Enhancing Increased Access To Justice For Women And Girls In Malawi
57	World Vision International (WVI)	T/A Mlumbe, T/A Ngwelero	1. Health: Integrated Interventions 2. Education  3. DRR
58	Youth for Development and Productivity (YODEP)	T/A Mwambo Chikowi and Mbiza	1. Youth Development 2. Early Childhood Development 3. MASP and Education  5. Health (HIV & AIDS)
59	Youth Net And Counseling (YONECO)	STA Ntholowa, Mwambo, Mlumbe and Chikowi	1. Provision of Community Based Trainings On GBV 2. Health - HIV & AIDS and TB  3. Child Protection 4. Advocacy
60	ZARDD	STA Nkapita	1. Governance & Human Rights 2. Maternal Health 3. Food Security 4. Inclusive Education for Children with Disabilities
61	Zomba Vocational and Training Centre (ZVTC)	T/A Malemia	Knowledge, vocational and skills development

Source: District Council Planning Department, 2016

### 1.2.3 Informal Administrative Structures

These are called informal structures because they are not constituted under any law or policy to warrant permanent establishment in the district. The District has a number of such structures including the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs). Most of these CBOs implement HIV/AIDS related interventions such as Home Based Care (HBC), orphan care, youth activities and awareness campaigns on different matters of community importance.

### 1.2.4 Politics

There are four political parties which are active in the district namely; Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Peoples Party (PP), Malawi Congress Party (MCP), and United Democratic Front (UDF). However, there is potential that more political parties will be reactivated on approach of the election season in 2019.

The District has 10 constituencies- each represented by a Member of Parliament. In the May 2014 tripartite elections the following were the results by constituency: Zomba Malosa (PP), Zomba Nsondole (Independent), Zomba Chisi (DPP), Zomba



Likangala (Independent), Zomba Ntonya (PP), Zomba Thondwe (DPP), Zomba Changalume (PP), Zomba Chingale (PP), Zomba Lisanjala (DPP) and Zomba Central (PP). Currently, the majority of the PP Members of Parliament have defected to the DPP with the exception of Zomba Chingale, Zomba Changalume, Zomba Malosa and Zomba Central.

The Constituencies have been subdivided into two Wards-each represented by a Ward Councillor- as follows: Zomba Malosa (Naming'azi and Lifani), Zomba Nsondole (Naisi and Songani), Zomba Chisi (Matiya and Chilwa), Zomba Likangala (Chiphoola and Mbidi), Zomba Ntonya (Ulumba and Chanda), Zomba Thondwe (Chimwalira and Chikomwe), Zomba Changalume (Namilongo and Nswaswa), Zomba Chingale (Chingale and Linthipe), and Zomba Lisanjala (Mtungulutsi and Chisenjere).

With this kind of political heterogeneity, the communities are provided with alternative policy advice. Implementation of programmes and projects by service agents therefore, can easily be scrutinized by the opposing political voices, hence checks and balances are provided. The disadvantage, however, is that most time is wasted debating and contradicting as parties try to outwit each other. This can derail development.

### **3. The People**

#### **3.1. Tribes**

The district has a population composed of different ethnic groups, cultures and languages. The dominant ethnic groups are the Mang'anja/Nyanja, Yao and Lomwe. There are also the Chewa, Ngoni, Tumbuka and many other minor ethnic groups. Yaos are mainly found in the Traditional Authorities Mlumbe, Malemia and Kuntumanji and STA Nkagula. Mang'anja/Nyanja and Lomwes, on the other hand, are largely in TA Chikowi, TA Kuntumanji, TA Mwambo and TA Mkumbira.

#### **3.2. Languages**

The predominant languages of communication in the household are Chinyanja, and Chiyao. The other languages include Chilomwe and English, depending on the level of education completed.

#### **3.3. Religion**

Religion plays an important role in the life of the people of Zomba District. According to NSO (2008), Christians are the major religious group at 76.8%, subdivided in various denominations, such as Catholics, Anglicans, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, Baptists and Adventists. Islam is the second major religion practised in the district at 18% while 4.4% of the people have no religion and 0.8% believes in other religions. Religious institutions and organizations are very important stakeholders in the development of the district primarily because they provide education, health services and other important public facilities. They are also involved in relief and agricultural development activities that benefit the people.

#### **1.3.4 Culture/beliefs**

Marriage practice in Zomba is predominantly matrilineal, where the husband moves to the wife's house/village. Chieftainship is handed down from one generation to another with the heir being a nephew or niece usually coming from one of the chief's sisters. Children are made to undergo initiation ceremonies at puberty, known as Jando, Chidototo or Lupanda for boys and Nsondo or Zoma for girls. Such ceremonies cover subjects on morality, adult life, norms, customs and marriage. A wide variety of traditional dances are performed during such initiation ceremonies. Each tribe has its own traditional dances, for instance Likwata, Chioda and Jiri are

common among the Yaos; Zoma and Mganda are performed among the Mang'anjas; and Masewe and Tchopa are common among the Lomwes. Overall, the observation of cultural rites has been slowly diluted by modernization as more people inter-marry across tribes and get access to better education.

## **1.4 Demographic Trend Scenarios**

Knowledge and understanding of demographic trends and settlement patterns in Zomba District is crucial for effective and efficient planning for all forms of socio-economic development. The national population census of 2008 projected the total population to grow to 725,344 by 2020, assuming a constant increasing (exponential) growth rate. This projection (growth scenario) from the year 2008 can be described as too high since the trend is to expect a decreasing growth rate in tandem with the worldwide trend whereby population growth rates have been on the decline. Another scenario (baseline) assumes a constant growth rate of around 2 percent (declining to 1.8 in 2020), as measured during the last decade. This scenario predicts slightly lower numbers than the actual census reveals. While long term population projections are very difficult, the most likely scenario can be found in between both projections.

### **1.4.1 Population Characteristics**

Projections based on the 2008 Population and Housing Census indicate that the total population of Zomba District in 2017 is 685,755 representing 4.5% of the total population of Malawi. It is projected to reach 767,739 by 2023 and 871,244 by 2030. More than half (52.6%) of the population of the district are 18 years or younger and

Zomba is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most populous district in the southern region of Malawi after Mangochi and Thyolo.

The average annual population growth rate between the 1998 and 2008 censuses was estimated at 2.0% and thus was considerably lower than the Malawi average of 2.8% and Southern Region at 2.4%. Within the same period, the total district population grew by 102,421 people, representing an increase of 21% compared to Malawi's at 31.5% and the Southern Region's at 26.8% respectively. The average population growth below the national and regional average was attributed to the decreasing fertility rate at 4.7 from 6.0 and the high rate of rural urban-migration to the proximate urban centres of Blantyre, Zomba, Balaka, and Liwonde among others. However, out of the 2017 total projected population, estimates indicate that 332,873 are male (48.54%) and 352, 882 are female (51.46%). The increase in the number of males can be attributed to natural population increase, an increase in life expectancy and reduced mortality rates due to containment of the HIV/AIDS related deaths and improvements in nutrition in the period following targeted interventions in agricultural production and health and nutrition sectors.

On the Sub-District level, T/A M'biza has the largest share of the population seconded by T/A Mlumbe. This trend can be attributed largely to a natural population increase like in all the TAs and STAs, except for T/A Mkumbira where the population is falling due to the struggling fish industry in the area.

There were 142,394 Households with an average household size of 4.1 persons. Household size remained relatively constant during the last three decades, only increasing slightly from 4.0 in 1987 and 1998 to the current 4.1. Population increase is therefore largely attributed to the increase in the total number of households, from 110,046 in 1987 to 135,369 in 1998 and up to the current figure of 142,394. The average household size is lower than the national average and the rate remained relatively constant while the national figure rose from four persons per household up to 4.4 in 2008, ten percent higher than the district rate.

The Malawi Vision 2020 under a section on 'Sustainable natural resource and environmental management' and subsections 'Developing Human Settlements' on page 85 and 'Poverty and Population' on page 87, provides a clear vision on human settlement, population and environmental management. While MGDS III, Section 6:1:6 recognises the importance as a country, to put in place systematic measures and legal framework for proper human settlement. This section of the MGDS III clearly defines policy direction for the country to undertake as it experiences unprecedented population growth and rapid urbanisation. The need, therefore, arises to provide safe and properly planned and adequate housing to address these demographic dynamics. Zomba District Council, therefore, has tried to positively respond to these policy directions and specific legal requirements by highlighting specific areas of need for intervention

#### **1.4.2 Birth and Death Rates**

The district registered a crude birth rate of 36.4 births per 1,000 people in 1987, 50.2 in 1998 and 48.1 in 2008. This decrease between 1998 and 2008 was attributed to interventions that led to improved family planning and generally improved education levels, as both tend to lower birth rates. These interventions continue to impact the national average estimated at 45.4 in 2008 and projected to 42.0 births per 1,000 in 2017.

#### **1.4.3 Total Fertility Rate**

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is defined as the average number of children a woman is expected to have during her reproductive life. The rates for the district were 6.8, 6.2 and 6.0 in 1987, 1998 and 2008, respectively. According to the MDG End-line Survey of 2014, the TFR for Zomba District was still high at 5.4 as compared to 5.0 for Malawi and 5.2 for the Southern Region while the average household size remained at 4.2 persons.

#### **1.4.4 Migratory Patterns**

The National Statistics Office conducted an Integrated Household Survey (IHS) to understand current migration patterns within the country, among other factors studied. The survey shows that young men aged 15-40 years are the most likely group to migrate in search for education and employment opportunities. Extrapolating national results for Zomba District reveals that 75% of the inhabitants, regardless of sex, migrate from their place of origin to other rural areas, 8% to urban areas, and 1% to other countries in search of education and employment opportunities. It is somewhat safe to assume that the close proximity of urban centres will most probably result in a higher rural/urban migration than the national average.

#### **1.4.5 Settlement Patterns**

Zomba District has different types of human settlement patterns such as nucleated, dispersed and linear depending on the existing factors influencing a particular settlement. Settlements are places where people live and are the physical manifestation of the social organization of space. A human settlement means the totality of the human community with all the social, material, organizational, spiritual and cultural elements that sustain it. The settlements in Zomba developed depending on factors such as physical conditions like topography (accessibility); natural resources/soil fertility (resources availability); climate (livability); function, political, social, cultural and religious reasons and the ability of people to cooperate all have influenced people of Zomba District in choosing a particular place to settle.

The population density of Zomba District increased from 187 in 1998 to 230 persons per square kilometre in 2008 as compared to the national average of 139 persons per km<sup>2</sup>. The district is one of the five most densely populated in Malawi due to fertile

soils, the availability of water, and the favorable landscape and climate. On the sub-district level, TA Chikowi is the most densely populated area with a density of 255 persons per square kilometre followed by Mwambo at 195 and Kuntumanji at 182. Due to the density of the population and location of various natural resources such as water and fertile soils among others, the population of the district is spread in settlements of different forms and sizes.

## **CHAPTER 2: LAND TENURE AND USE SYSTEMS**

Zomba District Council, like many other parts of Malawi, is experiencing widespread challenges in land issues which have arisen as a result of improper utilisation and management of land and environment in general. The Government of Malawi has provided insights on how the country can address these perceived development issues of land and environment. The Malawi Vision 2020, under section on 'Political Advocacy and Natural Resources' on page 88 and the MGDS III Section 6:1:8, have provided both the country's vision and policy directions on sustainable management and utilisation of the environment. This section of the MGDS III on Sustainable Environment, the goal of which is to 'Promote sustainable management of the environment and natural resources', has given the country in general and Zomba District Council, in particular, motivation to address these issues as discussed in this chapter.

### **2.1 Land Tenure System**

According to the National Land Policy of 2002 and the Land Act of 2016, Zomba District has two categories of land ownership namely private land and public land. It is important to note that all developments and natural systems that support life have land as the base hence in tandem with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 11 and 15.

#### **2.1.1 Public Land**

Public land is land held in trust and managed by the government or Traditional Authorities and openly used or accessible to the public at large. Generally, according to the Land Act of 2016, this is unallocated land. This includes land gazetted for use as forest reserves and communal dambo areas for grazing.

#### **2.1.2 Private Land**

Private land in Zomba includes all government land exclusively for use by government e.g. the State House, government land for functions and services such as schools and health facilities, government owned land leased for exclusive use by individuals, companies and institutions for which ground rent is paid; customary estates; and freehold land. It is also important to note that the National Land Policy of 2002 and the Physical Planning Act of 2016 designate the whole country as a planning area requiring approval of all proposed development by relevant planning authorities. Zomba District is therefore a planning area in tandem with this Act.

### **2.2 Land Use System**

#### **2.2.1 Land for Agriculture**

Agriculture remains the largest land use in the district, followed by settlements (housing) and forestry. The land is further categorized into arable and non-arable land. Table 5 indicates the amount of land under agricultural use in each EPA and its condition. In addition, the Table indicates agricultural land held by estates and small holder farmers in the district and that a large area of arable land is being used by small holder farmers.

**Table 5 Agricultural Land Use, Size (Ha) and Conditions by EPA**

EPA	Estates		Smallholder		Condition of Estate arable		Condition of Smallholder arable	
	Arable	Non Arable	Arable	Non Arable	Wet Land	Dry Land	Wet Land	Dry Land
<b>Nsondole</b>	1,022	100	10,987	3,050	15	1107	1,750	9,237
<b>Dzaone</b>	450	45	15,236	9,874	30	420	1,968	13,268
<b>Ngwelero</b>	165	10	21,935	3,365	18	147	880	21,055
<b>Chingale</b>	658	-	19,166	-	-	658	250	18,916
<b>Masaula</b>	-	-	15,280	-	-	-	450	14,830
<b>Malosa</b>	-	-	10,210	820	-	-	510	9,750
<b>Mpokwa</b>	493	1,022	18,463	9,294	6	487	352	18,111
<b>Thondwe</b>	19,950	155	15,991	90	295	19655	219	15,772
<b>Likangala</b>	-	-	6625	-	-	-	3,125	6,625
<b>District</b>	<b>22,738</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>133,893</b>	<b>26,493</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>22,474</b>	<b>9,504</b>	<b>97,682</b>

Source: Zomba District Agriculture Development Office, 2016

### 2.2.2 Irrigated Land under Estate Farming

As indicated above, a significant amount of land in the district is under estate farming. Many of these estates use irrigation farming techniques and therefore the district has 1,602.5Ha of land under irrigation farming in various estates. Table 6 shows total area of irrigable land and actual developed land for irrigation per EPA.

**Table 6 Total Irrigable Area and Developed Area by EPA**

EPA	Irrigable area (Ha)	Current area irrigated (Ha)
Malosa	3,895	126.5
Thondwe	13,829	97.6
Nsondole	3,822	246.2
Mpokwa	7, 229	21.6
Chingale	15, 045	261.6
Dzaone	5, 990	34.0
Ngwelero	7,011	40.8
Likangala	3, 179	667.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60, 000</b>	<b>1,602.5</b>

Source: Zomba District Agriculture Development Office, 2016

Table 7 shows that 915 Ha of irrigated land under private estates and technology in use.

**Table 7 Irrigated Land under Private Estates**

<b>Name of estate</b>	<b>Actual Irrigated area (Ha)</b>	<b>Technology used</b>	<b>Remark</b>
Chipale (Sable)	410	Drip	Irrigation takes place all year round. Coffee is grown
Wallace	36	Drip	Irrigation takes place all year round. They grow Coffee
Makoka Valley	35	Motorized pump	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Tselingas	43	Motorized pump	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Kaitisi	48	Motorized pump	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Mbala	22.5	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Msamba	42	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place from September and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Gala	200	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place from September and October when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Kapino	79	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place from September and April to September when transplanting flue cured tobacco
<b>Total land area</b>	<b>915.5</b>		

Source: Zomba District Council

### **2.2.3 Major Settlements and Settlement Patterns**

Zomba District has a number of centres designated as rural market centres under the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) of 1987. The centres which are distributed across the district mostly along major roads include Thondwe, Mayaka, Jali, Kachulu, Mpyupyu, Namasalima, Songani, Domasi, Malosa, Chingale and Masaula. Most of these centres have an advisory urban structure plan (USP) or land use plans prepared by the regional office for Physical Planning in Zomba.

Generally, apart from the major centres, the district has a scattered settlement pattern, a typical scenario for rural districts in the country, which poses a challenge for service provision such as schools, health centres, and safe water, among others. Secondly, such a pattern encourages development in fertile land which could otherwise be reserved for agricultural use. The major rural market centres which are

located along the major roads such as Thondwe and Jali have led to ribbon development along these roads with subsequent traffic congestion on market days and developments on road reserves making future developments for public infrastructures expensive due to compensation requirements where appropriate.

Zomba District has an increasing land use pressure where Zomba City is expanding into the rural hinterland that surrounds it. Agricultural land outside the city is being absorbed and developed for commercial and residential urban use and rivers are polluted. Furthermore, the district is facing resource over-utilization, especially in relation to forestry resources, due to energy demand originating from the city.

#### **2.2.4. Forestry and Protected Areas**

Remnant forests are prominent particularly on mountains and hills in the district. The largest forested area is found on Zomba- Malosa Mountain Forest Reserve where exotic and indigenous trees are found, apart from various species of wildlife. This land use is important for environmental protection and maintenance of bio-diversity, tourism, timber and fuel wood production.

### **2. 3 Land Issues**

#### **2.3.1 Land disputes**

The district faces rampant land disputes due to insufficient boundary marks between most of the customary land parcels. The temporal boundary marks such as trees are easily changed and that fuels disputes. Surveying requirements to mark the boundaries are very expensive and cumbersome for most of the rural people in the district because there are no less stringent survey requirements for customary land transactions. In addition, there are less clear demarcations between customary estates and private estate hence fuelling encroachment. The local leadership changes due to death or removal of the leader make land disputes an annual occurrence.

Disputes also arise due to suspected corruption among local leaders which causes dissatisfaction with dispute settlement. It is believed that people tend to be silent because they fear rather than respect the leaders, but once the leadership changes, the dispute resurfaces. The district lacks local transparent and effective tribunals for resolving land disputes such that most land disputes are referred to courts which are intimidating and expensive for most rural low income people. TAs Mwambo, Chikowi and Mlumbe have high incidences of land disputes due to common land grabbing cases. This is attributed to the high population densities in these areas.

#### **2.3.2. Worsening Land Pressure**

Increasing population pressure on land and the inadequate formal land administration in the District, are the reasons for problems related to land matters. The most notable ones are land encroachment, land grabbing and boundary disputes. The district has a high population to land ratio. Land encroachment is mostly experienced in TA Mlumbe which has many private commercial estates. The commercial estates occupy most of the fertile land in this area, whereas the local people are confined in hilly and marginal land. This is a residual effect of colonial land policy whereby most fertile land was grabbed by the white farmers. Most of encroachers into the private estates are mainly people who were former tenants in those estates. In other areas within the district, such as Malosa, the local population has encroached gazetted areas such as forest reserves- sometimes violently.



### **2.3.3. Insufficient Knowledge of Land Matters**

Furthermore, the general public lacks awareness on issues related to land matters and this slows the process of land management and administration by fueling land disputes, property grabbing and encroachment.

### **2.3.4. Uncontrolled Development**

The district does not have sufficient staff to control development within its jurisdiction. This leads to unplanned and disorderly development that extends into river and road reserves thereby fueling river bank degradation and soil erosion. Generally, the district faces environmental management challenges i.e. there is rampant deforestation in the major forest reserve of Zomba-Malosa and provocative squatting in these areas; encroachment of urban development into the district jurisdiction. Waste dumping by Zomba City Council leads to pollution especially at Four Miles along the Zomba-Blantyre road. The district does not have a land use plan that can guide and control developments within the district. Furthermore, there is limited corroboration between the district council and the city council in handling issues or challenges that are common to both, i.e. environmental degradation and urban development spillover into the district.

### **2.3.5 Rampant Customary Land Privatisation**

Due to insufficient tenure security and lack of sufficient evidence to prove ownership, most of the customary land has been converted into leaseholds. There is a growing trend in the district whereby customary land is being commercialised through leasing. Traditional leaders, together with other land holders, are selling land to developers who privatise the land which denies local people access to communal areas. This is a common problem in the areas within the peripheral of Zomba City and other small centres in the district where land is being sold for housing and commercial activities.

### **2.3.6 Challenged Land Rights To Men**

The District follows the matrilineal system which entails that land belongs to women. This means men do not own land in the district. This makes men opt to buy land for themselves or remain married to have usufructuary benefits.

### **2.3.7 Challenged Land Administration System**

The land administration system of the customary land in the district is challenged by the rampant court proceedings. Most land disputes are referred to courts which entails loss of trust on the local land administration because of inadequate transparency from the village to the district level. The National Land Policy of 2002 provides for the establishment of Community Land Tribunals which can help to reduce the number of land disputes being referred to courts but can be resolved at the community level

### **2.3.8 Residual Effects of Colonial Land Policies**

As indicated above, white farmers hold some of the most fertile and well-watered lands in the district. Therefore, there is a concentration of freehold land in some of the areas i.e. T/A Mlumbe where estate farming is concentrated. This situation has created a shortage of arable land for the local population leading to encroachment and perennial land disputes as the local people are slowly gearing to claim back their land rights from the white settlers.

## 2.4. Problems and Opportunities

Problems
Inadequate capacity for land dispute resolution
Worsening land degradation and pollution
Encroachment into protected areas and private land
Lack of land use plans to guide development
Expensive or stringent land survey and registration requirements
Rampant selling of customary land
Inadequate knowledge by local population on land administration, regulations, etc
Unplanned settlement pattern
Opportunities
Availability of the new Land Acts of 2016 and Land Policy of 2002
Availability of the new Physical Planning Act which designates the whole country as a planning area for land use development control
Availability of land experts from public sector, academia and civil society due to proximity to Zomba city
Availability of district development plans
Presence of idle estate land for acquisition and redistribution

## CHAPTER 3: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### 3.1 Forest Reserves and Wild Life

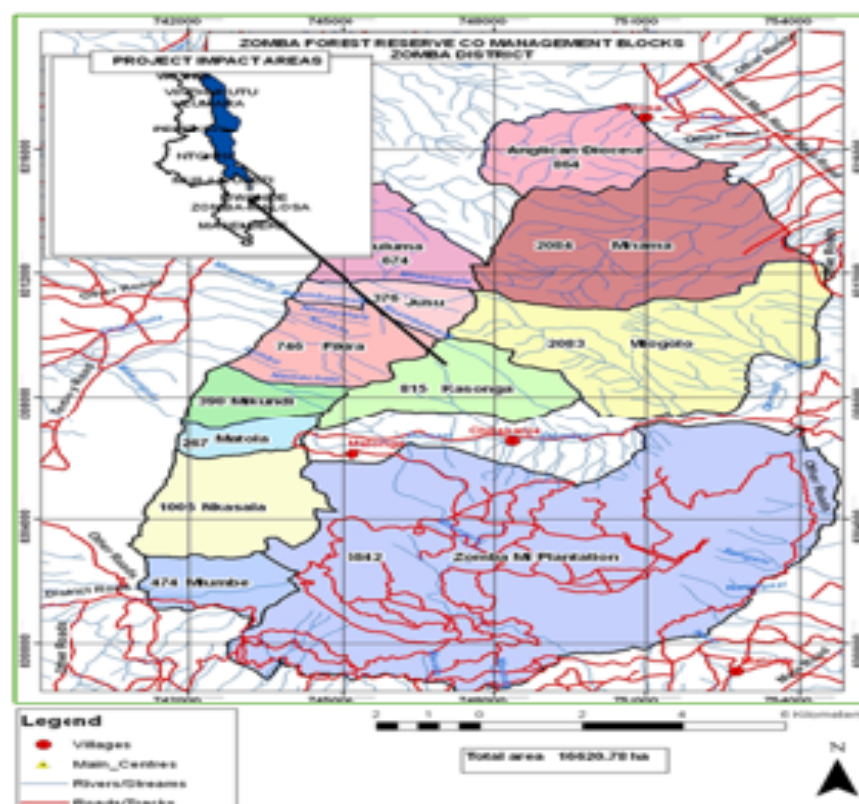
The existence and importance of the natural ecosystem cannot be overemphasized. The forestry sector implements various activities that facilitate the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of the ecosystems and ecological processes essential for the functioning of the biosphere and prudent use of renewable resources. These activities are in line with the National Forest Policy, (2016) which has Ten (10) Key Priority areas that will help the country combat climate change and its impacts as highlighted in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) number 13 as well as sustaining environment being one of the priority areas in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III), particularly under section 6.1.8. Under this section, emphasis has been placed on Environmental Sustainability, which includes sustainable utilisation of natural resources including forests and

forest products. The Malawi Vision 2020 has also already provided the country a guide, under 'Restoring and Conserving Bio-diversity', on page 85.

As noted above, Zomba District has one forest reserve called the Zomba/Malosa Forest Reserve with a total area of 8,599 ha. It falls under public land hence owned by government. Other parts of the reserve are co-managed by communities and the government through the Shire River Basin Management Programme (SRBMP). The reserve is located in Chingale and Malosa EPAs. Forest cover is good in Chingale unlike in Malosa where forests are depleted due to increased illegal forest activities such as charcoal burning, encroachment and also bush fires. Most trees found in the Malosa side are regenerants (mphukira). Species found in the reserve are mainly indigenous which are slow in growth. When fully matured, they give huge economic gains due to their volume and value. These include *Khaya anthotheca*, *Pterocarpus angolensis*, *Brachystegia species*, *Uapaca kirkiana*, *Bauhinia thonningi* among others.

Under the co-management arrangement, the reserve was demarcated into 11 blocks, 7 blocks in TA Mlumbe (Chingale) and 4 in TA Malemia (Malosa) as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Location of Co-Management Blocks in Zomba/Malosa Forest Reserve**



Source: District Forestry Office, 2016

It should be noted that the co-management arrangement instills a sense of discipline and ownership in forest dependent communities. Communities are able to conduct patrols, plan activities to be implemented following agreed management plans, and collect revenue after selling forest products for livelihood improvement. There is sustainability in terms of management of forest resources which, if perfected, has potential to replenish forest cover in Zomba District.

### **3.2 Aquatic Resources**

Aquatic species are predominant in Lake Chilwa, a RAMSAR site with diversity of species and in all rivers in Zomba including the small artificial lake/reservoir on Zomba Plateau, the Mulunguzi Dam. The Mulunguzi reservoir bears a high importance for aquatic life and water resources for the people of Zomba District and Zomba City in particular which entirely relies on its water. The rivers form part of the Lake Chilwa Catchment Area which is used for water transport, irrigation farming, bird hunting and fishing for many residents including the surrounding districts and parts of Mozambique. Estimates indicate that about 20% of the fish in Malawi come from Lake Chilwa. The Lake has the history of drying up as was the case in 2012 and 2014 and this has adversely affected livelihood activities.

#### **3.2.1 Aquatic Ecosystems**

The Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve is the major water catchment area for the perennial rivers that flow out of the mountain especially Domasi, Mulunguzi, and Likangala which flow on the eastern side of the reserve. They are important inlets for Lake Chilwa, whose annual value of small scale fishing industry, water-bird hunting and rice cultivation is roughly estimated at about US\$20 million (MK14.6 billion). The lake and its inlets are sources of water for both domestic and agricultural purposes and therefore, contribute positively to the socio-economic development of both the district and the country. The rivers that drain on the western side of the reserve empty their waters into the Shire River which originates from Lake Malawi and flows into the Zambezi.

#### **3.2.2 Wetlands**

The Lake Chilwa Wetland is of international importance and was designated as the sole RAMSAR Site (No.869) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1997. The Lake and its associated wetland support about 164 bird species, 43 of which are Palaearctic migrant species and 14 are intra-African migrant species. The Lake Chilwa wetland has three major vegetation characteristics namely grasslands, swamps and marshes. The wetland consists mainly of about 650km<sup>2</sup> of *Typha* swamp vegetation, 390km<sup>2</sup> of marshes with extensive patches of *Scirpus* in the open lake, and 580km<sup>2</sup> of seasonally inundated grassland floodplain. The vegetation of the wetland is greatly influenced by seasonal fluctuations of water levels which in dry years result in the disappearance of some species.

The wetland has a high population density of 162 people per square kilometre with more than 77,000 people living in the wetland itself. The majority of these people are low income households hence their livelihoods are mainly derived from subsistence farming and natural resources such as fish, birds, and rodents for protein and income. A rapid annual population growth of 2% in combination with significant economic value of several protected species (e.g. ducks, storks, and flamingos) has accelerated a devastating exploitation of wetland resources, including waterfowl and their habitat. Frequent famines in and around Lake Chilwa have contributed to the diminishing impact of many promising initiatives, which has resulted in increased pressure on the lake and the wetland resources.

#### **3.2.3 Threats to Aquatic Resources Management**

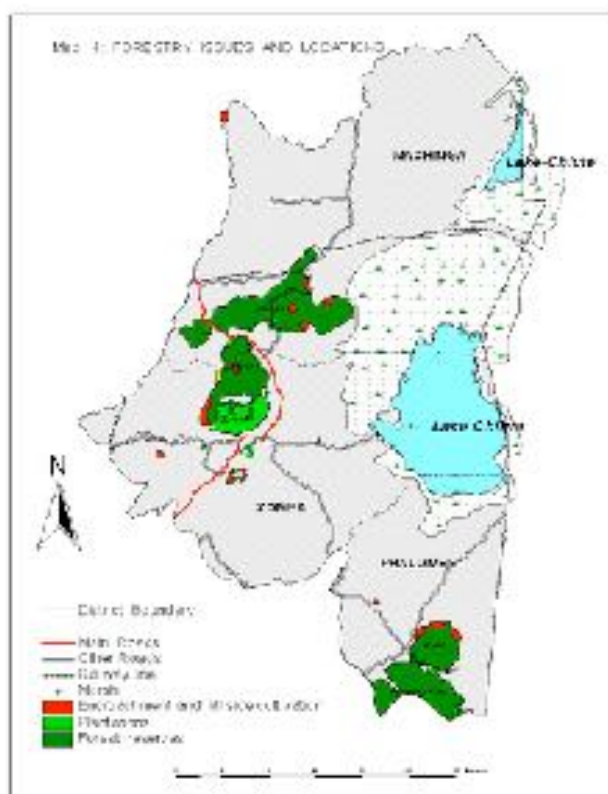
The District has improved the management of aquatic resources through the Mulunguzi Dam Project which was successfully implemented by the Southern Region Water Board (SRWB) in early 2000, the Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Program (LCBCCAP) and the National Water Development Programme (NWDP) II, and recently the Shire River Basin Management Programme and Malawi Flood Emergency Response Programme (MFERP). However, the aquatic and water resources still face several threats and challenges arising from within and outside the

district. These include but are not limited to inadequate capacity and equipment to use in implementing aquatic/water resources management programmes; environmental degradation due to high deforestation and poor land use practices evidenced by encroachment into catchment areas, riverine cultivation and poor coordination of community based water and aquatic resources management.

### 3.3 Environmentally Critical Areas

Figure 3 shows the environmental hotspots in need of redress in Zomba District.

**Figure 3 Environmental Hotspots in Zomba District**



Source: District Environmental Office, 2016

#### **Hotspot 1:** Zomba Forest Reserve covering Zilindo, Namadidi and Likangala River

- i. Massive deforestation due to cultivation and settlement inside the reserve (Zilindo and Nankhunda). The areas are heavily encroached, leaving upper Likangala (Namadidi Hill) totally bare;
- ii. Unclear boundary especially at Zilindo where encroachers claim that the boundary is the road to Sunbird Ku Chawe whereas the official boundary, according to the Forestry Department, is the stream down slope about a kilometre away.
- iii. Poor agriculture practices such as cultivation along river banks (Namadidi, Naziwale) and cultivation on marginal land and steep slopes (Namadidi Hill);
- iv. Sand mining on heavily silted streams (Naziwale and Namadidi Streams);
- v. Unsustainable harvest of the forest reserve products because harvested areas have been left idle for too long and colonized by invasive species, illegal pit sawing and hauling of logs and timber from the reserve.

#### **Hotspot 2:** Malosa Forest Reserve, Domasi and Lifani Rivers

- i. Heavy deforestation due to cultivation and settlement right in the reserve;
- ii. Deforestation due to selling of indigenous firewood;
- iii. Poor agricultural practices characterized by cultivation along river banks and steep marginal slopes;
- iv. Burning as a means of land clearing as observed at Sambaisa Irrigation Scheme; and
- v. Disjointed service delivery by extension personnel e.g. SRWB constructing a reservoir on the edge of the reserve without collaboration with the Forestry Department

**Hotspot 3:** Ngweleru EPA (Dimusa, Stevin and Mayaka Sections)

- i. Poor agricultural practices as evidenced by river bank cultivation along Sunuzu River;
- ii. Poor soils to sustain rain-fed agriculture as seen at Steven Section
- iii. Low adoption of modern agricultural technologies (such as conservation agriculture) resulting in low production;
- iv. Low uptake of alternative livelihood strategies as communities have a strong dependence on maize;
- v. The area is generally prone to climatic changes like dry spells and erratic rainfall.

**Hotspot 4:** Lake Chilwa (Kachulu and Mchenga beaches and Chisi Island)

Deforestation of the islands' forests mainly due to cultivation and firewood;

**Hotspot 5:** Zomba West (Chingale / Masaula and Namadidi areas)

- i. Poor agricultural practices as evidenced by river bank cultivation along the rivers
- ii. Cultivation on steep slopes
- iii. Poor soils to sustain rain-fed agriculture particularly when there is too much or little rainfall;
- iv. Low adoption of modern agricultural technologies (such as conservation agriculture and agroforestry) resulting in low production;
- v. Low uptake of alternative livelihood strategies due to linear dependence on maize;
- vi. The area is generally prone to climatic changes like dry spells and erratic rainfall.
- vii. The area has a lot of potential for irrigation

### **3.3.1 Conservation Measures**

Efforts have been to restore the environment and river catchment areas that have been destroyed. The Malawi Government introduced a 3 year MASAF IV project aimed at restoring degraded catchment areas. The anticipated impact was to improve water retention, reduced surface run off, flooding and siltation of water courses which has resulted in improved agricultural productivity and increased household resilience to food insecurity. Other afforestation projects such as management of regenerating forests and gully reclamation projects were implemented in 15 catchment areas. The Malawi Flood Emergency Recovery Project (MFERP) contributed to environmental management by promoting restoration projects whilst restoring community infrastructures that were destroyed by floods in 2015. Other measures include the following:

- i. *Tree Planting*

Tree seedlings are raised by individuals, Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs), NGOs, Estates, CBOs, FBOs among other stakeholders on environmental matters. The seedlings are planted in degraded sites such as riverine areas, bare land, gullies and hill slopes in order to reduce soil erosion. Figure 4 shows forestry staff and community members participating in a tree planting exercise.

**Figure 4: Community in Tree Planting Exercise**



*Source: Zomba District Forestry Office*

Some tree seedlings were planted around catchment areas to protect water sources and improve stream/river flows and this involves the participation of various stakeholders in the district as shown in Table 8.

**Table 8: Participatory Tree Planning and Number of Trees Planted 2012-2016**

Group	Number of Trees Planted Per Year			
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
VNRMCs	1 155 118	1 153 789	1 051 963	1 360 699
Smallholder farmers	309 721	103 172	897 763	350 996
Schools	12 597	22 046	106 002	117 135
Estates	769 315	334 421	59 428	35111
Faith based organizations	5 317	87 000	28 091	31646
Youth Clubs	10 524	-	40 619	27922
Government organisation	15 280	-	-	83112
CBOs	3 217	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 281 089</b>	<b>1 700 428</b>	<b>2 183 866</b>	<b>2 006 621</b>

*Source: Zomba District Forestry Office, 2016*



The total number of trees planted per planting season varies depending on the amount of support that is received from various stakeholders. It is observed that in the 2012/2013 planting season, more trees were planted as a result of adequate support from various stakeholders but such support has been on the decrease as can be seen in Table 5. This can be attributed to the exiting of NGO programmes that had a forestry component as activities as can be seen in the dwindling participation of the CBOs, FBOs, Youth Clubs and even government institutions in tree planting from the 2013-2014 season since the majority of them received support from the NGOs as opposed to making their own local contribution. It also speaks of the challenges encountered by the CBOs to sustain programmes that were supported by the NGOs once the support is withdrawn. Estates have also drastically reduced the investment for replenishing forests going by the number of trees planted in 2012/13 as compared to the subsequent years which can also be attributed to limitations of land sizes dedicated to forestry.

#### ii. Law enforcement

This is carried out to ensure compliance with rules and regulations in the management, collection and utilization of forest products. These products could be timber, firewood, poles and non-timber forest products. Communities and forestry staff conduct regular patrols around and within forests to check illegal activities. Despite such an effort as per participatory forest management provision, illegal activities remain high and a big threat to the sustainability of the resource due to poor governance and institutional weaknesses in law enforcement agencies.

#### iii. Community Engagement

Traditional leaders and their subjects are mobilized on and sensitized to new technologies and proper management/harvesting methods to sustain the forest resources while improving their livelihoods. Communities are sensitized to what the Forestry Policy and Act stipulate regarding sustainable management, protection and utilization of forest resources. They are encouraged to engage in Forest Based Enterprises such as beekeeping for the production of honey in order to improve their economic status at the household level as shown in Figure 5.

**Figure 5 Hanging a Beehive and Processed Honey, Chisupuli Group**



Source: Zomba District Forestry Office, 2016

#### iv. Nursery establishments

Communities and individuals are encouraged to raise tree seedlings. Seedlings raised are mostly indigenous such as *Khaya anthotheca*, *Pterorcupus angolensis*, *Azalia quanzensis*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Senna siamea*, *Faidherbia albida* *Syzigium codatum* and exotic species such as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Senna spectabilis*, *Pinus patula*, *Gliricidia sepium*, among others.



v. *Collaboration with other stakeholders*

Zomba District Forestry Office (DFO) works with other stakeholders to implement forestry related activities for in unity there is strength hence the need for a participatory approach to tackling environmental issues. Table 9 shows list a of stakeholders assisting in forestry related activities.

Table 9 Stakeholders' Participation in Forestry Activities

<b>Name of NGO</b>	<b>GVH/EPA</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY</b>
SRBMP	Malosa& Chingale	Co-Management of Zomba/Malosa FR Provision and support of IGAs  Afforestation and natural regeneration Management	Technical support  Social support  Nursery material and equipment, fruit tree seedlings  Capacity building
WESM	Mkumbira& Mwambo	Afforestation - planting in any fragile areas.	Nursery inputs  Capacity building
ADAPT	Mwambo& Ngwerelo	Afforestation  Distribution of nursery inputs and equipment,	Provision of fruit tree seedlings  Technical support and capacity building
MFERP	Malosa& Mpokwa	-Distribution of tree seedlings for afforestation	Seedlings & Technical support
WFP	Mwambo& Ngwelerolo	Afforestation	Nursery equipment/ input  Food to households  Capacity building
United Purpose	Malosa and Chingale	Afforestation and training in forest management	Nursery input, revamping Co-management block committees

Source: Zomba District Forestry Office, 2016

The NGOs liaise with the DFO when implementing forestry related activities except WESM but other unregistered NGOs are not known to the DFO. The battle against environmental degradation can only be won if stakeholders work together in a well-coordinated and participatory manner but it remains a challenge for the District Council.

### **3.4 Waste and Sanitation**

#### **3.4.1 Solid Waste Management**

Over the years, the Zomba City Council refuse collection crew has been collecting refuse from residents and institutions in the City and disposing it crudely in the jurisdiction of Zomba District Council along the Zomba-Blantyre road at a place locally known as “4 Miles”, close to a Police road block. This is an issue that has been left unattended to for a long time and needs redress as the practice demands agreements and cost sharing on the environmental issues that emanate from the site and affect the local residents in the vicinity of the dumpsite. The fumes from the burning rubbish, bad smell and flying plastics that litter the area from the dumpsite are a health and environmental hazard in need of attention.

**Figure 6 Zomba City Council Solid Waste Dumpsite at 4 Mile on the Zomba-Blantyre Road**



*Source: Photo by Gilbert Chilinde 2017*

In addition, open refuse pits constitute another form of waste disposal at the household level in the district as is the case in all rural areas in Malawi. The District Council does not have a waste collection service owing to the district settlement pattern hence the service offered is location based especially in established and periodic markets where local market committees are charged to manage solid waste often times without the required protective gear. Indiscriminate waste disposal is also common in the district despite being an illegal practice and discouraged because of the potential environmental hazards it causes. The practice fuels the spread of water and air borne diseases like diarrhea, bilharzia, cholera and respiratory problems among others.

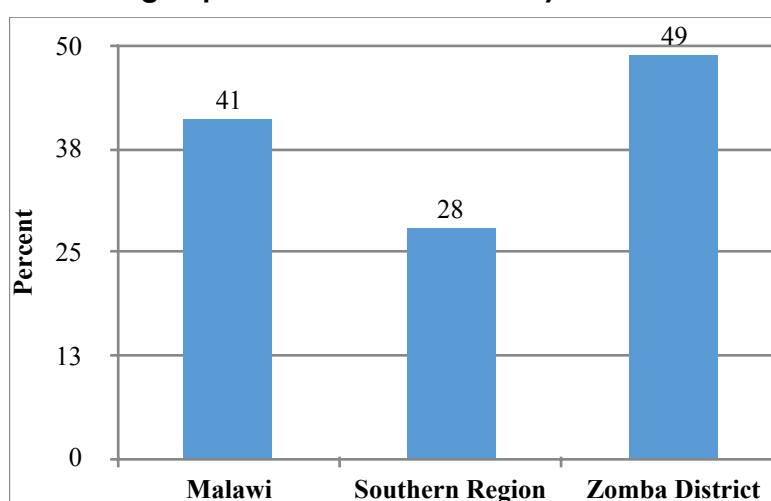
#### **3.4.2 Liquid Waste Management**

Few houses in the district use septic tanks most of which are single chambered with potential of ground water pollution and the majority of households use pit latrines. These take the forms of ventilated/improved pit latrines and traditional pit latrines. Traditional pit latrines are the major form of liquid waste disposal in the communities. However, there are some households without pit latrines and effort has been made to ensure that every household has sanitary facilities. For instance, development partners participated in facilitating the construction of sanitary facilities (pit latrines

and rubbish pits) for 3,200 beneficiary households in STA Ngwelero. Households are encouraged to have the sanitary facilities plus backyard garden, produce manure and plant trees on their homestead in order to get a bag of maize as an incentive. This initiative has increased the number of sanitary facilities at the household level in the district.

However, there is still need to address the state of liquid waste management in the 49 district council market centres in Zomba. A very small percentage of the market centres have adequate and improved sanitary facilities as most market centres have poorly managed traditional pit latrines and coverage of hand washing facilities is very low. The situation is almost the same at the household level. According to the 2014 MDG End Line Survey for Zomba (Figure 7), the percentage of household members using an improved sanitation facility which is not shared was at 49% compared to Malawi (41%) and Southern Region (28%). Although Zomba District has a higher rate, there is need to do more to address the situation because community and individual sanitation is not a privilege for a few but a necessary good for all.

**Figure 7 Households using improved Sanitation Facility which is not shared**



Source: Zomba MES 2014, NSO

Similarly, the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) of 2016 revealed that about half of households in Malawi (52%) usually use an improved and not shared toilet/latrine facility, whereas a third of households (31%) use facilities that would be considered improved if they were not shared by two or more households. The most common type of toilet facility in rural areas is a pit latrine with a slab that is not shared with other households (52% of rural households). Overall, 7% of rural households have no toilet facility at all. This again implies that there is need for more interventions to address sanitation challenges in Zomba District and the country as whole. The district council continues to apply efforts to improve the situation by providing a minimum of 3 sanitary facilities per market each year to improve on sanitation. There is need to promote civic awareness on waste handling, disposal and management. Communities need to be empowered to apprehend people who dump waste carelessly to prevent the spread of various diseases in the district.

### 3.5 Biodiversity

Zomba has a rich biodiversity that includes vertebrates, invertebrates, fungi, microorganisms and plants. The diversity of these is affected by topography, soil and climatic conditions.

### **3.5.1 State of Biodiversity**

One way of understanding the biodiversity of Zomba District is to look at the representation of different kinds of natural communities, like forests, grasslands, wetlands or some combination of these which are naturally occurring in the district. A widely-used approach looks at eco-regional distribution. According to the World Wildlife Fund, (2005), ecoregions are defined as relatively large areas of land or water containing a distinct assemblage of natural communities and species, with boundaries that approximate the original extent of natural communities prior to major land use change. These communities share most of their species, dynamics and environmental conditions and function together as a conservation unit. Thus the boundaries of ecoregions are defined by biogeographic criteria. Zomba District boundaries are defined by administrative criteria and therefore do not coincide with eco-regional definitions. This means that some ecoregions that cover a large area, such as miombo woodlands, may only have a relatively small part of their global representation in Zomba District.

However, within Zomba District, they may represent a significant percentage of land (or water) area. On the other hand, some ecoregions, typically of a much more restricted global coverage, may have a relatively large percentage of their distribution in Zomba, making the district an important priority for conservation of these ecoregions. It should be remembered, however, that these ecoregions are defined by historical coverage and distribution of natural communities. In Zomba District, just like Malawi as a whole, most natural communities have been significantly modified by human populations, in particular for agricultural and commercial crop production.

### **3.5.2 Opportunities provided by Biodiversity**

Government implementing agencies responsible for forestry, fisheries, national parks and wildlife have developed progressive policies, legislation and programmes in their respective fields, often highlighting partnerships and revenue sharing schemes with local communities and the private sector for the devolved management of specific natural resources. This is an opportunity for Zomba District to implement biodiversity related projects which can contribute positively to the income generating capacity of the residents and the district in terms of fees from biodiversity based services such as tourism, bird hunting and collection of flowers and insects among others.

Another opportunity relates to the potential for public-private partnerships in managing key areas and resources. There are some precedents to build upon. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) entered into a partnership with the South Africa-based Peace Parks Foundation for management of trans-boundary protected areas, initially in Nyika National Park, with the potential to support Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve and Kasungu National Park. The Nyika project plan will be for 10 years. DNPW also ceded management of Majete Wildlife Reserve to the Dutch-based African Parks Conservation for a period of 25 years. In both cases the intent is to make the areas financially self-sustaining in the future. For other protected areas, DNPW has supported concessions with private operators for tourism activities. Some tourism operators have undertaken specific management activities in cooperation with local protected area authorities (e.g. Nyika-Vwaza Trust for road and sign maintenance and fire management). As experience is generated from these ventures, DNPW can develop and refine public-private partnerships for other areas in Zomba District like supporting efforts in the Lake Chilwa Wetland and Zomba Malosa Forest Reserves hence give a big push for district tourism attraction.

### **3.5.3 Threats to Biodiversity**

#### **i. Development**

Some of the undeveloped natural areas of the district are continually under threat from infrastructure development. This has resulted in the destruction of ecosystems functioning and biodiversity loss in the district.

## **ii. Unsustainable Use of Resources**

Zomba District is faced with a high rate of urban-rural migration, with a large number of people moving into the countryside annually. Most of these urban immigrants end up developing settlements on land which was used for agriculture or forestry purposes. Most of these immigrants move into the district in search for land and most often are unable to meet their household energy needs. This makes many of them highly dependent on fuel wood and charcoal for energy. This dynamic has resulted in high rates of illegal tree harvesting, which places continual pressure on both the natural and artificial forests in the district.

The high unemployment in the rural areas also drives many people to engage in illegal logging. This has caused severe environmental problems including soil erosion during the rainy season and siltation of water bodies. This is worse when the logging is done on the mountain and hill slopes which disturbs habitat for biodiversity and causes land degradation and flooding downstream.

## **iii. Pollution**

Indiscriminate dumping of waste accounts for the pollution of water bodies and the environment in the district. The waste produced by households is often not treated. Liquid waste from the unlined pit latrines often seeps into ground water which eventually pollutes water bodies and can adversely affect aquatic life. It is a common sight during the early rainy season to find dead fish in some streams, rivers and sometimes on Lake Chilwa.

Hazardous waste material from buildings and road construction is disposed of haphazardly. The indiscriminate disposal of waste leads to pollution of surface water and the contamination of ground water supplies. This is happening because the council has no Waste Management By-laws and enforcement of the Environmental Management Act is a big challenge due to inadequate Enforcement Officers and lack of civic education. Pollution also has a significant effect on soils and affects both agriculture and human health. The most affected rivers are Likangala and Mulunguzi Rivers because they pass through Zomba City where most waste disposal activities take place.

## **iv. Brick Burning**

The building industry in Malawi still uses burnt bricks for construction works. Brick burning requires a lot of firewood which the district cannot provide. Brick burning has placed enormous pressure on trees for fuel wood. Most of these trees are harvested illegally and this high demand for wood has resulted in the destruction of many terrestrial ecosystems that form habitats for a diversity of bird and other small animal species. The pits that are left after the bricks are moulded also become breeding places for mosquitoes during rainy season and cause malaria.

## **v. Bush Fires**

Most of the open spaces, woodlands and plantations experience bush fires that are set illegally during the dry season. These fires are set deliberately by people hunting for small animals like mice which serve as food for some people in the district. These fires often get out of control and burn large areas of vegetation thereby destroying biodiversity habitats.

## **vi. Cultivation along Rivers**

Many people in the district have resorted to cultivating along the rivers for crops such as maize, vegetables and rice. It is illegal to carry out agricultural activity along the river banks as they act as buffer zones. Enforcement of the Water Resources Management Act which prohibits this form of cultivation is currently a challenge, because of conflicting messages on winter cropping which encourages farmers to grow a second crop near the water bodies in a bid to fight food insecurity. In addition, there is an inadequate number of enforcement officers on the ground for many of the environmental laws in the district and the country as a whole.

Agricultural cultivation close to water bodies results in the removal of riparian vegetation which forms a habitat for a variety of species. The cultivation also encourages soil erosion, leaving river banks degraded. Eroded soils are often directly deposited in rivers, causing siltation and making the rivers prone to flooding during heavy rains. Siltation also has a significant effect on aquatic life. The district is unable to rehabilitate eroded areas due to financial constraints.

#### **vii. Rapid population growth**

As noted above, the population of Zomba District has grown from 581,370 in 2008 to 685,755 in 2017 representing an increase of 18%. When compared to other districts in Malawi, Zomba District demonstrates the fastest increase during the period. Zomba is third after Mangochi and Thyolo as the most densely populated districts in the Southern Region. The rapid population growth as well as inadequate financing for the environment has led to environmental degradation, pollution, deforestation of plantations and woodlands which is affecting biodiversity. This is occurring rapidly as the majority of the population cannot access electricity and there is a high demand for timber for curing bricks, construction and household energy.

#### **viii. Invasive alien species**

The major invasive aquatic species, the *Water hyacinth*, *Typhadomingensis* and *Salvinia molesta* pose a threat to the aquatic systems in the district. These species threaten biodiversity through alteration of the microclimate and displacing the indigenous aquatic flora and fauna. This is because the plants cover almost the whole surface of the water body which leads to reduction of oxygen/carbon dioxide balance to aquatic flora and fauna causing their death in the process.

#### **ix. Climate Change**

Adverse weather conditions such as flooding have led to loss of aquatic life and agricultural crops. The recent floods that took place along all the rivers in Zomba in 2015, had an adverse impact on the district with agriculture crops grown along the river washed away, houses destroyed, and vegetation cover severely damaged. Erratic rains resulting in little rainfall also caused dry spells that led to loss of animal fodder and low production in food crops.

#### **x. Poverty**

Poverty forces people to depend on natural resources for energy (fuel wood), food, construction material and medicine. Poverty also forces people to trade off long term sustainable resources for short term consumption of stocks since they depend entirely on the existing natural resources thereby threatening biodiversity.

### **3.5.4 Strategies for Improving Biodiversity**

There are a number of policies and strategic documents in Malawi which stipulate the visions and directions for the improvement of biodiversity across the country. Among these is the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for Malawi of 2015. The NBSAP sets out a vision, goals, guiding principles and strategies and action plans for the management of biodiversity in Malawi. The vision highlights

the need to conserve, protect and manage biodiversity with the full participation of all stakeholders to use the biodiversity sustainably and where benefits accrue to share them fairly and equitably. Zomba District can improve its biodiversity through localization and implementation of this policy.

In addition, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III focuses on the improvement of wildlife management, environmental degradation, as well as the conservation of the natural resource base while contributing to economic development. The district can also improve biodiversity by investing to implement the focus and direction of this strategy. Similarly, the Malawi National Strategy for Sustainable Development of 2002 aims to integrate sustainable development into the socio-economic development of Malawi in line with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). It covers matters of protecting and managing the natural resources base which includes the management of biodiversity through community based and engagement approaches. Other important policies include the Forestry Policy, Wild Life Policy of 2000, the National Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Act of 2016, the National Gender Policy, the Physical Planning Act of 2016, the Land Act of 2016 and the National Land Policy of 2002 among others. Appropriate implementation of these frameworks can have a positive bearing on improving biodiversity in Zomba District which can lead to achievement of SDGs 1, 2, 13, 14 and 15 by the year 2030 under the key performance area of Agriculture and Climate Change.

## **CHAPTER 4: THE ECONOMY OF ZOMBA DISTRICT**

### **4.1 Poverty In Malawi**

The Vision 2020 would like to see Malawi become a secure, democratically mature, environmentally sustainable, self-reliant with equal opportunities for and active participation by all, having social services, vibrant cultural and religious values, and a technologically driven middle-income economy. The Malawi Government through the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III, seeks to achieve poverty reduction through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development. In particular, Section 3:1 of the MGDS III which gives a socio-economic analysis of Malawi as a country, clearly, defines the socio-economic status of the country such as rampant poverty levels hovering over 50% of the total population and issues of land degradation, among some. Zomba as a district is party to the above aspirations. However, during the past decade, the district has not made notable strides in achieving economic development that would sustainably reduce poverty amongst its populace due to rapid population growth and low literacy levels.

#### **Poverty Incidence in Zomba**

Poverty is taken as a condition characterized by serious deprivation of basic needs in terms of food, water, health, shelter, education and a lack of means and opportunities to fulfill these basic needs. The poor are those who are not able to meet minimum nutritional requirements and essential nonfood requirements equivalent to \$40 per capita per annum. Poverty levels are relatively high in Zomba which is ranked the third poorest district in Malawi after Nsanje (76%) and Machinga (73.7%). In Zomba District, it is reported that 70% of the people are poor, a figure which is far higher than the national average at 49%. Moreover, in terms of the ultra-poor, the proportion for Zomba District is 41.0, the average for Southern Region is 31.5 yet the national average is 22.4.

There are a number of possible causes of poverty in the district. These include small land holding size of less than 1 hectare per farming family leading to low agriculture

production, relatively high population density of 230 persons per sq km, low house hold income levels resulting from high unemployment and lack of capital for enterprise development, and fairly high illiteracy level at 25% on average among the youth aged 15 to 24 leading to early marriages and inadequacies in skilled labour.

However, even though the poverty incidence is high for the district, the majority of people, especially women, indicated life satisfaction at an average of 86.2% in comparison with national and regional levels of the Wellbeing Perception Index shown in Table 10.

**Table 10 Subject Wellbeing (%) in 2014**

<b>Indicator/ Description</b>	<b>Malawi</b>	<b>South</b>	<b>Zomba</b>
<b>Life satisfaction</b> Percentage of young people age 15-24 years who are very or somewhat satisfied with their life, overall (a) Women (b) Men	88.7 89.4	89.4 89.8	93.2 79.3
<b>Happiness</b> Percentage of young people age 15-24 years who are very or somewhat happy (a) Women (b) Men	89.2 86.9	90.0 86.9	91.2 81.0
<b>Perception of a better life</b> Percentage of young people age 15-24 years whose life improved during the last one year, and who expect that their life will be better after one year (a) Women (b) Men	50.2 52.1	50.0 51.9	46.9 37.5

Source: NSO, MICS, Zomba District Report MDG End Line Survey 2016

## **4.2 Local Economic Development**

The term Local Economic Development (LED) refers to a broad set of activities which aim at creating a competitive advantage for the local government area and for the companies and other producers in the local area in order to create income and employment opportunities. Such activities are based on the economic sectors that are active in the area while looking at these areas with the highest potential to make a difference in the effort of creating income generating opportunities and jobs for the residents of the local area. Zomba District has a number of sectors which have the potential to contribute to the economic development of the district.

### **4.2.1 Agriculture**

Agriculture is a major economic activity for Zomba District. This is in line with the MGDS III page 40 which considers Agriculture a key in terms of driving economic growth and contributing to socio-economic development of Malawi. Over 80% of the population of Zomba district derive significant portions of their from livelihoods from agriculture.

The Zomba District Agriculture Office is made up of nine (9) Extension Planning Areas namely Malosa, Nsondole, Thondwe, Chingale, Masaula, Dzaone, Likangala, Mpokwa and Ngwelero. The nine EPAs are further subdivided into 150 sections with a



total of 241,447 farm households. The sector is composed of 5 technical departments namely Extension Services, Crop Development, Land Resources Conservation, Animal Health and Livestock Development, and Irrigation.

The main stakeholders and or programmes that provide extension services in the district include WFP, World Vision, Total Land Care, Hunger Project, LEAD, One Acre Fund, UNDP, FAO, SNIC, JTI, Save the Children, Shire River Basin Management Programme, MFERP, MDRRP, and LDF among others.

However, the district's productive capacity is being undermined by climate change impacts and risks. Other challenges include low accessibility and use of climate change and meteorological information, post-harvest losses, lack of agriculture diversification, low irrigation development, small landholding sizes, land degradation and underdeveloped market systems among others. These challenges affect the national economy, hence the need to ensure that they are properly managed.

MGDS III realizes that climate change has adverse impacts on the agriculture sector, a number of strategies will be put in place to address them through adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation will enhance the preparation for and negate the effects of climate change, thereby reducing the vulnerability of communities and ecosystems. Section 5:1 of MGDS III articulates the basis and direction for drawing policy and plans for improved agricultural productivity. MGDS III priority in Agriculture in this section is to "achieve sustainable agricultural transformation that is adaptive to climate change and enhances ecosystem services". Furthermore, the national agriculture policy aims at achieving sustainable agricultural transformation that will result in significant growth of the agricultural sector, expanding incomes for farm households, improved food and nutrition security for all Malawians, and increased agricultural exports.

Sustainable Development Goal number three of the United Nations calls upon all countries and stakeholders in the battle to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. However, over the past years Zomba District has been prone to droughts and floods that destroyed irrigation infrastructure, crops and livestock. This has been negatively impacting on the district's food situation and agriculture development.

Zomba District has a potential area for irrigation development of 60,000 hectares of which 1,602.5 hectares are developed with 15,696 beneficiaries under small holder farmers and 915.5 ha under private estates as outlined further under the irrigation section of this report. Furthermore, land degradation, especially soil erosion, is the major problem facing the agriculture sector in Zomba District due to cultivation on marginal lands, unsustainable land use practices and deforestation.

Livestock production in the district is affected by a high mortality rate of young stocks, poor feeding practices, poor animal housing, pests and disease incidences, and poor breeding practices. Over the past five years, on average, 19 % of the farming households run out of food from their own production by the month of November, according to APES reports. They also have no stable access to food due to lack of stable incomes.

*i. Agricultural Production: Major and Minor Crops*

The major crops produced in Zomba District are Maize, Rice, Tobacco, Cassava, Cotton, Sweet Potato, and Ground Nuts. Of all the cash crops, cassava has the highest yield for all the years with 15.049 metric tons per hectare during the 2012/13

growing season. On average, maize was grown on 56% of the cultivated land as shown in Table 1.

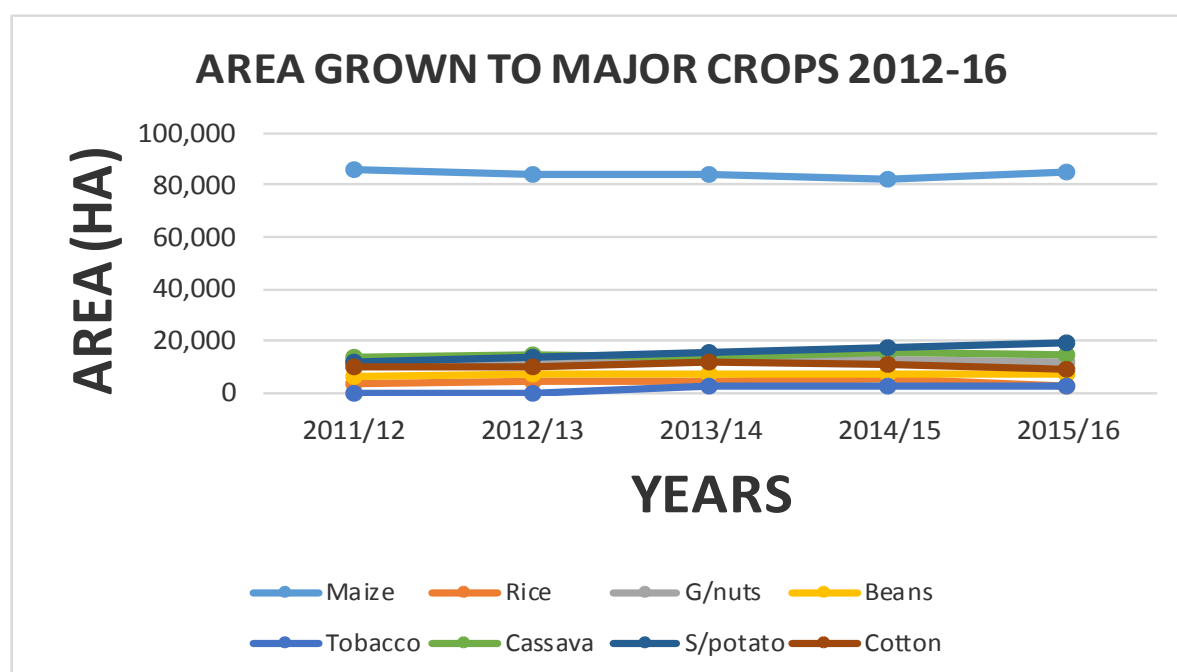
**Table 1: Area Grown to Major Crops 2012-2016**

Crop	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	% area of total cultivated land
<b>Maize</b>	86,263	84,061	84,323	82,685	84,730	56
<b>Rice</b>	3,774	4,794	4,640	5,034	2,137	2
<b>G/nuts</b>	11,642	12,170	12,454	12,415	12,007	8
<b>Beans</b>	6,558	7,037	7,016	7,104	6,876	5
<b>Tobacco</b>	103	85	2,693	2,738	2,527	1
<b>Cassava</b>	13,885	14,362	14,031	15,103	14,772	10
<b>S/potato</b>	12,003	13,718	15,123	17,073	19,330	12
<b>Cotton</b>	9,863	9,894	11,627	10,574	8,540	6
<b>Pigeon Peas</b>	26,513	29,764	30,969	30,958	32,121	
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>144,091</b>	<b>146,121</b>	<b>151,907</b>	<b>152,726</b>	<b>150,919</b>	100

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES Reports 2012-2016

The amount of land grown to specific crops is affected by several factors some of which are availability of inputs like seed and fertilizer, market conditions of the crop the previous season(s) like for tobacco and cotton and whether the crop is grown as staple food like in the case of maize. Graph 1 below shows the amount of land grown to major crops.

Graph 1: Area grown to major crops from 2012 to 2016



Minor field crops grown in Zomba include phaseolus beans, soya beans, sorghum, millets, ground beans, Dolichus beans, Velvet beans, chillies, cow peas, grams and sun flower. In addition, fruits grown include mangoes, avocado pears, bananas, paw-paw, Mexican apple, guava, and citrus fruits. Vegetables such as cabbage, tomatoes, mustard, Chinese cabbage and others are also grown though not on industrial scale.

**Table 2: Area Grown to Minor Crops and Vegetables 2012-2016**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
P h a s e o l u s beans	6,558	7,037	7,016	7,104	6,876
Soya beans	481	797	815	946	1,053
Sorghum	8,296	8,296	8,605	8,878	9,166
Millets	167	174	180	169	144
Ground beans	185	205	211	186	165
Dolichus beans	92	128	131	112	87
Velvet beans	410	440	480	469	458
Chillies	142	258	54	41	37
Cow peas	3,632	4,869	5,458	5,474	5,671
Grams	42	41	32	29	25
Sun flower	38	36	35	27	35
Cabbage	316	316	321	329	285
Tomatoes	950	1,001	958	982	976
Mustard	644	614	692	751	732
C h i n e s e cabbage	284	309	315	300	295

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES Reports 2012-2016

**Table 3: Number of fruit trees 2012-2016**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Mangoes	166,873	160,157	157,973	159,894	160,796
Oranges	2,543	3,282	3,311	3,252	3,374
Pawpaws	9,062	10,399	10,660	11,002	11,514
A v o c a d o pears	7,900	8,405	85,91	9,398	9,608

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES Reports 2012-2016

## ii. Yields of Major Crops

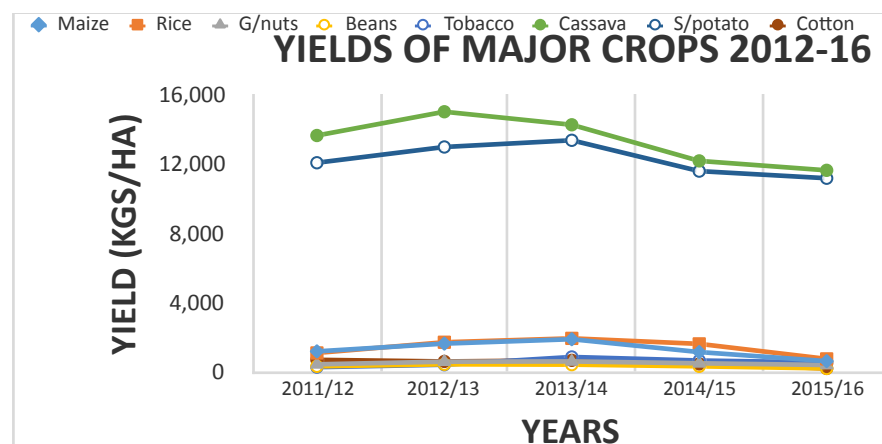
Crop yield is affected by several factors which include rainfall distribution and amount. In addition, temperature, pest and disease outbreaks and availability of inputs affect crop yield. Table 4 shows the yield of major crops from 2012 to 2016.

**Table 4: Yields of Major Crops (Kg/Ha)**

CROPS	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Maize	1,228	1,676	1,929	1,188	666
Rice	1,138	1,754	1,979	1,661	795
G/nuts	481	635	648	541	442
Beans	367	482	463	367	245
Tobacco	318	459	905	701	589
Cassava	13,678	15,049	14,297	12,214	11,670
S/potato	12,107	13,016	13,402	11,625	11,214
Cotton	740	647	711	505	245

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES Reports 2012-2016

Graph 2 showing yields of major crops from 2012 to 2016



Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES Reports 2012-2016

## iii. Key constraints for crop production

The yields for major crops remain relatively low due to poor agricultural practices, lack of inputs such as improved seed and fertilizer, erratic rainfall, disease outbreaks like cassava mosaic and banana bunchy top virus among other factors. A number of problems affect crop production in Zomba and these include; use of unimproved varieties; high cost of farm inputs; lack of organized markets for agriculture commodities; low use of fertilizers and manure; incidence of natural disasters like flush floods and prolonged dry spells (droughts); high prevalence of pests and diseases; low price incentives especially for tobacco and cotton, and loss of soil fertility due to soil erosion.

In the 2015/16 season, the average yield of maize was at its lowest level based on the past 5 years' analysis due to severe drought that was experienced in this year which caused permanent crop wilting while the 2014/15 average maize yield is the second lowest due to the floods that occurred during the season which caused crop wash aways. The pictures below show how production of maize and rice was affected in 2015/16 season due to drought.



Maize field that wilted permanently in 2015/16



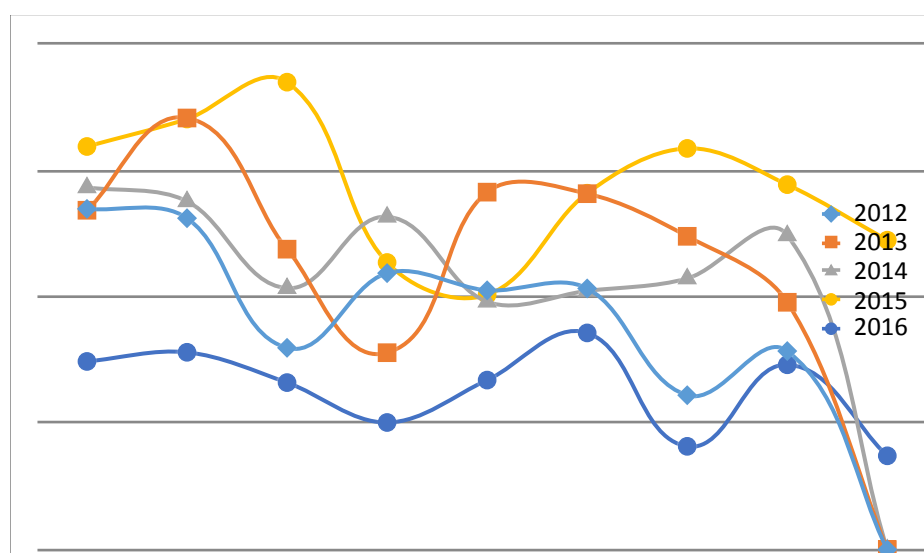
Rice field in Chiliko Scheme where transplanting failed

The rainfall pattern in the district has been changing and unpredictable over the years due to climate change effects. In some years, much rainfall can be experienced but within a short time or the onset of rains can delay while in others the rains may tail off early which poses a challenge to increasing crop productivity. Table 5 shows the average total rainfall experienced from 2012 to 2016.

**Table 5: Average total rainfall experienced from 2012 to 2016**

Name of EPA	Average Total Rainfall (mm)				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Thondwe	1,078.3	1,074.0	1,146.4	1,275.8	595.4
Malosa	1,048.8	1,366.0	1,102.3	1,362.8	624.4
Mpokwa	638.5	950.8	827.4	1,479.4	528.5
Dzaone	874.9	623.1	1,053.4	908.6	402.2
Ngwelero	820.6	1,131.3	784.5	806.5	536.4
Nsondole	826.5	1,126.4	818.8	1,127.9	685.7
Likangala	488.5	991.5	858.0	1,269.7	326.7
Chingale	628.3	782.7	994.6	1,155.1	584.9
Masaula	NA	NA	NA	979.3	296.7

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES reports 2012-2016

**Graph 3- Average rainfall 2012 to 2016**

#### iv. Agricultural Households

Zomba has a total of 241,447 agricultural households. The number of households increased from 232,470 to 241,447 between 2012 and 2016 growing seasons. Thondwe EPA has the highest number of agricultural households and Masaula has the lowest. Table 13 shows the number of households per EPA from 2012 to 2016. It should be noted that there has been steady increase in the number of households in the district for the period 2012-2016 with the exception of 2015 when it dropped from 244,789 households to 232,332 due to a door to door verification. This has a direct impact on production as it increases pressure on the available resources such as land, water and the provision of extension services.

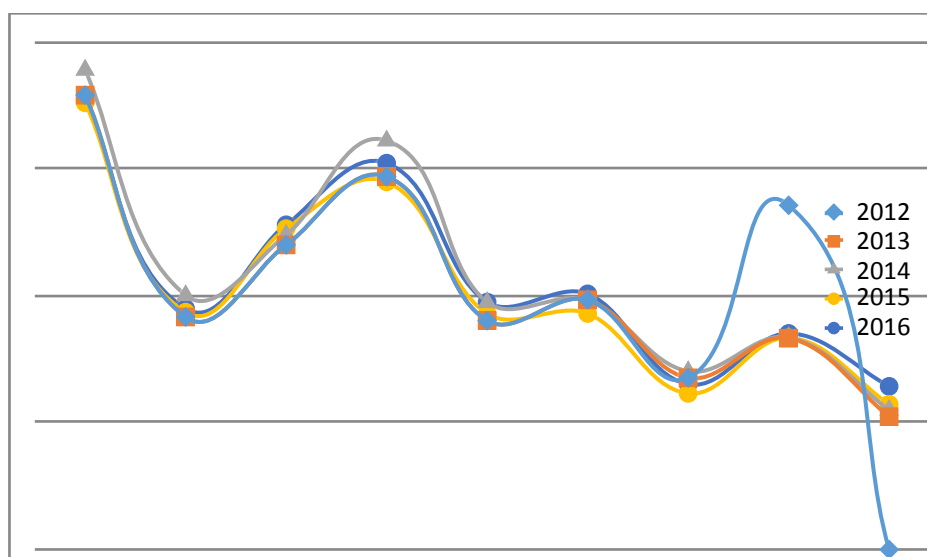
**Table 6- Number of Agricultural Households 2012-2016**

Name of EPA	No of Agricultural households				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Thondwe	44,773	44,773	47,263	44,012	443,72
Malosa	22,919	22,919	2,5057	23,394	23,744
Mpokwa	30,021	30,021	31,010	31,620	32,001
Dzaone	36,743	36,743	40,292	36,228	38,073
Ngwelero	22,560	22,560	24,370	23,242	24,384
Nsondole	24,608	24,608	24,569	23,261	25,196
Likangala	16,923	16,923	17,564	15,390	16,298
Chingale	33,923	20,827	20,918	20,869	21,295
Masaula	N/A	13,096	13,746	14,316	16,084
<b>Total</b>	<b>232,470</b>	<b>232,470</b>	<b>244,789</b>	<b>232,332</b>	<b>241,447</b>

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, APES reports 2012-2016

2 The data on Masaula EPA is missing for 2012 because the EPA was just commissioned in 2012. Previously, the EPA was part of Chingale EPA.

Graph 4: Number of agricultural households per EPA from 2012 to 2016



#### v. Agricultural Markets

Zomba District has a total of 62 Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) markets but some are seasonal. The markets in each Traditional Authority are shown in Table 14.

**Table 14 ADMARC Markets per TA**

Mwambo	Mlumbé	Malemia	Chikowi	Kuntumanji	Mbiza
--------	--------	---------	---------	------------	-------

Jali,	Mpita	Domasi	Dzaone	Msondole	Chikomwe
Matawale	Chimseu	Malosa	Sunuzi	Bimbi	Mayaka
Likangala	Mdoka	Naisi	Zomba	Chilanga	Ngwelero
Kachulu	Gwaza	Matandani	Mayaka	Namasalima	Sunuzi
Chisi Island	Fikira	Songani	Thondwe		
Khanda	Chipini		Jenala		
Mbalu	Chimbiya		Chimwalira		
Mwambo	Mswaswa		Ngwelero		
Namitsitsi	Chingale		Chikomwe		
Mua	Mmambo		Kamala		
Mikuyu	Masaula		Jenala		
Mlenga	Nachikwangwala		Mtengula		
Matiya	Namadidi		Namangale		
Kimu	Maera		Chikanda		
Pirimiti	Mdoka		Mulomore		
			Lambulira		
			Nachuma		
			Sadzi		
			Z o m b a Boma		

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office, 2016

Table 14 above serves to help farmers and other stakeholders in the Agriculture sector, to be informed about the location and availability of official commodity markets as ran by government and government agents. In the table, T/As Mwambo, Mlumba and Chikowi had the largest shares of the markets largely due to the fact that the three areas have big geographical areas of coverage and produce major Admarc-buying and selling crops such as maize, cotton and ground-nuts in large quantities, hence the high availability of such markets.

The availability and location of these produce markets has by implication, assisted farmers with good access to markets for their produce and farm inputs. This in many aspects facilitates agricultural and socio-economic development.

#### vi. Agricultural Practices

There is a great variety of agricultural practices by the farmers in the district. These practices not only help the farmers to harvest food and cash crops but also to achieve priority area number one of the national agriculture policy which is to achieve sustainable agricultural production and productivity through promoting investments in climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land and water management.



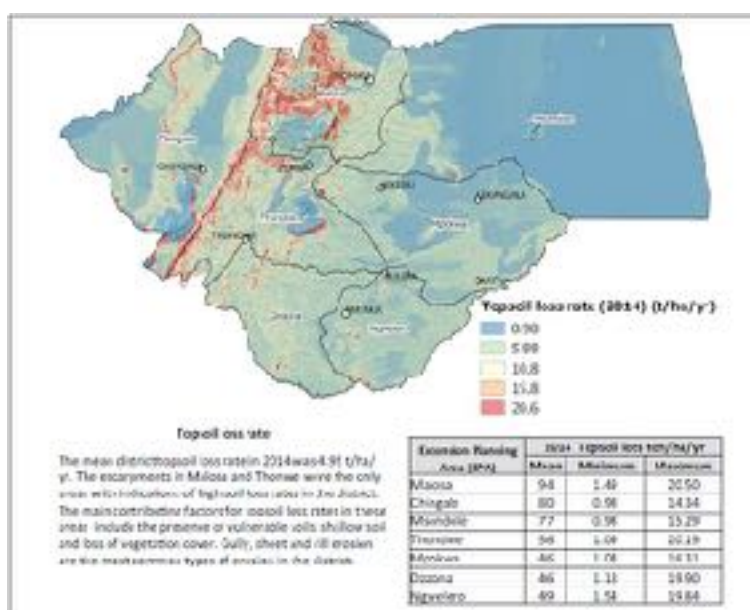
The practices include labour saving technologies, soil and water conservation measures, integrated soil fertility improvement technologies, conservation agriculture and rain water harvesting technologies.



Stone check dams for gully control Agroforestry for soil fertility improvement

The implementation of these technologies has helped Zomba district to attain decreasing rate of soil erosion to around an average of 4.92tonnes per hectare per year and maximum of 20.5 tonnes per hectare per year which is lower than the national soil loss rate of 29 tonnes per ha per year.

Figure 8: Top Soil Loss Rate in 2014 by EPA



Source: Current Soil Loss Estimates in Malawi Survey Report, by **DLRC**

Most of the farmers rely on rain fed crops and the privileged few are able to grow second or third crops through irrigation which is done by using river diversion, treadle pumps, watering canes and sprinklers. On average, the rainy season starts from November and ends in March.

Of importance to note is the fact that the agricultural practices have caused environmental degradation. Some of such practices include cultivation of marginal areas like on Malosa and Domasi Forest areas and unconserved areas. This is manifested through increases in the number of gullies in extreme cases.



Land degradation manifested by the presence of big gullies

## *vii. Agricultural Services*

### *a. Sources of Farm Inputs*

Farmers obtain inputs on cash, loan, subsidy and donations. Some of the sources include the Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP), Small Holder Farmer Fertilizer Revolving Fund of Malawi (SFFRFM), ADMARC, Reform, Agricultural Trading Company (ATC), Kulima Gold and AGORA. The use of improved inputs is a practice that is encouraged. These inputs include fertilizer, manure, herbicides, pesticides and improved seed varieties. Some of the sources include agro-dealers, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and government.

Agricultural credit providers within the district include Hunger Project, Lake Chilwa Basin Climate Change Adaptation Programme, One Acre Fund and Japan Tobacco International (JTI) and some loans are on revolving fund basis. However, not every farming household has access to improved inputs such as seed and fertilizer. This means that there is need to find other alternative means of increasing production such as use of manure for the smallholder farmers.



Farmers making Mwandama manure for soil fertility improvement (L) and the works of Mwandama manure on irrigated maize crop (R).

### *b. Institutional Set-up*

As noted above, the agriculture sector in Zomba District is made up of nine EPAs namely Malosa, Nsondole, Thondwe, Chingale, Masaula, Dzaone, Likangala, Mpokwa and Ngwelero under the supervision of Machinga Agricultural Development Division (MADD). The EPAs are further subdivided into 150 sections with a total of 241,447 farm households. The district has a total of 300 extension blocks. ZDADO has 5 technical departments namely Extension Services, Crop Development, Land Resources Conservation, Animal Health and Livestock Development and Irrigation.

The District Agriculture Development Officer (DADO) heads the District Agriculture Office, EPAs are headed by the Agriculture Extension Development Coordinators (AEDC) while Sections are manned by an Agriculture Extension Development Officer (AEDO) and the Assistant Veterinary Officer (AVO) mans dip tanks. The AEDO and AVO report to the AEDC who further reports to the DADO.

Other stakeholders that provide extension services in the district include World Food Programme (WFP), World Vision International (WVI), Total Land Care (TLC), The Hunger Project (THP), Leadership in Environment and Development (LEAD), One Acre Fund (OAF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Support for Nutrition Improvement Component (SNIC), Japan Tobacco International (JTI), Save The Children (STC), Shire River Basin Management Programme (SRBMP), Malawi Flood Emergency Response Programme (MFERP), Malawi Drought Recovery and Resilient Project (MDRRP) and Local Development Fund (LDF) among others.

#### *c. Extension Services*

The extension services available include land resource conservation, animal health and production, crop production, gender, HIV and AIDS, agribusiness, and food and nutrition in all the EPAs. The district has a high staff to farmer ratio which is at 1: 2,981 as shown in Table 15 against the recommended ratio of 1:800. The staff gap ratio renders provision of extension services a challenge hence the need to recruit more staff to improve the delivery of agricultural extension services. In 2017, a total of 13 Field Assistants were engaged and were attached to AEDOs for practical experience before deploying them for further studies at the Natural Resources College (NRC) to qualify as AEDOs. Currently, the use of farmer groups and Lead Farmers is being explored as a way of improving accessibility to extension services.

**Table 15 Staffing Situation and Staff Farmer Ratio by EPA**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>Sections</b>	<b>No. of Extension Workers</b>	<b>Extension Worker to farmer ratio</b>
<b>Nsondole</b>	13	9	1:2800
<b>Dzaone</b>	17	12	1:3172
<b>Ngwelero</b>	14	6	1:4064
<b>Chingale</b>	27	8	1:2661
<b>Malosa</b>	12	8	1:2968
<b>Mpokwa</b>	25	10	1:3200
<b>Thondwe</b>	28	15	1:2958
<b>Likangala</b>	14	6	1:2716
<b>District</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>1:2981</b>

Source: ZDADO Annual EPA Agriculture Basic Data 2016

viii. Farm Holding

a. Smallholder Farming and Estate

Arable and non-arable land in Zomba is held by both smallholder and estate farmers. The district has a total area of 187,731Ha of which 159,906Ha is arable land and 27,825Ha is non-arable land. The average land holding size for the district is 0.55 hectare per farming household. Tables 16 and 17 show the size and land use per EPA.

**Table 16 Average Smallholder Farming Land Holding Size**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>Farm households</b>	<b>Land holding size (ha)</b>
Nsondole	25,196	0.44
Dzaone	38,073	0.40
Ngwelero	24,384	0.90
Chingale	21,295	0.90
Masaula	16,084	0.95
Malosa	23,744	0.43
Mpokwa	32,001	0.58
Thondwe	44372	0.36
Likangala	16298	0.41
<b>District</b>	<b>241447</b>	<b>0.55</b>

Source: ZDADO, EPA Annual Agriculture Basic Data, 2016

**Table 17 Agricultural Land Use, Size (Ha) and Condition by EPA**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>Estates</b>		<b>Smallholder</b>		<b>Estate arable</b>		<b>Smallholder arable</b>	
	<b>Arable</b>	<b>N o n Arable</b>	<b>Arable</b>	<b>N o n Arable</b>	<b>W e t Land</b>	<b>D r y Land</b>	<b>W e t Land</b>	<b>Dry Land</b>
Nsondole	1,122	100	10,987	3,050	15	1107	1,750	9,237
Dzaone	450	45	15,236	9,874	30	420	1,968	13,268
Ngwelero	165	10	21,935	3,365	18	147	880	21,055
Chingale	658	-	19,166	-	-	658	250	18,916
Masaula	-	-	15,280	-	-	-	450	14,830
Malosa	-	-	10,260	820	-	-	510	9,750
Mpokwa	493	1022	18,463	9,294	6	487	352	18,111
Thondwe	19,950	155	15,991	90	295	19,655	219	15,772
Likangala	-	-	9,750	-	-	-	,	6,625
<b>District</b>	<b>22,838</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>137,068</b>	<b>26,493</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>22,474</b>	<b>9,504</b>	<b>127,564</b>

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office 2016

#### **ix. Irrigation**

Zomba District has a potential area for irrigation development of 60,000Ha of which 2,191Ha is developed with 16,695 beneficiary small holder farmers as shown in Table 18 and 915.5 Ha under private estates. This represents 5.2% of the total irrigable area.

**Table 18 Total Irrigable Area and Developed Area by EPA**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>Irrigable area (Ha)</b>	<b>Current area irrigated (Ha)</b>
Malosa	3,895	219.8
Thondwe	13,829	167.6
Nsondole	3,822	246.2
Mpokwa	7,229	30
Chingale	10,045	360.6
Masaula	5,000	306
Dzaone	5,990	34.0
Ngwelero	7,011	76.8
Likangala	3,179	750
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>2,191</b>

Source: Zomba District Agricultural Development Office 2016

Gravity fed irrigation has the largest area and is most preferred due to its low operational cost and is in use on 1,237.6Ha in 85 sites while motorized pump irrigation

is least preferred with only 253.8Ha being irrigated with 15 pumps. Treadle pump irrigation system is second with 377.7Ha being irrigated with 664 treadle pumps while water cane based covers 298Ha with 9,710 water canes being utilized.

Most farm families in the western part (Chingale, Masaula, Malosa and Thondwe) rely on river diversion and gravity fed irrigation systems while families in the eastern part, which is relatively flat, rely on watering canes, treadle pumps and motorized pumps. The predominant technologies in use are river diversion gravity fed system which accounts for 57% whereas 17% is for treadle pump and 14% are for watering can. The least common technologies in use are motorized pumps at 12% and mini-sprinklers pumps. Table 19 summarizes the number of sites, area covered and number of beneficiaries and technology in use.

**Table 19: Number of Schemes, Area covered and Beneficiaries and Technology in Use**

Technology Base	Number of schemes	Area utilized for irrigation (Ha)	Beneficiaries		
			Male	Female	Total
Gravity fed	85	1,237.6	3,053	2,721	5,774
Motorized pump	15	253.8	548	178	726
Treadle pump	141	377.7	1227	1,313	2,540
Watering can	121	298	4581	3074	7655
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>2,179.10</b>	<b>8,909</b>	<b>6,787</b>	<b>16,695</b>

Source: ZDADO, 2016

Table 20: Summary of irrigated area under private estates.

**Table 20 Summary of Irrigated Area under Private Estates**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>Name of estate</b>	<b>Actual Irrigated area, ha</b>	<b>Technology used</b>	<b>Remark</b>
	C h i p a l e (Sable)	410	Drip	Irrigation takes place all year round. Coffee is grown
Thondwe	Wallace	36	Drip	Irrigation takes place all year round. They grow Coffee
Thondwe	M a k o k a Valley	35	Motorized pump	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
Thondwe	Tselinga	43	Motorized pump	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
	Kaitisi	48	Motorized pump	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
	Mbala	22.5	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place in October and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
	Msamba	42	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place from September and November when transplanting flue cured tobacco
	Gala	200	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place from September and October when transplanting flue cured tobacco
	Kapino	79	Motorized Pumps	Irrigation take place from September and April to September when transplanting flue cured tobacco
		<b>915.5</b>		

Source: ZDADO, 2016

#### **x. Contribution of Agriculture to the Local Economy**

The economy of Zomba District is dominated by agriculture, where smallholder maize production accounts for the main activity, while tobacco is cultivated as the main cash crop. Other crops produced include rice, cassava, sweet potato, groundnuts, beans and pigeon peas. Husbandry is still underdeveloped; nevertheless cattle, poultry, goats, sheep, pigs and rabbits are raised for meat production with poultry being the most common. Small and medium-scale businesses dominate the non agro-based economy, with general retail accounting for the gross sales. According to the labour force survey of 2014, unemployment was at 26.7% of the total employable population aged 15 and above and was higher among the females at 32.1% while that of the males was at 20.5%. Services, general labour,

professional and technical groups are the dominant occupation groups. The tobacco and coffee estates and rice schemes provide majority of wage labour opportunities.

#### **xi. Key Issues and Trends from the Agricultural Sector**

The district is sometimes subject to food insecurity due to high costs of farm inputs, inadequate farm land, erratic rainfall pattern, poor agricultural practices especially among the smallholder farmers and pests and diseases which attack crops and animals. Although smallholder farmers occupy most of the arable land, 93% of the land is in dry zones making irrigation difficult and production therefore restricted to one crop per year rain fed agriculture.

#### **4.2.2 Livestock**

##### *a. Livestock Production and Population*

Zomba has a variety of livestock species owned by smallholder farmers. Some of the livestock species include: cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, chicken, guinea fowls, ducks, pigeons, turkey, rabbit and guinea pigs. The number of livestock is dependent on factors which include availability of water and feed, disease outbreaks, availability of veterinary services such as vaccinations and de-worming. The livestock species that are common among smallholder farmers are small stocks like goats and chickens. Table 21 shows the number of livestock species from 2012 to 2016.

**Table 21 Livestock Population Species 2012-2016**

Specie	Period				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Beef Cattle	17,514	19,807	21,072	20,767	22,177
Dairy Cross	1,151	1,170	1,543	1361	1,424
Goat	225,106	240,135	286,732	276,030	280,572
Sheep	25,422	31,749	34,697	32,907	31,879
Indigenous Pig	138,547	161,468	160,229	160,404	135,392
Exotic pig	30,699	31,459	31,439	30,331	22,595
Rabbit	122,177	125,348	107,264	101,913	73,589
BA	33,056	36,501	343,911	33,028	36,881
Indigenous Chickens	1394,820	1,468,345	949,363	993,663	957,555
G/fowl	54,529	51,983	37,259	30,912	24,970
Ducks	74,358	91,059	92,102	71,764	51,401
Dogs	18,976	16,435	15,745	15,164	15,177

Source: ZDADO, 2016

The livestock population is low compared to the human population. This results in low supply of livestock products such as meat and milk for the population thereby creating higher demand than supply which has led to high prices of these products. The district lacks breeding programmes for improved species and disease control that help to increase livestock population.



#### *b. Livestock Diseases and Parasites*

Some of the important diseases recorded in the district include African swine fever, New Castle Disease, rabies and gumboro. Occurrence of such disease varies from one season to the other depending on a number of factors such as weather and veterinary services available. Parasites of economic importance recorded in the district include ticks, lice, worms and liver flukes.

#### *c. Livestock Uses*

The district has very few dairy animals which account for 6 percent of the total cattle population. Most of these dairy animals were introduced from various projects such as Millennium Villages Research Project, Irrigation and Rural Livelihoods Research Project and A Cow A Family Project. Livestock provides food, income, manure, animal traction and social security. It also provides food security among vulnerable groups such as female, juvenile, elderly and orphan headed households. However, livestock population is low as compared to other districts.

#### *d. Livestock Services*

The district has 11 dip tanks but only 3 are operational while 8 require maintenance for improved access to veterinary services for the farming communities. Meat inspection is conducted at 9 recognized slaughter slabs. Table 22 shows the number of dip tanks and slaughter slabs per EPA.

**Table 22 Number of Dip Tanks and Slaughter Slabs**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>No. of Dip Tanks</b>	<b>Name of D/ tank</b>	<b>Slaughter slabs</b>
Mpokwa	3	K a t h e b w e , N a m i w a w a , Mmina	1 (9 Maliosi)
Malosa	0		1
Nsondole	2	Namasalima, Naisi	Nil
Ngwelero	2	Mayaka,	2
Thondwe	1	Lambulira	2
Likangala	1	Njala	1 (Mpyupyu)
Chingale	1	Nkupu	1
Masaula	1	Gwaza	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>10</b>

Source: ZDADO Annual EPA Agriculture Basic Data: 2016

Veterinary services such as animal treatments, vaccinations, de-worming are not accessible to all due to shortage of staff. Recruitment of more veterinary staff will increase the availability of these essential services. Regulatory services such as regulation of animal movements and meat inspection also face the same challenge. The majority of livestock keepers have small livestock like chickens and goats as shown in Table 23. It should be noted that most of the livestock being kept in the district is not improved. This results in the low supplies of livestock products such as meat, milk and eggs.

**Table 23 Number of Livestock Keepers**

Livestock	Number of Livestock keepers				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Beef Cattle	1,460	1,651	1655	1,631	2,773
Dairy cross	384	390	416	367	582
Goat	16,079	17,153	17189	16,547	22,405
Sheep	6,356	7,937	7943	7,533	7,969
Indigenous Pig	27,709	32,294	32302	32,337	27,078
Exotic pig	7,675	7,865	7874	7,596	5,264
Rabbit	10,181	10,446	10449	9,928	7,264
BA	2,755	3,042	3085	2,919	2,315
Indigenous Chicken	220,847	241,478	79,114	82,805	76,442
G/fowl	10,906	10,397	10,368	8,602	7,523
Ducks	6,760	8,278	8,281	6,452	4,833
Dogs	6,325	5,478	5,484	5,282	5,645

Source: ZDADO, 2016

### **Contribution of Livestock to Local Economy**

The livestock industry contributes about 7 per cent of the national GDP and about 12 percent of the total value of the agricultural productivity. Cattle, goats, pigs and poultry constitute the largest proportion of Malawi's livestock industry. This is also true for Zomba District in tandem with Table 23 above.

### **Key Issues from Livestock Sector and Trends**

Over the years, the livestock sector has seen a general decline in production due to a number of reasons including:

- i. inadequate improved breeds;
- ii. prevalence of disease and parasites;
- iii. high costs of manufactured feeds;
- iv. high incidents of livestock thefts, etc.

These factors have among other issues contributed to a very low cattle to human population ratio which is as low as 1:17. It is also noted that cattle ownership is confined to about 10 percent of the farming in Zomba District.

### **4.2.3 Fisheries**

#### *a. Fishing Grounds*

Lake Chilwa is the major source of fish for Zomba District. The Lake Chilwa wetland, is a wetland of international importance and was designated as a Ramsar Site (No. 869) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1997, and is the only Ramsar site in the country. The Lake Chilwa wetland has three major vegetation characteristics: grasslands, swamps, and marshes. The lake consists mainly about 650km<sup>2</sup> of *Typha* swamp vegetation, 390 km<sup>2</sup>

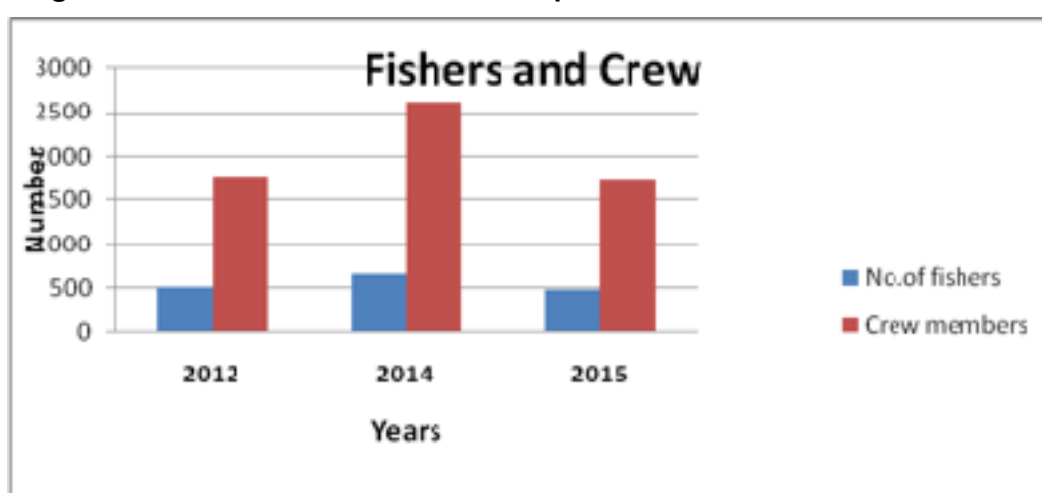
of marshes, with extensive patches of *Scirpus* in the open lake, and 580km<sup>2</sup> of seasonally inundated grassland floodplain. Other minor sources of fish are the Lake Chilwa affluent rivers i.e. Domasi, Likangala, Thondwe, Mulunguzi, Naisi, Namadzi, Sombani and Phalombe.

Small scale fisheries play a significant role in the livelihoods of rural and urban populations as sources of income, subsistence and employment. Fisheries resources in Zomba district are found in Lake Chilwa, rivers and fish ponds. Fisheries provide direct employment to about 633 fish farmers, 670 fishers and 2620 crew members and indirectly to over 10000 people who are engaged in boat building, fish processing and marketing.

#### b. Number of Fishers, Crew Members and Fishing Crafts

The number of fishing gear owners and crew members fluctuates in tandem with the fish production. Between 2012 and 2014, fishers and crew increased from 2312 to 3290 before declining to 2250 in 2015. Generally the number of gear owners, crew members and fishing crafts and fishing gears has increased recently posing a threat to fisheries resources. Figure 9 shows that the number of fishers increased from 527 in 2012 to 670 in 2014 and the number of crew members increased from 1785 in 2012 to 2620 in 2014 but declined in 2015 in response to the low production recorded for Matemba and Makumba.

**Figure 9 Number of Fishers and Crew per Year**



Source: Fisheries Department 2012, 2014 and 2015 Annual Frame Survey Reports

#### c. Fish Production

The lake has 14 species of fish three of which predominate thus: Matemba (*Barbus paludinosus*), Mlamba (*Clarias gariepinus*) and Makumba (*Oreochromis shiranus chilwae*). The highest recorded fish catch from the lake is 26000 metric tons and recently fish catches have fluctuated between 1200 and 6300 tons as shown in Table 24.

**Table 24 Fish Catch Trend (metric tons) 2008-2015**

Year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Species							

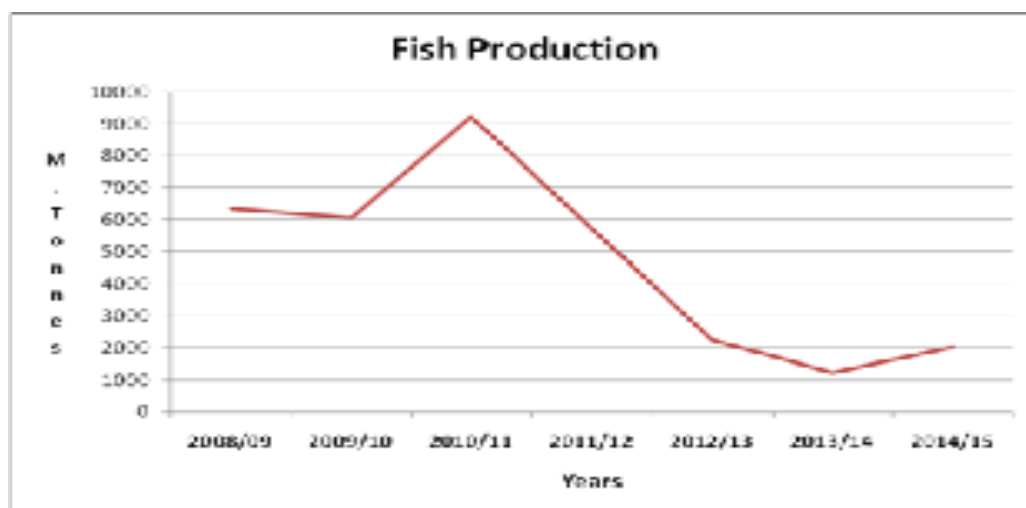
Makumba	1424.28	1264.13	2995.83	1589.07	428.54	154.39	234.96
Matemba	3478.98	3049.66	3829.57	2091.7	539.65	303.03	42.57
Mlamba	1106.84	655.23	615.07	327.28	965.17	646.76	1571.09
Kasawala	252.63	932.38	1628.85	1034.73	242.59	119.49	157.25
Others	89.72	159.52	138.06	704.09	51.5	0	0.03
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6352.45</b>	<b>6060.92</b>	<b>9207.38</b>	<b>5746.87</b>	<b>2227.45</b>	<b>1223.67</b>	<b>2005.9</b>

Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

The most common fishing gears used include: gillnets, Matemba seine nets, longlines, fish traps, and chomanga. For the purposes of extension services and statistics, the lake is stratified into three strata Chinguma coded 9.3, Chisi Island coded 9.4, and Kachulu coded 9.5. These strata are in the areas of three traditional authorities: Mwambo, Mkumbira and Kumtumanji. There are 39 beaches in the district where fish is landed.

Fish production in Lake Chilwa has historically shown a fluctuating trend in response to the fluctuating lake levels whereby years of high lake levels are characterized by high fish production and low lake level are characterized by low fish production. In recent years, low lake levels and overfishing have resulted in declining fish production. The trend has been decreasing from 9,207.38 metric tons in FY2010/11 to 1,223.67 metric tons in FY2013/14 as shown in Figure 10 due to the partial drying of the lake and slow recovery of fisheries after the lake refilled. The drop of 7,983.71 metric tons (86.7%) represents an economic loss of about MWK15.64 billion (USD21.7million) over a four year period, translating to annual loss of MWK3.91 billion (USD5.43 million).

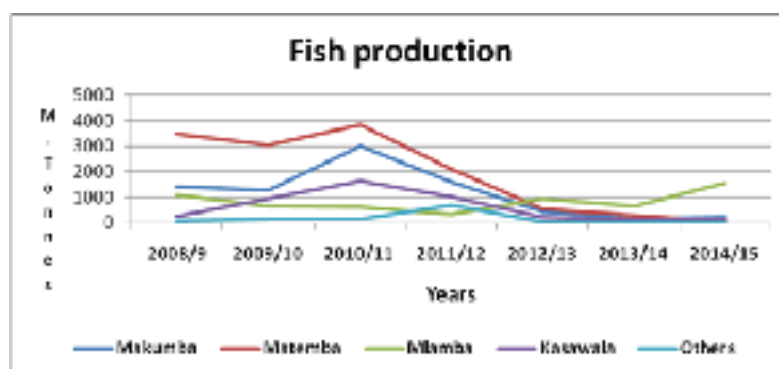
**Figure 10 Fish Production Trend by Year**



Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

Due to the partial drying of the lake and unsustainable fishing practices, the recovery period of the fishery is slow suggesting that the fishery is now less resilient to fishing pressure and climatic impacts. In the past, the fishery was fully recovering 2 years after recession, but only Mlamba has shown good recovery 3 years after the recession and the rest of the species were yet to recover as shown in Figure 11. The low fish production has led to less fish catch per fishing trip which in turn translates into low income from fishing. In order to increase the amount of catch, fishers resort to the use of under-meshed fishing gears and environmentally destructive fishing methods.

**Figure 11 Fish Production Trend in Metric Tons by Species**



Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

Improving management of the fishery by reducing overfishing and close monitoring on use of illegal gear will allow the fishery to regenerate and thereby improve the resilience of the fishery and fishing communities.

#### d. Status of Aquaculture

Aquaculture production in Zomba District is mainly done in small earthen ponds. The National Aquaculture Centre at Domasi has commercial ponds which are used for research purposes. The main species currently being farmed are Chilunguni (*Tilapia rendalli*), Makumba (*Oreochromis shiranus*), Chambo (*Oreochromis karongae*) and Mlamba (*Clarias gariepinus*). Zomba District has 633 fish farmers with a total 1,006 on 24.11Ha. Fish farmers are mainly found in Chingale, Mpokwa, Malosa and Thondwe

EPAs due to high availability of groundwater and rivers and suitable land for pond construction as shown in Table 25.

**Table 25 Total Number of Farmers and Clubs per EPA**

EPA	No. of Individual Farmers			No. of Clubs/ farmer groups	Membership per Club/Group			Total # of farmers
	F	M	Totals		F	M	Totals	
Chingale	113	197	310	23	253	169	422	333
Malosa	31	57	88	18	157	95	252	106
Thondwe	11	59	70	17	141	129	270	87
Mpokwa	13	56	69	6	40	25	65	75
Dzaone	0	2	2	5	30	20	50	7
Likangala	2	4	6	5	20	40	60	11
Ngwelero	0	0	0	3	10	15	25	3
Nsondole	1	5	6	5	36	14	50	11
Masaula	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>1,194</b>	<b>633</b>

Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

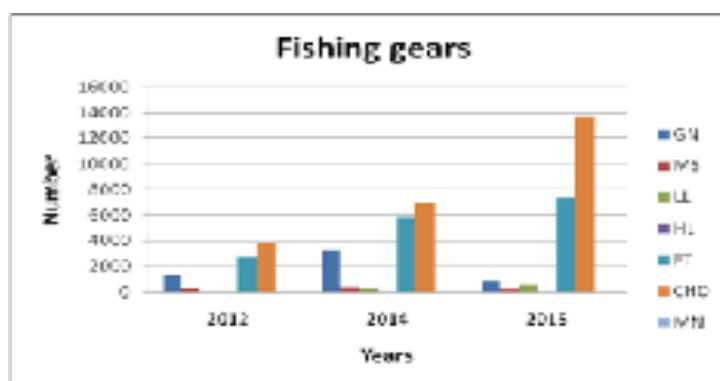
#### **e. Number of fishing gears**

The number of fishing gear has shown an increasing trend despite the decline in fish production as can be seen in Figure 8. Fishing gears have increased as follows:

- Gill nets have increased from 1,337.1 in 2012 to 3,278.3 in 2015.
- Matemba seines from 287 in 2012 to 377 in 2015,
- Long lines from 86.2 in 2012 to 637 in 2015,
- Fish traps have increased from 2,656 in 2012 to 7,445 in 2015 and
- Chomanga has increased from 3,740 in 2012 to 13,720 in 2015.

The increases in fishing gears indicate an increase in fishing effort and suggest overfishing of the fish stocks from Lake Chilwa.

**Figure 12 Number of Fishing Gears per Year**



Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

#### **vi. Fishery Services**

##### **a. Governance and Management of Fisheries Extension Services**

The number of establishment for technical staff at Zomba fisheries office is 16. The office is headed by District Fisheries officer who is at Principal Fisheries officer level and is deputized by a Fisheries Officer. The office has two technical sections: Extension and Training and Fisheries Inspectorate. There are three strata in the District manned by three Fisheries Assistants and two Fish Scouts. The staffing gaps include Assistant Fisheries officer (TO), Senior Fisheries Assistant (STA), (Statistics), Senior Fisheries Assistant STA (Inspectorate), two positions for Fisheries Assistants (Inspectorate), Head Fish Scout and Fish Scout. There are nine positions which are filled and seven are vacant giving a staff gap rate of 44%.

Fisheries extension services both aquaculture and capture fisheries are carried throughout the district. Aquaculture extension activities are carried out mainly in the uplands covering the whole district within the nine EPAs of Malosa, Likangala, Nsondole, Thondwe, Chingale, Ngweleru, Mpokwa, Dzaone and, Masaula.

### **b. Fisheries Co-management**

The goal of National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy is to promote sustainable fisheries resource utilization and aquaculture development in order to contribute to food and nutrition security and economic growth of the country. The goal of participatory fisheries management is to establish and sustain the co-management of fisheries resources between the Department of Fisheries and key stakeholders which include Traditional leaders and their fishing communities to achieve sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources management for artisanal fisheries.

Local fisheries management structures act as a bridge between fisheries sector and fishers. Currently the district has 3 Fisheries associations: Mwambo, Mkumbira and Kuntumanji. There are 18 Beach Village Committees (BVCs) and 6 Riverine Village Committees (RVCs) in the three traditional authorities. Currently 12 BVCs are active and 6 are inactive because they were set up and not trained in Project Finance Management (PFM) and conflicts with TAs regarding their mandate in PFM. All the six RVCs are inactive.

### **c. Fisheries Enforcement**

The goal of Fisheries Enforcement is to maintain effective inspections in areas not under participatory fisheries management and also to support local fisheries management authorities in the enforcement of fisheries legislation. Fisheries enforcement is important for sustainable management of Lake Chilwa fisheries due to rampant use of illegal gears in Lake Chilwa such as mosquito nets, gauze wires, under-meshed gillnets and fish traps covered with mosquito nets, cutting down of aquatic emergent plants (*Typhadomingensis*) shown in Figure 13 which are breeding habitats for fish and lack of compliance of the Lake Chilwa closed season which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> December to February to allow the fish to breed and the fingerlings to grow.

**Figure 13 Emergent Aquatic Plants (Typhadomingensis)**



*Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office 2016*

The Department of Fisheries undertakes irregular enforcement activities such as joint patrols with the Fisheries Associations and BVC members which lead to confiscation of illegal gears as shown in Figure 14. Regular patrols which require adequate funding could reduce illegal fishing, increase fish catches and incomes to fishers and other people engaged in the fish value chain.

**Figure 14 Confiscated Illegal Fishing Gears**



*Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office 2016*

Licensing is the most widely used means of limiting entry in Lake Chilwa fishery and is a source of revenue. Table 26 shows that on average 32.8% of gears are licensed with total revenue ranging from MWK1 million to MK1.6 million. Given full licensing compliance, the potential revenue can be estimated at MWK4.3 million which could be used for better fisheries management operations in the district.



**Table 26 Fishing Licenses Issued 2014-2016**

Year	Name of Fishing gear	Number of fishing gears	No. of gears licensed	% gears licensed	Total revenue collected(K)
2014/15	Matemba seine	754	207	27.5	1 035 000
2015/16	Matemba seine	377	164	43.5	1 625 000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1131</b>	<b>371</b>		<b>2 660 000</b>

Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

### **vii. Fishery Activities**

Fish is one of the most affordable and widely accessible sources of animal protein and contributes to the nutritional needs of most of the people in Zomba and the country at large. According to Chiwaula et al., 2012; 1.5% of fish caught is consumed by fishers 98.5% sold to traders, processors and consumers. About 7.2% of the fish is processed before it is sold to either fish wholesalers (4.8%) or fish retailers (2.4%). The bulk (77.2%) of fish caught is sold fresh to fish processors. Most of the landing beaches are basically used as market sites with few processing structures such as traditional open pits or improved smoking kilns and solar driers which have just been introduced for small sized fish such as Matemba. Fish is often sold fresh or may be pan fried, boiled, sun dried or salted and smoked depending on the quantity, type and size of the fish species landed. Ice is used on fresh fish which is sold at distant markets in rural or urban areas to increase shelf life. Fish processing and trading is a major occupation among fishing communities in Zomba. There are two methods used in selling fish on a beach. First, fish can be sold either by auction when catches are high and can also be sold in dozens depending on supply and demand. The fish is then transported to other distant markets within and outside Zomba Districts as shown on Figure 16

se almost 33-40% of landed fish due to poor handling. To reduce post-harvest losses and improve fish quality, improved fish processing techniques such as fish drying in solar driers as shown in Figure 15 and improved smoking kilns have been introduced in the landing beaches around Lake Chilwa.

**Figure 15 Solar Drier at Kachulu Landing Beach**



Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2015

### Figure 16 Markets for Lake Chilwa Fish



Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2015

### **viii. Contribution of the Fisheries Sector to the Local Economy**

**a. Economic value of landed fish**

Nominal fish prices for all species have increased significantly as shown in Table 27. These price increases reflect the devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha and low fish catches which have reduced fish supply while demand has increased due to population growth. Based on the beach prices and total catches, the value of fish

landed in 2010/2011 was above MWK1.1 billion and in 2014/2015 the fish catches were valued at above MWK3.83 billion (USD5.32 million). This indicates that fisheries contribute significantly to the local economy and employment of Zomba District. Fish from Lake Chilwa is traded in the cities of Zomba, Blantyre and Lilongwe including all districts in central and Southern region.

**Table 27 Average Beach Prices of Fresh Fish at Lake Chilwa (MWK/Kg)**

Year Species	Makumba	Matemba	Mlamba	Kasawala	Others	Average Price
2010/11	177.24	81.03	164.8	59.31	0	120.6
2014/15	804.77	1327.46	3736.41	3635.03	289.21	1958.58
% change in fish price	354	1538	2167	6029	289	1524

Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

**b. Economic value of farmed fish**

Aquaculture production has increased by 143.5 metric tons (30.3%) and this is attributed to improved pond management and increase in number of ponds stocked. At an average farm selling price of MWK800/Kg of fresh fish; 62 metric tons is valued at MWK49.6 million. This is the contribution of fish farming to livelihoods and nutritional security in the three EPAs.

**c. Number of fingerlings stocked**

In total, 42,570 fingerlings valued at MWK41.7 million at MWK40 per piece were stocked in 2015 compared to 10,325 fingerlings valued at MWK413 thousand in 2014 and 2013. These fingerlings were sourced from other farmers and the National Aquaculture Centre, Domasi.

**d. Status of fish ponds affected by floods in 2014/15 Year**

In 2014/2015 rainfall season 58 fish ponds with a total of 2.33(Ha) were washed away by floods and 52 fish farmers from 4 EPAs as shown in Table 28 lost about MWK7 million.

**Table 28 Status of Ponds affected by 2015 Floods**

No.	EPA	T/Authority	No. of Ponds	Pond Area(Ha)
1	Mpokwa	Mwambo	21	0.73
2	Malosa	Malemia	12	0.5
3	Chingale	Mlumbe	21	0.82
4	Dzaone	Ntholowa	4	0.28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>2.33</b>

Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016

**e. Status of dried ponds in 2015/16**

As a result of the dry spells which followed after the heavy rains, 82 fish farmers from 5 EPAs and TAs respectively as shown in Table 29 were affected in 2015/2016 rainfall season and 98 fish ponds with a total of 2.13 hectares dried up.

**Table 29 Location and Number of Dry Fish Ponds**

<b>EPA</b>	<b>TA</b>	<b>No. of Ponds</b>	<b>Pond Area(Ha)</b>
Chingale	Mlumbe	30	0.6528
Malosa	Malemia	15	0.4233
Thondwe	Ntholowa	4	0.800
Likangala	Mwambo	46	0.9065
Thondwe	Mbiza	3	0.700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2.1326</b>

*Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2016*

#### **ix. Key Issues from Fisheries Sector**

The main issues facing the fisheries sector in Zomba District include:

- a. Weak resource management systems: This is attributed to weak governance institutions which end up affecting enforcement of regulations.
- b. Habitat degradation: degradation of catchment areas due to sedimentation renders riverine and open water fish communities vulnerable to extinction of species.
- c. Limited alternative livelihoods: poverty and insecure livelihoods force communities to pursue natural resource management practices that are destructive of long term livelihoods, adaptive capacities and resilience to the environment.
- d. Declining biodiversity and environment: siltation, damming, pollution, and changes in hydrological regimes cause reproductive failure of fish.
- e. Land use changes: there is an increase in cultivation in the Lake Chilwa Basin including conversion of wetlands to rice production and settlement
- f. Climate Change/variability: droughts, or floods cause food insecurity and famine and increased pressure on natural resources such as forests and fisheries.
- g. Limited adaptation to climate variability and change: livelihoods are precarious and not adapted to unpredictable weather, floods, drought and increased temperatures.
- h. Transboundary challenges: shared boundaries with Mozambique renders the fishery under threat from parallel and uncoordinated policies and practices from both countries.
- i. Diseases incidences due to Cholera, Malaria, and Bilharzia are endemic to the basin due to changes in rainfall and water regime.

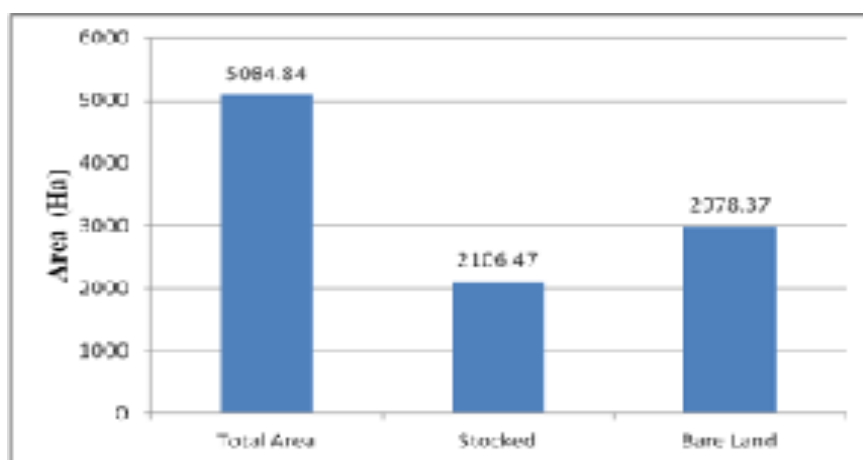
- j. Gender disparities and child labour: men dominate the fishery while women dominate the drying, processing and marketing influenced by weak fisheries governance and unequal division of labour.

#### 4.2.4 Forestry

##### i. Production of Forests/Tree Plantations

Zomba has several forest plantations which offer various benefits to the communities within the district and surrounding areas. The plantations fall into two categories of ownership namely private and public. The most notable is Zomba Mountain Timber Plantation which is wholly owned and managed by government/state and is located on a Plateau and Outer slope. The plantation covers approximately 5164.24 Ha. The production plantation area is approximately 5084.84Ha of which about 2978.37 Ha (58.6%) of the area is currently bare land and 2106.47 Ha (41.4%) is stocked as shown in Figure 17.

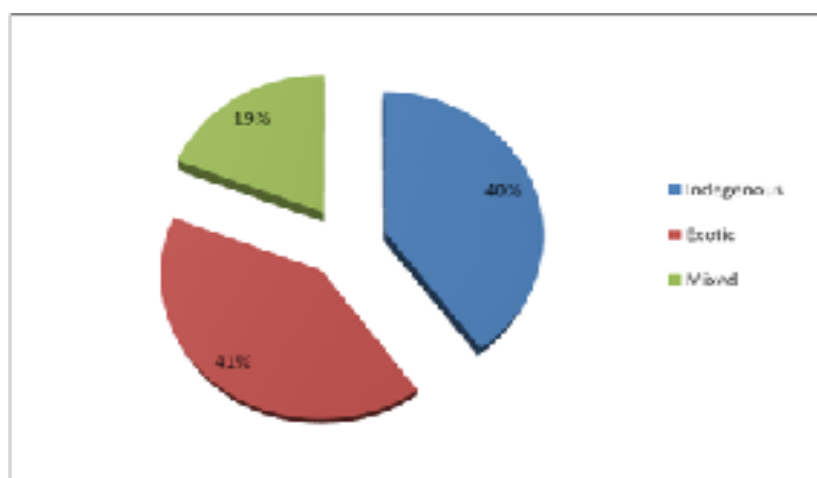
**Figure 17 Production Area Coverage on Zomba Timber Plantation**



Source: Zomba Timber Plantation Management Plan 2016.

Village Forest Areas (VFAs) are located on customary land under jurisdiction of local leaders (chiefs). This forms large part of forest land in the district. VFAs are categorized into indigenous, exotic and mixed species. Indigenous species grow slowly while exotic species grow fast and mixed species have characteristics of both. The Figure 19 shows percentage of VFAs per category.

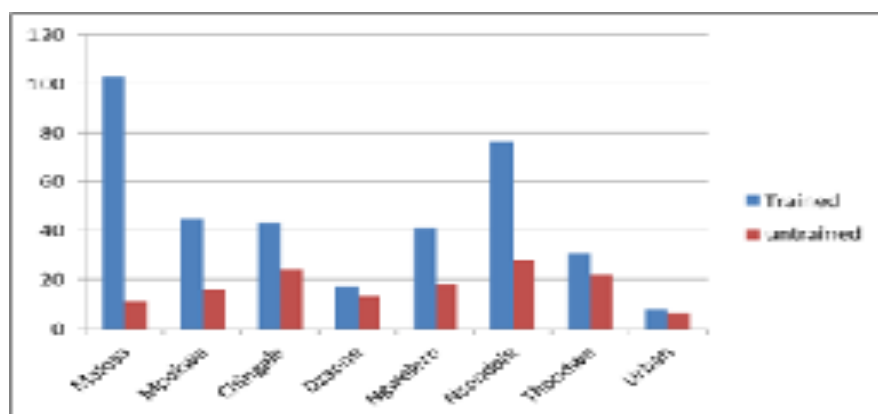
**Figure 19 Village Forest Areas Specie Coverage**



Source: Zomba District Forestry Office Reports, 2016

It must be noted that 64% of the VFAs have been surveyed and cover 696.61Ha while 36% were yet to be surveyed. There is need to survey the remaining VFAs to know the total area coverage for proper management. Some of the well managed VFA in the district include Muhiliri/Matiya, Mangumba, Masambuka, Howe, Muluwira and Kasimu. Some VFAs are located on customary land and are community managed under the Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) and the DFO gives technical support. A total of 492 VNRMCs have been established in the district and 364 were trained while 138 were yet to be trained as shown in Figure 20.

**Figure 20 VNRMCs Trained and Untrained by EPA**



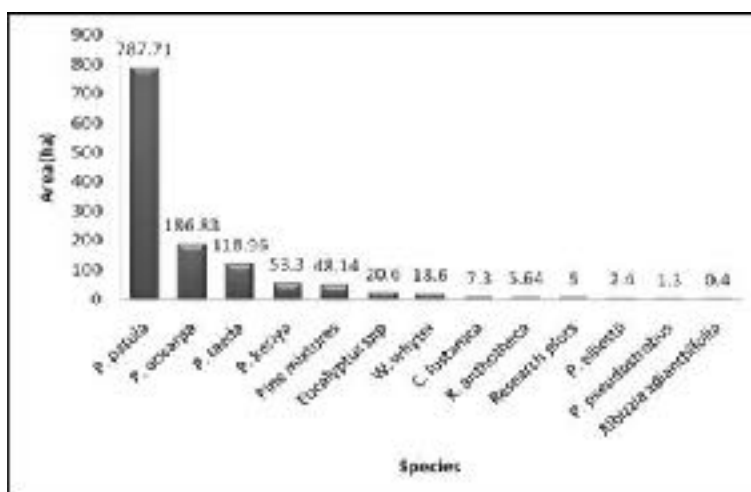
Source: Zomba District Forestry Office Reports, 2016

Malosa EPA has the highest number of trained VNRMCs (103), followed by Nsondole (76) whereas Urban has the least number (8). Zomba urban has least number of VNRMCs because most of the land belongs to private individuals and is used for buildings rather than forestry. Untrained VNRMCs derail successful implementation of forestry activities as they lack knowledge and skills on sustainable forest management, information management (record keeping) and leadership skills hence the need to provide resources and interventions to address the capacity gaps.

## ii. Species Composition

The Plantation is dominated by softwood pine, eucalyptus, fine hardwood and other indigenous tree species. *Pinus patula*, *P. elliottii*, *P. taeda*, *Pseudostrobus*, *Eucalyptus grandis* and *E. saligna* are located on the plateau while the mountain outer slopes are planted with *P. oocarpa* and *P. kesiya*. *Widdringtonia whytei* (Mulanje cedar) is restricted to specific sites on the plateau basin. The principal hardwood species are *Eucalyptus grandis*, *E. saligna* and *Khaya anthotheca*. *Eucalyptus* species on the plateau are planted on high elevated sites with high rainfall and deep soils. *Khaya anthotheca* is planted on the outer slopes especially on river banks. Softwood pine species occupy 1198.64 Ha (95.4%) of the stocked area. Among other species, *P. patula* covers 787.71Ha (62.7%) followed by *Pinus oocarpa* on 186.83Ha (14.9%) of the stocked area respectively as shown in Figure 18. Hardwoods and other species cover about 4% of the stocked area mostly comprising small eucalyptus species both on the plateau and mountain outer slopes.

**Figure 18: Current Species in the Stocked Area on the Plantation**



Source: Zomba District Forestry Office, 2016

The plantation is surrounded by communities who depend on the forest for their livelihoods. The plantation is a source many rivers and serves the surrounding communities with water, fuel wood for domestic use, timber for domestic and commercial construction and charcoal. There are two main associations in the plantation area namely the bicycle and pit sawyers associations. Members of the bicycle association pay MWK200 per bicycle load of firewood while pit sawyers pay MWK10000/m<sup>3</sup>. On average, 700 bicycle loads are collected per month and pit sawyers harvest about 500m<sup>3</sup> of timber per month. Surrounding community members are permitted to collect firewood from the plantation at MWK20 per head load.

### iii. Tree Planting and Harvesting

In every tree planting season, the Plantation Office plants new trees and more hectares have been planted from 2012-2016 than harvested. This can be attributed to support from various stakeholders in the tree planting exercises. Table 30 shows tree planting and harvesting trends 2012-16.

**Table 30 Area Planted and Harvested**

Year	Planted	Harvested	
		Ha (M <sup>2</sup> )	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
2012/13	166	52.6	19918.4
2013/14	138.854	50.5	22297.64
2014/15	201.71	49.8	14265.77
2015/16	267.91	55.7	14553.27
<b>Totals</b>	<b>774.474</b>	<b>208.6</b>	<b>71035.08</b>

Source: Zomba Mountain Timber Plantation Office (2016)

The reforestation effort is ongoing activities aimed at replenishing the fast depleting forest resources due to bush fires and over harvesting which have destroyed the forest leaving the land bare and causing a variety of problems in the surrounding areas of the plateau.

Currently, 10 co-management agreements have been signed since 2006. Through co-management the lost forest cover has been replenished especially in areas where the programme is operating such as Jusu, Mtuluma, Fikira, Mangumba and several other areas within and surrounding the reserve. For instance communities in Mtuluma are practicing irrigation farming due to availability of water originating from Mtuluma block resulting from a good forest cover. Another example is Mangumba Village Forest Area (VFA) in Malosa which was almost bare but is now fully improved and rich in medicinal plants that benefit the surrounding communities. Forestry co-management has demonstrated that with adequate financial and human resources, proper planning and collective effort among stakeholders, forestry activities can be better implemented and reversing environmental degradation in the most affected areas especially Mtogolo and Minama blocks in Malosa EPA can be possible provided urgent interventions.

#### **iv. Forestry Services**

Zomba District Forestry Office is headed by the District Forestry Officer (DFO) deputized by two Assistant District Forestry Officers (ADFOs) and one technical officer (TO) who supervise Forestry Assistants (FAs). In total the office offers its service to eight EPAs namely Malosa, Chingale, Thondwe, Dzaone, Ngweleru, Mpokwa, Nsondole and Zomba Urban. Each EPA is managed by a Forestry Assistant (FA) and there are four FAs against an approved establishment of eight. Therefore, four EPAs have no FA and thereby negatively affecting extension service delivery such that Chingale EPA is being manned by a TO. The staff shortage implies high inaccessibility of forestry extension services to the population projected at 685755 in 2017 and 871224 in 2030 based on the 2008 census. This translates to a ratio of 1:11660 (one extension worker to 11600 people). The above ratio shows how ineffective forest extension services delivery is at district level. This means many communities are not accessing messages on sustainable forest management and utilization of forest resource against the provided standard.

Extension Services involve advisory role and dissemination of information packages regarding sustainable management and utilization of forest resources to various communities in the district. Communities are advised on proper guidelines when selecting/ choosing sites to be used for afforestation purposes and management regimes for each type of forest – artificial or indigenous in customary land.

#### **v. Key Forestry Issues and Trends**

Forestry resources in Zomba are of vital economic importance but the sector is encountering a number of challenges which if not addressed with targeted interventions, what is remaining can be consumed or destroyed in a matter of few years. Some of the challenges are as follows:

##### **a. Bush fires**

Bush fires mostly destroy the young exotic tree species on the Zomba plantation as well as other species in the Malosa Forest Reserve. Evidence shows that every year the forest is subjected to destructive bush fires and several hectares of forest on Zomba plantation were damaged in the 2012-2016 as shown in Table 31.



**Table 31 Area Destroyed by bush fires**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Area destroyed (Ha)</b>
2012	547.25
2013	91.37
2014	153.1
2015	86.36
2016	487.9

*Source: Zomba Mountain Timber Plantation Office, 2016*

As can be seen from Table 30 above, 547.25Ha were destroyed in 2012, the largest destruction in the reporting period and in 2016, another fire destroyed 487.9Ha. Most often the fire is deliberately caused by communities surrounding the plantation during hunting and clearing the bush to prepare maize gardens despite the forest being a protected area. The lowest forest destruction of 86.36Ha was recorded in 2015. The decline was experienced due to community sensitization meetings during the fire campaign season on dangers of setting fires on forests facilitated by Department of Forestry through the District Forestry office.

#### **b. Charcoal production**

Charcoal production is also one of the highest threats on the forests in Zomba. Production of charcoal is on the increase due to the increasing demand from the residents of Zomba city due to frequent power outages and rising electricity tariffs which make use of electricity in households very expensive. As such charcoal is seen as a quick alternative source of energy to electricity which is perceived expensive by the residents and the suppliers take charcoal as a quick money spinner in view of the market demand. Table 31 shows the number of bags of charcoal confiscated from 2012 to 2016 as a result of frequent patrols and involvement of the law enforcers like the Police, Parks and Wildlife and Malawi Defense Forces (MDF) which implies a high cost on the sector to police the forests. Land degradation due to charcoal burning is mostly seen in the areas of T.A Malemia especially in the area of GVH Mtogolo and Minama. In the area of TA Mlumbe degradation is seen in GVH Nkasala, Matola, Mikundi and Fikila.

**Table 32 Bags of Charcoal Confiscated 2012-2016**

<b>Period (Year)</b>	<b>Bags of Charcoal</b>
2012	94
2013	136
2014	81
2015	10
2016	49

*Source: Zomba Mountain Timber Plantation Office 2016*

### **c. Encroachment**

The plantation is also under a great threat of encroachment in form of farming and settlement due to shortage of land as aggravated by population increase in the surrounding settlements. Most of the forest land that has been encroached is being used for agriculture production and new residential developments are also ascending the mountain. If this trend continues, forest cover will be drastically reduced thereby negatively affecting the ecosystems services as well as availability of timber and other forest products. Areas heavily affected with encroachment include Zilindo, Ingolo, Naisi and mafufuni areas within TA Mlumbe in the Zomba plantation and GVH Mtogolo and Minama in Malosa Forest Reserve. Figure 21 shows one of the encroached areas.

**Figure 21 Encroached Area in Zomba Mountain Forest**



*Source: Zomba District Forestry Office, 2016*

### **d. Illegal Timber Harvesting**

At least more than 100 timber trees per month are illegally harvested. Individuals sneak into the plantation mainly during the night taking advantage of the limited number of forest patrol staff. These people do not follow the recommended harvesting techniques such as cutting a tree above the recommended stump height. This affects coppicing of bluegum species which eventually compromises the status of the forest. Table 33 summarises items that were confiscated from illegal pit sawing.

It can be seen that the number of planks confiscated has been on the increase since 2012 as compared to other confiscated items. This can be attributed to increased demand for planks as a result of construction boom in Zomba city. This shows the non-compliance of the community on the expected standard and guideline for participatory forestry that community shall utilise forest resources in a sustainable manner as provided in the Standards and Guidelines for Participatory Forestry document.

**Table 33 Items Confiscated from Illegal Pit Sawing**

ITEMS	Period				
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Logs (pine, bluegum cedar)	135	64	99	211	58
Planks	386	863	1060	1240	1242
Poles	51	50	-	-	35
Shovels	-	-	7	7	-
Panga knives	-	-	26	12	23
Pit saws	-	-	14	9	17
Bicycles	-	-	18	2	-
Bow saws	-	-	2	4	-
Axes	-	-	25	5	4
Cross cut	-	-	4	-	-
Doors	-	-	46	-	-
Window frames	-	-	36	-	-
Hoes	-	-	11	23	4

*Source: Zomba Mountain Timber Plantation Office, (2016)*

**e. Staff Capacity Gaps and Limited Resources**

Forestry activities such as weeding, tree planting and pruning are being negatively affected due to inadequate staff and limited funds. This results in low forest production and increased wild fires.

**vi. Contribution of Timber and Non Timber products to the Local Economy**

- a. Cash and non-cash economic contributions,
- b. Provide substantial levels of employment.
- c. Contribute massively to the ecosystems services that humans value, even if these are not traded or even if it is difficult to put an economic figure on that value. Different economic valuation strategies peg the economic value of ecosystem services from forests in the neighborhood of additional hundreds of billions of dollars.
- d. Non-Timber Forest Products refer to all the resources/products (other than industrial round wood and derived sawn timber, wood chips, wood based panels and pulp), that may be extracted from forest ecosystem and are utilized within the household or are marketed or have social, cultural or religious significance. These include plants and plant materials used for food, fuel, storage and fodder, medicine, cottage and wrapping materials, biochemicals, as well as animals, birds, reptiles and fishes, for food and feather.

- e. NTFPs are forest goods and services providing for wood products. These include poles, fuels, chewing stick, gum, dye, herbs, shrubs, wine, stem fibres, seed, spices, mushrooms condiments, and so on.
- f. For the purpose of this study, NTFP is defined as the product or resources that may be extracted from forest ecosystem and are utilized within the household or are marketed or have social, cultural or religious significance.
- g. Non-Timber Forest Products play a vital role in many developing countries especially Nigeria. This is as a result of population concentration in the rural areas relying directly on forests.
- h. They can be harvested in forest plantations or on trees outside the forest. These products range from being used as food or food additives (nuts, mushrooms, wild fruits, herbs, spices, aromatic plants) and as plant materials (fibres, creepers and flowers) and plant derivatives (raffia, bamboo, rattan, cork and essential oils) to animal (game, bees) and animal products (honey, silk).
- i. Forests and farm trees make significant direct contributions to food security of the rural population providing a vast array of food which supply essential nutrients especially at times when other food sources are unavailable.
- j. Few studies have focused on the links between forest products and household food security. Information available suggests that forests and farm trees nutritional contributions are very important.
- k. Edible food found in forests (seeds, leaves, fruits, roots, gum, fungi, insects, rodents, wild game and fish) have superior nutritional quality when compared with domesticated varieties. Processed and stored forest food products help insure a year-round food supply.
- l. Non-timber forest products are also important for seasonally dependent agricultural systems. They provide food, fodder and energy (compared with other forest food such as leaves and fruits). They contribute to the quality of rural household diet indirectly by providing a habitat for wild animals and fish, thus providing livestock fodder. They supply medicine and fuel wood for food processing. Fuel wood shortages may indirectly affect food security.
- m. Moreover, many pastoralists rely on the seasonal products of forested areas for sustenance. They rely on the year-round supply of forest food products to supplement their diet.
- n. Rural households spend income realized from Non-timber forest products to buy food to maintain their families. This provides a supplement to the economic status in the lives of the generality of the rural dwellers. Hence, dependence upon several combined and seasonal activities is the only one to ensure household food security.
- o. Forest fuels are important for ensuring and enhancing food security by providing energy for processing inedible food and for preserving food to counteract seasonal shortages.

#### **4.2.5 Mining**

##### **i. Mining Deposits**

Some of the mineral deposits found in Zomba include industrial and semi-precious minerals. The industrial minerals comprise of dimension stones, heavy mineral sands, construction sand, rock aggregate, phosphate and brick clay. While semi-precious

minerals comprise of minerals like aegerine and smoky quartz. The minerals mentioned are mined by small scale artisan miners.

The dimension stones are produced from syenites which are found all over the District and green granites, which are found in Thondwe and Chingale. Heavy mineral sands are found around Lake Chilwa while construction sand is mined from along river banks of Likangala, Domasi, and Thondwe among others. Rock aggregate, is crushed mostly from syenites along the main roads by small scale rock crushers using manual or rudimentary methods. As mentioned above, these comprise of aegerine and varieties of quartz like smoky quartz found in the Zomba and Malosa Mountains.

#### **i. Mining Activity and Production**

Mining is undertaken in the form of crude stone quarrying and sand mining especially in the informal sector. There are however opportunities for small scale surface gemstone mining along the western part of Zomba Mountain in the area of Traditional Authority Mlumbe. There is potential that more mineral deposits were discovered during the National Aerial Geophysical Survey which Department of Mines undertook in 2013. The only major limestone factory at Changalume closed down due to depletion of limestone deposits in 2001. The owners, Lafarge Cement Factory started the process of decommissioning the factory in 2013 with the view to restore the environment and the remaining properties on the establishment were since turned into a Military Barracks for the Malawi Army. However, the district has potential for construction quarry among others.

#### **4.2.5.3 Contribution of Mines/Mineral Deposit to the Local Economy**

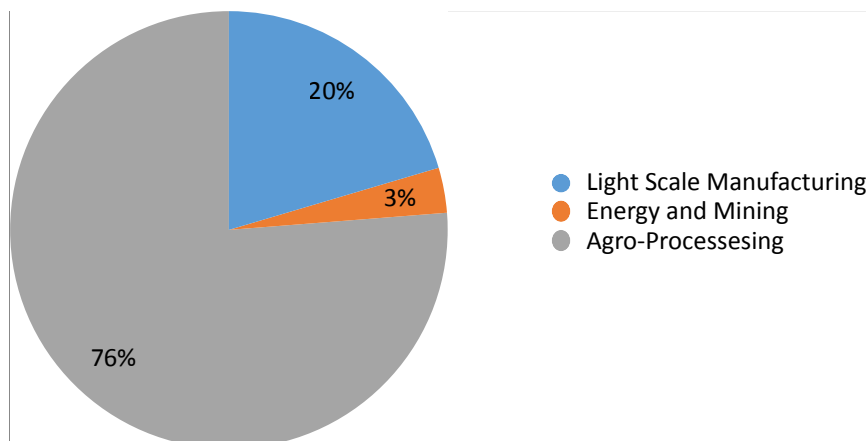
The contribution of mining products to the local economy of Zomba is not adequately requantified following the decommissioning of sole limestone mine in Changalume. The small scale artisanal mining on the Zomba-Malosa plateau can only only be valued in tourism sense but local statistics are hard to come by.

#### **4.2.6 Commerce and Industry**

##### **i. Type and Size of Business Establishment**

The enterprise structure for Zomba District can be classified into three divisions namely: commerce, light manufacturing and services. The commerce sector is about trade and retail and it comprises markets, formal and informal trade, transport and telecommunications. The services sector consists of transport, utilities, hotel and tourism, financial and professional services and business support while the industry sector is mainly about light manufacturing in agro processing, forestry products, fisheries, and small scale mining and quarrying.

**Figure 22 Registered Enterprises by Size**



Source: Zomba District Council, 2013

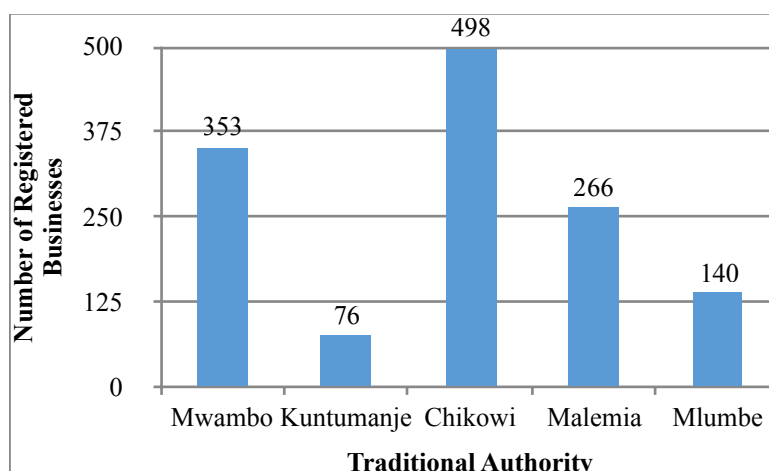
Based on the Tentative Malawi Business Classification Scheme of Categories, Figure 22 shows the enterprises by their size and it demonstrates that out of the 1333 enterprises registered 94% (N= 1255) are small while 5% (N=71) are medium and only about 1% (N=7) can be classified as large.

The trend of registered enterprises in a five year period from 2012 revealed a steady decline of registered enterprises in Zomba District from 1404 down to 1333 (-5%). This was mainly due to a number of closures, in particular affecting grinding mills and local groceries as a result of the low yielding over the years and other factors like theft. The capacity of the rural poor to diversify sources of income for poverty reduction is negatively affected. However, opportunities have surfaced since, and the last 4-5 years have witnessed a remarkable decline in cases of physical insecurity though there might be lapses of security.

In addition there has been great improvement in the rural road network making many places accessible even during the rainy season besides the new Zomba-Jali-Phalombe-Chitakale road that connects Zomba to Phalombe and Mulanje districts will create even more business opportunities. The new Zomba-Blantyre road which was completed during the first half of 2015 has further improved the linkage and reduced travel time between Zomba and Blantyre which implies that supplies from the commercial city of Blantyre can reach different parts of Zomba district with relative ease. However, infrastructure in the western part of Zomba Mountain needs attention if commercial activities are to improve there (i.e. mining). More and more trading centres have been connected to electric power and the development of new periodic markets has also opened up new market opportunities for many informal businesses that keep moving their merchandise.

There are 49 principal trading centres in Zomba district, the top ten in terms of turnover are: Mayaka, Namwera, Jali, Thondwe, Songani, Chimseu, Govala, Dzaone, Chimwalira and Mpyupyu. 77% of all the registered enterprises in the district are concentrated in these centres. The majority of the trading centres do not have permanent market structures. Conducive business environment has been enhanced through the improvement of the infrastructure at Thondwe market (fence and shades) such that business enterprises are expected to thrive. However, more need to be done to improve market infrastructure and accessibility in other trading centres across the district to encourage establishment of more businesses which are currently few as shown in Figure 23

**Figure 23 Number of Registered Businesses by TA**



Source: Zomba District Business Promotion Office, 2016

There are no significant changes in terms of numbers of enterprises as it can be seen in Figure 23 which shows that TA Chikowi has the largest number accounting for 37% of enterprises because 12 of the 32 principal trading centres are in that area. TA Malemia has 26% of the enterprises while TA Kuntumanji has the least with 6%.

The presence of large companies in the district is negligible in terms of employment and turnover considering that only 1% of the total number of enterprises in the district constitutes that category while the rest are actually small and medium. The large scale companies operating in the district are public enterprises including Agricultural Development and Marketing Cooperation (ADMARC), Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi (ESCOM), Southern Region Water Board (SRWB), Malawi Telecom Limited (MTL) and significant private enterprises include Southern Bottlers (SOBO), Telecom Networks Malawi (TNM) Airtel Malawi and Sunbird Hotels Ltd among others.

ii. *Manufacturing, Energy & Mining, Agro-Processing and Liquor Trade*

**Table 34 Number of Businesses by sector and size**

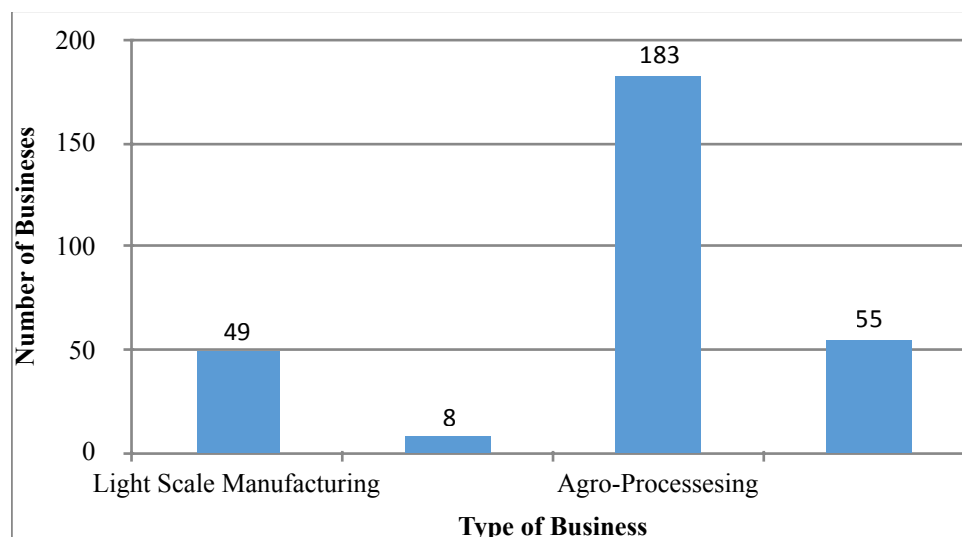
Sector	Type	Size	
		Small	Medium
Light scale manufacturing	Bakery	1	2
	Carpentry	30	4
	C o f f i n Workshop	6	1
	Metal works	4	1
	Tailoring	113	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>8</b>
Energy and Mining	Mining	-	3
	Filling Stations	-	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4</b>
A g r o - Processing	Maize Milling	61	-
	Rice Milling	7	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>2</b>
Liquor Trade	Chibuku Bar	9	2
	Liquor trading	10	2
	Bars	10	-
	Beer Brewing	3	2
	Bottle Store	15	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>7</b>

Source: District Business Promotion Office, 2016

Table 34 shows that there are no large scale industries in the district and that 86% of all the enterprises are classified as small. The light scale manufacturing sector is

dominated by carpentry at 95% which basically covers general carpentry and coffin/furniture shops whose subsector declined by 37% during the last decade but is picking up due to the government policy on skills development through Community Technical Colleges and Community Skills Development Centres across the district. A number of entrepreneurs have established Welding and Metal Fabrication workshops and their products are on high demand in the construction sector within the district.

**Figure 24 Number of Businesses by Sector**



Source: Zomba District Business Promotion Unit 2016

In the energy sector, it is noteworthy that the District has one filling station at Jali Trading centre but with the construction of various new roads, there might be some opportunities for petrochemical companies to establish more facilities along those roads (i.e. the Zomba Jali Road and new Zomba- Limbe Road). Zomba City facilities provide an alternative source of the needed petrochemical products.

### **iii. Banking and Credit Facilities**

Zomba District relies on commercial banks situated in Zomba City, which provide all ranges of financial services (i.e. loans, savings, money transfer, financial credit for inputs and business working capital). Very few enterprises do have access to the bank loans due to lack of knowledge as well as the terms and conditions attached to these loans. These Banks include National Bank, Standard Bank, NBS Bank, First Merchant Bank (FMB), FDH Bank and Ned Bank which has just opened its doors to the public in July 2017. FMB focuses on rural outreach through the Opportunity Bank of Malawi (OBM) agencies following the acquisition of the Bank in June 2017 especially in areas which were under the Millennium Village Project. On-farm activities are also supported by the banks. With the improvements or advancement of technology, financial sector has seen an in-flux of non-traditional firms joining them with modern way of banking services such as mobile money. This service has reduced the cost of doing business especially transport costs and time saving.

The prevailing conditions for accessing bank loans are not favourable for economic growth as many enterprises are scared to borrow due to high lending rates in most of the financial institutions in Malawi. This high cost of capital can be attributed to the low levels of investment in the district. Furthermore, the commercial banks are concentrated in the city of Zomba thereby limiting access to these vital economic services to the majority of residents of rural parts of the district who need these services.



### **i. Microfinance**

The microfinance institutions operating in the district are mainly based in Zomba City and mostly are credit institutions which include: Malawi Rural Finance Company (MRFC), Micro Loan Foundation, Vision Fund, CUMU, Pride Malawi, Malawi Rural Development Fund (MARDEF) AICC and Foundation for International Community Assistance.

The other financial institutions providing general credit financing specifically to public servants are Gate Bucks, Greenwing, Capital Financial Services Easy Loans and Blue Financial Services. The credit institutions offer a wide range of micro-financing and have simplified loan requirements including non-traditional collateral demands in addition to simplified loan procedures. There is an emphasis of group formation so that members access credit facility. Some institutions which provide financial services in the district have either reduced their presence or completely stopped operating like; The National Association of Business Women, Development of Malawian Entrepreneurs, Small Enterprise Development and Izwe Financial Services. Most of these do operate from Blantyre to service their clients in Zomba.

Many of the credit support agencies charge interest based on the bank lending rates and MRFC specifically demands 20% collateral for group loans. The MRFC also has since shifted focus to business loans rather than agricultural loans and has since introduced loan insurance cover to address issues of loan default or death of clients. Both MARDEF and MRFC now place emphasis on financing value addition activities and with special focus at women businesses, youth and the HIV/AIDS affected persons. MARDEF alone has so far disbursed MWK117 million to 545 groups in 353 villages by June 2017. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Self Help International, World Vision, One Acre Fund and Farm Concern also support business associations and cooperatives in their local impact areas in TA Kuntumanji and TA Mlumbe) in the District. However, access to credit for many entrepreneurs remains a major constraint considering the ever increasing demand structure in the district against inadequate funding e.g. the average loan for group loans for each member in MARDEF has been MWK10000.00 and sometimes there is duplication of credit support and efforts.

The agro-processing sector, in which 99% of the enterprises are small scale, is dominated by traditional methods such as tailoring (62%) followed by grain milling that covers the remaining 38% of all the enterprises. The number of tailoring activities has increased following introduction of Community Technical Colleges and CSDC in 2014 while grain milling increased by 52% from 2013. There are abundant opportunities in the agro processing sector since Zomba is endowed with plenty of locally available and untapped or underutilised natural resources and many agricultural products including groundnut, soya beans, pigeon peas, cassava, cotton, tomato, rice, water melons, avocado pears, mangoes, vegetables, tobacco and many other fruits which lack an appropriate and functional market value chain for the benefit of the chain stakeholders in the district.

As more trading centres are connected to the national power grid and with implementation of the Infrastructures Services Project on the Zomba-Jali Road, value addition through light processing of primary products could be promoted and thus a shift is anticipated from focusing on the traditional enterprises such as grain milling and tailoring that have been characterised by no further processing. Maize mills are all over the district but rice milling is done at Malosa, Songani, Namasalima, Govala, Mpyupy, Chimseu and Zomba City. The major constraints in the agro-processing sector are on the capacity to produce quality products which can compete on the global market due to poor or lack of appropriate modern processing equipment and other factors of production including power and portable water. The sector also

lacks reliable markets and lack of forward and backward linkages leading to seasonal supplies of raw materials.

The liquor trading sector, constitute 85% of the enterprises and are classified as small and the sector is dominated by sales of alcohol brewed outside the district. There is a proliferation of new liquor in plastic bottles in the district mainly from Blantyre and Mozambique.

## ii. Trade and Services

Table 35 shows that the number of established markets comprises 2% of the enterprises under trade and distribution while the rest, not counting petty vendors, are grocery stores, wholesalers and butcheries. Grocery stores account for about 80% of all the enterprises in this sector. Peoples Supermarket also reopened its shop at Namwera turnoff.

**Table 35 Number, type and Size of Trade and Services**

	Type	Size		
		Small	Medium	Large
Trade and Distribution	Established Market	3	2	-
	Grocery, Butchery, retail and wholesale	291	7	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>
Service	Education	8	9	1
	Garage	8	3	-
	Transport & Communications	9	2	-
	Exchange System	-	1	-
	Postal Service	5	-	-
	Telephone Bureau	48	-	-
	Health Centre	2	1	-
	Maternity Clinic	-	1	-
	Private Hospital	1	1	-
	Restaurant and Tearooms	165	-	-
	Other**	384	8	-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: District Business Promotion Office, 2013

About 97% of all the enterprise in the trade sector are small scale and informal but the sector as a whole provides off-farm self-employment to the economically active population in Zomba.

In the service sector, about 96% of all enterprises are small scale, including tearooms, barber shops, battery charge, bicycle repairer, computer lessons, engine repairer, grain storage, hall hiring, distributors and transporters, youth centre, photo studio, electronics repairer (radio, watch, phone, computers TV), shoe repair, small financial

service, traditional healer, video show and warehousing. Small cottage industries in arts and craft exist in Zomba District including welding, knitting, tinsmiths, cane furniture, pottery and curios among others.

### **iii. Business Promotion Services**

The main business promotion services include trainings in group dynamics, participatory capacity assessment, mobilization of group and member savings and credit management, business management (marketing, organisation, production, finance and record keeping), stock and inventory control, enterprise risk management, cooperative member education and management, business association formation and management, quality management, food processing and entrepreneurship skills. Skills trainings are conducted in value addition enterprises such as oil extraction, juice and jam making, peanut butter manufacturing, knitting and embroidery, bakery, livestock management and fish farming.

DEMAT Magomero Community Training College, Technical and Vocational Training Authority (TEVETA) and Malawi Industrial Research and Technology Development Centre (MIRTDC) conduct specialized skill development trainings. The District Agriculture Development Office (DADO) and other supporting NGOs train on-farm business related activities while District Fisheries' Office (DFO) assists interested entrepreneurs in the fish farming establishment, processing and management.

### **iv. Key Issues and Opportunities**

The majority of small scale businesses in the district continue to suffer from poor business management skills, inadequate basic business knowledge of the community coupled with non-coordinated enterprise support. Except for isolated cases in the district, extension services in business management are mainly restricted to groups that access micro-financing while the majority is left to manage businesses based on common sense or practices. There is an emphasis of group formation by lending institutions for entrepreneurs to access credit facilities. This coupled with low prices for agricultural products lead to low disposable household income. In terms of opportunity, the district is endowed with public and private institutions which offer some capacity building trainings in business management. On the one hand, some of the government departments include agriculture (agribusiness section), community development and business promotion office. Some NGOs also offer training especially Farmers Union, Farmers Organisation, NASFAM, World Vision and Save the Children.

### **v. Contribution of SMEs to the Local Economy**

The SME sector has widely been accepted as the engine of economic growth and poverty eradication in the world. SMEs in Zomba have the ability to fuel economic growth because they create new jobs, expand the tax base, and are drivers of innovation. SMEs enhance competition and entrepreneurship hence have external benefits on economy wide efficiency, innovation and aggregate productivity. SMEs are primary vehicles by which new entrepreneurs provide the economy with a continuous supply of ideas, skills, and innovations. A concentration of SMEs has a close relationship with the dominant economic activities. SMEs show dominance in Zomba District in terms of employment and number of enterprises yet their full potential remains untapped fully. This is in tandem with the SDG 8 as SMEs create jobs hence have the potential to contribute to decent work and economic growth in Zomba District towards 2030.

## **4.2.7 Labour and Employment**

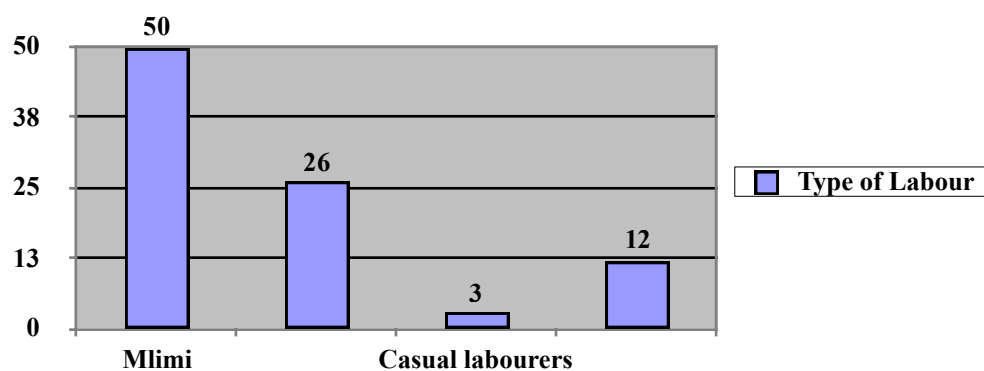
### **i. Labour Force**

Zomba District Council realizes that labour as a factor of production, is a critical component of growth. The labour force that is productive contributes meaningfully to the economic growth and improved living standards. In fact, earnings from employment drive consumption of goods and services on the market which ultimately results into economic prosperity of a country.

According to 2011 Welfare and Monitoring Survey, Zomba District has an average employment rate of 68.8 %. Apparently, this employment rate is higher among men (68.2 %) as compared to women (49 %). Conversely, unemployment rate stands at an average of 31.3 % which is far above the national unemployment rate (15.8 %).

Essentially, the district has four major types of labour namely, subsistence farming (Ulimi), Salaried workers, Casual labourers, and the Self-employed. Ulimi constitutes 50% of the total labour force whereas salaried workers, casual labourers, and the self-employed share 26%, 3%, and 12% respectively. Figure 25 below shows major types of labour in the district and their distribution in percentage (%). Table 36, further compares distribution of these types of labour in the district with those of Southern Region and the country at large.

**Figure 25 Types of Labour in Zomba District**



**Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2014**

**Table 36 Types of Labour in Zomba compared to the Southern Region and Malawi**

	Ulimi	Salaried workers	Casual Labour	Self Employed	Others
<b>Zomba</b>	50	26	3	12	9
<b>S/ Region</b>	76	9	4	8	3
<b>Malawi</b>	81	8	2	5	4

Source: MES,( NSO, 2016)

In terms of employers, Zomba district has several categories viz, private sector, public sector, family business, missions and NGOs, Ulimi (subsistence farming), and estates. Ulimi happens to be the major employer in the district and employs 50% of the total labour force. Table 37 below shows the distribution of workers (%) among the said categories of employers.

**Table 37 Types of Employer and Distribution by Workers**

<b>Employer Category</b>	<b>Distribution of Workers (%)</b>
Private Sector	9
Public Sector	12.1
Missions and NGOs	1.75
Ulimi (Subsistence Farming)	50
Estate	0.55
Family Business	12
Self employed	14.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: WMS, NSO 2014

Among the notable sectors in the district, the agricultural sector is the major employer and employs about 53% of the total workforce. The construction, wholesale and retail, Hotels, Finance, and social and community services, employs about 8 %, 7%, 1%, 7%, and 23% respectively. Table 30 below depicts distribution according to sector in the district.

ii. *Conditions of Employment*

a. *Labour Inspection and Decent Employment*

Zomba District Council believes that a worker makes significant contribution towards the economy when the working conditions are decent. Essentially, decent employment entails employment that provides a fair income; security in the workplace and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

The Council through District Labour Office continues to conduct labour inspections in various workplaces with a purpose of ensuring that the labour force in the district has decent employment. These labour inspections are usually routine and follow – up type of inspection to various work places. Table 38 shows the number of labour inspections that the council has conducted for the past five years. There is no data for follow-up and complaint inspections.

**Table 38 Labour Inspections conducted 2012-2016**

<b>Inspection Type</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b>Routine</b>	23	10	4	0	1
<b>Follow – up</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Complaint</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	23	10	4	0	1

Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2016

It is imperative to note that the district has always had shortage of Labour Inspectors as a challenge in carrying out labour inspection activities. For the past two years the

district did not have a labour inspector, the present inspector is just some months old in the office. At present, the district has only one Labour Inspector which is not congruent with the growing number of workplaces especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). This challenge has seen many workplaces not being inspected. It is feared that if this trend continues, achievement of decent employment in the district may be frustrated.

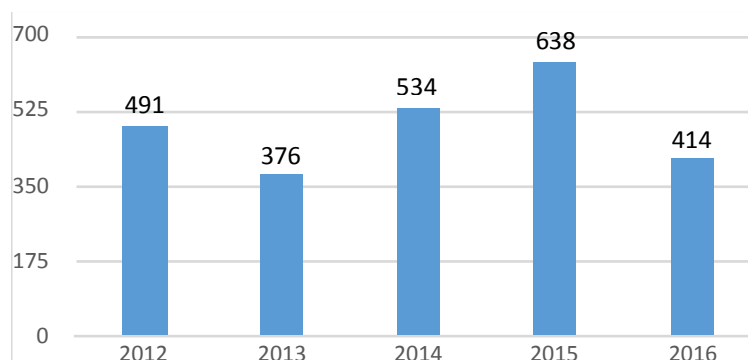
In addition to the shortage of human resource, the District Labour Office receives little funding which is not adequate to conduct labour inspections. Apparently, the office receives an average monthly funding of MWK400000 which is shared among other peripheral functions namely conciliation of disputes, workers compensation processing, and general office administration.

Finally transport is another big problem that affects inspections, as the department does not have a vehicle to help the inspectors in movement; the department relies on borrowing from other sectors, which is not reliable as other sectors too have their own plans of activities.

#### **a. Labour Disputes**

The Council through District Labour Office continues to receive an increasing number of labour complaints as shown in Figure 26. The increase in the number of complaints is largely attributed to the fact both employees and employers are becoming aware of labour laws. However, although the employers and the employees now have more knowledge about labour laws, they don't know how to interpret and apply them, and this result into labour disputes. The District Labour Office plays an important part in this regard, as it continuously sensitises workers and employers about rights and regulations thereby ensuring a sound, productive and respectful relationship between employers and their employees. The Council believes that this informed and sound mutual relationship between the employers and their workers is able to enhance productivity and sustainability of economic activity within the District.

**Figure 26 Number of Labour Complaints**



*Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2016*

#### **b. Minimum Wage**

The prevailing statutory minimum wage for the district is MWK962.00 per day, which on average translates to MWK25012.00 per month that is for employees who work for 26 days without any over time, while for a guard who works for 26 days and 72 hours per week its K31265.00. This minimum wage is set under section 53 of Employment Act 2000. The council has established through labour inspections that most employers especially those in the informal sector, pay wages below the minimum wage. In other cases employers claim that they are paying below minimum wage because they provide accommodation and even food to the employees.

In addition, the council mostly attributes this underpayment of wages to lack of information both by employers and workers. Furthermore, some small scale enterprises are struggling financially as a result they cannot pay as stipulated by law. Due to inadequate resources allocated to Labour Sector, the Council is not able to conduct sensitization meeting at workplace on minimum wages let alone minimum conditions of employment. Zomba District Council believes that if workers are kept abreast of their rights at workplace they would be able to demand the same from their employers. Similarly, if employers are made aware of workers' rights, they will make sure that they duly grant the same to their workforce.

### **c. Working Hours**

Employment Act 2000 provides that normal working hours for a worker per week should not exceed 48 hours. The Act further stipulates that where a worker is made to work more than 48 hours in a week, overtime needs to be paid for all excessive hours. Basically, workers in Zomba district work for 72 hours per week on average. It is unfortunate that most employers in the district do not compensate their workforce for working an extra mile beyond the normal working hours. This is because of the same reasons provided on wages above. Among all the categories of workers in the district, security guards and domestic workers are the most affected when it comes to working excessive hours without being duly compensated. Furthermore it is more important for the employers and employees to consider the three types of overtime as stipulated in the employment act for better compensation to the employees based on the type of over time.

### **d. Unionism**

Industrial peace is very significant as far as economic development is concerned. A workplace that is not peaceful due to strikes or lock outs cannot effectively contribute to the economic growth of a country. Trade Unions play an important role in ensuring harmony in employment relationships at workplaces. Zomba district has very few organised trade unions for the purposes of collective bargaining. These trade unions are Academic Staff Union of Chancellor College, Support Staff Union of Chancellor College, Water Employees Association under Southern Region Water Board, Teachers Association of Malawi, and National Organisation of Nurses and Midwives in Malawi (NONM). Apparently, teachers and Nurses are notable groups of workers that are members of trade union in the district.

Most workers in the district are not members of trade union despite that they have a Constitutional right to join these organisations. Basically, this is because they are not aware of the benefits that come by being a member of such groupings. Another reason is that most workers fear losing their jobs should their employers realise that they are union members. Generally, employers regard trade unions as organisations that are there to challenge managerial decisions and powers which may result into the down fall of their organisations.

In fact, Labour Relations Act No 16 of 1996 protects workers from being victims in the employment relationship by virtue of being members of trade unions. It is unfortunate that workers in the district are not aware of their right to join or form trade unions and their protection from employers for joining the same. It is high time that the district should register an increased number of trade unions if wage and conditions of employment are to improve. The Council believes that intensive sensitization meetings at workplaces on labour rights are an important step to take if this is to be realised.

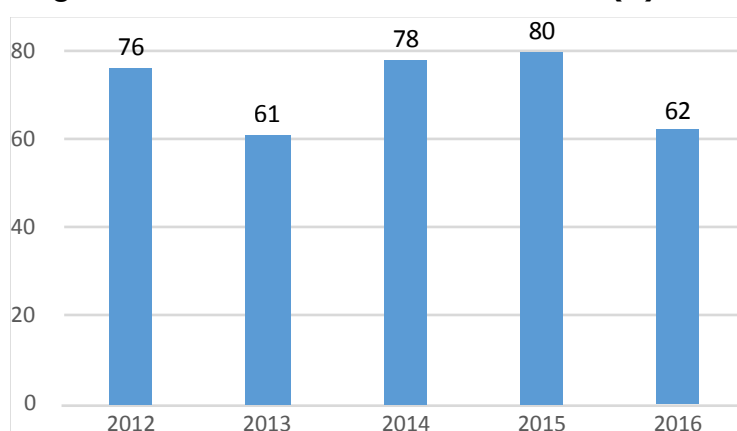
### **e. Industrial Accidents**

The Council finds it indispensable that workers who get injured in course of their employment are compensated for their injuries. In fact, Workers' Compensation Act No.7 (2000) was enacted for the very purpose. As such, Labour Sector is mandated to registers all industrial accidents in the district, and make initial processing of the same for further processing by the Workers Compensation Commissioner in Lilongwe.

Due to lack of knowledge by employers on the workers compensation act and its provisions, some employers don't facilitate the processing of their employee's compensation. Other employers think that once they have assisted their employee to access medical attention their responsibility ends there. This affects the number of cases processed at the office as some cases are not registered and processed.

For the past five years (2012–2016), the Council registered 356 industrial injuries. It is important that adequate measures should be put in place to reduce industrial accidents as these may end up depriving the district of the most valuable human resource that is critical to economic development. Figure 27 presents the number of industrial accidents from 2012 to 2016.

**Figure 27 Number of Industrial Accidents (N)**



*Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2016*

#### **f. Child Labour**

Child labour means any activity that a child is engaged in that is detrimental to the health, safety and education of the child or is likely to cause harm to the morals and would affect the normal development of the child. The Council is striving to mitigate child labour and possibly end the practice in the district. MES (NSO, 2016) found that the percentage of children age 5-17 years who were involved in child labour practices in Zomba District was at 29.3% as compared to Southern Region at 41.3% and Malawi at 39.3%. This is despite the intensified labour inspection in estates by the Council and increased dissemination of information on resultant effects of child labour by MCTU, Tea Association of Malawi and Tobacco Association of Malawi.

Basically, much of child labour in the district is practiced in the informal sector including the residences, SME where children are sent to sale goods of low value i.e. doughnuts. In fact, the Council has always had challenges to mitigate child labour in private homes as labour inspection services are restricted to workplaces.

Child labour practices are common within the informal sector especially in the small and medium enterprises (SMEs). As children are not expensive to employ, employers in the SMEs prefer employing them to reduce business running expenses. In addition to this, children are easy to manage as compared to adults because they have no or fewer family responsibilities. Some of course employ children because they are not aware of the consequences of child labour and penalties the government attaches to such a malpractice.



The Council does not have adequate resources in terms material, human resources and funds address the problem of child labour. However, there are other organizations working to address the problem in the district.

### **iii. Key Issues and Trends from the Labour Sector**

**Non-compliance to minimum wage of employers:** This is caused by the following reason:

- a. Low income levels of the employers in informal sectors, as a result they fear that they fear that their business could crumble if they pay more.
- b. Employers want to make more profits by paying employees low wages.
- c. The employers that are found to be involved in paying below minimum wage are not severely punished as a result they do not look at it as a serious case. Even though section 55 subsection (2) of Employment Act talks about the punishment, no employer had ever been punished.

**Non-compliance to minimum wage in the informal sector** e.g. employees in homes like house maids, seconded by small and medium enterprise like in private schools those who perform support duties e. g watch men, and cleaners.

**Non-compliance of employers to general labour laws** (Employment Act, Labour Relations Act, Pensions Act, Occupation Safety, Health and Welfare Act, Workers Compensation Act). This is caused by the following reasons:

- a. Some organizations do not have competent or do not even have human resource personnel who can interpret and apply the laws.
- b. The other reason is that there is lack of strong punitive measures against those who do not comply with these laws.

### **iv. Opportunities**

- i. Availability of NGOs handling Child and child labour related issues that can provide funds and technical skills
- ii. Intensive sensitizations about basic labour laws to employers and employees currently underway by various organizations i.e. media, government and civil society.
- iii. Availability of international and national labour related laws and regulations and enforcing institutions i.e. district labour office.

## **4.2.8 Tourism**

### **i. Tourism Potential**

Zomba District is endowed with natural beauty and various tourist attractions. It has a diverse landscape which offers a variety of distinct natural attractions ranging from Zomba, Chikala and Malosa mountains to flat plains of Lake Chilwa. In addition, historical buildings, cultural heritage and also Zomba City, as the centre of the district, offer a variety of interesting places and activities. However, the tourism potential is not fully utilized. Tourism related data for the district and other information

about the industry is scarce and development is hindered by lack of a clear Tourism Development Strategy.

There is potential for the development of a vibrant and profitable tourism sector in Zomba District but there are few investments in the sector which leaves the potential marginally tapped. The location of Zomba District in proximity of the large agglomerations Blantyre and Zomba City and not too far from the capital Lilongwe makes it a potentially prime recreation area for leisure tourist, especially for the emerging urban middle-class. Business tourism (conferences and workshops) is on the rise in Malawi, and with the few destinations, Zomba District has the potential to be successful. The national efforts to promote Malawi as an international tourism destination is likely have a positive impact on Zomba District due to its natural beauty, diversity and proximity to Malawi's tourism treasure, Lake Malawi accessible in an hour drive.

## *ii. Tourism Facilities and Emerging Issues*

### *a. Business Tourism (Workshops & Conferences)*

Zomba District has three Convention facilities. The *Sunbird* Ku-Chawe on the Zomba Plateau, Malawi Institute of Education in Domasi and Chilema Educational Training & Conference Centre in Malosa are the primary conference facilities in Zomba rural. These facilities are inadequate at current demand hence most workshops and conference are held in Zomba City, Mangochi and Liwonde.

### **b. Leisure Tourism**

The Zomba Plateau, Malosa Mountain, Chikala hills and Lake Chilwa give the District its character and provide opportunities for individual leisure holidays. Hiking, climbing, fishing, horse riding, biking, bird watching, searching and digging for crystals, collection of fresh exotic fruits, cultural heritage and tranquil nature parks and historical sites are some of the plentiful reasons for visiting Zomba District.

### **c. Places of interest**

Zomba Plateau is the most popular tourist destination within the District. Zomba Plateau contains many vantage points from which one can enjoy a breathtaking view of the landscape around (e.g. Zomba City, Shire Highlands, Lake Chilwa and Mulanje Mountain). In addition, the plateau itself contains many points of interest, including waterfalls, Mulunguzi Water Reservoir, Chingwe's Hole, Ku-Chawe Inn, the Trout Farm picnic area and many unnamed scenic places. A semi-developed hiking network exists on the plateau. Unlike Malosa Mountain and Lake Chilwa, hiking maps of Zomba Plateau are readily available at the Zomba Branch of the Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM). Modern infrastructure eases the access to and comfort on Zomba Plateau. The plateau contains four commercial accommodations for all types of travelers. There are two high and medium budget accommodation facilities and private cottages which are not difficult to access by road.

Tourist infrastructure on Malosa Mountain is less developed than on the Zomba Plateau. No formal hiking paths are labeled and primarily maintained by community members who traverse the mountain. According to a recent study, tourists choosing Malosa Mountain do so for a more isolated experience. Certain parts of Malosa contain many indigenous plant species and trees. The "Chilema Wonder Tree" at the base of the mountain is the most famous tree in the District. Chilema Ecumenical Training & Conference Centre at the base of Malosa Mountain offers low budget level lodging for hikers, Chikala natural Pillars is one of the attractions on Chikala hills.

Lake Chilwa is the third largest lake in Malawi, situated at the eastern border of the District, about 25 km north-east of Zomba City. It offers navigation by boats and canoes, and has an incredible avifauna. In addition, the “floating” fishing villages (Zimbowela) serve as visible examples of the unique, traditional fishing culture of the area. WESM, Nkhanda (Bird Hunters' Club) and the Mpoto Lagoon (Bird Hunters' Club) are currently providing bird watching tours on and around Lake Chilwa. WESM currently also supports income-generating activities of both the Khanda Bird Hunters' Club and the Mpoto Lagoon Bird Hunters' Club. Lake Chilwa remains an un-tapped tourism potential within the district.

Zomba District also host Zomba City, the first capital of Malawi and an independent local government area. Zomba City has a rich cultural heritage which complements the District's natural beauty. Tourists who come to the City to see historical relics also find the two historical facilities in rural Zomba interesting to visit. Mikuyu Prison Memorial tract, a location dedicated to the legacy of political prisoners during the rule of Malawi's dictator Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda. A portion of the prison, which is still used as a normal correctional facility, is dedicated as a memorial for political prisoners. It is situated approximately 10 km east of Zomba City on the main road to Lake Chilwa. Secondly, the Malawi Institute of Education in Domasi is the oldest institution in Malawi that offers education service. Major renovations were done in 2009 to establish a museum at the site. The District is also known for its rich cultural and traditional dances such as Masewe, Mangangje and Sikili normally performed during important social functions. Some members of the rural community including Community Based Organisations (CBOs) perform the dances for tourists as a means of income generation.

#### **d. Tourism Infrastructure**

Whether telecommunications, international-standard banking industry, internet cafes, car rentals or quality accommodation, tourism infrastructure is scarce in Zomba District, however, the last years have seen a rapid improvement. Facilities and a tourism office are only found within Zomba City. What is obvious is the fact that where these facilities are in place tourism grows rapidly.

Zomba District and City have to be seen as one entity in terms of tourism. Zomba has 11 officially registered accommodations and restaurants which the Department of Tourism Licensed. The Table 32 shows registered accommodations and restaurants which are in Zomba District and Zomba City. In addition to these accommodations which provided information to the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture via the Zomba Tourism Office also the numbers for average visitors per month since 2007, number of rooms, number of beds and occupancy rate for beds are indicated.

**Table 39 Registered Accommodations 2017**

Sun Bird Kuchawe Inn	Mtimapansi Rest house
Zomba forest Lodge	Hill Springs Lodge
Trout farm	5 Miles Lodge
Penapache Guest house	My place Lodge
Phalombe Cottage	Fatsani Rest house
CCAP Cottage	

Source: District Trade Office, 2017

Statistics from the accommodation facilities show that Zomba District and City receive 2202 visitors per month. These figures do not show the full picture because

there are many accommodations which are not registered or do not submit their data. There no reliable statistics on the actual number of tourists and their reasons for travelling to Zomba. The figures which are indicated present a rough estimate.

With regard to communication, the District are well connected with the rest of Malawi and the tourism spots are also part of the communication system, including roads, energy, postal services, water and telecommunication. High value services are mainly offered in the city, whereas basic services are provided throughout to populated areas of the District and Zomba Plateau is well equipped with infrastructure. Public Transport however is a major constraint in developing the tourism potential on the plateau.

#### ***e. Key Issues and Trends from Tourism Sector***

The rapid deforestation and environmental degradation on the slopes of Zomba Plateau, Malosa mountain and other hills across the district remains a great threat to the nature based tourism industry in Zomba District. Although there is a pick up on the development of accommodation facilities in the District, more need to be done in the area of conferences especially taking advantage of the Lake Chilwa Wetland and Zomba Plateau which has more potential for tourism economies of scale where guests can have a chance to see more than the conference.

## CHAPTER 5: SOCIAL SERVICES

### 5.0 Introduction

The Malawi Government, recognises that only a health and well-informed nation is capable of progressive socio-economic development of a country. The country requires that its people are energetic, informed and with available social amenities that make their lives focused in order for them to carry out development activities. Through her Vision 2020, under 'Social Sector Development', which largely envisages reduced illiteracy, improved quality education, developed, deployed and effectively used human resources, improved education system, and improved availability, accessibility and quality of health services, the government explains this vision. For health services, the Vision 2020, page 65, the government of Malawi clearly explains this vision. Following this vision, the government of Malawi has developed strategies to realise these dreams on social services through the MGDS III, Key Priority Area 5.2 for Education which spells out that 'Education and skills development is key for socio-economic development; industrial growth and major source of economic empowerment for different groups of people especially women, the youth and disabled persons', on page 33. While health services, the strategy is well articulated in under Key Priority Area 5.5, page 41 of the MGDS III, which states that 'Health is the linchpin for social economic development being the primary factor for improving quality of human capital of any nation'. Zomba District Council is now fulfilling this vision and is implementing the MGDS III, as the analysis below shows.

### 5.1 Health

The role of the health sector in Zomba is in line with overall vision, mission and goals and policy of the health sector in Malawi.

Our mission is to improve the general health status of Zomba population through a better curative and preventive health services, proficient health personnel and proactive community participation. Our vision is to have a population of Zomba free from illness and preventable diseases.

We are guided by the current Health Sector Strategic Plans (HSSPs) 2017 to 2022, while being responsive to specific health needs. The HSSP itself is aligned other local and international level policies guidelines. It is aimed to achieve the state of health of all the people that should enable them to lead quality of life. The mission is to provide strategic leadership for the delivery of comprehensive range of quality, accessible and efficient health services to all through the creation and sustenance of a strong health system.

In line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDSIII), we strive to archive the outcomes by implementation of strategies within the sector. Key Priority Area (KPS) 5 of the MGDS III are the most relevant to health services delivery as are specific on the promotion of health and well-being.

Globally, according to SDG 3 and SDG 6, we are implementing our activities to promote good health and Sanitation and well-being.

The current goal of the health sector endorsed by the World Health Organization is to move towards universal health coverage of: quality, equitable and affordable health services. This implies none-discrimination, and everyone irrespective of social economic status, distance to health facilities, age, sex, tribe etc should have access to health services.

Zomba District Health Office develops annual implementation plans to guide delivery of health services in line with the HSSP. The community needs are factored

into the plans through the participation of the community and local leaders during the planning and review meetings.

The District Health Office is also a Secretariat for the Health and Environment Service Committee of the District Council. This Service Committee is very crucial in the health sector as it helps to ensure that planned health activities are implemented as planned and to the satisfaction of the communities.

Partner Coordination is very paramount in the delivery of health services. The district health services receive monthly Other Recurrent Transactions from the Central Government. For the past 5 years, the ORT has been decreasing in terms of purchasing power. But our ideal budget per year reaches one billion kwacha. Hence, it has been noted that the health partners, who are over 40 in the district, are controlling over 60% of the ideal budget. It is against this background that the Health Sector has a Partners Forum that meets every quarter, to share progress on activities that have been planned. However, it is a requirement that all health partners be reporting to the District Health office every month so as to ensure that there is no duplication of activities, while at the same time, monitor the implementation.

The District Health Office signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Health partners. However, it has been noted that most partners (over 50%) are yet to sign. The District Health Office is still pursuing the working relationship with the health partners that have not signed the MoU.

The Health sector implements its activities following different policies, strategies and guidelines that are developed at National level. These legal documents include the Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP), the National HIV Strategy, the Community Health strategy, the National Health Communication Strategy, the Task Shifting Guidelines, the National Malaria Prevention Strategy, the IMCI Strategy, the Malawi Public Health Act, the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy, the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS), etc. All these and other legal documents govern the health delivery programmes in the district. The programmes are managed by an Extended District Health Management Team (EDHMT) that comprise of 39 Programme Coordinators. The extended DHMT is a sub-team of the District Health Management Team (DHMT), which is oversees all these programmes.

#### E-Health

Zomba Health sector has embraced use of technology to improve health service delivery in the district. Electronic Health interventions is used in data collection, data analysis, patient records. With the help of our Partners that include Baobab Health Trust, Millennium Promise, Kuunika Project, etc, we have managed to install Electronic Medical Records System in 5 Health centres, Community Health Care through the CommCare application in 8 health facilities. The District Health Management uses an Open Data Kit (ODK) application for Supervision. This application has different modules that have all the elements of the health system. Hence, it integrates the preventive, nursing, human-resource-for-health and the clinical aspects of the health system.

It is our goal that all health facilities are using electronic health applications by the year 2020.

Traditional healers are practitioners widely recognized by people in the community who rely on rituals and beliefs in healing diseases. Traditional birth attendants on the other hand, are trained local residents who assist pregnant women in child delivery.

### **1. Types of Health Services Offered in Zomba**

The types of health services provided in any district is supposed to be those that are response to health needs of the population in that district. In general the services are categorized as curative and preventive. In all health facilities there are Outpatient Services. In addition to the curative health services stated above there are also programmes providing specific curative and preventive health services especially the following:-

- Maternal and Child Health Services which include: antenatal, child nutrition screening and treatment, immunization etc.
- HIV/AIDS Services such as Ant Retroviral Viral Treatment, Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) etc
- Youth Friendly Health Services
- Environmental Health Services which include : Water & Sanitation, Food Safety & Hygiene, Disease Surveillance & Control, Disaster Management, Health Care Waste Management, Occupational Health & Safety, Port Health Services etc
- Health Promotion & Behavior Change
- Disease Control Programmes : Malaria, Schistosomiasis, TB etc
- Palliative and home based care.
- School health & nutrition
- Infection Prevention
- Baby Friendly Health Initiatives
- Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision.

Health facilities in the district are comprised of health posts and clinics, dispensaries, health centres, and hospitals.

Firstly, the health posts and clinics offer preventive and curative services, such as, health education, immunization, provision of contraceptives, and treatment of minor diseases. Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) manage most of the health posts/ clinics based at community level.

Secondly, dispensaries provide prenatal and postnatal care and all the services offered by the health posts/ outreach clinics. These facilities are usually staffed by a nurse and in some case a medical assistant.

Thirdly, the District has twenty government health centres, and ten CHAM health centres. Clinical Officers, Medical Assistants and Nurses are usually assigned to health centres. Health centres provide curative services; maternity services and all the services offered by the dispensaries. Some health centres conduct nutrition clinics for underweight children, offer nutrition education, food preparation demonstrations, and provision of food supplements. The Health Centres work in hand-in-hand with Health Advisory Committees (HAC). The District Health Office also signed Service Level Agreements with 10 CHAM Health facilities that are in the district.

Finally, in terms of Hospitals, the District has no district hospital, thus all patients requiring special medical attention are being transferred to Zomba Central Hospital (ZCH) within Zomba City. ZCH is the referral hospital for Zomba, Mangochi, Balaka

and Machinga Districts. It offers a range of curative, preventive and support services (both medical and non-medical) to peripheral health units.

Other hospitals in the District are Domasi Rural Hospital and Zomba Mental Hospital operated by the Ministry of Health and Population. St Luke Hospital and Pirimiti Community Hospital owned by CHAM. Domasi Rural Hospital offers both curative and preventive services. It also serves as a referral centre for Namasalima Health Centre, Bimbi Health Centre, H Parker Health Centre and health posts, clinics located within its catchment area.

Zomba Mental Hospital is the biggest government mental hospital in the country. It provides medical care to mental patients referred from all Districts. It also serves as a training hospital for medical, clinical and nursing students from different colleges in the country. Table 35 shows distribution of health facilities by TA.



**Table 35: Health Facilities Distribution by TA**

TA	H/F	TYPE OF FACILITY	C A T C H POPULATION	No. of Beds	ANNUAL OPD ATTENDANCE	OWNERSHIP
Malemia	Domasi	Rural Hosp	24300	55	61185	MoH
Malemia	St. Lukes	Hospital	33328	145	21115	CHAM
Malemia	H.Parker	H/Centre	9120	8	3809	CHAM
Malemia	Naisi	H/Centre	17440	5	31617	MoH
Malemia	Machinjiri	H/Centre	10597	5	19668	MoH
Kuntumanji	Makwapala	H/Centre	27656	8	26700	MoH
Kuntumanji	Namasalima	H/Centre	18362	6	35854	MoH
Kuntumanji	Bimbi	H/Centre	29324	8	33863	MoH
Mkumbira	Chisi	H/Centre	3,635	1	6239	MoH
Mwambo	Likangala	H/Centre	36034	8	28549	MoH
Mwambo	Matiya	H/Centre	40655	11	8004	CHAM
Mwambo	Pirimiti	Community Hospital	34611	91	8945	CHAM
Mwambo	Chamba	H/Centre	27246	10	21817	MoH
Mwambo	Matawale	H/Centre	17179	17	77639	MoH
Chikowi	Ngweleru	H/Centre	31160	8	40692	MoH
Chikowi	Mayaka	H/Centre	58130	23	5446	CHAM
Chikowi	Lambulira	H/Centre	30375	7	12908	MoH
Chikowi	Nasawa	H/Centre	35445	8	31817	MoH
Chikowi	Sadzi	Dispensary	30072	0	33009	MoH
Chikowi	City Clinic	Dispensary	53245		40582	MoH
Chikowi	Magomero	H/Centre	32130	29	5728	CHAM
Chikowi	Police	Hospital	2898	67	23140	Police
Mlumbe	Thondwe	Dispensary	63773	0	40933	MoH
Mlumbe	Namikango	Maternity	-	17	-	CHAM
Mlumbe	Chingale	H/Centre	18669	8	33847	MoH
Mlumbe	Chipini	H/Centre	25395	40	19037	CHAM
Mlumbe	Nkasala	H/Centre	18603	6	4376	CHAM
Mlumbe	Chilipa	H/Centre	12620	33	3834	CHAM
Mlumbe	Mmambo	H/Centre	15695	2	20084	MoH
Mlumbe	Namadidi	Dispensary	15868	0	19223	MoH
Mlumbe	Zilindo	Dispensary	14132	0	18103	MoH
Mlumbe	Changalume	Dispensary	3361	-	-	Army

Mlumbe	Camp	Hospital	5079	0	21304	Army
Mlumbe	State House	Dispensary	1354	0	3194	State House
Mlumbe	Prison	Dispensary	1254	0	12784	Prison
Mlumbe	Mwandama	H/Centre	19042	10		MOH
Mlumbe	Maera	H/Centre	6621	10		MOH

Source: Zomba District Health Office HMIS, 2016/2017.

In fact, TA Malemia has two hospitals with outpatients, maternity and NRU departments. Overall, this area of the District is considerably better in terms of bed capacity than other areas. TA Kuntumanji is served by three MOH-run health centres. TA Kuntumanji has maternity and holding beds. Upgrading Makwapala to a rural hospital would be a leap in Health service to the community. TA Mkumbira has one health centre on Chisi Island with three HSAs serving the population of 3,635. For specialized health services, people are referred to Likangala Health Centre in TA Mwambo. Communities living across Lake Chilwa, such as Lungadzi, Ngotangota and Chinguma have difficulties accessing services at Chisi and Likangala Health Centres.

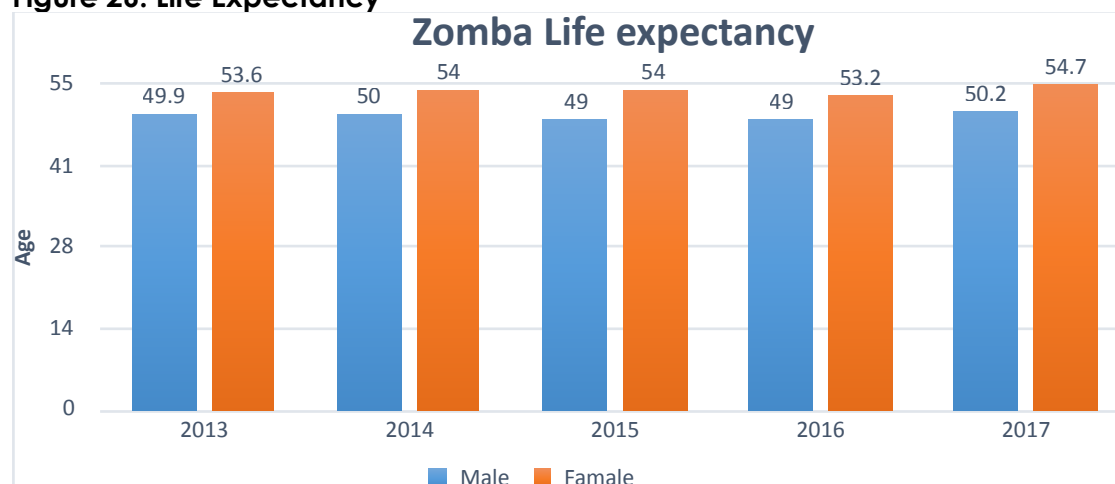
TA Mwambo area is served by two CHAM and two MOH health facilities. Only CHAM institutions have general beds, which are not adequate for the large population within the area.

In TA Chikowi, all health centres have maternity beds except City Clinic and Sadzi dispensaries. Lambulira is the only health centre with holding beds. There are no general beds or NRU beds within TA Chikowi.

TA Mlumbe is served by CHAM and MOH health centres. Over 50% of the inhabitants only have CHAM facilities nearby, which require payment, meaning many decide to travel far distances to receive free treatment at a MOH facility. Only the CHAM facilities have general beds. All nutrition rehabilitation cases within TA Mlumbe are referred to Zomba Central Hospital, Domasi Rural Hospital (TA Malemia), St Lukes Hospital (TA Malemia). The coming in of Maera and Mwandama Health Centres has eased the access to health services to populations of these areas, who used to travel long distances to Thondwe health Centre in Zomba and Namadzi Health Centre in Chiradzulu district.

### 5.1.2 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth for the people of Zomba District (Figure 26) was calculated at 50.2 years for males and 54.7 years for females, resulting in an average life expectancy at birth of 52.3 years (2017), in line with the long term projections for the District. This figure marks a constant expected health life expectancy in almost all five years (2013 to 2017). Life expectancy in Zomba District however is about 50 years, which is two years lower than the national average for both sexes, although coming from an above-average level 2013. Nevertheless, the improvement in life expectancy suggests a considerable improvement in socio-economic conditions and health services in particular, especially if measured against the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Zomba and Malawi as a whole.

**Figure 26: Life Expectancy**

Source: Zomba Health Office, 2017

### 5.1.3. Morbidity

The leading cause of morbidity, in the district in the general population, for basic curative (outpatient) services is, by far, Malaria, which is endemic in Zomba District (see the table 33). However, in fact, Malaria has been the leading cause of morbidity for the period 2013/14 – 2016/2017 in Zomba District.

**TABLE 33: LEADING CAUSES OF MORBIDITY (IN %), 2012 TO 2017**

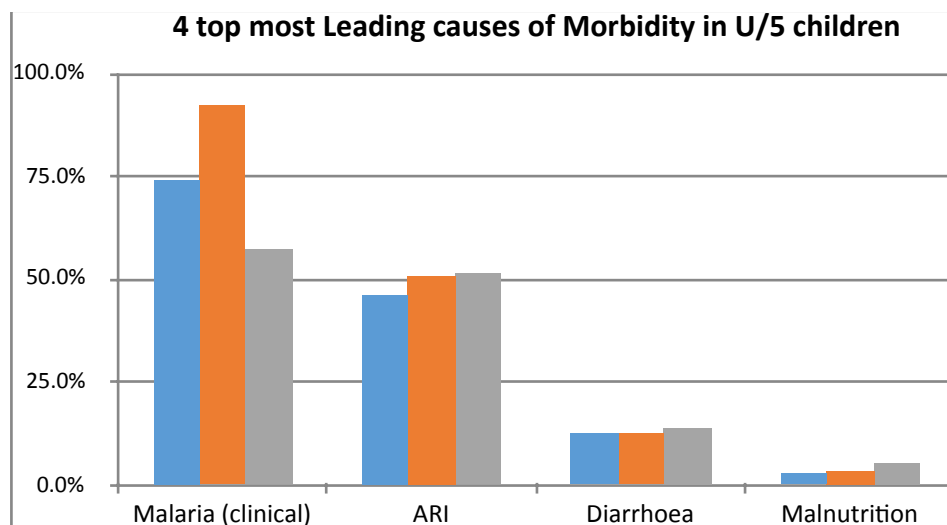
Indicator	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017
Malaria < 5 years	73	89.2	76.1	95	80.5
Malaria > 5 years	25	24.3	24.6	33	30.7
Malaria total	35	35.3	33.3	43.6	39.2
Respiratory related (ARI)	39	43.8	47.6	51.9	51.3
Skin Disorder	5	4	5	5	4
Common injuries & wounds	3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2
Diarrhoea	11	14.5	12.9	12.8	13.5
Eye Infection	2	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.5
STI	7	2.8	3.1	3	4.3
Malnutrition	-	-	2.8	3.4	5.1
Ear Infection	1	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.6

Source: Zomba Health Office, 2017

In table 33 above, what comes out conspicuous is that Respiratory related (ARI) infections are the leading causes of death in Zomba, followed by Malaria and diarrhoea during the period under review. Apart from ARI whose causes are complex, malaria may largely be caused by presence of huge pools of water around swamps where mosquitoes breed uninhibited because the swamps are untreated. Zomba some of the biggest swampy areas such as around Lake Chilwa

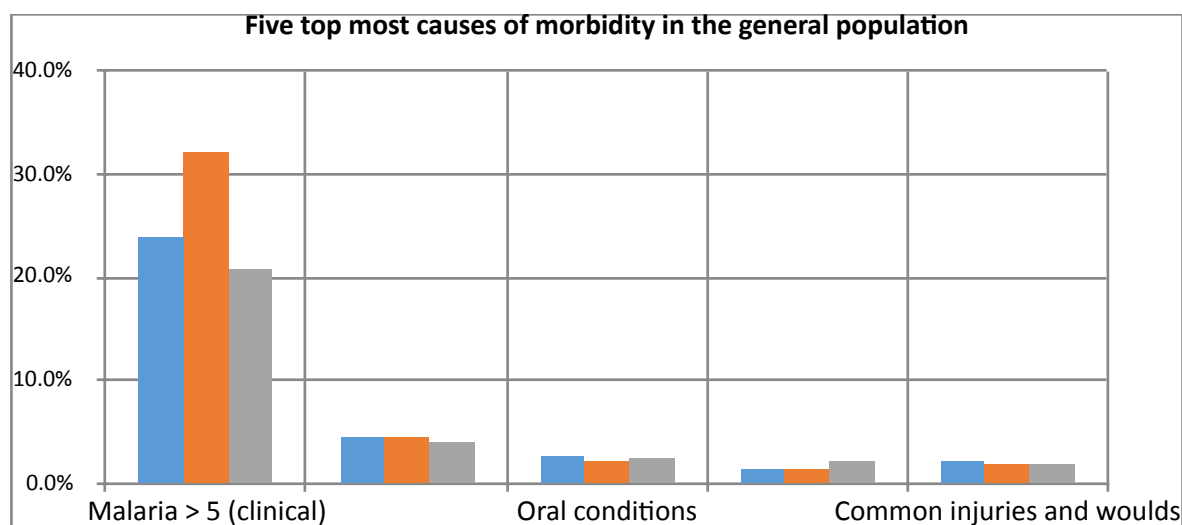
and in stagnant pools of water along rivers such as Likangala, Domasi, Thondwe and Mulunguzi, among others.

**FIGURE 1: GRAPHICAL PRESENTATION OF LEADING CAUSES OF MORBIDITY IN U/5 IN ZOMBA**



**Source:** Zomba DHO – HMIS

The top most leading causes of morbidity in children less than five years of age are Malaria, Acute Respiratory Infections, Diarrhea and Malnutrition. Reported malaria cases dropped in 2016/2017 as compared to 2015/2016 and 2014/2016.

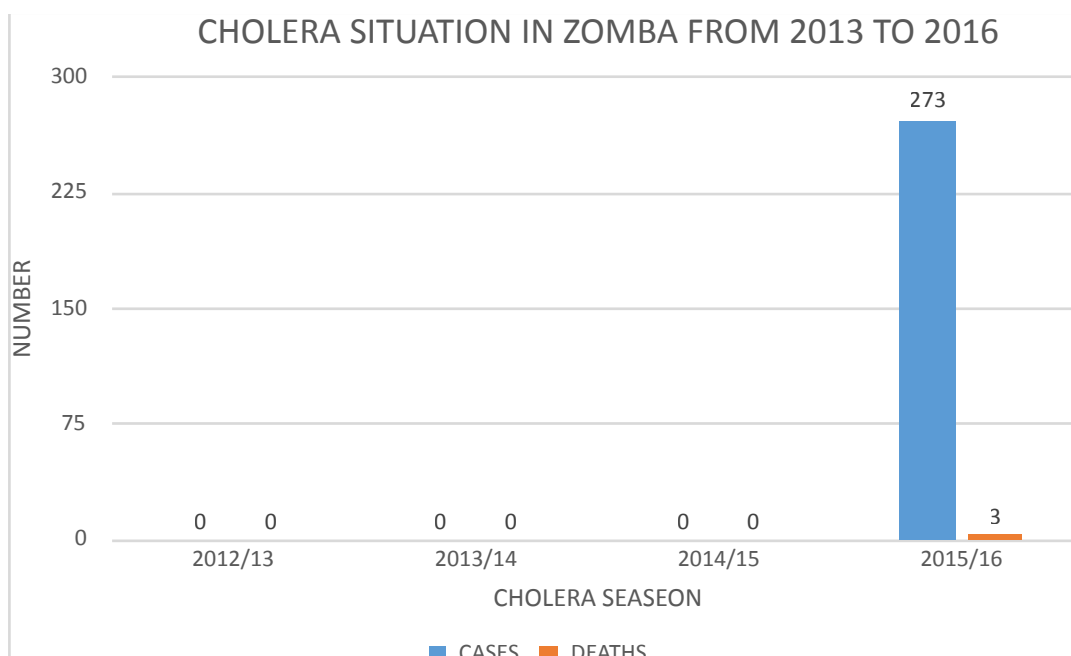


**Source:** Zomba DHO – HMIS

Malaria is the top most cause of morbidity in the general population. 20.8% of over 5 years of age were diagnosed with malaria in 2016/2017. The morbidity rate for malaria in patients aged over-5 years old dropped by 11.4% in 2016/2017 compared to 2015/2016.

#### 5.1.4 Cholera Situation in the District

From the figure below, there has been no Cholera cases in the district from 2012/2013 season to 2014/2015 season. In the cholera season of 2015/2016 the district had 273 cases and 3 deaths thus with a Cases Fertility Rate of 1.1%. Most of the cholera cases in Zomba come from Lake Chilwa among fishermen.



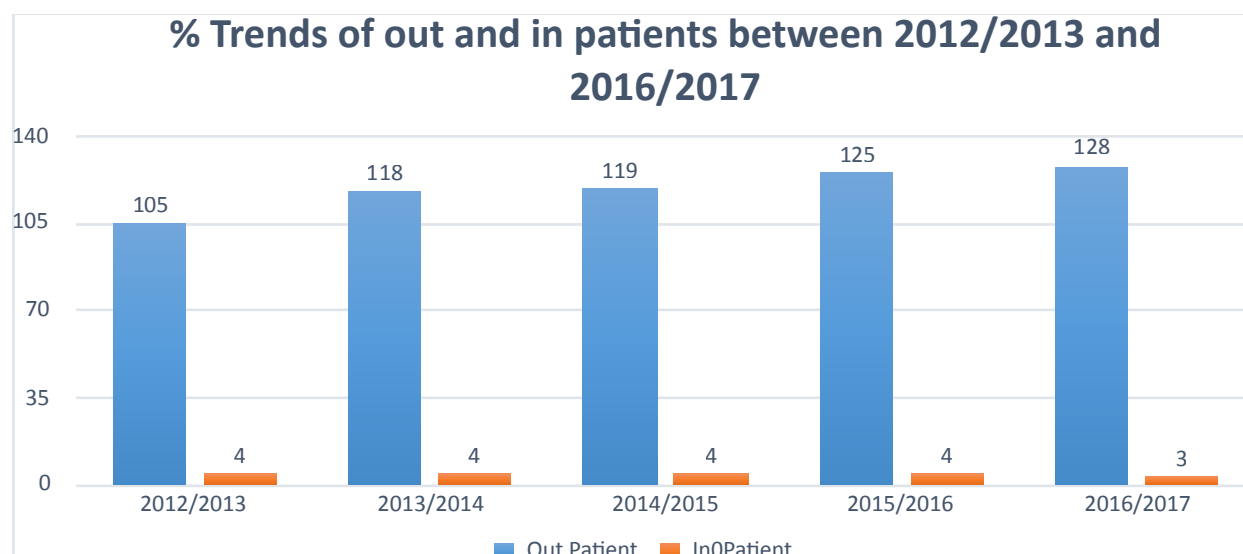
Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2017

As highlighted above, Lake Chilwa is the epicentre of cholera outbreaks in Zomba district. Lake Chilwa is a shallow, salty, inland lake. These are favourable environmental conditions for the vibrio cholera, an organisms that causes cholera, to thrive. On the other hand, the fishermen usually reside in temporary, floating homes, called Zimbowera in our local language. This, combined with the nomadic life of the fishermen, compromises hygiene and sanitation among the fishermen.

### 5.1.5 In-Patient and Out-Patient Trends

The health facilities in the district offer both in-patient and out-patient. It has to be noted that all the health facilities offer out-patient services while in-patient services are offered at St. Lukes, Pirimiti and Domasi.

**FIGURE 28: Percentage trends of out and in patients between 2012/2013 and 2016/2017.**



Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2017

With reference to patients served, Figure 28 shows that in and out patients have been increasing constantly over the past five years (2012/2013 – 2016/2017). Though

the trends in 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 are almost the same. The graph also shows that outpatient services are used to the maximum as compared to the inpatient with is constant in the past five years.

#### **5.1.6 Human Resources in the Sector**

As depicted in the Table 36 health workers of different cadres (doctors, clinical officers, medical assistants, nurses, environmental health officers and health surveillance assistants) are deployed in all the health centres in Zomba District.

**Table 36: Health Personnel by Facility**



H/CENTRES	MEDICAL ASS	CLINICAL OFFICERS	DOCTORS	NURSES	ENV HEALTH OFFICERS	HSAs	TOTAL
Domasi	7	2	0	13	1	25	48
St. Lukes	4	7	2	45	1	15	74
H.Parker	0	0	0	2	0	10	12
Naisi	1	1	0	6	0	21	29
Machinjiri	0	0	0	1	0	8	9
Makwapala	1	0	0	2	0	25	28
Namasalima	1	0	0	2	0	11	14
Bimbi	1	0	0	3	0	16	20
Chisi	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Likangala	1	0	0	3	1	29	34
Matiya	0	1	0	8	0	23	32
Pirimiti	4	7	0	35	1	23	70
Chamba	1	0	0	0	0	16	17
Matawale	6	2	0	18	1	30	57
Ngwelero	1	0	0	3	0	15	19
Mayaka	1	0	0	6	1	34	42
Lambulira	1	0	0	3	0	21	25
Nasawa	1	0	0	5	0	19	25
Sadzi	3	0	0	4	0	34	41
City Clinic	3	1	0	4	0	28	36
Magomero	1	0	0	5	0	22	28
Police	1	6	0	11	1	6	25
Thondwe	3	0	0	4	1	39	47
Namikango	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Chingale	1	0	0	2	1	13	17
Chipini	0	1	0	7	0	8	16
Nkasala	1	0	0	2	0	9	12
Chilipa	1	0	0	2	0	8	11
Mmambo	1	0	0	3	0	12	16
Namadidi	2	0	0	2	1	27	32
Zilindo	1	0	0	3	0	10	14
Changalume	2	1	0	5	0	4	12
Camp	2	5	3	15	1	4	30
State House	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

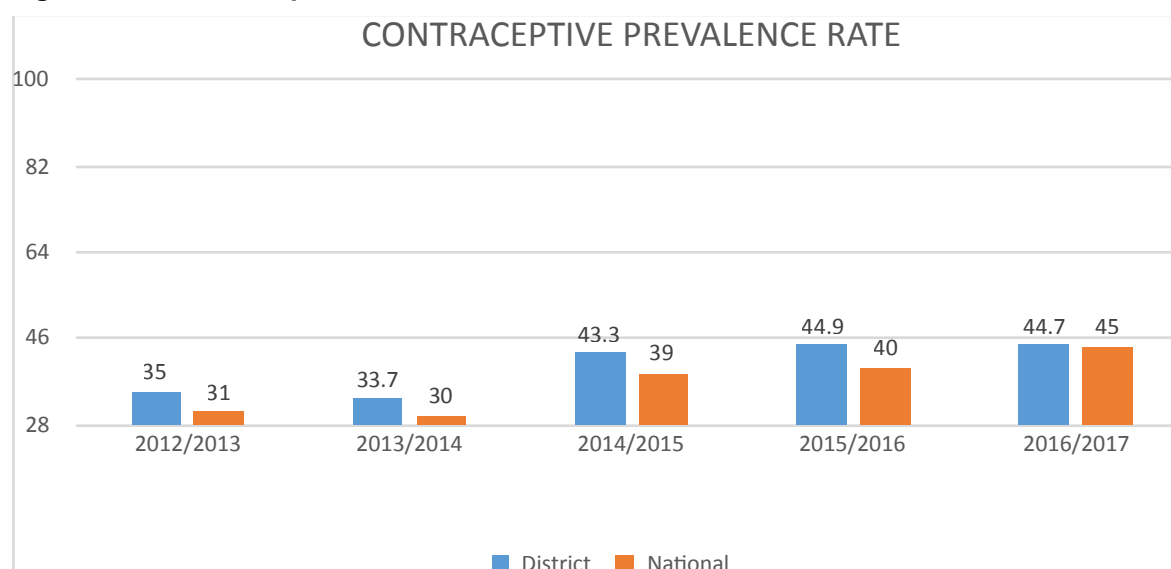
Prison	1	3	1	1	1	1	8
Mwandama	1	0	0	2	0	22	25
Maera	2	0	0	0	0	8	10
Zomba DHO	0	2	2	9	8	0	21
TOTAL	57	39	8	241	20	599	964

Source: Zomba District Health Office HMIS, 2016/2017.

Nurses, with a ratio of 1 to 3,489 have the highest ratio of personnel to the total population. It is important to note the ratio for doctors within the District, which is at, 1: 105,097 is about three times higher than 1:50,000 that is recommended by the Ministry of Health. It is important to note that nurses at Chisi Island health centre works there on relief basis. The shortage of staff is caused in part by the fact that many health workers shun isolated health centres with no electricity, no running water and/or no telephone. Transport to and from such facilities is often difficult because of poor road conditions.

### 5.1.7 Family Planning

**Figure 29: Contraceptive Preference Rates**



Source: Zomba District Health Office HMIS, 2012 TO 2017.

The graph above indicates that contraceptive prevalence rate was low from 2012/2013 to 2013/2014. The district contraceptive prevalence rate was lowest in 2013/2014. However, there was an improvement in contraceptive prevalence rate between 2014/2015 and 2016/2017 with a slight decrease on the district contraceptive prevalence rate in the year 2016/2017. Although community sensitisation on family planning issues is ongoing in the district, the coverage is as indicated in the above table because of erratic supply of family planning methods and low acceptance rate.

### 5.1.8 Key Health Issues

In short there is low access to health services due to: inadequate funding for district health services (very low per capita MWK 584.58 per person); inadequate trained health personnel, inadequate medical equipment and supplies; inadequate ambulances and utility vehicles; lack of district hospital resulting congestion at Zomba Central Hospital; health centres spaced far from each other in rural areas

leading patients covering long distances before they access health services causing some pregnant mothers delivering on the way to health facilities.

## **5.2 Water and Sanitation**

Government of Malawi is committed to eliminate poverty among the people of Zomba District through the provision of adequate social services including water and sanitation. The sector remains a priority area among other social services which the Council is committed to provide.

### **5.2.1 Main Sources and Condition of Water Facilities**

The main sources of water supply in the district are rivers, lakes; dams and underground water. Majority of people in rural areas depend on underground water sources such as boreholes and protected shallow wells while the rest use water from protected springs, unprotected wells and piped water schemes.

The piped water technologies are mainly gravity fed systems while others are hybrid schemes. The district has six gravity fed piped water schemes and two hybrid schemes serving a population of 211284 covering parts of T/As Mwambo, Malemia, Mlumbe, Kuntumanji and Nkagula. The Southern Region Water Board (SRWB), a government owned public utility operator supplies piped water to urban and peri-urban population of the district with a total of 17807 connections.

Although the demand for drinking water and improved sanitation in rural areas is very high within the district, government has not been able to satisfy this demand because of inadequate resources. Consequently the rural water supply and sanitation programme in the district has been implemented on project by project basis and governed by individual donor needs. Despite these efforts in providing improved water supply and sanitation, the facilities have not been sustainable mainly due to lack of community involvement and ownership. Apart from inadequate financing and sustainability of facilities the rural water supply sector in the district is faced with other challenges such as degradation of water catchment areas, inadequate institutional capacity, theft and vandalism of water facilities, climate change and inadequate promotion of hygiene and sanitation. In addition, Zomba does not have a comprehensive and updated Water Data Management System which has contributed to unequal distribution of safe water points in the district.

### **5.2.2 Access to Safe Water**

Demographic Household Survey results for the district show that Zomba has 1991 villages and 4948 safe water points. This implies that every village in Zomba has at least one safe water source from either a borehole or stand pipe. However the reality on the ground shows that safe water facilities are unequally distributed resulting into high water point density in some villages. This distribution pattern leaves other villages with no safe water sources. This scenario is compounded by absence of water point map for the district which could aid district WASH planners to allocate water points equitably.

**Table 44 Current Water Points per TA**

Area(TA/STA)	Population	Land area (km2)	Number of borehole	Number of taps	Average distance between safe water points (m)
Chikowi	146,759	176.98	527	12	328.3
Mlumbé	165,340	666.71	573	572	582.3
Mwambo	137,609	438.85	315	419	597.9
Kumtumanji	40,464	197.25	155	176	595.9
Malemia	62,837	291.6	193	1,185	211.6
Mbiza	32,862	214.64	168	0	1277.6
Mkumbila	3,495	118.92	12	0	9910.0
Ntholowa	24,104	125.78	150	0	838.5
Ngwelero	28,338	117.54	87	1	1335.7
Nkagula	41,107	153.02	165	238	379.7
Total	682915	2501.29	2345	2603	16057.6

Although the statistics show that the total number of safe water point in the district is relatively high the functionality rate in some areas is low due to:

- (i) Theft and vandalism of water facilities.
- (ii) Poor operation and maintenance system.
- (iii) Poor designs and construction materials.
- (iv) Declining yields of ground water sources.
- (v) Drying of springs and rivers that supply water to piped water schemes.
- (vi) Damage to water supply infrastructure by floods.

Currently, coverage of safe water facilities in rural areas is at 82.0 per cent. Access to safe water in the district is affected by many factors that include; water quality, functionality of water facilities, and distance to safe water points. Table 45 shows the current functionality of taps in rural gravity fed schemes (GFS) in the district. Currently the functionality of taps is at 67% down from 78%. This decline is attributed to washing away of pipes and intake structures in the Zomba West GFS in 2015. The scheme has been under rehabilitation since 2016 under the Malawi Flood Recovery Project (MFERP).

**Table 45 Current Functionality of Taps in Rural Gravity Fed Schemes**

<b>Name of scheme</b>	<b>TA</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Number of taps</b>	<b>Number of taps functional</b>	<b>Functionality (%)</b>
Makwawa North	Malemia	9563	79	79	100
Makwawa South	Malemia	10345	168	161	96
Lifani	Malemia	8674	106	76	72
Zomba West	Mlumbé	80000	572	34	6
Zomba East	Malemia Kumtumanji Nkagula Mwambo	102240	1283	804	63
<b>District</b>		<b>210822</b>	<b>2208</b>	<b>1,154</b>	<b>67</b>

Source: District Water Office, 2017

Apart from these piped water schemes, the district has smaller schemes supplying water to three market centres namely; Mayaka, Jali and Malosa. The first two were constructed by SRWB with funding from the World Bank under the Infrastructure Services Programme (ISP). The source of water at these two hybrid schemes are boreholes fitted with electric pumps and supply water to a combined population of 3459 through water kiosks. Malosa scheme was constructed by the National Water Development Programme (NWDPII) with financing from the Australian government under AUSAID. The source of water is a perennial stream called Lifani and supplies water to a population of 6546 through public outlets and private connections. Table 46 shows the current functionality of the schemes.

**Table 46 Current Functionality of Market Centre Schemes**

<b>Name of scheme</b>	<b>Location (TA/STA)</b>	<b>Number of Kiosks</b>	<b>Kiosks Functional</b>	<b>Functionality (%)</b>
Jali market scheme	Mwambo	12	8	67
Mayaka market scheme	Chikowi	12	6	50
Malosa Market scheme	Malemia	15	13	87
<b>Total</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>68</b>

Source: District Water Office, 2017

All the schemes in the district are managed by the users themselves through Water Users Associations. The WUAs are registered in the Laws of Malawi to acquire legal mandate and also to engage skilled Utility Operators to manage the schemes professionally. These associations are mandated to:

- i. Promote and enforce community ownership of rural water supply schemes to ensure sustainability;
- ii. Raise revenue for O&M of the scheme;
- iii. Safeguard and protect the assets and infrastructure of the scheme from damage and dilapidation through timely and frequent maintenance;
- iv. Supply adequate potable water and improved sanitation services to households within the supply area of the scheme on principles of equity and cost recovery;
- v. Resolve and mediate disputes which may arise amongst members of the scheme in relation to access, usage, distribution of water;
- vi. Cooperate with GoM in running and managing the schemes in accordance with sound business, social and environmental management practices.

Some communities rely on groundwater supply through boreholes and protected shallow wells. However, protected shallow wells are treated as alternative sources offering short term solution to water supply situation in certain areas where access by drilling machinery is difficult, hence are not overly encouraged. Table 47 shows the functionality of boreholes in the district

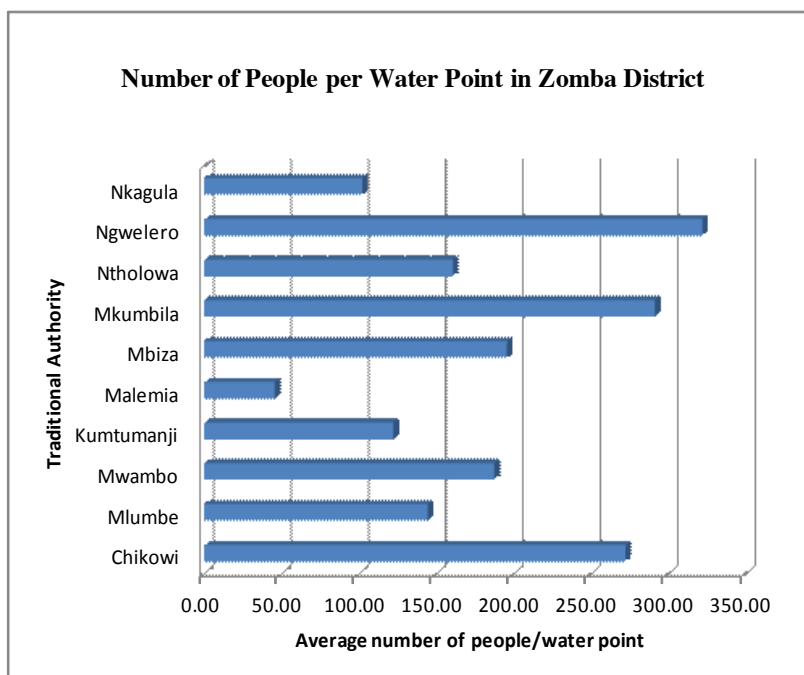
**Table 47 Current Functionality of Boreholes**

<b>STA/TA</b>	<b>Number of Boreholes</b>	<b>Number of Boreholes functional</b>	<b>Functionality (%)</b>
Chikowi	527	456	87
Mlumbé	573	421	73
Mwambo	315	282	90
Kuntumanji	155	103	66
Malemia	193	156	81
Ngwerelo	87	75	86
Mbiza	168	160	95
Nkagula	165	156	95
Mkumbila	12	9	75
Ntholowa	150	142	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,345</b>	<b>1,960</b>	<b>84.3</b>

*Source: District Water Office, 2017*

Currently the district has 2345 boreholes with a functionality rate of 84.3% that are managed by community based water point committees who are supported by a network of trained area mechanics and government front line officers from Ministry of Health (HSAs), Water (WMAs) and Community services (CDAs). Figure 32 shows the number of people per water point in Zomba District.

**Figure 32 Number of People per Water point**



It can be seen from Figure 32 that TAs Ngwelero, Mkumbira and Chikowi have the highest number of people per safe water point in the district followed by Mbiza and Mwambo. Table 48 shows that STAs Mkumbira, Ngwelero and Mbiza have the longest average distance between water points.

**Table 48 Average Distance between Water Points per TA**

Area(TA/STA)	Population	Total number of water points	Number of People per water point	Average distance between water points (m)
Chikowi	146759	539	272.28	328.3
Mlumbe	165340	1145	144.40	582.3
Mwambo	137609	734	187.48	597.9
Kumtumanji	40464	331	122.25	595.9
Malemia	62837	1378	45.60	211.6
Mbiza	32862	168	195.61	1277.6
Mkumbila	3495	12	291.25	9910.0
Ntholowa	24104	150	160.69	838.5
Ngwelero	28338	88	322.02	1335.7
Nkagula	41107	403	102.00	379.7
<b>District Total</b>	<b>682915</b>	<b>4948</b>	<b>1843.58</b>	<b>16057.6</b>

**Figure 33 Effects of Vandalism and theft of water facilities**



Source: District Water Office 2017

### **5.2.3 Access to Sanitary Latrines**

The low access to improved sanitation facilities in Zomba District remains a major public health concern. According to MES (NSO, 2016) the percentage of household members using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared was at 49.4% as compared to 40.6% and 28.4% for Malawi and Southern Region. Comparatively with Southern Region, Zomba appears to be doing well even though the situation remains grave. The percentage of households with a specific place for hand washing where water and soap or other cleansing agent are present was at 5.5% as compared 4.2% and 5.2% for Malawi and Southern Region respectively. This calls for more interventions in the district and Malawi as a whole if SDGs 3 and 6 on clean water and sanitation is to be achieved by 2030.

### **5.2.4 Methods of Waste Disposal**

Indiscriminate disposal of waste in open spaces, rivers and streets is common in the district despite being an illegal practice and discouraged because of its potential impact on the environment and human beings. Most of the households in the district use traditional pit latrines which pollutes groundwater. However, MES (NSO, 2016) found that the percentage of children age 0-2 years whose last stools were disposed of safely was at 90.4% as compared to 88.2% and 89.2% for Malawi and Southern Region respectively. These gaps indicate that the environment is prone to pollution which can have adverse impact on human beings. This is also a threat to SDGs 3 and 6 calling for more concerted efforts to address the situation by 2030.

### **5.2.5 Key Issues and Trends from Water and Sanitation**

#### *Sector strengths and weaknesses*

In an effort to improve delivery of quality of social services to rural communities with special focus on district WASH programme, a situation analysis of the sector at large was conducted. The analysis uncovered various strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that are prevalent in the current sector status

#### *WASH sector strengths*



- (i) Availability of district policies that guide implementation of WASH programme including: District Development plan (DDP), District Strategic Investment Plan (DSIP) and District State of the Environment Outlook.
- (ii) Presence of strong and committed DCT which coordinates district WASH programme.
- (iii) Trained extension personnel from relevant line Ministries (Water, Health, Forest, Education and Community services.
- (iv) Existence of community development structures (VDCs).

#### *WASH weaknesses*

- (i) Unequal distribution of WASH facilities.
- (ii) Lack of WASH plan and data management system (including district water point map).

#### *WASH opportunities*

- (i) Availability of national policies that guide WASH programme.
- (ii) NGOs and other partners

#### *Threats to WASH sector*

- (i) Inadequate financing (ORT) for water sector activities.
- (ii) Degradation of water catchment areas due to human activities.
- (iii) Vandalism and theft of water facilities.
- (iv) Climate change
- (v) Illegal mining of gems on western slopes of Zomba Mountain. These activities affect water quality in gravity fed schemes in Zomba west.
- (vi) Unstable soils around Lake Chilwa that affects construction of pit latrines.

In coming up with interventions it is required that programme implementers must focus projected demand in the long term rather than the short term. More importantly exploit the strengths and opportunities to reverse the weaknesses and threats.

## **5.3 EDUCATION**

### **Introduction**

Education, Science and Technology is a Catalyst for Socio-economic development, industrial growth and a major source of economic empowerment for different groups of people. As such Zomba District council in line with the Vision 2020 page 11 and the MGDS III envisages education as the linchpin for securing economic development.

According to the Malawi National Education Sector Plan Goals (NESP 2008 – 17), the expected outcomes are improved quality and relevant education with increased access and equity to education as well as improved governance and management at all levels.

However, the sector faces a number of challenges and Zomba Rural Education District is not spared. The challenges include:

- Poor and inadequate education infrastructure.
- Shortage of qualified teachers.
- Inefficiencies in the education systems.
- High absenteeism, repetition and dropout rates.
- Inadequate teaching and learning materials.

- Poor management and governance structures.

The Zomba District council- Education Sector and other stakeholders are trying to improve the situation by implementing the Primary School Improvement Programme (PSIP), The National reading programme (from std 1 to 4), keeping Girls in school, School feeding programmes and other projects to improve the quality, access and equity of Education in the District just to mention a few. The district also conducts regular Continuing Professional Development activities for teachers, school supervision and Inspections through Primary Education Advisors and Inspectors. MGDS 111 and Vision. It is also in the process of formulating by laws to reduce the absenteeism and dropout issues

### 5.3.1 Education Indicators

The district has 200 public primary schools with a total enrolment of 213,078 (104,869 males and 108,209 females). The public primary schools have a total of 2,587 (1,429 males and 1,158 females) teachers. There are 5 private primary schools. However, there are 5 Private Primary schools in the district.

**Table 48 Primary school enrolment 2012-2016**

2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
90,834	99,154	88,560	90,392	103,521	104,556	106,313	107,755	102,815	106,531
48	52	49.5	51.5	49.8	51.2	49.7	51.3	49.1	51.9

There has been an increase in girls' enrolment over the past five years. The increase in number of girls has been more than the number of boys. The increase in the girls is because more education related interventions focus on girls and not boys.

There was a fall of the enrolment for both boys and girls in 2013 because there was drought in some parts of Zomba which led to shortage of food

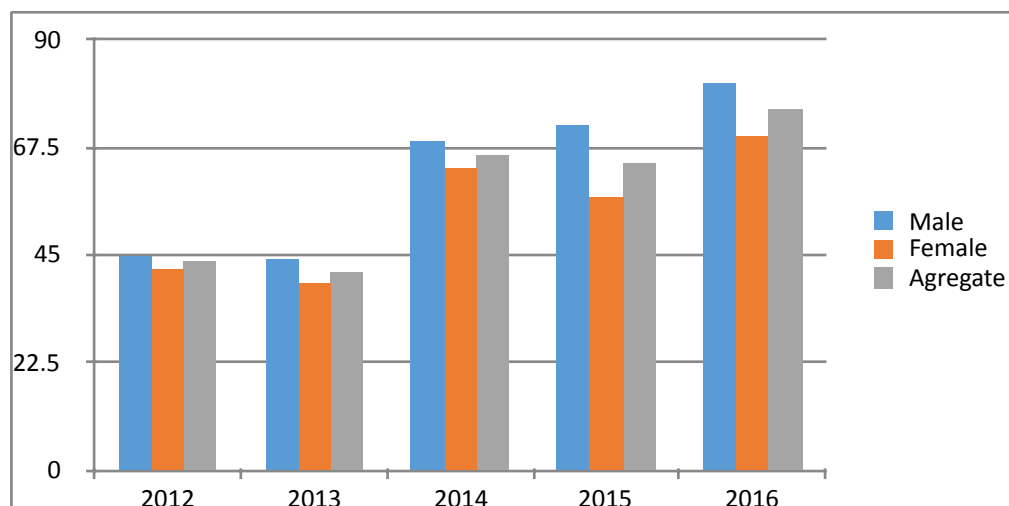
The literacy rate is at 76% which is higher than the national rate of 65.8% in the 2016/17 Primary School Leaving Certificate examinations results. The national examination results pass rates for Primary schools have been fluctuating over the 5 years as shown in Table 49.

**Table 49: Primary School Pass Rates 2012-2016**

	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Chikowi	55	44	54	43	73	64	77	55	81	86
Kuntumanji	52	49	56	53	56	52	60	54	89	77
Malemia	51	43	49	44	78	72	82	65	84	76
Mkumbira	27	39	17	19	64	55	84	70	61	31
Mlumbe	44	38	43	38	70	58	69	49	75	68
Mbiza	-	-	-	-	65	55	81	61	87	74
Mwambo	43	37	43	35	67	60	62	63	84	70
<b>Zomba District</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>70</b>
	<b>43.5</b>		<b>41.5</b>		<b>66</b>		<b>64.5</b>		<b>75.5</b>	

Source: Zomba District Education Office, 2017

#### GRAPH SHOWING PASSRATE BY T/A



The pass rates have been fluctuating over the past five years particularly for girls. They did not do well in 2013 and 2015 because there were high absenteeism rates due to drought and heavy rains and flooding respectively which led to food insufficiency. Both boys and girls performed well in 2016 National examinations due to zonal Mock and district standardised tests. The district shall continue to formulate and administer Standardized tests

There is no information about the pass rates for T/A M'biza in 2012 and 2013 because all the schools were in T/A Chikowi by then

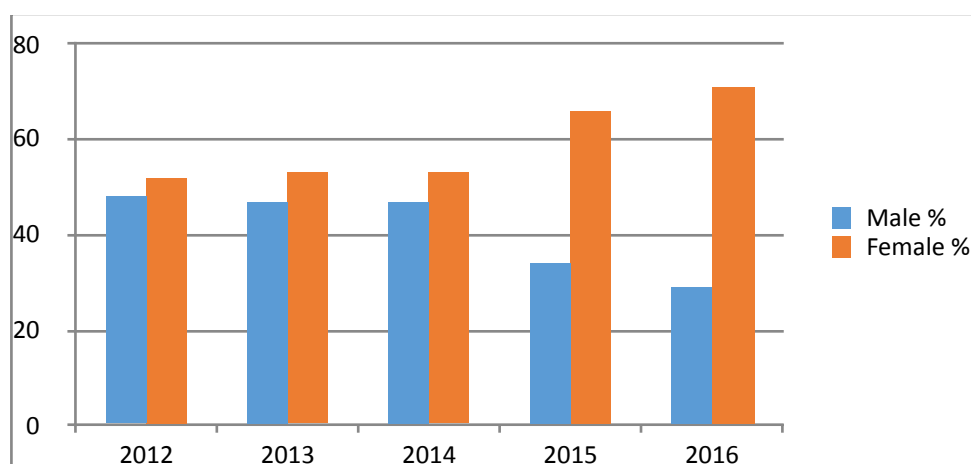
**Table 50 Primary School Dropout Rates 2012-2016**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
--	------	------	------	------	------

Year TA	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Chikowi	1015	1293	203	184	916	890	714	888	554	1025
Kuntumaji	517	475	207	246	141	334	71	93	66	145
Malemia	202	294	142	194	154	403	126	141	130	247
Mkumbira	54	71	41	33	44	65	32	80	44	109
Mlumbé	640	794	1362	1421	527	714	443	775	428	1232
Mwambo	1251	1236	1362	1421	620	774	546	816	478	1334
<b>Z o m b a District</b>	48	52	47	53	47	53	34	66	29	71

Source: Zomba District Education Office, 2017

#### GRAPH SHOWING DROPOUT RATES BY T/A



There has been a general decrease in dropouts for boys over the past five years. This is because there is high competition among boys in order to excel in education. However, girls' dropout rate has been increasing over the past five years despite local stakeholders and NGO's interventions that are advocating for girls' education. This is due to early marriages, pregnancies and household chores.

The district council is in the process of formulating by laws in a bid to deal with the issues of absenteeism and drop out.

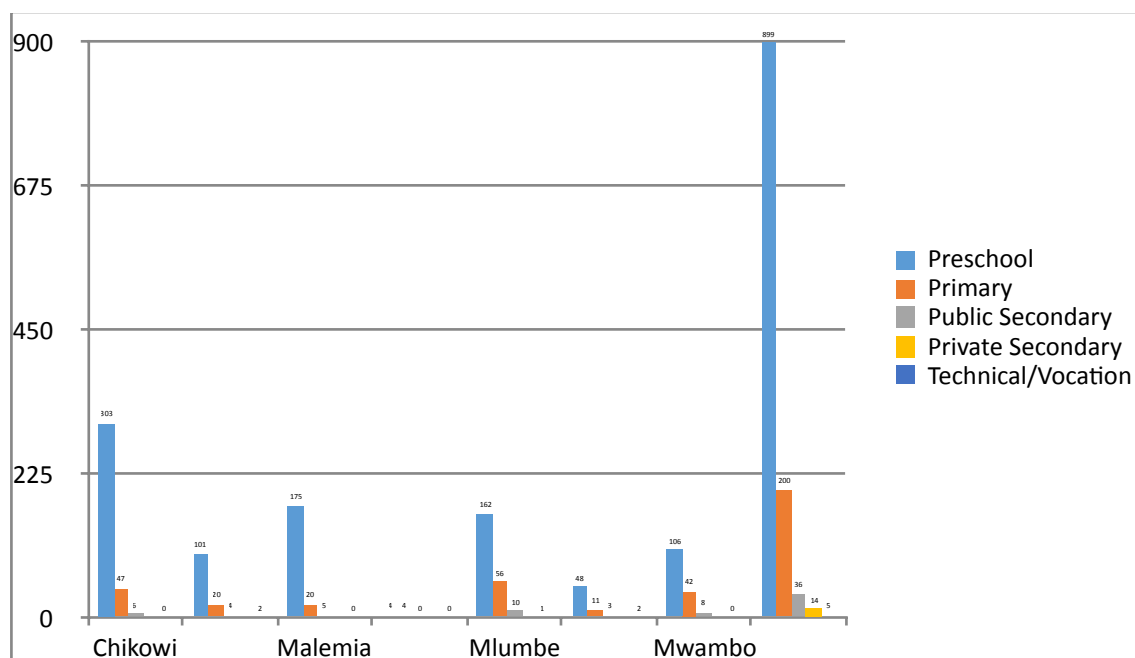
**Table 51 Total Number of Schools by T/A**

TA	Primary
Chikowi	47
Kuntumanji	20
Malemia	20
Mkumbira	4
Mlumbé	56
Mbiza	11
Mwambo	42
<b>Zomba District</b>	<b>200</b>

Source: Zomba District Education Office, 2017

Primary schools continue to be established in the district. There were 194 primary schools in 2012 and this number has risen to 200. The table below shows that T/A Mkumbira has the smallest number of schools while T/A Mlumbé has the highest number of schools in the district

#### GRAPH SHOWING NUMBER OF SCHOOLS BY TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY



### 5.3.2 Education Services

#### i. Pre-school education

Pre-school education prepares and promotes the social, intellectual, emotional and physical development of children. The government of Malawi recognizes the importance of pre-school education but does not support them financially as such pre-schools are established and owned by communities with parents paying a minimum amount to cover operations. Private pre-schools on the other hand charge slightly higher fees and cater for a small segment of the population. The district has

899 preschools with an enrolment of 42729 (17349 male and 25380 female) children. The number of trained Care Givers is 2490 (762 males and 1728 females). Table 52 shows the number of pre-schools per TA, sex and net enrolment.

**Table 52 Preschools by TA, Enrolment and Sex**

Traditional Authority Area	No of CBCCs	Number of Children		Caregivers and Committees					
				Caregivers				CMC	
		M	F	Total		Trained		Total Trained	
				M	F	M	F		
Chikowi	223	2363	4287	380	810	380	810	223	0
Kumtumanji	43	2011	2771	19	39	2	6	43	0
Mbiza	146	3435	6263	239	620	177	384	140	72
Malemia	175	1500	390	480	50	50	50	175	0
Mwambo	146	3408	5672	410	650	90	390	146	43
Mlumbe	162	4521	5852	143	418	43	88	114	5
Mkumbira	4	111	145	29	31	0	0	9	0
TOTAL	899	17349	25380	1700	2619	762	1728	850	120

Source: Zomba District Education Office, 2017

## ii. Primary Schools

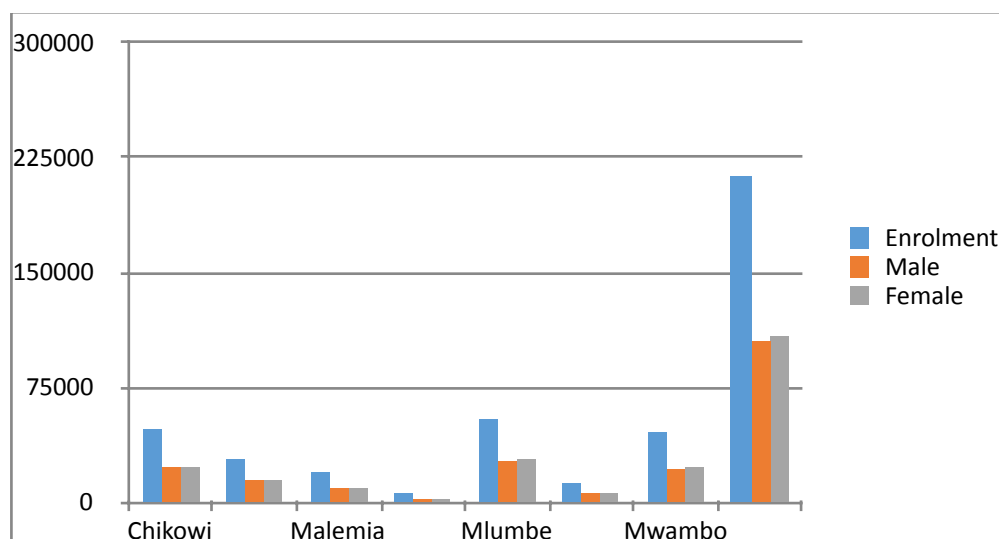
The number of public primary schools increased 2%, from 197 schools in 2013 to 200 as of December, 2016. It can be observed that the larger the geographical size of the T/A the more the number of schools. The district has a total enrolment of 213,078. T/A Mlumbe has the highest enrolment (55,166), followed by T/A Chikowi (46,751) while TA Mkumbira has the smallest enrolment (5,763). Table below shows that there are more girls than boys in almost all the T/As. The overall pass rates have progressively been increasing over the past 5 years for both boys and girls due to increased provision of quality of education through Continuing Professional Development activities (CPDs), reduced Learner/teacher ratio and provision of teaching and learning materials to schools just to mention a few. The pass rate for boys continues to be higher than for girls, in all the T/As. Typically girls have a lower pass rate because they spend much time performing household duties, while in the case of T/A Mkumbira and part of T/A Mwambo, many boys engage in fishing. Overall, less than 35% of the learners in the district who receive Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education (PSLCE) make it to secondary schools. This is due to shortage of public secondary schools which limits access for students. Table 53 shows primary school enrolment by sex and T/A in 2016.

**Table 53 Primary School Enrolment by Sex and TA**

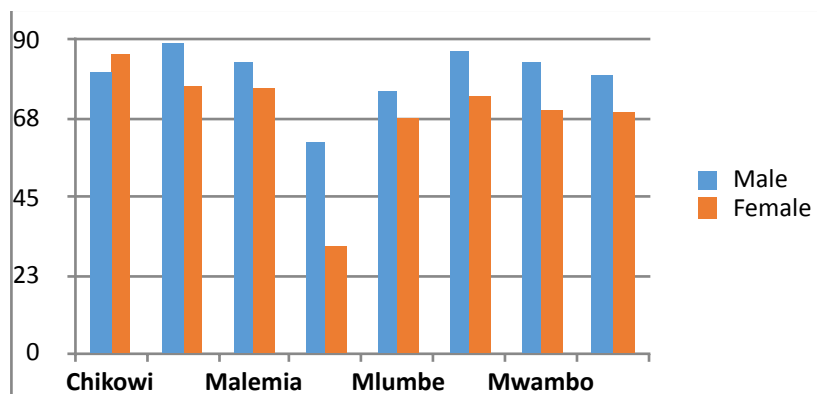
Traditional Authority	Enrolment		Pass Rate (%)		Drop Out Rate (%)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Chikowi	23306	23445	81	86	4	3
Kuntumanji	14349	14231	89	77	4	3
Malemia	9695	9938	84	76	2	2
Mkumbira	2976	2787	61	31	4	4
Mlumbe	27095	28071	75	68	4	3
Mbiza	5960	6341	87	74	5	3
Mwambo	21488	23396	84	70	5	5
<b>District Totals</b>	<b>104869</b>	<b>108209</b>	80	69	4.6	3.3
	<b>213,078</b>					

Source: Zomba District Education Office, 2017

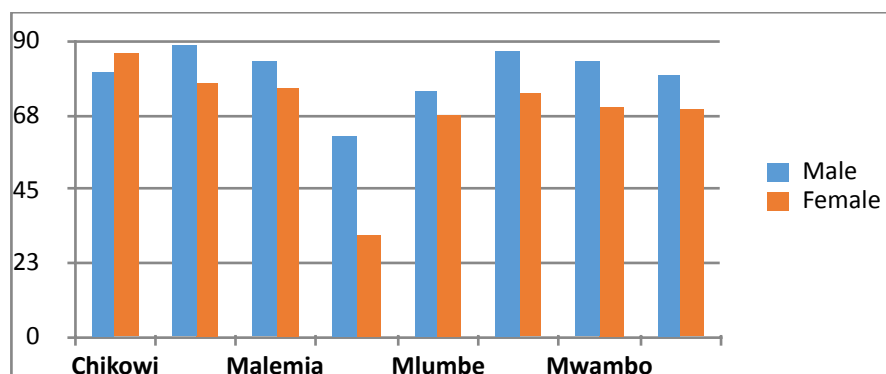
**GRAPH SHOWING ENROLMENT AS THE TABLE ABOVE**



**GRAPH SHOWING PASS RATE BY T/A AS IN THE TABLE ABOVE**



**GRAPH SHOWING DROPOUT RATE BY T/A**



### iii. Technical and Vocational Skills

Technical and Vocational training institutions equip the youth with different vocational skills for life sustenance and decent employment. The sector is well developed in Zomba District as detailed in Table 54 which shows current levels of access to skills and the training institutions available in the district. A new Community Technical College under the Skills Development Programme has been planned for Zomba District in the FY2017-2018. Skills training is vital in the efforts of creating decent work for economic growth to the youth hence harness the demographic dividend for the development of the district.



### 5.3.3 Education Facilities

**Table 57 Number of Classrooms and Classroom-Learner Ratio**

Traditional Authority Area	Primary School : Classroom / Learner Ratio			
	No. of Schools	Enrolment	Classrooms	Cr/ Learner Ratio
Mkumbira	4	5,763	31	185:1
Kuntumanji	20	28,580	159	180:1
Chikowi	47	46,751	360	130:1
Mwambo	42	44,884	307	146:1
Mlumbe	56	55,166	434	127:1
Mbiza	11	12,301	73	169:1
Malemia	20	19,633	139	141:1
<b>District</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>213,078</b>	<b>1503</b>	<b>142:1</b>

Source: District Education Office Zomba Rural, 2016

#### i. Primary School Classroom/ Learner Ratio

Shortage of classrooms in the district is becoming more and more critical. The Policy of the Ministry indicates that a classroom must be occupied by at least 60 learners yet in some schools, classrooms accommodate up to 200 learners. The district has an average learner /classroom ratio of 142:1. Classrooms in the area of TA Mkumbira have the highest ratio at 185:1 while TA Mlumbe has the lowest at 127:1. This is because the district experiencing ever increasing enrolment rates every year. The other reason is that there little participation in school development projects and development projects by the communities. The district will continue to advocate for more community development projects and also lobby for donors

**Table 59 Learner/Desk Ratio by TA**

Traditional Authority Area	Primary		
	No of Schools	No of Desks	D/L Ratio
Mkumbira	4	116	50:1
Kuntumanji	20	1116	26:1
Chikowi	47	3418	14:1
Mwambo	42	2539	18:1
Mlumbe	56	3390	16:1
Mbiza	11	727	17:1
Malemia	20	942	21:1
<b>District</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>12248</b>	<b>17:1</b>

Source: District Education Office Zomba Rural, 2016

The number of learners per desk is still high in all the TAs as shown in table 59 above. This shows that most of the learners do not have desk for effective learning. On average, the primary schools in the district have 17 learners sharing one desk. The table shows that TA Mkumbira has the highest learner /desk ratio (50:1) while T/A Chikowi has the lowest 14:1. It is observed that classrooms constructed under CDF and CDF have no desks included. The Council is expected to lobby for the inclusion of desks in such projects.

**Table 60 Teacher House Ratio by TA**

<b>T r a d i t i o n a l Authority Area</b>	<b>Primary</b>		
	<b>No of Schools</b>	<b>No of Houses</b>	<b>T/H Ratio</b>
Mkumbira	4	24	1:1
Kuntumanji	20	48	7:1
Chikowi	47	135	4:1
Mwambo	42	135	4:1
Mlumbe	56	180	4:1
Mbiza	11	15	8:1
Malemia	20	59	4:1
<b>District</b>	200	596	4:1

The teacher house ratio for the district remains at 4:1. However, the challenge of teacher houses continues to grow significantly especially in T/As Mbiza and Kuntumanji. This is because more and more teachers are being recruited than the number of house being constructed. There is need for the council to encourage the community to engage in school development projects. The table above indicates the teacher / house ratio for primary schools, in the district in 2016.

**Table 61: Special Needs Education**

<b>Visual Impairment</b>			<b>Hearing Impairment</b>			<b>Learning Difficult</b>			<b>Physical Challenges</b>		
<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>T</b>
147	1773	324	170	195	365	214	174	388	51	47	98

The district has a total number of 1,175 learners with Special Education Needs categorized into different impairment as shown in the table above. These learners are being supported by 13 specialist teachers based at 5 Resource Centres. For them to be able reach out. These teachers are not enough as thw district has 200 schools in 12 official zones. They also face a problem of mobility for them to be able reach out to schools The learners also face challenges such as negative attitudes towards them by some stakeholders, inadequate provision of assistive devices, cultural beliefs against them, superstitions, sexual harassment and merciless attacks like the albinos. The council is appealing to all well-wishers to provide 8 push bikes and assistive devices such as lotion, hearing aids, magnifiers, wheelchairs among other materials that they can afford

**Table: TLOP members**

Teachers			Learners		
M	F	Total	B	G	Total
80	90	170	40	28	68

Currently, the district has 170 teachers and 68 learners leaving with HIV. They are supported by 2 percent from the DEM's ORT to buy nutritive food items. This helps to reduce teachers' and learners' absenteeism and abscondment of lessons. It is noted that the amount from the DEM's ORT is too little to cater for all the members so there is need for the council to increase the amount to even cater for supervision and monitoring the health conditions of the members. It is also suggested that such members should be posted to their home district and health facilities before their conditions get worse as it is costly and difficult to manage such situations.

**Table 63: Qualified Primary Teacher to Learner Ratio by TA**

Traditional Authority Area	Qualified Teachers		Learners		Learner / Teacher Ratio
	Males	Females	Boys	Girls	
<b>Chikowi</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>23,306</b>	<b>23,445</b>	<b>80:1</b>
Kuntumanji	158	160	14,349	14,231	90:1
Malemia	125	146	9,695	9,938	72:1
Mkumbira	25	9	2,976	2,787	170:1
Mlumbe	387	322	27,095	28,071	78:1
M'biza	72	41	5,960	6,341	109:1
Mwambo	344	214	21,488	23,396	80:1
<b>District</b>	<b>1,429</b>	<b>1,158</b>	<b>104,869</b>	<b>108,209</b>	<b>82:1</b>

Source: District Education Office Zomba Rural, 2016

### 5.3.4 Education Manpower

The district had 2800 teachers comprising 1629 male and 1171 female qualified primary school teachers in 2016 as shown in Table 63 above. These teachers were inequitably distributed and consequently some T/As have a shortage of teachers. The distribution of teachers across T/As is attributed to a shortage of teacher houses, following spouses and sickness. Overall, the district has 8 learners per teacher. The ratio has grown from 66 learners per teacher from 1994 as a result of the Government's free primary school education programme. The Ministry of Education recommends 60 learners per teacher. Less than half of the TAs meet the recommended ratio, and most T/As have over 100 learners per teacher. Generally, the district has a shortage of teachers though decreasing over the past five years.

### 5.3.5 Key Issues and Trends from the Education Sector

The issues affecting education are threefold; namely education governance; education access and equity; and lastly education quality.

#### a. Education governance

In terms of governance, the low involvement of communities, dysfunctional Parents and Teachers Associations (PTA) and inadequate participation of community members in school development projects and activities is contributing to the lowering of education quality and standards in the district.

*b. Education access*

Education access and equity is affected by shortage of classrooms, desks, libraries, sanitary facilities, teaching and learning materials

*c. Education quality*

Education quality is weakened by shortage of qualified teachers, staff houses and refusal by some qualified teachers to work in remote areas at both primary levels.

## **PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

<b>Problems</b>
Poor quality education
Inadequate school infrastructure i.e. classrooms, libraries, staff houses
Uneven distribution of teachers
Inadequate instructional material such as books
High teacher- pupil ratio
Low community participation in school development project and activities
<b>Opportunities</b>
Free primary education
Availability of vocational training centres
Availability of qualified teachers
Availability of education advisors
Availability of teacher training institutions for both primary and secondary levels within the district and the surrounding districts

### **5.4 Social Welfare and Community Development**

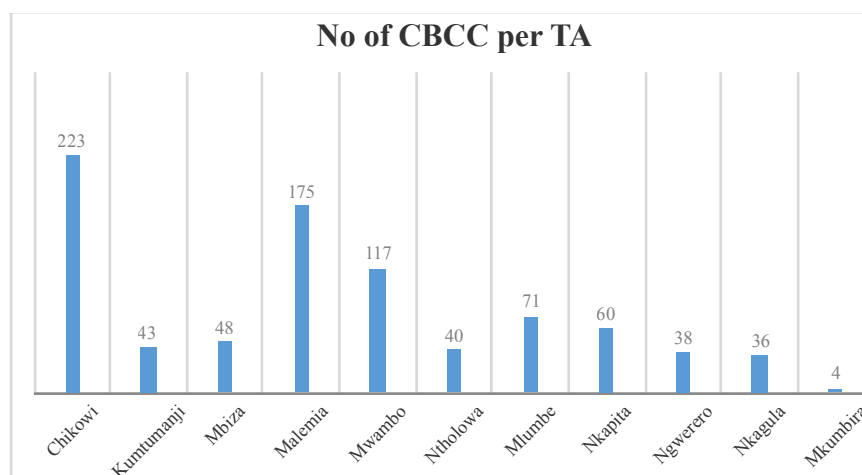
According to the Function Review Report (2012), the Department of Social Welfare is divided into four divisions/core functions of: (1) Family and Child Welfare; (2) Probation and Social Rehabilitation; (3) Child Development and (4) Social Support Services. Social Welfare Services cover a wide range of interventions that aim at alleviating the sufferings endured by those whose lives are adversely affected by external shocks and risks, like poverty, deprivation, marginalization, HIV and AIDS and any other social, economic and environmental events beyond their control. Some of the social welfare services currently being provided in Zomba include: Family and Child Welfare/ child development; Probation and Aftercare, Social Rehabilitation, School Social Work, Hospital Social Work, Disaster and Relief Management and Coordination of NGOs working with vulnerable groups. Key activities under the mentioned programmes are OVC/Orphan care, Early Childhood Development (ECD), Child Protection, Support to people with disabilities and the Elderly, Support to Destitute and Education support (Bursary Scheme).

## 5.4.1 Social Welfare and Community Development Services

### a. Child Development Services

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is the major core programme under Child Development. ECD embraces programmes for children from birth to eight years aimed at promoting their survival, growth, stimulation and development. The understanding in ECD is that early years of a child's life matters a lot and last forever hence the need to invest in the early years of a child's life. One of the ways through which ECD is provided in Malawi is Community Based Childcare Centres (CBCCs) which are community based childcare services designed to promote the holistic development of children. Over the years, Zomba District has made a lot of strides in the implementation of ECD activities.

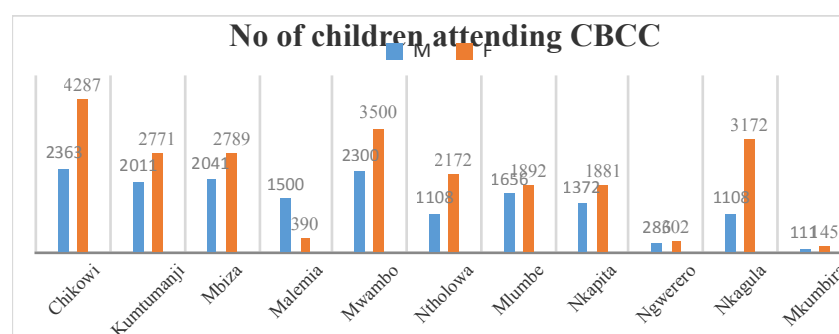
**Figure 34 No of CBCCs per TA**



Source: DSWO Zomba, 2017

The number of active CBCCs has increased from 240 in 2009 to 855 in 2017. As it can be seen from the figure above, there is a highest concentration of CBCC in Senior Chief Chikowi (223). This is attributed to the presence of many NGOs in the area who are supporting ECD initiatives. On the other hand, the lowest is STA Mkumbira (4). Being an island, there are no NGOs supporting ECD interventions in the area.

**Figure 35 Number of Children attending CBCC per TA**



Source: DSWO Zomba, 2017

The number of children who are benefiting from ECD services has increased from 29,214 to 42,473 in 2017 and there are also currently 4,319 CBCC caregivers of whom 2,490 have received basic caregivers training. This has been made possible because of the increased awareness and participation of communities in ECD activities. There is also good coordination between the Social Welfare department and its partners.

However, despite the good progress registered, there are still a lot of challenges that the district is facing in the implementation of quality ECD services. Firstly, there is increasing caregiver turnover due to lack of incentives and voluntary nature of the work as caregivers do not receive any allowance or honoraria. Because of the voluntary nature of the profession, most of the caregivers are of low literacy levels such as PSLC as it is difficult to return those with minimum qualification of MSCE. Furthermore, a lot of men shun away from becoming caregivers as such the profession is dominated by females. In addition, at least half of the existing pool of caregivers has not received any basic training in ECD which is prerequisite for their work and this brings disparities in the quality of services being provided.

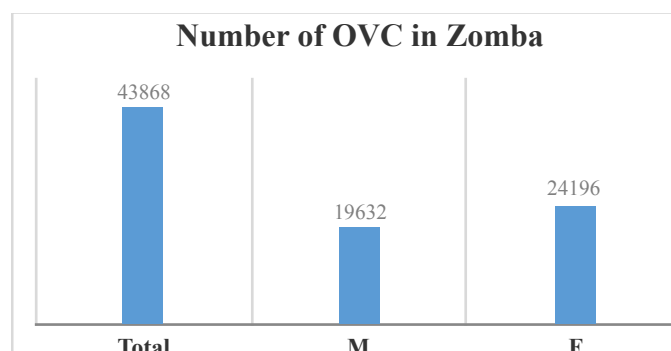
Provision of quality ECD services in the district is also greatly hampered by lack of and poor CBCC infrastructures. Many CBCCs are still using makeshift structures such as churches, village clinics, caregivers' houses, and in worst and most scenarios children learn under trees which is not safe and child friendly. A lot of CBCCs are also faced with the problem of food particularly maize for provision of porridge which the children are supposed to eat. Because of this, many CBCCs are usually active and vibrant during the harvest season but enrollment greatly dwindles during lean periods. Lastly, ECD in Zomba is still not recognized and taken as one of the priority areas in most of the development activities at district and community level and most of the times, it is silent in community driven projects.

Important to note is the fact that many of the highlighted challenges are predominant in areas where there are no partner NGO implementing ECD activities. On the other hand the situation is much better in communities with partners such as Save the Children, Red Cross, World Vision, Catholic Health Commission and SAFE among others owing to their rich resource base.

## **b. Orphan Care and Child Protection Services**

The situation of children in the district is still very dire and pathetic they continue to be subjected to various forms of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect (VAEN). The district has so far registered 43 868 orphans (19 632 males and 24 196 females) through community based organizations, faith based organizations and community Support Groups and Community Child Protection Workers. This is four times those registered in 2006 and this has been made possible because of the presence of Community Child Protection Workers who play a significant role in identification and collection of OVC data. Just like any other person, vulnerable children including orphans have various needs and these include physical, social, spiritual, emotional and mental needs.

**Figure 36 Number of OVC in Zomba**



In response to this situation, Zomba district council through the Social Welfare sector is committed to providing quality care to OVCs in order to empower them. Some of the services being provided to OVCs in the district include: Educational support thus

bursaries for needy secondary school students. Currently, at least 3000 vulnerable children are being supported by the council and other partners like CAMFED, Malawi Red Cross, Lions Club, Future vision, Save the Children, AQUAID, CRECCOM, Save the children, Emmanuel International, SAFE, Age Africa, Chancellor College, Catholic Health Commission, Tikondwe, and other CBOs. In addition to educational support, the social welfare is also intensifying provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS) in order to meet the emotional and social needs of children particularly those who live in difficult circumstances.

Psychosocial support is provided through Children's Corners or Drop in Centres where recreation, life skills, counseling and other activities targeting children from 8 to 18 years are conducted. There are currently 512 Children's Corners which are benefiting 35665 vulnerable children thus 14589 boys and 21076 girls. In order to adequately provide care and protection services to vulnerable children, the district social welfare office is also implementing case management and journey of life activities which aim at raising awareness in communities on the various forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation experienced by vulnerable children in the district. Through case management, the office is working in close partnership with communities to establish, revive and strengthen community structures and committees so that they ably function to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Although primary care and support for children lies with the family and community, there are times when depending on circumstances, alternative care is deemed as the last resort. It is in such contexts as these that Child Care institutions play a crucial role in taking care, support and protection of vulnerable children. To this effect, the district has 304 children under alternative care in the 12 Child Care Institutions that the district has. The office has also strengthened its presence and visibility in the communities through Community Child Protection Workers (CCPWs) who are frontline social welfare staff in matters of child protection and are available in every T.A in the district. Other child protection services being provided in the district include One Stop Centre at Zomba Central hospital which targets those who have been sexually abused, Child Helpline whose secretariat is at YONECO and diversion for children in conflict with the law. There are Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs) available in each of the 11 T.As in Zomba.

However, despite the efforts being undertaken in the provision of services to vulnerable children, there are still a lot of challenges that the Social Welfare Sector is facing. Firstly, HIV/AIDS still remains a leading cause of vulnerability and orphan hood which exerts pressure on social welfare services. Secondly, social welfare functions to vulnerable children are also greatly affected by inadequate funding to the coordinating department which is usually on the lower side. This makes it cumbersome for the department to ably implement the designated activities. In addition, some cultural practices such as Chinamwali continue to pose great challenges to the protection of children as they perpetuate abuse and other forms of injustice to children like early marriages and pregnancies.

Furthermore, there is still lack of awareness on the rights and welfare of children in many communities as such many children continue to suffer various forms of abuse such as sexual, physical, emotional and neglect. Another factor that predisposes children into further vulnerability is disintegration of families. There are a lot marriage break-ups and divorces in the district some of which are attributed to the matrilineal family set-up whereby men go for "Chikamwini" and usually do not commit themselves to marriages. It is generally women and children who suffer in the event of marriage break down. There is also a general knowledge gap by stakeholders on the existing laws and policing guiding child protection as such this limits their effectiveness. There is therefore need for massive dissemination of existing child

protection legislation such as the Child Care, Justice and Protection Act of 2010, Wills and Inheritance Act and Prevention of Domestic Violence Act among others.

Another challenge also relates to short lived and unsustainable OVC programmes by partners which end up victimizing the already vulnerable children when interventions phase out before weaning out children. Another challenge also pertains to children in institutional care. Many Child Care Institutions (Orphanages) are operating below minimum standards and there is general lack of transparency in their undertakings as required by the ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. This situation has compelled the department to tighten its screws on the operations of child care institutions and has since closed two institutions for operating below standards.

### ***c. Probation and Social Rehabilitation Services***

One of the major challenges facing the social welfare sector in Zomba is the increasing number of in conflict with the law. According to the social welfare data, the office is registering an average of 40 cases of children in conflict with the law per year with the highest number being registered during lean periods of the year (January-March). The most prevalent forms of offenses committed by children relate to theft and T.A Chikowi tops the list in terms of number of cases many of which come from Chikanda, Mpondabwino and Mpunga which are high density locations and poverty levels are also on the high side. Marriage breakdowns (divorce), domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, orphan hood, peer pressure and lack of assertiveness and neglect by parents and caregivers are some of the leading causes of the problem.

In response to the problem, the social welfare department in collaboration with stakeholders provides probation and rehabilitation services which focus at preventing crime, rehabilitation of young offenders, street children, survivors of domestic violence and those affected by drug and substance abuse. Two approaches are used in the delivery of these services thus; community based and reformatory services. Community based involves crime prevention, supervision of juvenile offenders, resettlement and reintegration of released juveniles including prison visits to monitor the situation of young offenders requiring removal to places of safety. Reformatory services focus on character reformation services such as counselling, moral and spiritual guidance, academic education, vocational skills training, agriculture, socialisation and recreation. In Zomba, probation services are being provided in partnership with police, the courts, Prison Department, Chilwa Reformatory Centre and other non-governmental organizations like Bwalo Initiative, Youth-Net and Counselling, Biunique and Paralegal Advisory Service Institute (PASI).

Despite the remarkable progress and the efforts of stakeholders in the provision of probation services, there are a lot of challenges that the social welfare sector is facing in this regard. Determination of real ages of juveniles is at most times difficult because many children do not have birth certificates. And this gives room for over-aged adults to abuse the system while juveniles are treated as adults because of their physical appearance. Another challenge is lack of safe homes to keep children whilst awaiting trial. There is no such facility in the district and this result into children being kept in police cells which according to the available legislation is not a conducive place for children. In extreme scenarios, children also stay longer on remand especially those committing capital offenses without trial and this denies them justice. The lack of safe places for juvenile offenders is also exerting pressure on the already resource constrained Chilwa Reformatory Centre which is overburdened



hence leading to a compromise in the quality of reformatory services being provided. Another challenge also relates to labelling of juvenile offenders by communities which affects the rehabilitation and reintegration process. Because of this, some children have ended up becoming habitual and perpetual offenders or resorted to staying in the streets because they are not welcome in their communities due to labelling. Probation and rehabilitation services in the district are also greatly affected by lack of funding to the entire system as such it is difficult to conduct social inquiries, follow up of released juveniles and provision of economic empowerment services such as vocational skills and other forms of trainings to juveniles. Lastly, there is also inadequate dissemination of the available legislation on probation among partners and communities in the district.

#### **d. NGO and CBO Coordination Services**

The provision of social welfare services in Malawi owes its foundation to working with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other civil society groups. The Department of Social Welfare therefore facilitates the establishment, registration and partnerships with civil society organisations such as Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) and local NGOs that are implementing programmes for the vulnerable children, families and communities. There are currently 50 Non-Governmental Organizations implementing social welfare services such as child protection, ECD, Diversion, Human rights, HIV/IADS and economic Empowerment among other activities in the district. Most important to note is the fact that there is a continuous growth of local NGOs which are graduating from operating as CBOs (see table below). Examples of such organizations are Youth for Development and Productivity (YODEP), Tikondane Positive Living Support Organization (TIPLSO), Tikondwe Action Hope Support Organization (TAHOSO), Mtogolo CBO and Mawa ndi Anthu Wotisamala among others. This is encouraging and has been made possible with support from such partners as Be-More Malawi which provides capacity building to such organizations. In terms of coverage, T.A Mkumbira still remains the least covered area in terms of NGO activities while T.A Mwambo has the most number and concentration of non-governmental organizations in the district.

**Table 65 Focal Areas for the NGOs in Child Protection Issues**

<b>Name of NGO</b>	<b>Type of Interventions</b>	<b>Catchment Area</b>
Age Africa	Child Protection and Educational Support (Bursary)	TA Chikowi
Aquaid Life Line Ministry	Child Protection, Educational support, Health	T.A Mwambo
Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi	ECD and Child Protection	T.A Kuntumanji
Be More Malawi	CBO capacity building	Whole
Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission	Child Protection, ECD, Educational Support, Psychosocial Support	T.A Kuntumanji and STA Nkagula
Broom Trust	ECD, Child protection, feeding programme for OVC,	T.A Mwambo
Bwalo Initiative	Probation and Aftercare, Reintegration/ family reunification for street children, vocational skills and economic empowerment	Whole
Biunique	Diversion, probation and aftercare	Whole
Campaign for Female Education (CAMFED)	Child Protection, Educational Support for girls	Whole
Catholic Health Commission	Child protection, ECD and Educational Support, Health, Nutrition	T.A Mlumbe and STA Nkapita
Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP)	Human rights, Advocacy	STA Nkapita
Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR)	Human Rights and Advocacy	Whole
CEPARAM	ECD and Child Protection	TA Mwambo
Charity For All (Chancellor College)	Educational support, Child protection and Advocacy	Whole
CHAYOF	Child protection	T.A Malemia
Childcare Organization	Health, Individual Child Sponsorship, Education Support, CBCC	TA Mwambo
Chingale Neno Recovery Programme and Development	ECD, Child Protection, Educational Support, Economic Empowerment	STA Nkapita
Chirimba women Support Organization	ECD, Relief, Child Protection and Vocational Skills	T.A Malemia
Compassionate Missions Centre	Elderly care, Child Protection, Rehabilitation for PWDs	Whole
CRECCOM	Economic Empowerment, Child Protection, Educational Support (Bursary)	TA Kuntumanji, TA Chikowi

Eagles Relief and Development Programme	ECD, Child protection, Relief	T.A Mwambo
Emmanuel International	Child Protection, Economic Empowerment, VSL	T.A Malemia, T.A Kuntumanji and T.A Mkumbira
Future Vision Ministries	ECD, Child Protection	
Good goal foundation	ECD, Child Protection and Educational Support	T.A Chikowi
Grace orphan Care	Economic Empowerment, Child Protection, Educational Support	T.A Chikowi
Legal Clinic (Chancellor College)	Human Rights	T.A Chikowi
LIN DOROTHEA (Chancellor College)	Education Support (Bursary)	Whole
Lions Club	Education Support (Bursary)	Whole
MACOHA	Economic empowerment for PWDS, Vocational skills, Rehabilitation and Early treatment	Whole
Malawi Carer	Human Rights and Advocacy	Whole
Malawi Red cross society	OVC, Child Protection, ECD, Educational Support, WASH	T.A Mwambo
Malawi Scouts	ECD	T.A Malemia
Mawa ndi Anthu Ofisamala	ECD, Child Protection, economic empowerment	T.A Mlumbe
Millenium village	OVC, Educational Support and Child Protection	T.A Mlumbe
Mphanje CBO	ECD, Child Protection, economic empowerment	STA Nkapita
Mtogolo CBO	ECD, Child protection, Educational support, Health	T.A Malemia
Namikango Mission	Health, Child Protection and support to people with disabilities	Whole
NAPHAM	HIV/AIDS, Counseling	Whole
One Voice CBO	ECD, Child Protection, economic empowerment	TA Mlumbe
PASI	Diversion, probation and aftercare, Human Rights and Advocacy	Whole
Passion centre for Children	Child protection, Educational support, Economic Empowerment	T.A Mwambo
SAVE the children	ECD, Educational Support, Child Protection	T.A Chikowi, T.A Mbiza, STA Ngwelero and Ntholowa

Shine Relief Trust	Child Protection, Relief, Educational Support	TA Kuntumanji
Sub-Saharan Family Enrichment (SAFE)	ECD, Educational Support, HIV/AIDS, Elderly support, OVC	T.A Kuntumanji and STA Nkagula
Tikondane Positive Living and Support Organization (TIPOLISO)	ECD, Child Protection,	STA Nkapita
Women's Legal Resource Centre (WOLREC)	Human Rights, Legal counsel	STA Nkagula
World Vision	Child Protection, OVC, Human Rights ECD and Educational Support	T.A Mwambo and STA Nkapita
YOCE	ECD, Youth Empowerment	T.A Mwambo
YONECO	HIV/AIDS, Child protection, Help Line, Psychosocial support, Safe Places, Drop in Centres	Whole
Youth for Development and Productivity (YODEP)	ECD, Child Protection, HIV/AIDS, Psychosocial Support, VSL and economic empowerment, Vocational skills and youth Empowerment	T.A Mwambo

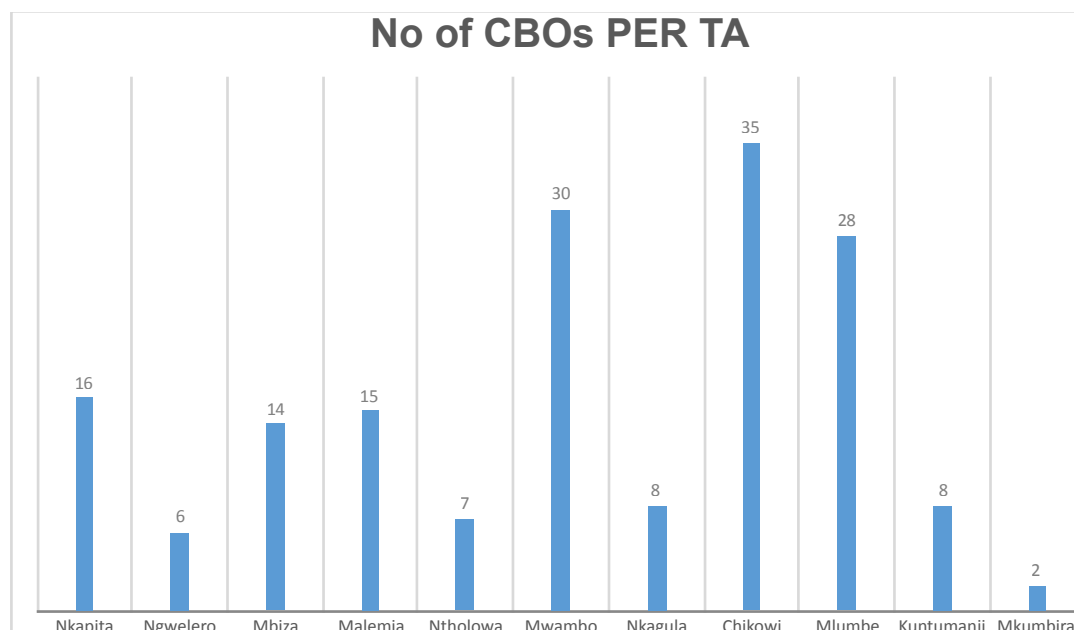
Source: Zomba District Council, 2017

Table 65 above shows that NGOs and CSOs are fairly distributed in Zomba as they cover almost all Traditional Authorities. This gives chance for physical and social infrastructure development to be implemented reasonably fairly around the district, being accessible to socio-economic services by the citizens in the district. However, not all NGOs and CSOs operate in all areas. Some, like YODEP and Millenium Village, are limited to some corners of the district while others like Bwalo, CHRR, YONECO, PASI, e.t.c, cover almost all parts of the district. This presents unequal access to services to the people of Zomba, particularly where general development issues are being addressed.

#### **e. Community Based Organizations (CBOs)**

There has seen an increase in the number of CBOs that the District Social Welfare Office registered. Currently, there are 169 registered CBOs which is a significant increase from 15 in 2000 as shown in Figure 37. The establishment and formation of these structures is facilitated by guidelines which also clearly define their catchment areas as being CBO level and mandate. Among other activities, CBOs, FBOs and CSGs undertake various activities which include; orphan care, ECD, VSL, Home Based Care, HIV/AIDS interventions and youth activities. Some CBOs continue to run Income Generating Projects that were funded by MASAF and NAC. In addition, 33 CBOs from Zomba also received small grants from NAC to implement various HIV/AIDS related activities in the district.

**Figure 37 Distribution of CBOs by TA in Zomba**



Source: Zomba DSWO, 2017

As it can be seen from the figure above the highest number of CBOs is found in Senior Chief Chikowi (35). This is attributed to the high number of GVHs in Chikowi since CBOs are concentrated at GVH level. On the other hand, Mkumbira has the lowest number of CBOs (2). Being an island with two GVHs, there are also two CBOs in the area.

Despite the commendable job being done by NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and Support Groups in serving the interests of vulnerable groups, there are still some challenges that the Social Welfare sector is facing in the coordination of these structures. Firstly, despite complementing government efforts in the implementation of social welfare services, many NGOs do not provide reports to the district social welfare office. In addition, there is a general lack of transparency and accountability on how much resources organizations spend on social welfare related services hence need to conduct a comprehensive resource mapping. The coordination structures at district and community levels are also being weakened because of the preference by some NGOs to create parallel structures instead of supporting or strengthening the existing ones. Furthermore, there is a concentration of NGOs in same areas while other T.As like T.A Mkumbira and STA Nkapiita are underserved.

With regard to CBOs and FBOs, it has been observe that many of these structures are not progressing because of the founder syndrome which kills the spirit of philanthropy that guides their operations. Many CBOs operate as a family estate and have never changed leadership as they are considered personal properties. The second challenge is lack of capacity and low literacy levels. Although CBOs implement a range of services, many of the people do so out of self will and commitment and have never received any training or capacity building to sharpen their skills. This greatly compromises the quality of services they provide. Furthermore, many CBOs lack funding carry out their activities. This problem is coupled by lack of capacity on resource mobilization and other skills and low literacy levels which limit their abilities. Another challenge is that some CBOs who received income generating projects like Maize Mills are not using the proceeds to benefit Orphans. In many cases, such projects have been turned into family businesses at the expense orphans and communities who they serve.

#### **f. People with Disabilities and the Elderly**

According to the District Social Welfare Office Data, the district has registered 4038 People with disabilities (1697 males; 2341 females) and 9137 elderly persons (3,522 males and 5,615). Services being offered to these groups of people include medical rehabilitation, counselling and education which are provided by such organizations as SAFE, Namikango Mission, and Compassionate Missions centre, Chanco Legal Clinic based at Chikanda CBO, Future Vision and Malawi Council for the Handicapped (MACOHA) which has now an office in Zomba. Government of Malawi is also scaling up implementation of the Social Cash Transfer programme and Zomba is one of the beneficiary districts. Once rolled out, it is anticipated that people with disabilities and the elderly will be some of the beneficiaries of the programme because many of them fall under the ultra-poor quantile.

There are still a lot challenges that people with disabilities and the elderly are facing in the district. Firstly, there are a lot of grandparents who are taking care of orphans and vulnerable children in Zomba due to death of parents to HIV and AIDS. This is a great challenge because many of them do not have a stable livelihood to support extended families. In addition, the elderly and people with disabilities continue to face various forms of discrimination ranging from witchcraft accusation (for the elderly). There is also lack of awareness on the rights and availability of services for people with disabilities in the communities. For instance, many parents in Zomba do not prefer to send a child with disabilities to CBCCs and school or to the hospital for early treatment. Many people with disabilities also lack assistive devices for mobility such as bicycles and hearing and visual aids depending on the type of disability. Access to important social services such as health and education by people with disabilities is also greatly hampered by the unavailability of special needs personnel in such facilities who can communicate with them. Many public places and infrastructures in Zomba also continue to be inaccessible because they are not disability friendly. There is also an increasing hand out syndrome for many people with disabilities and the elderly due to lack of comprehensive programmes and organizations targeting them. People with disabilities in the district also need to be trained in various trades so that they become self-reliant and independent.

#### **g. Public Assistance**

The aim of public assistance is to provide temporary financial and material assistance and psychosocial support to individuals or families in a crisis. The District Social Welfare Office provides counseling, transport assistance, accommodation and food to destitute people depending on the availability of funds. Sometimes referrals are made to relatives or other partners. On average, the office handles 200 cases of destitution in a year. However, the office does not receive any financial support with which it can continuously implement this function.

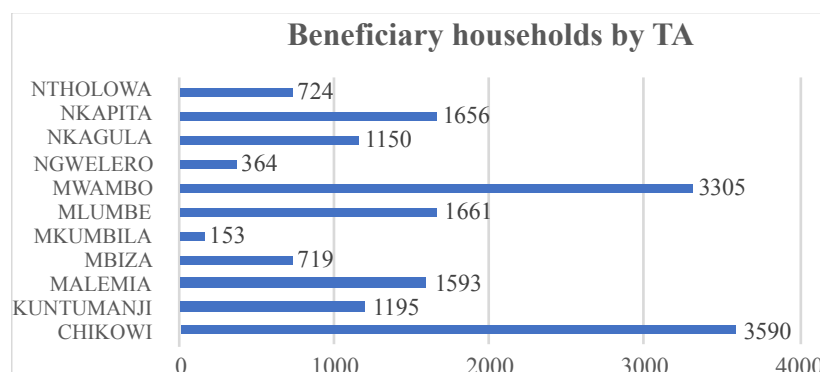
#### **h. Social Support Services (Social Cash Transfer)**

The district, through Social Welfare office is implementing Social Cash Transfer Programme, as part fulfillment of provision of Social Support Services. The programme was introduced in October 2014, targeting ultra-poor and labour constrained households. It aims at reducing poverty, malnutrition, as well as improving school enrolment. The programme currently covers the whole district reaching out to 16,110 beneficiary households, with a total of 70,586 household members. The number however keeps fluctuating due updates where members deceased are exited from the programme.

Beneficiary households that have children enrolled in school receive school bonus every month on top of their monthly entitlements. TA Chikowi has the highest number

of beneficiary households, 3590, followed by Mwambo, 3305. TA Mkumbira has the least number of beneficiary households, 153. Figure 38 shows number of beneficiaries by TA.

**Figure 38 Number of Beneficiary Households by TA**

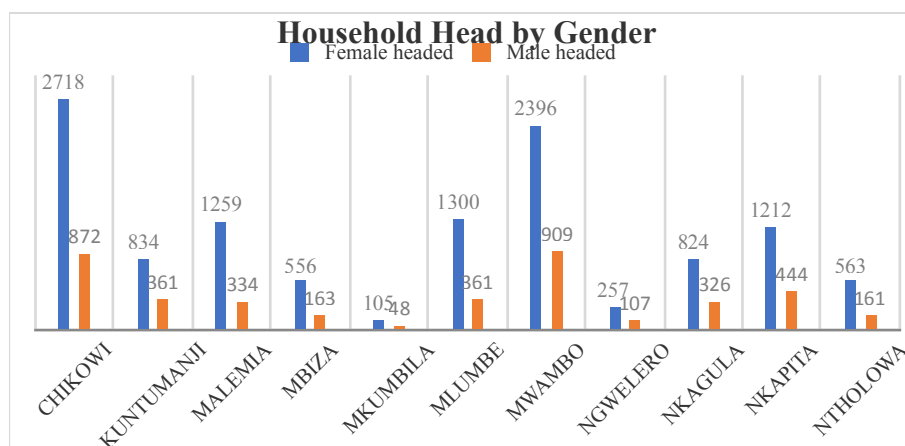


Source: SCTP office, 2017.

#### **a. Characteristics of beneficiary households**

Of the 16, 110 households, 12,053 are female headed, representing 75%. This in part fulfills the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare's mission of promoting social-economic empowerment of women and children.

**Figure 39 Household Head by Gender**

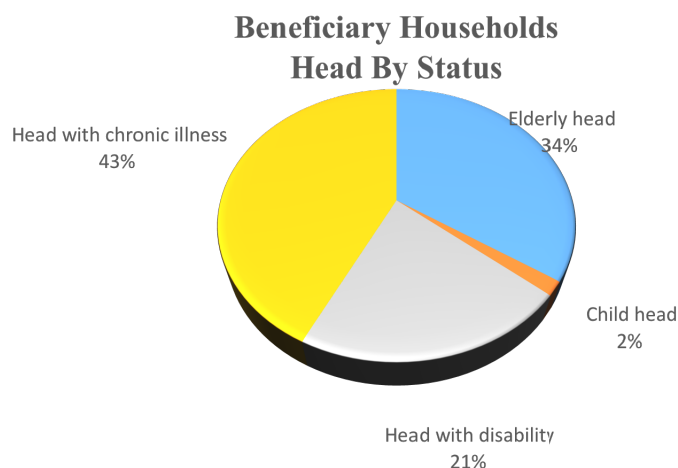


Source: SCTP office, 2017.

Figure 39 shows that majority of beneficiary household heads in Zomba were females. TA Chikowi has the highest number of female headed beneficiary households, 2718, followed by TA Mwambo which has 2396 female headed households. Mkumbira has the least female headed beneficiary households 105.



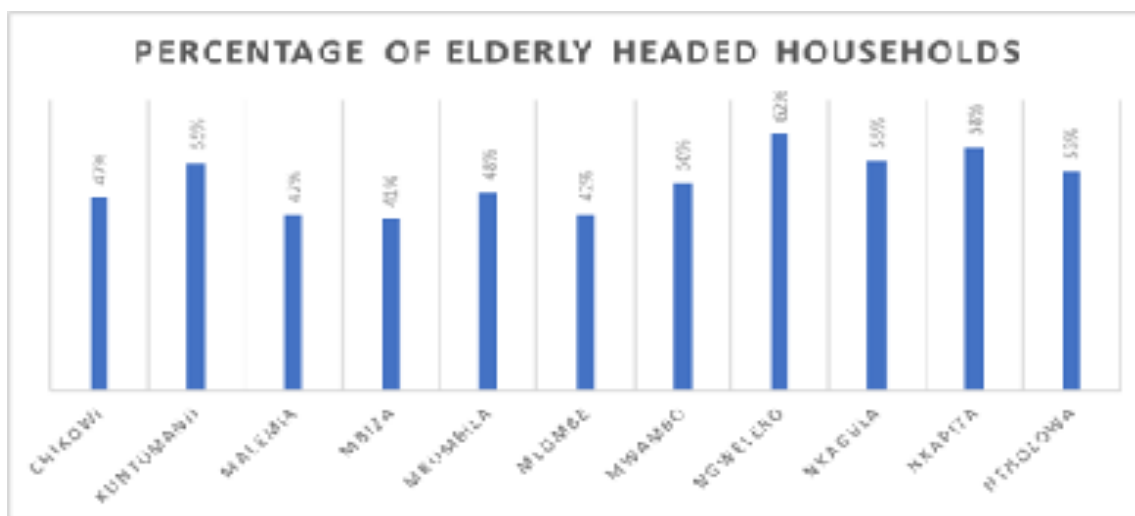
**Figure 40 Beneficiary Household Head by Status**



Source: SCTP office, 2017

As can be noted from Figure 40, 43% of the beneficiary households in the district are headed by people that are chronically ill, followed by elderly headed households while the least, while only 2% of the households are child headed. However, it must also be pointed out that some beneficiary households head have multiple characteristics, where one can be elderly and chronically ill at the same time. Such being the case, the sum total of the percentages in the chart is above 100.

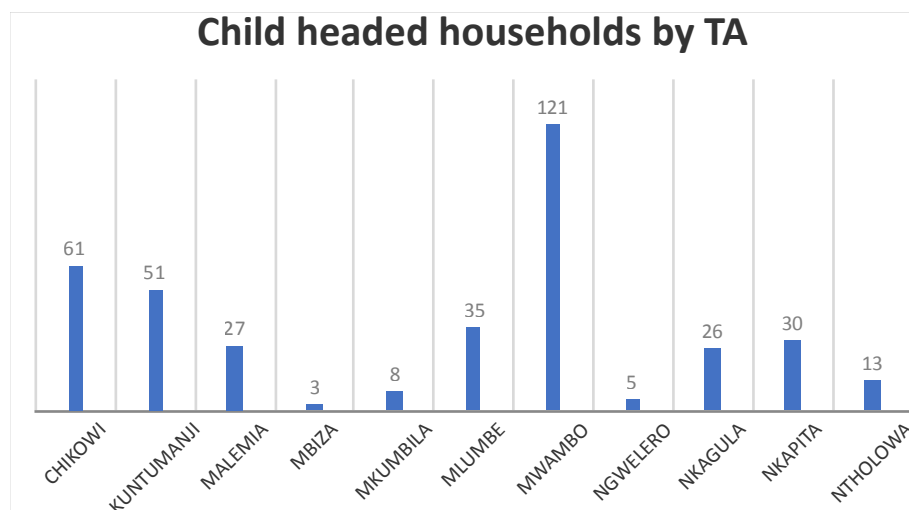
**Figure 41 Percentage of Elderly Headed Households**



Source: SCTP office, 2017

From Figure 41, it is evident that the majority of beneficiary household heads in STA Ngweleru, (62%), are elderly headed, seconded by STA Nkapita, (58). TA Mbiza has the least percentage of elderly headed households, (41%).

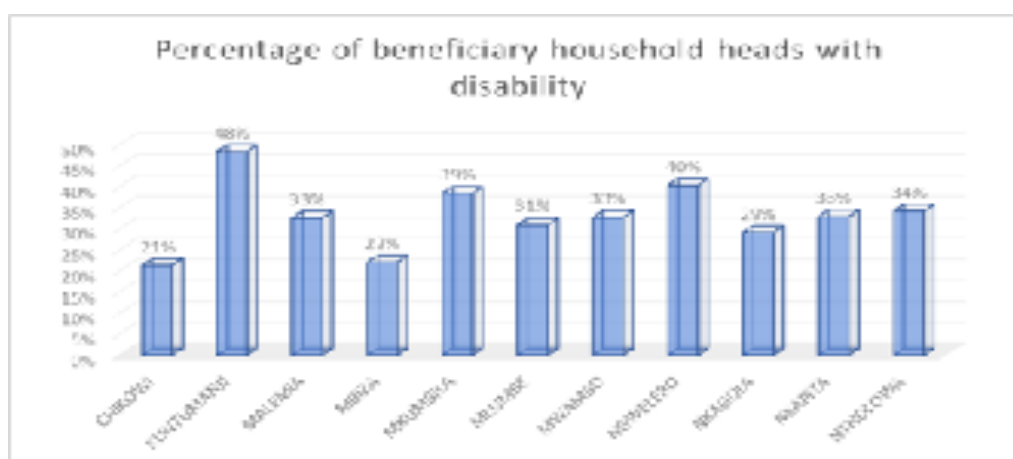
**Figure 42 Number of Child Headed Households by TA**



Source: SCTP office, 2017

Figure 42 shows that TA Mwambo has the largest number of child headed beneficiary households, followed by TA Chikowi, while Mbiza has the least, only three households.

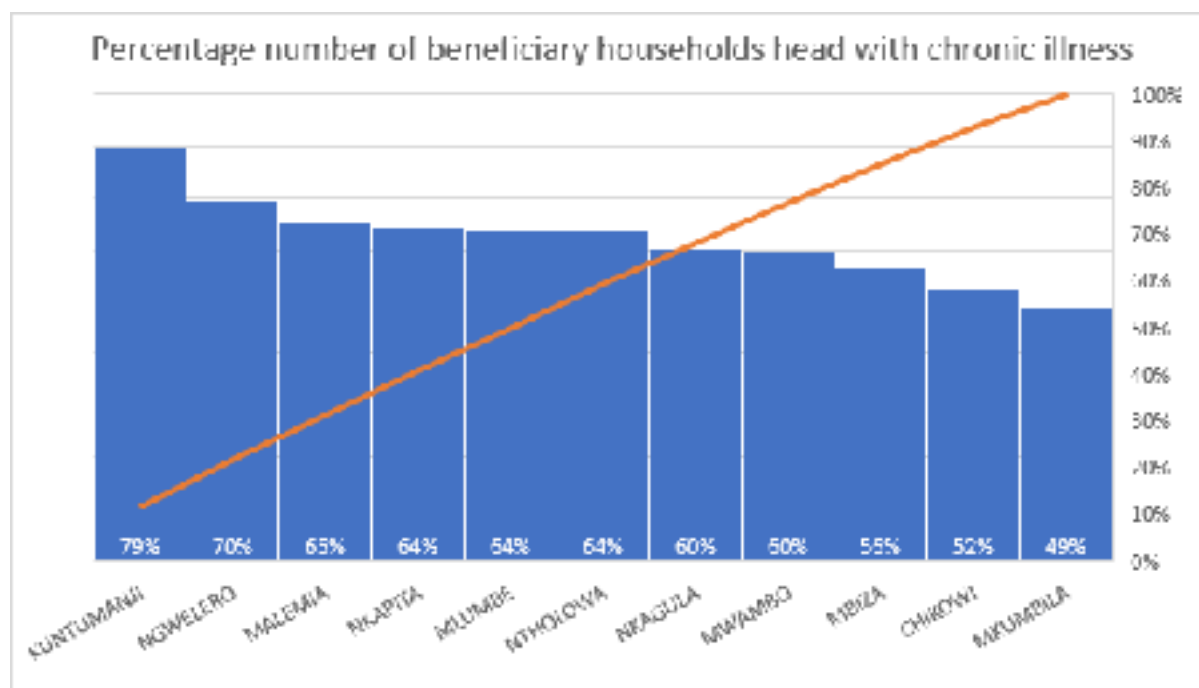
**Figure 43 Percentage of Beneficiary Household Heads with Disability**



Source: SCTP office, 2017

Figure 43 show that TA Kuntumanji has the highest percentage of beneficiary households headed by people with disability, followed by STA Ngwelerero. Mbiza has the least number of households headed by people with disability.

**Figure 44 Percentage Number of Beneficiary Household heads with Chronic Illness**



Source: SCTP office, 2017

Figure 44 shows that in TA Kuntumanji, (79%), most of the beneficiary household heads are chronically ill, followed by Ngwelero, (70%). The least number of beneficiary households with chronically ill heads is Mkumbira, (49%).

#### **b. Challenges**

1. The school bonus that is issued to beneficiary households with school going children, is not enough to cover most of school necessities.
2. There is a lot of school going children that are supposed to be in school but are not. Some due to early marriages while others are into labour.
3. Most of the beneficiary households do not invest the little they get. This poses a threat to the sustainability of the programme should it come to an end.
4. There is a lot more vulnerable households that were left out in the programme due to either exclusion error or incorrect population data for their area which led to small allocation of number of beneficiary households.
5. There are some village heads and committee members that force beneficiary households to share their entitlements with them. This poses a threat to achievement of programme goals.

#### **c. Human Resource**

The office has five qualified social workers who are based at the district one of whom is a Probation Officer. The number of staff is inadequate considering the increased demand for social welfare services in the district. In addition, there are 26 Community Child Protection Workers who are frontline workers in all matters relating to the protection of children. Ideally, each CCPW is supposed to cover one GVH but currently, the available CCPWs cover vast areas (some even TAs). T.A Mwambo has the most number of Child Protection Workers (6) because they are all volunteers operating from their home areas as such they cannot be transferred to other areas. Of the 26 CCPWs, only 13 are on government payroll while the rest work as volunteers. The main challenges facing the district in terms of human resources are: inadequate office space for district officers, lack of transport and mobility for CCPWs who cover vast areas and lack of incentives for CCPWs many of whom are volunteers.

## 5.5 Youth Development

The youth are crucial to the development of themselves, that of their community and the world at large. This is so because it has been argued by many scholars that there cannot be progress in any society without a great concern for the youth as the youth across the globe are considered to be the “agents of change driven by the need for better life, as well as, a lost generation trapped by their economic vulnerability” (Resnick and Thurlow, 2015:1). This is so because of many factors one of which is that the Youth make up a big proportion of the world's population as , (Sommers, 2010) observes that almost half the population is now below the age of 25 and 1.5 billion between the ages of 12 and 24 years. Similarly, Malawi's biggest population comprise of young people as statistics indicates that 40% of its population are within the age range of 10-29 years and it is still growing. 73% are under age of 30 out of which 52% is below the age of 18.

MGDS III recognises the important sector can play in the socio-economic development of the country. Under Key Priority Area 6.1.5 in the MGDS III, the goal is clearly defined as ‘to build an equitable society where opportunity is not defined by sex, age, disability and other vulnerabilities’.

Malawi is a youthful nation as indicated by the population of which more than half is below the age of 35. The National Youth Policy (2013) defines youth as any person aged 10 to 35 years. This encompasses everyone in the age group regardless of their marital status, economic status and whether one has children or not.

The Department of Youth Development is mandated to develop the full potential of the youth of Malawi and promote their active participation in personal and national development. In order to fulfil its mandate, the department implements activities in three core programme areas namely: Youth Participation, Youth Reproductive Health and Youth Livelihood. Zomba District is seriously endeavouring to nurture this youth potential through its various programmes and projects.

The youth represent a large, underutilized human resource that can positively impact Malawi's development and Zomba District to be specific and if they are neglected will be a detriment to development of Zomba district; this means their participation in development activities of the district is pertinent for its future. Zomba has a large youth population just as the country has, with total population of 830,309 almost 166,061 are youths aged 10-24 years and 581,216 are those between ages 35 and below. Most of these youths are unproductive. The Department of Youths is implementing a number of services pertaining to empowerment of the youths in Zomba and management of all youth activities in the district. There are about 190 registered youth groups across the district and 12 T/A Based youth networks. Each and every youth club/organization has got its specific objectives, catchment area and activities according to capacity and needs.

Therefore, it can be argued that, it will be impossible to reach the sustainable development goal targets particularly on ending extreme poverty (SDG 1), Zero hunger (SDG 2), good health and wellbeing (SDG 3), quality education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), climate action (SDG 13), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16) if the youths are not properly incorporated into the SDGs programmes.

The government of Malawi and its partners has put in place policies and programmes that typically seek to realize this apparent potential in youth namely National Youth Policy, the National Youth strategy, and the National Youth friendly health service strategy that stipulates the following programmes for the youth: Youth Economic Empowerment, Youth participation and development, Health, literacy and policy guidance. The Youth sector aims at setting the stage for successful

positive youth development through services, opportunities and support: meeting basic needs; offering supportive, long-term relationships; and providing a range of challenging opportunities that engage both in- school and out of school youth in building strengths rather than excluding them in development activities. The sector reaches out to the youth on the ground through various structures and some of the structures that we have include youth clubs, youth organisation, youth Centres, teen mother groups, Young people living with HIV/AIDS groups, T/A Based youth networks just to mention a few. There are about 213 registered youth groups across the district (Rural). Each and every youth structure has got its specific objectives, catchment area and activities according to its capacity and the needs of its target people, the people it serves.

### Number Of Youth Structures Per T/A



District Youth Office, 2017

T/A Chikowi and T/A Mlumbe show high number of youth clubs because of their geographical size and also because young people in the area have been well sensitized on the importance of belonging to a youth club. On the other hand Chikowi has the highest number of youth club also because of different interventions by partners in the area. It must be noted that there are a lot of youth clubs in the areas but then some of them are not registered with the youth office either because they are not well informed on the process of registration or they don't feel like doing so.

The chart also shows that we don't have enough Youth resource centres and community skills development centres in the district. As per the guidelines, each and every T/A is supposed to have a youth resource centre. Youth resource centres are effective in linking comprehensive, integrated services and networks between existing services as it provides availability of a wide range of activities and services to young people. These are easily accessible and provided under one roof in a setting architecturally designed to allow adequate space in a youth friendly atmosphere.

A youth centre is an alternative to life-styles that are self-destructive, providing an acceptable source of help for young people who are unable or unlikely to approach the traditional agencies and institutions. At the Youth Centre young people apart from accessing different services provided by the government and other partners, they are also involved in planning the services designed for them and provide these services to their peers and the communities, as such it is of paramount

importance for the district to have such centres. Meanwhile, one of the sectors reform areas is to construct youth resource centres in the T/A s but then due to limited resource the process seems to be so slow.

## **5.6 Programmes and Services for the Youth**

### **5.6.1 Youth Economic Empowerment (Yee)**

Under this programme, the sector aims at Promoting the spirit of tolerance and equality, to make sure that youth actively take part in all national development processes and undertake initiatives for their own economic development. The poor socio-economic status of the youth in the district is cause for concern and poses threats to the political and economic systems of the district. To address this, the sector seeks to economically empower the youth of Zomba with the provision of the YEE package –Technical skills, Entrepreneurship skills and business capital .This is done in order to enable them become active and effective participants in driving the economy. Through TEVETA, the government provides access to TEVET for the youth such that it enrolls young people on its formal programme and also informal sector programme in the technical colleges and community skills development centres try while others are attached to different Master trainers respectively. Among many other things, youths are also being encouraged and motivated to remain in or go back to school through mentorship, counselling and inspirational talks.

On the other hand the youth are also encouraged to take active role in agriculture. This is because there are well established arguments about the ability of agriculture to act as an engine of economic growth and the evidence of strong poverty reduction effects associated with growth in the smallholder sector (Christiansen et al., 2011). Policy and programmes typically seek to realize this apparent potential through group farming schemes, training in entrepreneurship improved access to markets and micro-credit and other productive assets (Sumberg et al., 2015: 116).

The youth in Zomba remain largely unemployed because of the high literacy levels and poor employment opportunities for them. The general range for unemployment rate in Malawi is between 2.5 % and 5.5 % depending on the subpopulations of interest. The national average unemployment rate is 3 % and for men it is 2.5 % while for women it is 3.4 %. When the age distribution of the unemployed is considered, it is evident that the highest rate of unemployed is 4.7 % for the age group 15-19 (youth category), 8.3 % for urban areas in the age group 20-24. There is also gender dimension to youth unemployment in Malawi as for males in urban areas the highest unemployment rate is 7 % in the age group 20-24. For females in urban areas the highest unemployment rate is 9.6 % in the age group 20-24. This means that, on average, young women have higher unemployment rate than young men. This is due to social-cultural structures in Malawi which favour men than women. Most employers in the formal job sector in Malawi employ adults because they are perceived to be more mature and with work experience (Boti, 2015; GoM, 2010; GoM, 2008).

. In the circles of youth unemployment, the interesting part being that the biggest employing sector agriculture only engage a smallest proportion of the biggest population group in Malawi, the youth. Like many developing countries, the youth hardly see agriculture as a viable business and career option, the sector is perceived as a last resort hence, a minor proportion of youth actively engaged in agriculture.

In order to encourage the youth to take up agriculture seriously the sector though not adequately, has rolled out several programmes to harness the potential of agriculture to absorb significant portions of the youth. To this effect, Youth Run Enterprises (YREs) that lean towards agriculture are being promoted by the government, agriculture based civil society organizations and private sector (in

particular commercial banks) to create jobs and make the youth economically productive in their own specially created spaces where they can explore their ideas and discover the potential they have regarding contributing to national development. YREs are being encouraged as part of commercialization of the agriculture sector to compliment the aspirations of attaining economic growth as pursued by Malawi Growth Development Strategy II (2012-16) (GoM, 2012). Further to this, there are efforts made to shift the mindset of the youth about agriculture being narrowed to farming to include livestock, agribusiness and value chain activities. Pursuance of agriculture from the broad and holistic understanding in an innovative way seems to be promising in terms of pulling and catching the wide base of youth getting excited and involved in agriculture. A few projects that have been implemented in the district like adapt plan, agriculture sector have proved that youth entrepreneurship assists in driving back the marginalized youth into the economic mainstream. This indicates that encouraging the youth in innovation and resilience can resolve some socio-political troubles emanating from joblessness.

There are well established arguments about the ability of agriculture to act as an engine of economic growth and the evidence of strong poverty reduction effects associated with growth in the smallholder sector (Christiansen et al., 2011). Policy and programmes typically seek to realize this apparent potential through group farming schemes, training in entrepreneurship improved access to markets and micro-credit and other productive assets (Sumberg et al., 2015: 116).

In Malawi remain largely unemployed. The general range for unemployment rate in Malawi is between 2.5 % and 5.5 % depending on the subpopulations of interest. The national average unemployment rate is 3 % and for men it is 2.5 % while for women it is 3.4 %. When the age distribution of the unemployed is considered, it is evident that the highest rate of unemployed is 4.7 % for the age group 15-19 (youth category), 8.3 % for urban areas in the age group 20-24. There is also gender dimension to youth unemployment in Malawi as for males in urban areas the highest unemployment rate is 7 % in the age group 20-24. For females in urban areas the highest unemployment rate is 9.6 % in the age group 20-24. This means that, on average, young women have higher unemployment rate than young men. This is due to social-cultural structures in Malawi which favor men than women. Most employers in the formal job sector in Malawi employ adults because they are perceived to be more mature and with work experience (Boti, 2015; GoM, 2010; GoM, 2008).

The prevalence of high youth unemployment is a global problem as indicated by the International Labour Organization study in 2012 where 73.4 million youth aged between 18 and 24 were unemployed (International Labour Organisation, 2012). The youth bulge has over the years led to unemployment challenge among the youth and those employed have poor returns and work under poor conditions. In the circles of youth unemployment, the interesting part being that the biggest employing sector; agriculture only engage a smallest proportion of the biggest population group in Malawi; the youth. Like many developing countries, the youth hardly see agriculture as a viable business and career option, the sector is perceived as a last resort hence, a minor proportion of youth actively engaged in agriculture.

In order to encourage the youth to take up agriculture seriously the government has rolled out several programmes to harness the potential of agriculture to absorb significant portions of the youth. To this effect, Youth Run Enterprises (YREs) that lean towards agriculture are being promoted by the sector in order to create jobs and make the youth economically productive in their own specially created spaces where they can explore their ideas and discover the potential they have regarding contributing to national development. YREs are being encouraged as part of commercialization of the agriculture sector to compliment the aspirations of attaining economic growth as pursued by Malawi Growth Development Strategy II (2012-16) (GoM, 2012). Further to this, there are efforts made to shift the mindset of

the youth about agriculture being narrowed to farming to include livestock, agribusiness and value chain activities. Pursuance of agriculture from the broad and holistic understanding in an innovative way seems to be promising in terms of pulling and catching the wide base of youth getting excited and involved in agriculture but resources are a limiting factor to realise this goal. A few projects that have been implemented in the agriculture sector have proved that youth entrepreneurship assists in driving back the marginalized youth into the economic mainstream, encourage innovation and resilience in youth and resolve some socio-political troubles emanating from joblessness.

### **5.5.2 Sexual and Reproductive Health**

Efforts are being made to ensure that young people stay healthy and productive. So in essence, SRH is aimed at ensuring that the country has healthy and productive youths (youths are trained in life skills, peer education, Sexual reproductive health, HIV and AIDS), youth access the youth friendly health services and most important of it all are encouraged to practice abstinence before marriage.

DHS indicates that 73.1% young women and 65.7% young men which supposes the national rate which is at 53.2 have their first sexual intercourse before the age of 18 in Zomba. It further indicates that premarital sexual intercourse among young people from the age of 15-25 is 48.9% for female and 33.3% for young men as the national rate is at 38.1%,(DHS 2015-2016)..This is detrimental to the personal development of the young people and that of the societies as it poses a high risk of the young people to early marriages, STIs and HIV AIDS. It has been projected that population in Zomba rural will be 871,224 in 2030This is detrimental to the personal development of the young people and that of the societies as it poses a high risk of the young people to early marriages, STIs and HIV AIDS. This implies that approaches going beyond empowering youth with entrepreneurship skills, participation in community national activities to increasing the roles and responsibilities of boys and girls in a comprehensive approach that focuses on individual behaviour change and a wider social, cultural and economic change. The government believe that youths have to be at the forefront of redefining new social dynamics, social norms and structures that would ultimately build on efforts to date and initiate new ones

### **5.6.3 Youth Friendly Health Services**

This programme seeks to ensure that young people are healthy, satisfied and productive through the provision of quality, comprehensive integrated YFHS that are relevant, accessible, attractive, affordable, appropriate and acceptable to young people aged 10-24 years. The district has 35 health facilities whereby 22 are government run, 10 are run by Christian health Organization (CHAM), and 3 are run by other government institutions with 1 referral hospital. In total 25 health facilities have active YFHS clubs that is an entry point to YFHS provision in the district. Almost 98% of the facilities in the district has the minimum number of trained YFHS providers According to Malawi health and demographic Survey for 2016 there is high productivity among the youths. For instance 25% of the teen aged girls are mothers MDH Survey (2016). According to the survey that was conducted by PACHI in 2016 in 3 T/As in Zomba namely: Mwambo, Chikowi and Mlumbe shows that 45% of women who die because of pregnancy related diseases are the youths aged 10-24. There is also high HIV infection rate in Zomba amongst the youth which is at 12.6% thus above the National rate. This indicates the high need for YFHS among the youths in the district to address the early marriages, high mortality rate, high fertility rate, high HIV infection rate and increased sexual abuse among others. No health facility is accredited this results in low quality and identification of YFHS prioritisation and low turn up of young people to YFHS SDPs due to lack of recreation materials. Recreation materials are the key attraction point of youths to accessing YFHS and information.



#### 5.6.4 Drug and Alcohol Abuse

There are no major problems on Use of alcohol in Zomba District going by the percentage of people age 15-49 years who had at least one alcoholic drink which was found at 0.5% for women and 19% for men. In comparison, the study found that 1.3% and 1.5% of women in Malawi and Southern Region respectively use alcohol. Use of alcohol among men at was at 22.7% for Malawi and 22.4% for Southern Region. This is lower in comparison to statistics on alcohol for other countries in the SADC Region or Africa as a whole. However, it is important for Zomba District to keep monitoring the trend to avoid escalation and try to move towards zero in tandem with SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing by the year 2030.

#### 5.6.5 Sports

Sport is one of the tools for social- economic and a healthy wellbeing in a society as well as for Zomba District Council. Though it is a tool for social economic development only 30% of people in Zomba district are actively involved in well organized and competitive sport while 40% is involved in recreational sport. For three (3) decades in Zomba district, sport has not been regarded as a tool for social-economic development until sport personnel's in the district were properly sensitized on the benefits of competitive and organized sport by Malawi National Sports Council.

Basically Zomba district has twelve sports disciplines namely; football, netball, women's football, cricket, darts, athletics, pool, volleyball, basketball, hockey, in door games and tennis. Regardless of the twelve disciplines at district level, only three are much promoted implying 20% of sports disciplines are actively played. These include football, netball and in door games. Football is played in all constituencies is sponsored by interested stakeholders and is highly promoted at the grassroots level.

#### 5.6.6 Recreation facilities

Zomba District is yet to invest adequately in recreation facilities across the jurisdiction such as Youth Centres, Recreation Parks and Football Stadia. The current situation is that football is played in not so well developed play grounds mainly in primary schools across the district. There is need to invest adequately in these facilities so as to keep the youth engaged and promote good health and well-being in tandem with SDG 3 by the year 2030.

### 5.7 Youth NGOs , their Catchment and Intervention Areas

NAME OF PARTNERS	CATCHMENT AREA	AREA OF INTERVENTIONS
Banja La Mtsogolo	Whole Zomba	HTC, Family Planning Methods, Adolescent development
Save The Children	Chikowi, Mb'iza, Ngwerero, Tholowa, Mlumbé, Mwambo, Malemia and Kuntumanji	Adolescent develop, economic empowerment through provision of the YEE Package
CAMFED	Whole Zomba Rural	Education and young women empowerment through provision of bursaries, provision of YEE package and extra curriculum activities

Action Hope	Ntholowa, Chikowi, M'biza and Ngwelerero	Adolescent development and provision of the YEE Package
Village Reach	Malemia, Nkagula Kuntumanji, Mlumbé, Chikowi, Nkagula	Promotion of Health Living amongst Young people
PACHI	Mwambo, Mlumbé and Chikowi	Promotion of healthy living amongst young people
Youth for Development and Productivity	Chikowi Mwambo M'biza	Youth participation and Health
FHI 360	Whole Zomba	Adolescent development, education promotion
Zomba Vocation Skills Development Centre	Malemia	Skills development and Sports
CADECOM	Chikowi, Ntholowa, Ngwelerero and M'biza	Skills development
Creccom	Whole Zomba	Youth participation and literacy
Girl Effect	Whole Zomba	Youth participation
Centre for Youth Development	Whole Zomba	Youth participation
Youth Net and Counselling	Zomba	HIV and Aids, Reproductive Health and Youth Participation
Bwalo Initiatives	Chikowi and Mwambo	Skills Development
Future Vision Ministries		Sports and Youth participation
Knowledge and Multi-Skills development centre		
Red Cross	Mwambo	Environment
SOLISTIPA	Whole Zomba	Skills development
SAKATA Skills Development Centre	Whole Zomba	Skills development
Maunda Skills development Centre	T/A Kuntumanji	Skills development

Source: DYO 2017

## 5.8 Issues and Trends from Youth Sector

Although the youth make up a big proportion of the district's population and despite the many efforts put forward in empowering the youth by the government and non-governmental organizations, their needs are not fully being met due to so many several challenges ranging from social, cultural, economic and political continue to impede their active and full participation in the various district development

initiatives. The situation poses high risk of vulnerability as manifested by structured poverty, drug, alcohol and substance abuse, crime, prostitution, HIV and AIDS, STIs, early pregnancies and high illiteracy rate; limited access to secondary, tertiary, technical, vocational and entrepreneurial education; unemployment and under-employment; limited scientific awareness and access to information, communication and technology among others. As young people grow and develop, they will need to become productive adults, not only for themselves but also for the steadily growing population. Therefore focus on adolescence and youth can help to enhance the demographic dividend for a huge social and economic growth potential.

The dominance of Youth in the population presents major opportunities but also some challenges especially those out of school. This youth bulge creates the neo-Malthusian fear of increased resource scarcity in-terms of employment (Resnick and Thurlow, 2015). If managed well, a youth bulge maybe an opportunity not just a challenge. Apart from the ones discussed above, these challenges include personal awareness, planning for their future and putting their time and skills to useful activities that are beneficial to them and their peers. While some of the youth in the district have gained academic knowledge with others having special skills and talents because of efforts that are being done, putting these to test for their positive development in the absence of formal training and employment has become a great challenge hence there must be urgent strategic investment in ensuring that youths are able to make the most of their positional so they become agents for positive socioeconomic change leading the country into a period of innovation and social and economic productivity.

On Drug and Alcohol Abuse, there are no major problems on Use of alcohol in Zomba District going by the percentage of people age 15-49 years who had at least one alcoholic drink which was found at 0.5% for women and 19% for men. In comparison, the study found that 1.3% and 1.5% of women in Malawi and Southern Region respectively use alcohol. Use of alcohol among men was at 22.7% for Malawi and 22.4% for Southern Region (DHS 2016). This is lower in comparison to statistics on alcohol for other countries in the SADC Region or Africa as a whole (WHO 2016). More than 50% of the drug and alcohol related cases that come before the courts involve young people. However, it is important for Zomba District to keep monitoring the trend to avoid escalation and try to move towards zero in tandem with SDG 3 on good health and wellbeing by the year 2030.

Donor driven programmes. In a situation that relationship is dominated by the wealth and specialized knowledge of one side which does not take real issues of the targeted poor people as in how they want their situations to be addressed, does not give the sense of ownership for sustainability of the project. Inadequate mechanism for sustainability of programmes. Many of the programmes focus on alleviating problems that the youth are facing in the short term rather than focusing in the long term and the use of parallel structures than using the already existing structures contribute to the unsustainability of the programmes. So in essence, inadequate resources to implement activities, high levels of unemployment amongst the youth due to high illiteracy levels and poor employment opportunities, poverty, limited skills development facilities and limited prospects for post-secondary training and high population growth rate pose a big threat for the development of youths in the district.

In the district, we also have limited scientific awareness and access to information, communication and technology. Early marriages and teenage pregnancies are also high as already discussed above mainly due to poverty, the cultural practices, beliefs and attitudes of the rural people. Low participation of youth in various development programmes is also a big challenge as there is nothing for the youth without the youth themselves. Interventions to address these challenges requires

considerable economic resources for the sector as well as the provision of space for youth in different developmental initiatives.

Interventions to address these challenges requires considerable economic resources for the sector, good coordination and collaboration as well as the provision of space for youth in different developmental initiatives. Some of the interventions that need to be provided to the youth in the district in response to the so many challenges that are there are as follows:

- provision of a special room for youth friendly health services in the health centres
- provision of adequate and accessible post basic education services

## **5.9 Organisation Structure**

The District Youth Office is headed by the District Youth Officer, and then there are supporting staff members. On the ground, there are Youth clubs, Teen Mother, Young people living with HIV groups and if they do well they graduate to become youth organization. We have got T/A based Youth Networks in each T/A comprised of 4 members from each youth structure in that particular T/A. The T/A based Networks reports to the District Youth Network where the Chairperson and vice chairpersons of the T/A based youth networks are members. The District Youth Network reports to the District Youth and Sports Technical Working Group which is a multi- sectoral structure comprised of all those government sectors that have an interest in youth work and also all non-governmental structures that are implementing youth activities in the district. The duty of this grouping is to coordinate, implement and monitor activities that promote active youth participation and development. This grouping aims at strengthening coordination for effective and efficient implementation of youth and sports programmes as well as the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

## **5.6 HIV and AIDS**

The HIV & AIDS pandemic remains a health problem in Zomba District, and is believed to be one of the single most influential challenges in the development of the District because it cuts across various sectors and issues. The estimated HIV & AIDS prevalence rate among women and men age 15-49 that were tested in 2014 was 14.7%, considerably higher than the national average estimated at 10.6%. The prevalence rate for females according to MES (NSO, 2016) was 18% while for men at 11.2%. The number of sexually active populations who have ever been tested for HIV and receive results was at 49.6% for females and 32.7% for males. The achievement in this area according to the same study is that 93.5% of females and 95% of males know where to be tested and that 87% of women aged 15-49 have been tested during antenatal care and 81.8% have received counseling on HIV&AIDS.

The number of HIV positive persons having receiving Anti-Retroviral (ARV) treatment was decreasing due to more awareness and uptake of safe sex behaviors interventions and the ART facility has been registering few entrants on ART. However, the low figure is attributed to deaths and transfers outside Zomba and increased knowledge on safer sex behaviors.

### **5.6.1 Coordination Structures**

The office of DAC is mandated to coordinate the district HIV response by among other things ensuring that the district has a comprehensive and operational HIV & AIDS specific work-plan and to ensure that there are proper linkages, networking and collaboration between the council, NGOs and NAC on issues of HIV & AIDS. The office of DAC is the secretariat of DACC which is a committee that oversee the implementation of the HIV response in the district and reports to DEC on the same. In

the communities, there are CACCs and CBO-Network committees as well as VACCs which coordinate the response and these report directly to DACC and in-directly to ADC and AEC respectively.

### **5.6.2 HIV & AIDS Services**

HIV & AIDS services are provided by the MOH and CHAM and several other institutions especially three core programmes are of particular importance; (a) HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC), (b) Anti-Retroviral Therapy and (c) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT). These programmes run alongside support programmes on Information Education and Communication and Home Based Care (HBC). The DHO works with four NGOs (Dignitas International, MACRO and Banja La Mtsogolo) in the core programmes. There has been a rapid increase in HIV & AIDS programmes in the District since 2010. The scale up programme for HIV & AIDS is however being hampered by the lack of personnel, inadequate funding and intermittent flow of testing reagents. TA Mkumbira remains the least serviced area due to inaccessibility.

HTC services are currently offered in 52 facilities which are distributed across the District. Zomba has 41 sites offering ART services of which 5 are private. PMTCT services are offered at 41 facilities. Due to uneven distribution of ARV and PMTCT services, many people travel to Zomba City to receive such services at Zomba Central Hospital, Cobbe Barracks or at the Police College Hospital. NAC provides grants to CBOs as well as DBOs for HIV & AIDS programme support in the HIV district response.

### **5.6.3 Workplace Programmes**

Workplace based interventions are carried in all institutions among others Malawi Institute of Education, Domasi College of Education, St Luke's Hospital, Geological Survey, Chancellor College and SRWB headquarters all of which have workplace policies. The District wide Workplace Policy is yet to be developed and adopted.

The education sector provides HIV & AIDS information to pupils through a curriculum called Life Skills" and clubs like AIDS Toto or Why Wait?. The clubs are particularly active in areas where NGOs operate. Insufficient expertise amongst the teachers negatively impacts these programmes largely due to lack of orientation for Club Patrons.

Other organizations offering HIV and AIDS related services in the District include World Vision, Save the Children, Bwalo Initiative, Catholic Health Commission, CRECCOM, Dignitas International, Emmanuel International, Millennium Village Project, Namwera AIDS Coordinating Committee, NAPHAM, Malawi Red Cross, YONECO and SAFE. However, some organizations are scaling down on HIV & AIDS interventions on the perception that adequate information about the pandemic is successfully in the public domain.

### **5.6.4 Capacity and HIV & AIDS Policy Framework**

Inadequate staff and resources shortages, including lack of a policy framework to guide HIV & AIDS interventions in the District, are problems in the fight against HIV & AIDS. HSAs bear much of the burden of activities in HIV & AIDS programmes. The District AIDS coordinator and the District AIDS coordinating committee (DACC) coordinate HIV & AIDS programmes. A total of 16 international and local NGOs execute different programmes, particularly in advocacy and impact mitigation.

### **5.6.5 Key Drivers of the Epidemic in the District**

There are a number of key drivers of the epidemic including poverty, illiteracy and low education levels in general, harmful cultural practices like *kusasa fumbi* practiced after the initiation ceremony, and of late an increase in peculiar behaviors

which would not really constitute a culture. Such behaviors are for instance, overnight dance parties which perpetuates the risk of contracting the virus since usually people will engage in un-protected sex in the course of these parties.

Currently priority areas in the HIV and AIDS district response include but not limited to prevention i.e. PMTCT, VMMC, BCI, Treatment Care and Support, Mainstreaming HIV & AIDS issues as well as impact mitigation. The District response to HIV/AIDS is guided by an annual District Implementation Plan (DIP) that is derived from the national priorities, as outlined in the National HIV and AIDS Action Framework (2011-2016) and the National Integrated Annual Work Plan. The District AIDS coordinating committee is responsible for the task of developing the annual plan as well as implementing the same.

## **5.7 Nutrition**

MGDS III (Section 6:1:10) discusses the HIV and AIDS Management in Malawi. Its broader goal is to 'enhance efforts for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and management of related impacts' and has provided national policy guiding principle on Nutrition and Management of HIV and AIDS and one of the major driveway is through Agriculture.

Zomba district nutrition outlook is neither encouraging. Among other statistics, underweight prevalence remains a concern in Zomba District. According to MES (NSO, 2016) the Percentage of children under age 5 who fall below minus two standard deviations (moderate and severe) were at 16% in comparison to Malawi at 16.7% and Southern Region at 18% and the minus three standard deviations (severe) of the median weight for age of the WHO standard was at 3.9% against 3.7 for Malawi and 4% for Southern Region.

With regard to stunting prevalence, the percentage of children under age 5 who fall below minus two standard deviations (moderate and severe) was at 36.4% against 42.4% for Malawi and 41.8% for Southern Region while the minus three standard deviations (severe) of the median weight for height of the WHO standard was at 14.4% against 16.3% for Malawi and 16.1% for Southern Region.

This calls for interventions to address the gaps in nutrition in order to achieve SDG3 on good health and well being by 2030. Investments in school feeding programmes and social cash transfers in tandem with improved agricultural productivity and awareness on good eating habits at household level can address the nutrition challenges in the district

## **CHAPTER 6: INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES**

**6.0** The Malawi Government recognises that suitable infrastructure is key to the realisation of development in the country. The Malawi Vision 2020 under section on 'Developing Economic Infrastructure' on page 53, the government of Malawi has clearly outlined its vision on the need for an elaborate economic infrastructure, which would be key agent for economic transformation. It has spelt out areas in Physical Planning, Road, Railway, Water and Air transport that need specific attention. While in the MGDS III, the government under section 5.4, has highlighted Transport and ICT infrastructure as key elements to address in order to drive this national development agenda. The section's goal talks about 'developing of a safe, affordable, reliable, equitable and sustainable transport and ICT infrastructure'. In pursuit of benefitting from this national agenda strategy and programmes, Zomba District Council, is not left behind as it too requires similar interventions under this sector as discussed below.

The topography allows Zomba District to benefit from road, water and railway as a means of transport.

### **6.1 Roads**

Zomba District has a better road network in comparison to other districts in Malawi. However, a good number of roads are in a poor state and in need of maintenance especially following the devastating 2015 floods and heavy rains which damaged most of the road infrastructures across the country including in Zomba District. Even though that is the case, most areas in the district are accessible despite the absence of drainage channels which renders most of the roads susceptible to damage during the rainy seasons.

#### **6.1.1 Main Roads**

The Blantyre-Zomba-Lilongwe (M3) Road is the only major road that passes through the District from Namadzi Bridge to Likwenu Bridge covering a distance of 63 Km. The road is bituminized and the recent upgrading from Blantyre to Chinamwali in Zomba has drastically reduced the drive time between the two districts. Another important road which on completion will be classified as Main Road, but now it's classified as Secondary Road is the Zomba-Jali-Phalombe-Chitakale road. It is 102 km transecting Zomba, Phalombe and Mulanje. It's currently classified S144/S147, as the table below shows.

### 6.1.2 Secondary Roads

The district has five secondary roads covering a distance of 121.3 kilometers as shown in Table 66. This is a significant decrease from six roads covering 150.9 kilometers in 2000.

**Table 66 Secondary Roads in Zomba District**

Classification	Name of Road	Length
<b>S139</b>	Railway Line-Chingale-Changalume –Zomba	27.5
<b>S142</b>	Junch.M03-Zomba Central Hospital-Nkoloma (7	15.8
<b>S143</b>	MO3Junction- Matawale-Kachulu	27.0
<b>S141</b>	Ku-Chawe	16.0
<b>S144</b>	Zomba Air Wing-Namadzi	35.0
<b>District Total</b>		<b>121.3</b>

Source: Zomba District, Public Works Directorate, 2017

### 6.1.3 Tertiary Roads

The number of tertiary roads increased from five in 2000 to nine in 2017 as shown in Table 67 following upgrading of certain roads. This shows that the network under this classification increased by 20% to 136.6Km in the period.

**Table 67 Tertiary Roads in Zomba District**

Classification	Name of Road	Length (KM)
<b>T402</b>	Namwera T/off-Makungulu Bridge	2.7
<b>T405</b>	Jali-Chaweza	14.0
<b>T405</b>	Thondwe-Jali via Mayaka	37.3
<b>T401</b>	Chikwenga-Chingwandembo	21.3
<b>T400</b>	Chawawa-Masaula-Guta	17.8
<b>T403</b>	Jokala-Nsondole	9.2
<b>T404</b>	Jali-Chamba	6.0
<b>T407</b>	Nkonjeni River-Namadzi River	19.3
<b>T408</b>	Genela-Mayaka	14.1
<b>District Total</b>		<b>141.7</b>

Source: Zomba District, Public Works Directorate, 2017

### 6.1.3 District Roads

Zomba District has 13 roads in the district roads class spread in the areas as shown in Table 68 below covering 189.6km.



**Table 68 District Roads by TA**

Traditional Authority Area	Road ID Number	Name of Road	Length (KM)
Mlumbe	D287	Namitembo-Matanda	12
	D288	Chinseu-Nankhunda Turn-off	12
	D290	Pyman-Mbala Estate	12
Chikowi	D299	3 Miles-Mpyupyu-Mwambo	33
	D300	Chipande-Kapende	8
	D301	6 Miles-Buleya	20.2
Mwambo	D297	Likangala-Mikuyu	3.5
Malemia	D292	Domasi-Sumayisi (D292)	2.2
	D293	Songani-Mkhuba	21.4
	D294	Green Acres-Chesomba	10
	D295	Songani-Kasonga	11.5
Mbiza	D291	Zaone-Nasawa	8
	D302	Mlamwa-Matiti	17
Kuntumanji/ Nkagula	D296	Tisaiwale-Khanda	10
	D298	Chidule-Mwandamba	8.8
<b>District Total</b>			<b>189.6</b>

Source: Zomba District, Public Works Directorate, 2017

#### 6.1.4 Feeder Roads

The district has 190 feeder or undesignated roads covering over 500km which if upgraded can make all areas perennially accessible hence improve delivery of social services and access to the markets for agricultural and other products from the district.

#### 6.2 Bridges

The District has 27 bridges varying in capacity up to 30 tons. Existing types of bridges include concrete deck, timber deck, Irish and Barley. Efforts are currently under way to replace most timber deck bridges with reinforced concrete decks.

**Table 69 Number of Bridges and Condition**

<b>Traditional Authority Area</b>	<b>Road ID Number</b>	<b>Name of Road</b>	<b>Number of Bridges</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Mlumbe	D291	Zaone-Nasawa	2	Require maintenance
Malemia	D294	Domasi-Chesomba	3	Although all are functional , 2 require rehabilitation
Nkagula	D296	Tisaiwale-Khanda	1	Functional
Chikowi	D299	3 Miles-Mpyupyu	8	All functioning but 3bridges require upgrading to concrete deck
	UD/K	Mayaka-Ngwelero	1	Functioning
Mlumbe	D300	Chipande-Kapende	2	All functioning
	D301	Lambulira T/off-Buleya	4	Both functioning but 1bridge requires upgrading to concrete deck
	D302	Mlamwa-Matiti	2	Both functioning but require upgrading to concrete deck
	D300	Chipande-Kapende	2	Both functioning
Mlumbe and Chikowi	VD1	Namadzi-Maera	2	Both functioning
<b>District Total</b>			<b>27</b>	

Source: Zomba District Public Works Directorate, 2017

The challenges facing the district on the bridges are; wash-aways, vandalism, lack of maintenance and poor workmanship from some contractors, a practice which must be checked and controlled to enable the district get value for money in construction projects.

### **6.3 Road Transport**

The most common modes of transport in Zomba District in order of use rank are walking, bicycles, motor cycles and cars. For medium distances, within the District or to neighboring areas, the most common mode of transport are 14 sitter Mini-busses. Large capacity buses are used for long distance travels where available or connecting multiple modes like walking, bicycle or motor cycle and mini-bus. Other common means of transport include taxis though not very common in the most rural parts of the district, boats on Lake Chilwa.

TA Mlumbe and STA Mbiza are the most disadvantaged on accessibility to public transport, especially during rainy season because of the adverse road conditions. The islands of Chisi, Chinguma, Ngotangota and Lungazi in TA Mkumbira are accessible only by boat and air (although air transport is not available for public use unless in emergency situation or private charter).

### **6.3.1 Rail Transport**

The Limbe-Liwonde-Nayuchi Railway line passes through the western part of the District. However, neither freight nor passenger services are available for the district. An old connection to the defunct mining area to the west of the Zomba Plateau exists but does not attract service anymore and the line is not in a usable state because it was vandalized.

### **6.3.2 Transport Terminals**

The district is served by the Zomba Central Bus Terminal located in Zomba City. At every district market centre and other strategic places along the roads, there are formal bus stops. However, due to the hop-in-hop-off system commonly in use by the mini bus operators, transport terminals lost their function and instead the stop is usually at a customer's choosing. The district has a semi-formal cargo rail station at the decommissioned Changalume Limestone mine to the west of Zomba Plateau in TA Mlumbe but it now lies in a dysfunctional state. There is no commercial airport in Zomba District but only a military airstrip north-east of Zomba City not for public use. Zomba is served by Chileka International Airport in Blantyre about 100km away. There is no formal harbour on Lake Chilwa, but there are a number of undeveloped fish landing sites, where ad hoc boat charters can be arranged. There is a clear need to invest in these facilities for the better of the economy of the district.

## **6.4 Communication**

### **6.4.1 Postal Services**

There are ten post offices and five postal agencies located at Zomba City, Domasi, Chilema, Jali, Mayaka, Nasawa, Mlumbe, Thondwe, Magomero and Chingale. The Postal Agencies are found at Mwambo, Namadidi, Masaula, Sakata and Namisonga. Services in these facilities include sale of postal stamps, postage of letters and parcels, financial services such as postal and money order transfers, Fast Cash/Electrical Money Orders, telegraphic services, courier services for goods and parcels, sell of other companies products like ESCOM prepaid units, TNM and Airtel services. The volumes of transactions have increased due to the provision of accessibility for services and products of other companies such that now over 70% of the population demands the services from the Post offices.

### **6.4.2 Telephone Network**

The types of telephone systems installed are as follows; Domasi – Copper Digital Telephone system; Jali – Wireless CDMA; Mayaka- Wireless CDMA; Thondwe – Copper Telephone system & Wireless CDMA; Zaone – Wireless CDMA; and Chingale – Wireless CDMA but with an intermittent signal

### **6.4.3 Mobile Network**

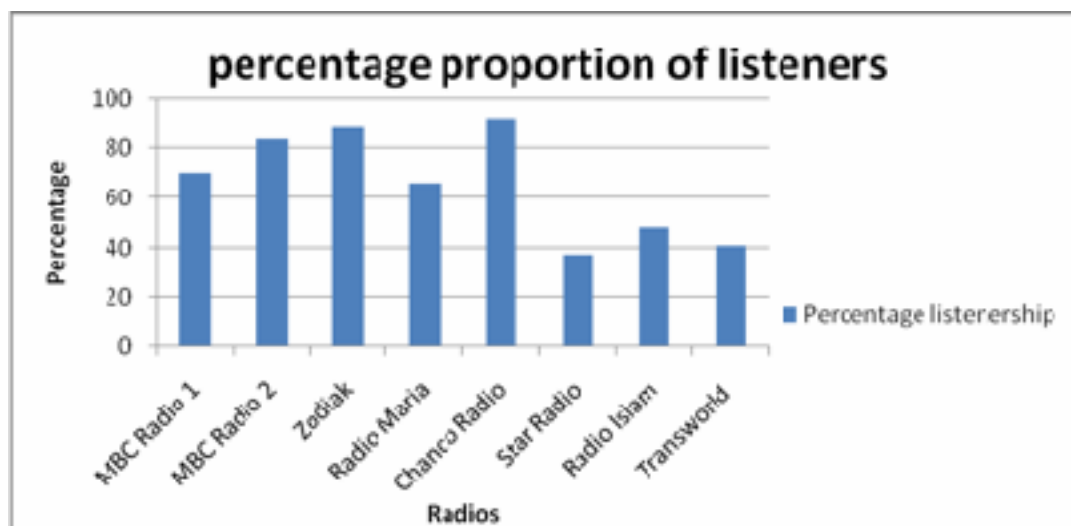
There are three mobile network operators providing services in Zomba District namely Telecom Networks Malawi (TNM), Airtel Malawi and Malawi Telecoms Limited (MTL). These providers cover the populated areas throughout the District but there are many areas that are not covered due to the topography of Zomba and low population density especially in the Chingale area on the western part of Zomba Plateau in TA Mlumbe and the Islands on Lake Chilwa in TA Mkumbira.

### **6.5.4 Radio and Television Network**

All major national Radio and Television programmes can be received in Zomba District. Due to the location of transmission facilities on Zomba Plateau, reception is above average in the District. With the spread of satellite TV, the range of TV programmes available in the District has been growing exponentially. However, the MDG End Line Survey of 2016 reported that only 7.7% of the households own a TV while 42.7% own a radio.

The Radio stations with major listenership in Zomba District include Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation (MBC) Radios 1 and 2, Zodiak Radio, Radio Maria, YONECO Radio, Chancellor College Community Radio, Star Radio, Radio Islam and Transworld Radio among others. However, MES of 2016 reported that an average 3.45% of the population listen to a radio, watch a TV or read a newspaper at least once per week. Figure 45 shows estimated listenership proportion of the population of Zomba District listening to the radios.

**Figure 45 Radio Listenership Percentage by Radio Station**



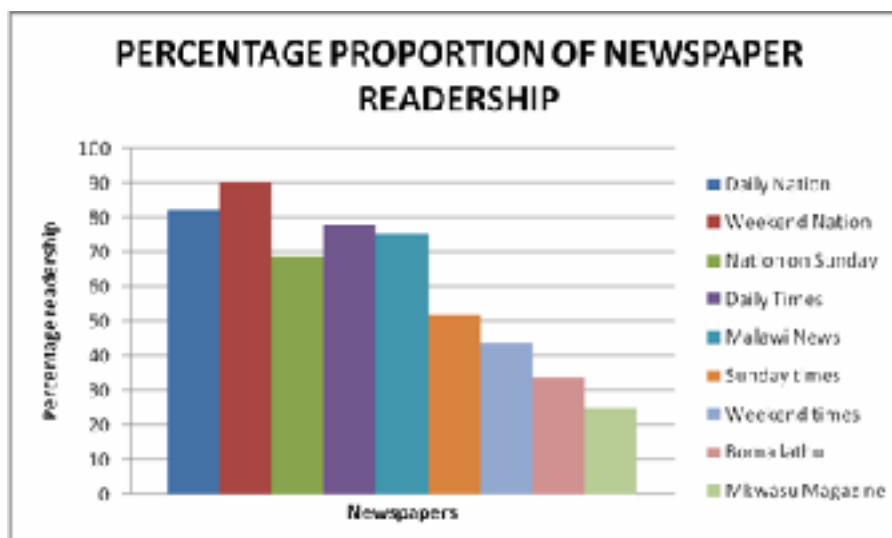
Source: Zomba District Information Office, 2016

The district receives signals from a number of television stations including MBCTV, Luntha TV, Chancellor College TV, Zodiak TV, Times TV and Angaliba TV among others. MES of 2016 estimated that 60% of the population uses any of the mass media at least once per week implying more potential for expansion and business opportunities

#### 6.5.5 National Publications

Major print media newspapers are accessible on the market such as The Nation, Weekend Nation, Nation on Sunday, The Daily Times, Malawi News, Sunday Times, Weekend Times, Lamp and Pride, Boma Lathu and Mkwasu magazine. However, the papers differ on circulation rate and readership as shown in Figure 46.

**Figure 46 Newspaper Readership Percentage by Publication**



### **6.5.6 Internet Services**

Internet accessibility has been on the increase in Zomba since the service was introduced in Malawi. Many establishments are connecting and providing internet services to the population in a number of trading centres. These include Thondwe, Mayaka, Six miles, Jali, Govala, Songani, Domasi, Malosa, Namwera Turn off and Chinseu trading centres among others. In addition, individuals are able to access internet services from the mobile service providers depending on the type of mobile phone one is using. However, there are many areas in Zomba District where internet services are not accessible based on MES of 2016 which reported that only 11.4% of the 15-24 age group reported to have ever used a computer while 8.6% had ever used internet. This shows that there is a potential for service providers to exploit the internet business opportunity. It is expected that with the introduction of fiber optic cable which is under installation across the country, the use of information and communication technologies will improve and be readily available for the rural population in Zomba.

However, land-line telephone network has been dysfunctioning making services such as fax, telex and telegraph to become limited. Facsimile services are still on offer at post offices and in the Hotels on the Zomba Plateau.

### **6.6 Power/Energy**

ESCOM is the main supplier of electric power in the district like the rest of Malawi. Most of the trading centres are connected to the national grid but only 4.3% of the households have access to electricity according to MES (NSO, 2016). Previous studies had shown that over 98% of the households in the district use firewood for cooking. However, it is anticipated that access to electricity will increase in view of the Malawi Rural Electrification Programme (MAREP9) now under implementation across Malawi. The MES also found that 3.2% of the households in Zomba District had a solar panel as compared to 2.6% for Southern Region and 4.6% for Malawi respectively. This shows that the uptake of solar energy technology is higher in Zomba as compared to other districts in the south and Malawi as a whole. Other sources of energy include charcoal, crop residue, sawdust and petroleum products. Common sources of lighting include paraffin, solar and battery powered torches and candles. There is a very high demand for ESCOM power like the rest of the country which is yet to be addressed for the better of the economy of the district.

The main issues affecting the energy sector are high prices of forest products due to high population and depletion of forests, high electricity tariffs, high solar power installation costs and high cost of electric construction materials.

### **6.7 Housing**

#### **6.7.1 Sites and Services for Housing**

The Rural Housing Programme used to provide house loans to identified credit worthy individual beneficiaries for house construction under the site and service scheme. Other beneficiaries were clustered into groups so as to benefit from housing loans. Using these two approaches a total of 305 low cost houses were constructed at the cost of MWK915, 260.26. Table 70 shows the distribution of beneficiaries by TA.

**Table 70 Individual House Loans Distribution by TA**

Traditional Authority	Number of Beneficiaries	Sex		No. of Houses Constructed	Total Loan Disbursed (MWK)
		M	F		
Chikowi	65	48	17	65	294,080.79
Mwambo	28	24	4	28	92,463.35
Kuntumanji	37	32	5	37	113,188.80
Malemia	30	25	5	30	597,86.55
Mlumbe	145	113	32	145	355,750.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>915,260.26</b>

*Source: Zomba Rural Housing Office, 2017*

Government introduced the Decent and Affordable Housing (Cement and Malata) Subsidy Programme (DAHSP) in 2014. The programme provides subsidies for building materials to give an opportunity to the rural and urban poor to build and improve their housing conditions. The programme objectives are in tandem with the Right to Housing human rights principle enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations. The programme has two categories whereby Loans and Grant Facilities are made accessible to the willing individuals to improve their housing conditions.

*i. Loan Facility*

The Programme targets potential needy households who can willingly pay for the subsidized building materials including iron sheets and cement. Each household is provided with a maximum of 30 iron sheets of 29/30 gauge and 10 feet each, 30 bags of cement as well as other related building materials like nails, poles and door frames within the subsidy limit. The beneficiary pays half the price for the materials, whereas Government meets the remaining cost.

*ii. Grant Facility*

The Programme targets the poor of the poorest whereby grants are provided in form of a house, kitchen, bathroom and pit latrine to vulnerable groups especially the aged, female or child headed households and persons with disabilities living in houses with a grass thatched roof, earth walls and floors. Beneficiaries are identified by the Housing Development Group Committees (HDGCs) which are supervised by the ADCs and VDCs. The HDGCs are responsible for the entire management of the HDGCs which includes; loan recovery conducting civic awareness and education and mobilizing group resources to support individual members. A total of 75 beneficiaries on loan and 5 on grant facility are expected to benefit each year per constituency over a period of five years. It is anticipated that 4000 houses will be constructed or improved in the 10 constituencies by the end of five years.

**Table 71 Distribution of DAHSP Beneficiaries in Phase 1 2015-2016**

<b>Traditional Authority</b>	<b>Number Of Houses Constructed</b>
Chikowi	89
Mwambo	120
Kuntumanji	75
Malemia	75
Mlumbe	120
Nkumbira	22
Mwambo	120
Mbiza	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>675</b>

*Source: Zomba Rural Housing Office, 2017*

### **6.7.2 Public Housing**

The District Council has 15 houses of which one was constructed in 2014 in Old Naisi in Zomba City and a rest house at Kachulu. There are numerous institutional buildings and houses scattered all over the district which belong to district sectors like health, education, agriculture, judiciary, prison and others. Malawi Housing Corporation has over 500 houses but majority are in Zomba City. Private individuals own many of the houses in the district.

### **Presidential Initiative Mudzi Transformation Trust**

This programme was initiated by the State President in 2013 and had a component of rural and semi-urban housing and water, provided for almost all housing communities. Its offices are at Chikupira near Naisi in Zomba. For some families and communities, a whole new home was constructed while others, the project provided full (Floor, roof and walls) and partial (either roofs only, or floor only) rehabilitation. For example the following services were provided;

<b>T/A</b>	<b>New Homes</b>	<b>Rehabilitated Homes</b>
<b>Mlumbe</b>	1	50 (Mikundi, Anderson (Kusamba), Mkanda)
<b>Chikowi</b>	1	18 (Mbembesya/Mdala)
<b>Mwambo</b>	14 (Maganga / Kathebwe)	44 (Maganga/Pirimiti)
<b>Kuntumanji</b>	1 (T/A Kuntumanji)	15 (Kuntumanji)
<b>Malemia</b>	4 (Kapyepye)	50 (Songani, Domasi, Malosa)
<b>Nkagula</b>	4 (Nkagula)	12 (Masewe Dancers)/Nkagula
<b>Ngwelero</b>	4 Sakalawe	1 (Sakalawe)
<b>Ntholowa</b>	7 (Ntchalamiro)	3 (Ntchalamiro)

### **6.7.3 Rural Settlement Pattern**

Zomba rural has the traditional characteristic of a cluster form of settlements whereby a group of houses are concentrated to form nucleated villages; other villages are linear mostly following a road. Some individuals have settled outside the formal village settlement creating scattered settlements which render service delivery very difficult and costly. Most of the houses in Zomba District are temporary and some are semi-permanent or permanent. In recent years, the district has seen a drastic change in the condition of houses though at a low rate but the pace of change can be attributed to poverty like the rest of the country. Improvements are anticipated from the DAHSP.

### **6.7.4 Issues in Rural Housing**

The challenge in rural housing in Zomba District is the cost of improvement and maintenance which can be attributed to various factors that lead to poor housing conditions. These are not limited to:

- i. The high cost of building materials due to high inflation over the years.
- ii. Low-income levels.
- iii. Communities lack knowledge and skills in planning for housing as a priority; use of locally available materials in construction; poor income generating activities and dysfunctional savings and credit. Recently there is an improvement in Bank Mkhonde groups and the NGO initiative code named Mchenga Fund by the Malawi Homeless Peoples Federation and CCODE.
- iv. Lack of access to housing credit facilities.
- v. Inadequate players in the housing sector.
- vi. Poor repayment of housing loans resulting in poor revolving fund.
- vii. Mortgage facilities not conducive to poor people due to demand for collateral and high mortgage rates.

MHC has failed to build new stock of houses due to low revenue generation from its existing stock as the rentals rates are below market value. However, there is high demand for the middle and low income households. Demand for houses has surpassed supply as present demand is estimated at 100000 per year. The Malawi Housing Situation study of 2010 recommended the construction of a minimum of 21000 housing units every year if Malawi is to meet the demand by 2030. The rural poor in Zomba like other districts in Malawi have failed to benefit from formal housing provision and the option has remained informal housing. Habitat for Humanity and CCODE are assisting in the provision of low cost housing for the poor but the reach is small and skewed towards the urban poor. The Department of Housing through the Rural Housing Programme/DAHSP is addressing shortage and quality of housing in rural areas but the reach is also challenged due to financial constraints. This demands a new strategy for housing provision if Malawi has to satisfy the need for sustainable cities and communities in Zomba District by the year 2030



## CHAPTER 7: GOVERNANCE

### 1. Introduction

Malawi as a country, coming from a background of single-party form of government, in which it had existed for over 30 years, had realized the need to change and adapt to suit global political and social dynamics as a global village. Immediate areas to focus on after democratic pluralism was 'governance'. The Malawi Government vision then was clearly spelt out in Vision 2020 under 'Good Governance' and is one of the biggest sections in the Vision 2020 as it covers pages 33 to 39. Governance under MGDS III has already been discussed in the earlier chapters. It specifically cited in section 3.5 of the MGDS III. It mainly highlights the need to provide an enabling environment for making best decisions and therefore about the 'best possible process for making those decisions and good decision-making processes'. Zomba District Council, has therefore, not been left behind in the realisation of this process as discussed in the proceeding sections.

### 7.1 Security Service Facilities

#### 7.1.1 The Police

Zomba district has a total of 14 police facilities which offer security services to create law and order which is ideal for sustainable investments and development. Zomba District has a total of 13 police facilities with more than 409 Police officers. Table 72 shows the number of police facilities by location and staffing.

**Table 72 Police Facility by Location and Number of Officer**

Traditional Authority Area	Name of Police Facility	Number of Officers
Mlumbe	Zomba Station	222
	Chingale Unit	17
	Chinseu Unit	3
	Chipini Unit	2
	Masaula Unit	2
Mkumbira	Kachulu Unit	10
Malemia	Domasi Post	58
Kuntumanji	Sakata Unit	3
	Chinamwali	3
Mwambo	Mlenga Unit	5
	Jali Post	29
Chikowi	Mayaka Unit	8
	Thondwe Post	44
	Chimwalira Unit	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>409</b>

*Source: Zomba Police Station, 2017*

Transport and communication facilities are a valuable asset in the delivery of security services to the people of Zomba District. Due to the cost of such facilities, there has not been any significant change for the number of vehicles and motor cycles available for use. The current situation is as follows:

- i. Zomba Police Station has 6 motor vehicles and 2 motor bikes.
- ii. Jali Police post has 1 motor vehicle.
- iii. Domasi Police post has 1 motor vehicle and 1 motor bike.
- iv. Thondwe Police post has 1 motor vehicle.
- v. Chingale Police post has 1 motor vehicle and 1 motor bike

Communication facilities in form of radio networks are available in all police facilities except Mlenga, Chipini, Chimwalira, Malosa and Sakata units. Moreover, the following police facilities have two cells each and have a capacity to keep 15 suspects: Zomba, Domasi, Thondwe, Jali and Chingale.

## **Crime Levels**

The District recorded a total of 2578 criminal cases in 2016 which is 30% lower than the previous year at 3680 cases. The main types of crimes recorded were general theft (590), robbery with violence (134), defilement (76), breaking into a building and committing a felony therein (196), house breaking and theft (185), breaking and theft (440) and unlawful wounding (230). Defilement is being reported increasingly because of awareness interventions by YONECO, Save the Children and other NGOs running projects against child marriages across the district.

### **7.1.2 Judiciary**

The district has 5 Magistrate Courts in four traditional authorities and these are: Domasi and Mulunguzi in TA Malemia, Ntonya in TA Chikowi, Likangala in TA Mwambo and Chipale in TA Mlumbe. These are managed by a team of 9 magistrates at various levels and three are females. These are inadequate to meet the service demand in the district. The Judiciary has 7 Suzuki motor bikes and a car.

### **7.1.3 Prisons**

The District has five prisons namely Domasi in TA Malemia, Mikuyu 1 and 2 in TA Mwambo, Mpyupyu in TA Kuntumanji and Zomba Central Prison in T/A Mlumbe. The Prison Service has more than 5 vehicles, 7 motor bikes and two tractors. There are wireless radios messaging facilities in all prisons for communication on various matters of prison security.

Almost all the prisons are crowded because they also hold prisoners from other districts and Zomba Central Prison is a national prison facility. For instance, Domasi prison has 8 cells which are supposed to house 240 prisoners but in 2016 it was holding 312 prisoners; Mikuyu 1 has 10 cells which is supposed to house 240 but had 401, Mikuyu 2 has 7 cells which is supposed to house 210 and had 155, Mpyupyu has 10 cells supposed to hold 200 prisoners but had a 206 and Zomba Central Prison has 108 cells meant for 756 prisoners but had a population of 2269. Common issues in the Police and Prison are inadequate personnel, shortage of equipment and vehicles, shortage of staff houses and offices among others.

### **7.1.4 Fire Brigade**

Zomba District Council has no fire brigade of its own and this is the facility which is not available in many district councils across Malawi.



## CHAPTER 8: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

### 8.1 Vision 2020

The Malawi Vision 2020 was adopted in 1998 as a long term plan stipulating the national vision for Malawi from 1998 to the year 2020. It provides a framework in which the country has been formulating, implementing and evaluating short and medium-term plans. It provides detailed background information and justification for the aspirations of the people of Malawi and the recommended strategies for achieving the aspirations. Zomba District Council embraces the Malawi Vision 2020 in its development planning, implementation and evaluation processes to translate the long-term aspirations of the people into activities and outcomes. The Malawi Vision 2020 states that:

*“By the year 2020, Malawi as a God-fearing nation will be secure, democratically mature, environmentally sustainable, self-reliant with equal opportunities and active participation by all, having social services, vibrant cultural and religious values and being a technologically driven middle income country.”*

The SEP provides a profile for the social and economic situation of Zomba District and helps to develop a new development plan for the district to translate the vision into tangible outcomes for the benefit and social and economic progress of the district and achieve the United Nations Development Programme 17 SDGs to 2030.

### 8.2 Malawi Growth and Development Strategy

The MGDS is the overarching operational medium-term strategy for Malawi designed to attain the Malawi Vision 2020. The main thrust of the MGDS is to create wealth through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development as a means of achieving sustainable development for poverty eradication. This is expected to transform the country from being a predominantly importing and consuming economy to a predominantly manufacturing and exporting economy.

The MGDS III has five Key Priority Areas (KPAs) namely:

1. Agriculture and Climate Change;
2. Education and Skills Development;
3. Energy and Industrial Development;
4. Transport and ICT Infrastructure; and
5. Health and Population Management.

It also gives focus to nine other areas which include:

1. Tourism, Wildlife and Culture;
2. National Defense and Security;
3. Vulnerability, Disaster and Risk Management;
4. Gender, Social Welfare and Youth Development;
5. Human Settlement and Physical Planning;
6. Minerals, Oil and Gas;
7. Environmental Sustainability;

8. Persons with Disabilities; and
9. HIV & AIDS Management.

These priority areas are meant to foster the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Zomba District plans to implement its development plans by domesticating the 17 SDGs which aims to end poverty and hunger among others by 2030.

### **8.3 Sustainable Development Goals**

Goal 1: No Poverty

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being

Goal 4: Quality Education

Goal 5: Gender Equality

Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Goal 13: Climate Action

Goal 14: Life below Water

Goal 15: Life on Land

Goal 16: Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions

Goal 17: Partnership to achieve the Goal

## **CHAPTER 9: PRIORITIZED DISTRICT ISSUES AND CONSTRAINTS**

The following is the list of prioritized major issues and constraints in the district

- i. Low household income levels
- ii. Environmental degradation
- iii. Climate change and natural disasters
- iv. Food insecurity
- v. Low education standards
- vi. Low access to health care services
- vii. Increased number of orphans and other vulnerable groups
- viii. Low Council Revenue Collection
- ix. Increased cases of crime
- x. Low access to water and sanitation services
- xi. High HIV/ AIDS prevalence
- xii. Inadequate youth and sports development facilities
- xiii. Inadequate access to permanent housing facilities
- xiv. Poor transport and communication infrastructures

**Table 73 Zomba District Development Planning Framework (DDPF)**

NO .	Development Issue	Causes	Development Objective/Benchmark and Target	Immediate Objective	Strategies	Linkage to National Development Agenda as per MGDSIII KPAs	Domestic Sustainable Development Goals
	Low household income levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low education attainment levels</li> <li>• High reliance on subsistence farming</li> <li>• Low paying agricultural based jobs</li> <li>• Low prices for farm produce</li> <li>• Poor access to value chain market networks</li> </ul>	To increase household disposable income from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To lobby for farm produce price increase</li> <li>• To improve access to marketing networks</li> <li>• To improve access to credit facilities</li> <li>• To increase access to non-farm employment opportunities</li> <li>• To increase education attainment levels for both sexes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve road network</li> <li>• Establish cooperatives for farmers</li> <li>• Create rural market centres</li> <li>• Increase access to technical, vocational and entrepreneurship skills training</li> <li>• Facilitate access to micro-finance and credit facilities</li> <li>• Develop artisanal and small scale manufacturing enterprises</li> <li>• Promote cultural and eco-tourism in rural areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Skills Development</li> <li>• Agriculture and Climate Change</li> <li>• Energy and Industrial Development</li> <li>• Transport and ICT Infrastructure</li> </ul>	SGDs 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, and 9



	<p>Environmental degradation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deforestation</li> <li>• Poor land husbandry practices</li> <li>• Poor waste disposal</li> <li>• Population pressure</li> <li>• Shortage of extension workers</li> <li>• Inadequate sustainable energy sources</li> </ul>	<p>To reduce environmental degradation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce deforestation from high to low</li> <li>• To increase afforestation efforts</li> <li>• To reduce population pressure</li> <li>• To promote modern land husbandry practices</li> <li>• To promote sustainable waste management practices</li> <li>• To train more extension workers</li> <li>• To promote sustainable energy technologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance afforestation programmes</li> <li>• Promote collaborative management of forest resources</li> <li>• Intensify environmental education</li> <li>• Intensify use of appropriate technologies natural resource utilization</li> <li>• Promote family planning practices</li> <li>• Increase number of extension workers</li> <li>• Promote use of alternative energy sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Climate Change</li> <li>• Energy and Industrial Development</li> <li>• Transport and ICT Infrastructure</li> </ul>	<p>SDGs 12, 13, 14, 15</p>
--	---	--	--	---	---	----------------------------

	Climate change and natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution from forest fires, Greenhouse gases from man's livelihood and development activities</li> <li>• Deforestation</li> <li>• Development of Settlements in marginal areas</li> </ul>	To enhance climate change adaptation, mitigation and protection from natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce emission of greenhouse gases</li> <li>• To reduce deforestation</li> <li>• To promote planning and sustainable development practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase use of non-polluting energy sources</li> <li>• Promote sustainable transport systems</li> <li>• Increase afforestation programmes</li> <li>• Promote alternative sustainable sources of income from forestry</li> <li>• Intensify land use planning and development control</li> <li>• Promote climate change education and awareness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Climate Change</li> <li>• Education and Skills Development</li> <li>• Energy and Industrial Development</li> </ul>	SDGs 4, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15
--	--------------------------------------	---	--	---	--	---	---------------------------

	<p>F o o d insecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil infertility</li> <li>• High farm input costs</li> <li>• Poor crop storage</li> <li>• Declining livestock production</li> <li>• High farmer/ staff ratio</li> <li>• Erratic rainfall pattern</li> <li>• Non diversification of food</li> <li>• Poor agro nomic practices</li> <li>• Large household sizes</li> <li>• Small land holding sizes</li> </ul>	<p>To increase food security at household level from</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve soil and water conservation agriculture</li> <li>• To lobby for low priced farm inputs</li> <li>• To improve food storage techniques</li> <li>• To promote adoption of food processing technologies</li> <li>• To improve livestock production</li> <li>• To reduce farmer to staff ratio</li> <li>• To reduce reliance on rain-fed agriculture</li> <li>• To promote food diversification</li> <li>• To promote modern agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote soil and water conservation agriculture</li> <li>• Promote use of organic manure and pesticides</li> <li>• Lobby for adequate and motivated extension staff</li> <li>• Promote post-harvest crop storage technologies</li> <li>• Intensify affordable livestock feed production</li> <li>• Establish more irrigation projects and schemes</li> <li>• Encourage dietary diversification</li> <li>• Promote modern farming technologies</li> <li>• Intensify family planning</li> <li>• Provide extension services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture and Climate Change</li> <li>• Health and Population Management</li> <li>• Energy and industrial development</li> </ul>	<p>SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13,</p>
--	---	--	--	--	---	------------------------------------

	Low education standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High pupil - teacher ratio</li> <li>• Lack of libraries and laboratories</li> <li>• High classroom-pupil ratio</li> </ul>	To improve education standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To lobby for more teachers</li> <li>• To lobby for expansion of school feeding programme</li> <li>• To increase text books and learning materials</li> <li>• To establish more CBCCs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase number of teachers</li> <li>• Expand school feeding programme</li> <li>• Increase textbooks and learning materials</li> <li>• Promote opening of more CBCCs</li> <li>• Provide more classroom blocks, libraries and laboratories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Skills Development</li> <li>• Transport and ICT infrastructure</li> </ul>	SDGs 4, 16, 17
--	-------------------------	--	--------------------------------	--	---	--	----------------

	Low access to health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate health staff</li> <li>• Unavailability of District Hospital</li> <li>• Drug pilferage</li> <li>• Inadequate equipment</li> </ul>	To improve access to health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase number of health staff</li> <li>• To introduce incentives for HRH in hard-to-reach areas</li> <li>• To reduce artificial shortages</li> <li>• To allocate more resources for outreach services</li> <li>• To strengthen community and other health governance structures</li> <li>• To ensure adherence to medical ethics for drug management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce artificial shortages</li> <li>• Incentivize HRH in hard-to-reach areas</li> <li>• Lobby for more staff</li> <li>• Commit more resources for Out-Reach services</li> <li>• Strengthen community and other health governance structures</li> <li>• Ensure adherence to medical ethics and drug management</li> </ul>	Health and Population Management	SDGs 1, 3, 6, 11, 17
--	------------------------------------	--	---	---	--	----------------------------------	----------------------

	Increased number of orphans and other vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Lack of parental care</li> <li>• HIV/AIDS pandemic</li> <li>• Marriage breakups</li> <li>• Early marriages</li> <li>• High cost of living</li> <li>• Strains of extended family</li> </ul>	Reduce levels of vulnerability of orphans and other groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reduce the levels of poverty</li> <li>• To reduce the levels of early marriages</li> <li>• To enhance the management of HIV/AIDS pandemic</li> <li>• To increase marriage counseling services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce poverty levels</li> <li>• Eradicate early marriages</li> <li>• Intensify HIV/AIDS management</li> <li>• Increase marriage counseling units</li> <li>• Promote education of vulnerable children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Population</li> </ul>	SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10,17
--	---	--	--	--	---	---	---------------------------

	Low Council Revenue Collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor collection mechanisms</li> <li>• Inadequate investment in infrastructure</li> <li>• Lack of innovation</li> <li>• Pilferage</li> <li>• Lack of expertise and knowledge</li> </ul>	Improve revenue collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve revenue collection mechanisms</li> <li>• To invest in income generating facilities</li> <li>• To train council staff in modern revenue collection approaches</li> <li>• To Promote Public Private Partnership</li> <li>• To Introduce performance based rewards to market staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve revenue collection</li> <li>• Invest in council income generating facilities</li> <li>• Train council staff in new revenue collection approaches</li> <li>• Promote Public Private Partnership</li> <li>• Introduce performance based rewards to market staff</li> </ul>	Transport and ICT infrastructure	SDGs 9, 11, 17
--	--------------------------------	---	----------------------------	--	---	----------------------------------	----------------

	Increased cases of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poverty</li> <li>• Inadequate vocational skills</li> <li>• Inadequate policing</li> </ul>	Reduce cases of crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To Reduce cases of crime</li> <li>• To increase access to vocational skills</li> <li>• To improve community policing services</li> <li>• To increase the number of police to population ratio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce cases of crime by at least half in 2022</li> <li>• Increase access to vocational skills training</li> <li>• Improve community policing services</li> <li>• Increase police to population ratio</li> </ul>	Education and Skill Development	SGD 11, 16, 17
--	--------------------------	--	-----------------------	---	---	---------------------------------	----------------



	Low access to water and sanitation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft and vandalism of water facilities.</li> <li>• Poor operation &amp; maintenance system.</li> <li>• Poor designs &amp; construction materials.</li> <li>• Declining yields of groundwater sources.</li> <li>• Drying of springs and rivers</li> <li>• Disaster damage to water supply infrastructures</li> </ul>	Increase access to water and sanitation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote community ownership of rural water supply schemes for sustainability</li> <li>• To raise revenue for O&amp;M</li> <li>• To safeguard water infrastructures from damage</li> <li>• To promote equity and cost recovery in water supply and sanitation service</li> <li>• To resolve and mediate disputes among members of the scheme</li> <li>• To promote environmental</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Community ownership of rural water supply schemes</li> <li>• Increase revenue for O&amp;M</li> <li>• Protect water points from damage</li> <li>• Promote equity and cost recovery</li> <li>• Resolve water disputes</li> <li>• Promote environmental management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Population Management</li> <li>• Agriculture and Climate Change</li> </ul>	SDGs 1, 3, 6, 11, 12, 13,15, 17
--	---	---	--	--	---	--	---------------------------------

	High HIV/AIDS prevalence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harmful cultural practices</li> <li>• Slow change in sexual behavior</li> <li>• Poverty</li> </ul>	Reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To manage HIV/AIDS cases</li> <li>• To provide HIV/AIDS counseling services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream behavior change strategies in development work</li> <li>• Mass civic education on harmful cultural practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and population Management</li> </ul>	SGD 3, 17
	Inadequate youth and sports development facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low investment for the development of youths and sports facilities</li> </ul>	Invest in the development of youths and sports facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To allocate more resources for the development of youths and sports facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish youth resource centres</li> <li>• Hold Youth Initiative Week</li> <li>• Promote access to Youth Friendly Health Services</li> <li>• Improve sports facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and Skills Development</li> <li>• Health and Population Management</li> </ul>	SDAs 3, 8, 9, 10, 17

	<p>Inadequate access to permanent housing facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High cost of building materials.</li> <li>• Low-income levels</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge on housing</li> <li>• Inadequate access to credit facilities.</li> <li>• Poor repayment of housing loans</li> <li>• Mortgage facilities not conducive to low income</li> </ul>	<p>Increase permanent housing stock</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote use of affordable housing construction materials</li> <li>• To increase access to vocational skills for self employment</li> <li>• To Promote the culture of loan repayment</li> <li>• To reduce mortgage rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage use of affordable construction materials</li> <li>• Increase access to vocational skills</li> <li>• Make mortgage facilities accessible</li> <li>• Increase awareness of loan repayment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Population Management</li> <li>• Education and Skills Development</li> </ul>	<p>SDG 3, 8, 11, 17</p>
--	---	---	--	---	--	-------------------------

	P o o r transport a n d communi c a t i o n infrastruct ures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor road conditions</li> <li>• Insufficient road network</li> <li>• Inadequate road structures</li> </ul>	Improve transport & communication infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase road network to inaccessible areas</li> <li>• To improve road conditions on the existing network</li> <li>• To increase supportive road structures</li> <li>• To improve internet accessibility and penetration</li> <li>• To increase access to print and electronic media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular road maintenance</li> <li>• Public awareness on importance of road furniture</li> <li>• Construct roads to inaccessible areas</li> <li>• Provide durable road structures'</li> <li>• Expand the optic fiber internet cable to remote areas</li> </ul>	Transport and ICT Infrastructure	SDG 9, 16, 17
--	--	---	---	---	--	----------------------------------	---------------

## **CHAPTER 10: PRIOTIZED DEVELOPMENT REFORMS AND STRATEGIES**

### **11.1 Prioritized Development Reform Areas**

Zomba District is currently working on the following prioritized development reform areas it agreed with government.

#### **11.1.1 Financial Management Services**

The council will focus on promoting revenue generation through:

- i. Upgrading of markets (Mayaka, Thondwe, Songani, Jali, Chingale, Chinseu and Masaula Market)
- ii. Renovation of Kachulu Rest-house
- iii. Renovation of Council houses
- iv. Construction of bus depot at Jali Trading Centre
- v. Promotion of Public Private Partnership
- vi. Performance based rewards to market staff

#### **11.1.2 Good Governance**

The Council will focus on promoting transparency and accountability through:

- i. Reduction of audit queries
- ii. Enhancement of transparency in management of development projects
- iii. Implementation of the service charter
- iv. Development of a communication strategy

#### **11.1.3 Human Resource Management**

- i. The council will roll out Individual Performance Agreements signed between the council and devolved sector heads.
- ii. The Council will also focus on harnessing individual staff performance through sectoral awards to outstanding employees

#### **11.1.4 Agriculture Services**

The Council will focus on improved agricultural production through:

- i. Improvement of agricultural extension services
- ii. Promotion of small stock livestock
- iii. Crop production diversified
- iv. Promote irrigation farming and
- v. Promote Dietary Diversification

#### **11.1.5 Youth Development Services**

The Council will focus on:

- i. Establishment of youth resource centres

- ii. Holding Youth Initiative Week
- iii. Promotion of access to Youth Friendly Health Services

## **6. Education Services**

The Council will focus on enhancing education quality through:

- i. Placement of teachers to improve the pupil /teacher ratio in schools by bridging the gap that exist in schools for example some schools have a pupil/teacher ratio of 45:1 while others are at 127:1
- ii. Capacity development of our teachers in order to improve pass rate in the PSLCE from 76% and selection rate from 35% in 2015/16 to 85% and 40% respectively in the 2016/17 examinations
- iii. Tracking the completion of the teaching syllabus in an academic year
- iv. Administration of Standardized tests in the senior classes

### **11.1.7 Social Welfare Service**

The Council will focus on improving the wellbeing and rights of children to enhance their survival, growth and protection through:

- i. Construction of ECD Centres and Training of Caregivers
- ii. Promoting Child Protection services to reduce incidences of abuse and violence against children

### **11.1.8 Health Services**

#### *Health Financing*

It has been noted that 54% of the health finances in the district are with Health partners. The objective is to enhance coordination and collaboration with the health partners to ensure that there is equity in resource allocation.

To achieve this, the Council through the District Health Office will focus on:

- i. Coordination enhancement with all health partners
- ii. Joint Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation of all health programmes

#### *Drug Pilferage*

The objective is to provide the public with efficient health services by reducing drug stock out days that comes about due to pilferage. It has been documented elsewhere that most of the drugs are misused thereby denying the public of excellent health services.

To achieve this, the Council through the District Health Office will focus on:

- i. Strengthening of community and other local governance structures that include Health Centre Committees (HCC), Village Health Committees (VHC).
- ii. Ensuring adherence to medical ethics and drug management

#### *Inter-sectoral Collaboration*

Inter-sectoral collaboration is one of the strategies that was envisaged at the Alma Ata Declaration. The strategies were put in place to ensure that an acceptable level of health is met for all the people.

It has been observed that poor inter-sectoral collaboration leads to an overlap of health services at all levels hence denying the communities of quality health services.

To achieve quality health services at Primary Health Care level, the Council through District Health Office will focus on:

- i. Decentralizing all community health work to the Village Health Committees and all Facility-based health activities to the Health Centre Committees

#### *Human Resource for Health*

Human Resources for health (HRH) remain one of the greatest challenges in the delivery of health services in the district. One of the contributing factors is that there are artificial HRH shortages that are created due to poor collaboration.

To achieve this, the District Health Office will focus on:

- i. Reduce artificial shortages
- ii. Incentivise HRH in hard-to-reach areas
- iii. Lobby for more staff
- iv. Commit more resources for Out-Reach services

#### *Infrastructure development*

Zomba District Health Office has no District Hospital. It relies on Primary Health Care Facilities that include Health Centres, Dispensaries, CHAM Facilities and Private Facilities. This being the case, there is ultimate need to enhance infrastructural development so as to motivate HRH to stay in the health centres that are mostly in rural areas. There is need to create an enabling environment for HRH to stay in the rural areas.

To achieve this, the Council through the District Health Office will focus on:

- i. Providing necessary basic amenities in the Health facilities that include appropriate technologies.
- ii. Lobbying for a District Hospital and permanent infrastructure across Lake Chilwa

#### *Food Safety*

The objective is to provide the public with a safe food supply by reducing the risk of food-borne illnesses due to chemical, microbiological or other forms of contamination.

To achieve this, the Council through the District Health Office will focus on:

- i. Educating the public on different forms of food-borne illnesses
- ii. Monitoring the distribution of pre-cooked and/or manufactured foods
- iii. Investigating any rumor of a food-borne outbreak
- iv. Regulating food protection in partnership with other key stakeholders in the food protection field
- v. Coordinating food handlers' examination programmes

## *Population Control*

48% of the Zomba current population are the youths under the age of 15 years. We are going to develop a family planning strategy which will target these youths. There will be collaboration with the District Education Manager as most the youths are in schools and also with NGOs to form a common front.

### **11.1.9 Community Development Services**

The Council will focus on reduction of illiteracy levels amongst adults through;

- i. Provision of incentives to community literacy workers and learners to promote Centre learning especially male attendance
- ii. Enhancement of post literacy activities e.g. IGAs production and value addition or services, afforestation
- iii. Improvement of Community Development Extension services.

### **11.1.10 Fisheries Services**

The main objective is to sustainably increase fisheries and aquaculture productivity for accessible nutritious food and increased contribution to economic growth. The District focus will be on Capture fisheries development

### **11.1.11 Forestry Extension Services**

The District will focus on the provision of alternative income for households involved in charcoal burning through the following;

- i. Provision of pass-on livestock
- ii. Establishment of VSL groups and
- iii. Train youths in Environmental and Natural Resource Management (ENRM)

### **11.1.12 Urban Planning and Development**

The council will focus on production of urban land use and urban structure plans in selected rural growth centres. This will enhance controlled, guided and orderly physical and economic development in the District.

### **11.1.13 Tourism Services**

The Council will focus on the improvement and development of tourism services in the District through:

- i. Improvements in access roads to tourist attraction site
- ii. Provision of trainings/information to tour guides and
- iii. Publicity of places of tourism potential like bird watching on lake Chilwa

### **11.1.14 Disaster Risk Management Affairs**

The District will focus on construction of flood protection bunds in flood prone areas through the following:

- i. Reducing the risks of flooding
- ii. Increasing Early Warning System knowledge

## **11.2 Prioritized Development Strategies**

The District plans to adopt a mixture of incremental and transformational development approaches in order to attain the development reforms and goals stipulated. Three development strategies have been identified



### **11.2.1 Integrated rural development strategy**

This will involve strengthening a nested spatial system with functional settlements of different sizes and strong linkages. This includes provision of service centres with basic social and commercial services. This will be in tandem with the MGDsIII priority area of Transport and ICT infrastructure and the sub-theme on Human Settlement and Physical Planning.

### **11.2.2 Sustainable development strategy**

In increasing the economic development of the District, efforts will be made to avoid compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

### **11.2.3 Endogenous development strategy**

The economic growth of the District will be increased by activating and utilizing the latent local potential resources to arrive at derivatives for the betterment of the economy of the district.