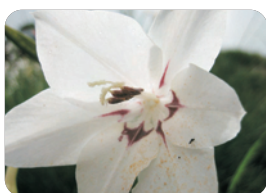


ZOMBA DISTRICT

2009 SOCIO ECONOMIC PROFILE





ZOMBA DISTRICT SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROFILE

2009 - 2012



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Department of Planning and Development

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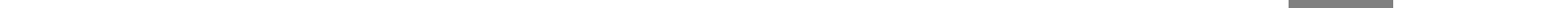
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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADC(s)	- Area Development Committee(s)
ADMARC	- Agricultural Development and Marketing Company
AEC(s)	- Area Executive Committee(s)
AFA	- Area Fisheries Association
AIDS	- Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARV	- Anti-Retroviral (ARV)
BVC	- Beach Village Committee
CBCC	- Community Based Child Care (CBCC)
CBO(s)	- Community Based Organisations
CHAM	- Christian Hospital Association of Malawi
DACC	- District AIDS Coordinating Committee
DADO	- The District Agriculture Development Office
DAI	- Development Alternatives, Inc.
DEC	- District Executive Committee
DFO	- District Fisheries' Office
e.g.	- Exempli gratia
EPA	- Extension Planning Area
ESCOM	- Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi
etc.	- Et cetera
G4S	- Group 4 Securicor
Ha	- Hectare
HBC	- Home Based Care
HH	- Household(s)
HIV	- Human immunodeficiency virus
HSA(s)	- Health Surveillance Assistant(s)
HTC	- HIV Testing and Counselling
ICT	- Internet, Computer and Telecommunication
Inh.	- Inhabitants
JCE	- Junior Certificate of Education
Km	- Kilometres
km ²	- Square Kilometres
MARDEF	- Malawi Rural Development Fund
MASAF	- Malawi Social Action Fund
MDG(s)	- Millennium Development Goal(s)
MGDS	- Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MRFC	- Malawi Rural Finance Company
MIRTDC	- Malawi Industrial Research and Technology Development Centre

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

MKW	- Malawi Kwacha
MOH	- Ministry of Health
MP(s)	- Member(s) of Parliament
MSCE	- Malawi Senior Certificate of Education
MTCT	- Mother to Child Transmission
MTL	- Malawi Telecom Limited
mT	- Metric Tonnes
NAC	- National AIDS Commission
NGO(s)	- Non-Governmental Organisation(s)
No.	- Number
NPDP	- National Physical Development Plan
NRU	- Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit
NSO	- National Statistical Office
OIBM	- Opportunity International
OVCs	- Orphans and vulnerable Children
RVC	- River Village Committee
SEP	- Socio Economic Profile
SOBO	- Southern and Bottlers
SRWB	- Southern Region Water Board
STA(s)	- Sub-Traditional Authority
STI(s)	- Sexually transmitted disease(s)
TA(s)	- Traditional Authority (ies)
TBA(s)	- Traditional birth attendant(s)
TEVETA	- Technical and Vocational Training Authority
TNM	- Telecom Networks Malawi
VDC(s)	- Village Development Committee(s)
WESM	- Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi
WFP	- World Food Programme
WVI	- World Vision International
ZC	- Zomba City
ZCH	- Zomba Central Hospital
ZD	- Zomba District
ZDA	- Zomba District Assembly
°C	- Degree(s) Celsius
\$US	- United States Dollar



PICTURE OF DC

Dear Reader,

For the people of Zomba District, our common home represents a place of dreams, hopes and, at the very least, opportunity. Zomba District Assembly, together with various development stakeholders, aims to provide not just an enabling environment for the men, women and children to realize their potential, but also to lead happy and blessed lives. And the possibilities of such productive and at the same time fulfilling lives are endless.

To achieve our common vision of a vibrant, believing and progressive home, the Assembly realises, guides and monitors projects undertaken by the Assembly, various agencies and organisations that could bit by bit change and improve the way we live, think and work. In physical terms, a progressive District embraces infrastructure development, health and education improvements, affordable housing, productive lands and an environment which we leave intact for ourselves and for our children. These concerns make up the cornerstone of Zomba District Assembly's mandate and effort.

Zomba District has many opportunities and many challenges, but if each and one of us lives its dreams and ambitions and progresses one step further every day, we can make our common home a better place tomorrow, for we are reaching our dreams a little bit closer. Zomba District Assembly, under my guidance, can only pave the roads for your path to be more convenient, for true progress it will require all of us together make Zomba District our place of dreams.

God Bless our Nation,

SIGNATURE.

Zomba District Commissioner

This 2009 edition of the District Socio-Economic Profile (SEP) has been produced through a participatory process involving different stakeholders and individuals. Zomba District Assembly is very grateful to each and every person who has participated and equally indebted to their valuable contribution.

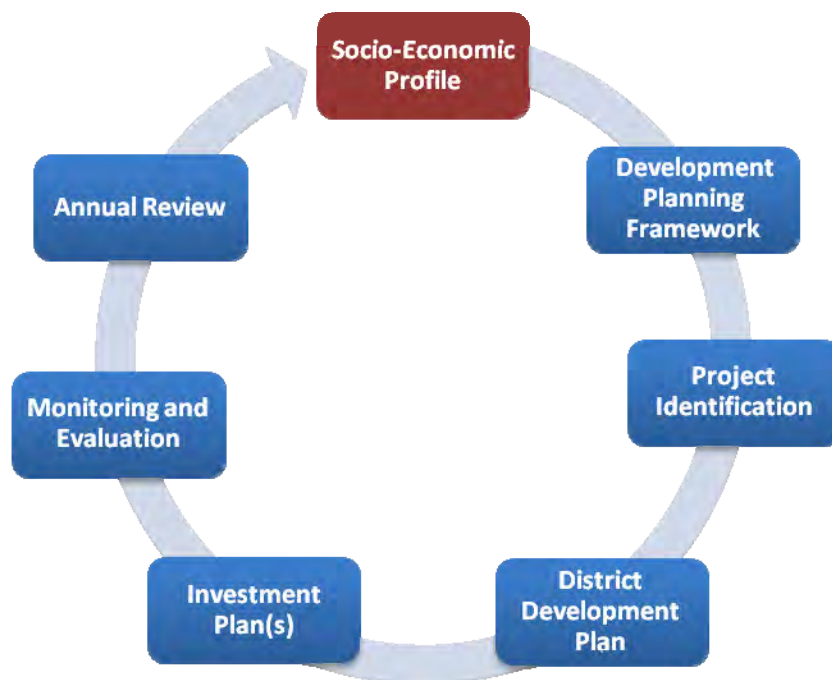
District Executive Committee members are sincerely thanked for providing crucial insight and write-ups throughout the SEP formulation process. Heartfelt thanks also go to the Planning Task Force members, particularly Mr. D. Nkhondo, Mr. Chisale, Dr. Samuel, Mr. S. Gondwe, Mr. Phiri, Mr. Sineta, Mrs. Msyamboza, and Mr. C. Mwazambumba for their effort and technical input into the actual compilation of this SEP. Last But not least, thanks are going to the preceding Director for Planning and Development, Mr. T.M. Harawa for guiding a great portion of the process leading to the completion of this SEP.

Profound gratitude should also go to Derek Mullen, Suzanne Bradshaw, Karolin Stahl and Marcus Mayr for running the full distance with us in preparing this SEP. Without their dear endeavours it could have been gruesome to complete it. We are equally indebted for their technical support and cooperation.



Willard A.L.C. Chirwa
Director of Planning and Development.

The Planning System presented below as a cycle shows in a systematic way the different stages of the development planning process of Zomba District Assembly. The first stage in the development planning process is the compilation of the Zomba District Socio-Economic Profile. The SEP offers the information required and necessary for a contemporary situation analysis and serves as the evidence base in the District Development Planning Framework. The SEP is not only a planning document, but by embracing the principle of bottom-up planning, it is a first step of involving all relevant stakeholder and the communities in the District Planning Process. The SEP is also seen as a first communication point between the people and the Assembly, through an bottom up data compilation process, and vice versa, by a top down comprehensive information distribution from the Assembly back to the communities.



The preparation of The Zomba District Socio-Economic Profile followed a participatory approach, by which government departments, communities and development partners contributed in the data collection and SEP formulation process. The philosophy behind this approach was to mutually appreciate the need to support each other in the analysis, formulation and implementation of development priorities and projects in the Zomba District planning and development process. Primary and secondary data has been used in compiling this Profile. The District Databank was a major source of quantitative data, while other data was extracted from sector databases, stakeholders' reports, and surveys, in order to enrich the analysis.

The Socio-Economic Profile contains ten chapters. Chapter one describes the general features of the District. Chapter two gives an overview about the demography and settlement patterns. Chapter three describes land use. Chapter four turns the spotlight on the environment in Zomba District. Chapter five analyses the economy, specifically relating to agriculture, livestock, forestry and natural resources, fisheries, commerce, industry and tourism. Chapter six contains information on the social services offered in the District. Chapter seven looks at infrastructure, including utilities and transportation, while Chapter eight addresses the security situation within the District. Finally, Chapters nine and ten describe the national (9) and local (10) development priorities.

Illustration 1: Map of Malawi showing the location of Zomba District



Source: Benson et al. , 2002

Zomba District is one of twelve Districts in the southern region of Malawi, surrounded by the Districts of Chiradzulu, Blantyre, Mulanje, Phalombe, Machinga, Balaka and the Republic of Mozambique to the east. The total land area is 2,580 km², representing three percent of the total land area of Malawi.

The District has a total population of 583,167 resulting in a population density of 230 persons per km², more than half (52.6%) of whom are 18 years or younger. The annual population growth rate over the last decade was two percent. The main ethnic groups are Mang'anja/Nyanja, Yao and Lomwe. Chinyanja is the native language spoken by most of the inhabitants, although other languages like Chiyao and Chilomwe are also spoken. The two dominant religions are Christianity (78%) and Islam (20%).

Zomba District Assembly, the local government body of Zomba District, was established under the Local Government Act of 1998. This corporate body has a secretariat headed by the District Commissioner and supported by professional heads of government departments. The local government system is complimented by the existence of Traditional Authorities who are acknowledged leaders of their respective communities and custodians of customary lands and traditional values. The District currently has six Traditional Authorities and four Sub-Traditional Authorities.

The economy of Zomba District is dominated by agriculture, where individual 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 in Zomba, with poultry being the most common. Zomba on the other hand is one of the few Districts with well-spread pond-fishing. There are around 2,600 farmers engaged in aquaculture, operating more than 5,000 ponds and producing as much as 757 tonnes of fish annually. In addition, Lake Chilwa continues to be the main source of fish in the District, with an annual catchment of more than 5,000 tonnes.

Small and medium-scale businesses dominate the District's non agro-based economy, with general retail accounting for the gross of sales. Employment has increased to almost 97% of the total adult (15+) population, resulting in historically low unemployment. Services, general labour, and professional and technical groups are the dominant occupation groups. Blessed with breathtaking natural scenery, tourism is bound to play an increasing role in the District economy; attractions include the Zomba Plateau and Lake Chilwa, historical relics and the natural beauty throughout the District.

Health services are provided mainly at health posts, clinics, health centres and hospitals. In addition, many people get medical treatment from traditional practitioners and traditional birth attendants. The crude birth rate for the District is estimated at 48.1 births per 1,000 Inhabitants. The total fertility rate stands at 5.3 children per woman. The infant mortality rate is 84 deaths per 1,000 live births and child mortality (14.4%) is among the highest in the country.

Almost four fifth of all households (79.6%) have access to safe drinking water, while access to sanitation facilities is still at 59%. Methods of refuse disposal include burning, dust bins, rubbish pits, random littering and, mainly for organic waste, integrating into garden and composite pits.

Education in Zomba District is offered from pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary levels to adult literacy classes and vocational training. The services are provided by the government, religious institutions and private individuals. The District has experienced a sharp increase in school enrolment. Primary school net enrolment is currently at 87.2% against the country rate of 80.0%. However, the education sector in Zomba at all levels continues to face a number of challenges, including teacher qualification, shortages in the total number of teacher and student accommodations, lack of or dilapidated classrooms and lack of teaching materials.

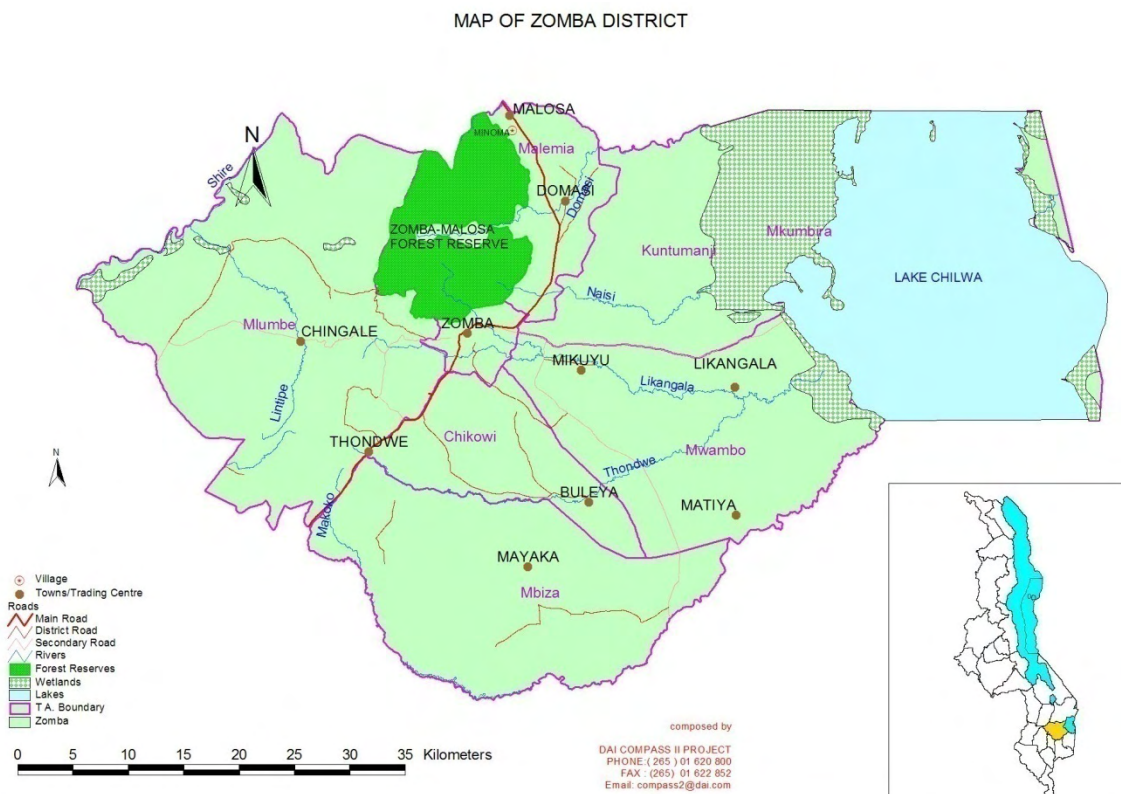
Zomba District is comparatively well connected. The main road passing through the District is the M3 road (Blantyre-Zomba-Lilongwe). The Zomba Phalombe road is under construction. Earth roads comprise many of the other types of roads connecting different places within the District. Bicycles and matola (hitch-hiking) are the most common means of transport, followed by regular buses and minibuses.

There are a number of community development programmes being implemented in the District, which among others include construction of public utilities, infrastructure, HIV and AIDS, environmental conservation and food security. Many of these programmes show a positive influence on the socio-economic status of communities and individuals. In terms of access to essential resources and opportunities, females are at a slight disadvantage relative to males. This is because more females are illiterate, and their involvement in economic activity is often limited to farming and other domestic duties. However, with the provision of affirmative action, the status of women in society is fast gaining improvement. In addition, youth programmes and activities carried out in the District help to empower the less privileged.

1.1 PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Zomba District, home to 583,167 people living on 2,580 km², lies in the south-east of Malawi in what is known as the southern region. The District is situated about half way between Blantyre and the Shire crossing at Liwonde Town, some 290 km south-south east from the capital Lilongwe. Zomba District's main natural features are the Zomba Plateau, Lake Chilwa and the Shire Valley. The District is framed by Lake Chilwa to the east, the Shire valley to the west, Liwonde Forest Reserve in the North and Namadzi River marks the southern border of the District. The District embraces Zomba City, the former Capital of Malawi, and is sub divided into seven Traditional Authorities, with nine major trading centres and 1,561 Villages under its mandate.

Illustration 2: Map of Zomba District



Source: DAI 2007

1.1.1 Location and Size

Zomba District covers an area of 2,580 square kilometres, which represents about 3% of the total land area of Malawi. The District shares boundaries with Machinga District to the North, Balaka District to the North West, Mulanje and Phalombe Districts to the South, Chiradzulu District to the South West and the Republic of Mozambique to the East. According to the National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) of 1998, Zomba District ranks as a sub-regional centre in terms of its size to the other surrounding Districts.

1.1.2 Topography, Geology and Hydrology

The topography of Zomba District offers a great variety; from mountainous and hilly regions of the Zomba Plateau which forms the ridge dividing the Upper Shire Valley in the western part of the District, to the broad, flat plains of Lake Chilwa in the East. The District elevation varies from 2,085 metres above sea level on Zomba Plateau to 627 metres at Lake Chilwa. The diverse topographic characteristics generate a vertical and horizontal variety of climatic zones between different areas of the District.

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 (i) Mineral limestone, which are mined on a commercial basis; (ii) Sand, which is suited for glass manufacturing and (iii) Gemstones such as amethyst, tourmaline and aegerine, which are found in Mpyupyu Mountain and Zomba Plateau. The Plains surrounding Lake Chilwa are characterized mainly by sandy and rocky solid that show some stratification.

The major rivers in Zomba District are the Shire, Likangala, Thondwe, Domasi, Mulunguzi, Naisi, Namadzi, Phalombe Lintipe and Likwenu. Zomba Plateau is the source of all but two of these rivers, namely the Shire, which originates in Lake Malawi and Phalombe, which originates on Mulanje Mountain. The rivers form part of the Lake Chilwa Catchment Area. Lake Chilwa, an inland drainage lake located 25 kilometres eastwards from Zomba City, is the only lake in the District and the most prominent source of water and fish for many residents of the District and surrounding areas.

Minerals are not found in great quantities in the District, however crude stones and sands are being commercially extracted. Also, dispersed pockets of surface gemstones are present along the western part of Zomba-Malosa Mountain in the area of Traditional Authority Mlumbe.

1.1.3 Soil and Vegetation

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 ferrigenous 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 ironoxides 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 intensified agriculture. The upland soils, though less fertile, are suitable for developments in agro-forestry, riverine farming. In general, the soils in Zomba District are moderately fertile, with the fertility rising with the proximity to either Zomba Plateau or Lake Chilwa. Due to deforestation and agricultural practices, soil erosion becomes a rising concern.

Zomba District can be separated into two distinct biotic communities. The highland, which enjoys medium to high rainfall is semi-evergreen forest, while the other part is primarily savannah, turning into moderate wetlands towards Lake Chilwa. Vegetation is characterised by ‘*Miombo*’ woodlands (on the plateau, hills and escarpments), and ‘*Mopane*’ woodlands, which are largely dominated by *Colophospermum Mopane* with open glades, cover the fringes of the District. These woodlands tend to be associated with mopanosol soils and compact alkaline soils with unstable structural characteristics resulting in a low level of cultivation. Woodlands consisting of natural tree species like *brachystegia stipulata*, *brachystegia manga*, *brachystegia speciformis* and *jusbemadia globifora*. Wetland vegetation is dominated by perennial wet fringes. The natural vegetation has been reduced and disturbed in recent years due to cultivation.

1.1.4 Climate

Zomba experiences a tropical climate with three main seasons – cold-dry, hot-dry and hot-wet, ranging respectively from April to July, August to October and November to March. The hottest months are September, October and November, with average temperatures ranging between 28 and 30 degrees Celsius. June and July are the coldest months, with minimum temperatures as low as 10°C. The annual rainfall varies between 600mm and 1500mm (1999-2005). On average, February is the wettest month. More rainfall tends to fall on the windward (eastern) side of Zomba Mountain. Areas to the west of Zomba Plateau experience little rainfall throughout the year, as they are located on the leeward side.

1.2 ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & LOCAL POLITICS

1.2.1 Formal Administrative Structures

The District Assembly is composed of a political body, the council, and an administrative body, the assembly secretariat. The council consists of elected ward councillors, which are mandated through local government elections. The secretariat functions as the administrative body of the assembly and consists of public servants. In addition a number of ex-officio members are part of the assembly decision making bodies and committees, such as members of parliament (MPs) of the Zomba District constituencies, Traditional Authority Leaders and representatives of special interested groups. The assembly chairperson is elected from the ward councillors and formally heads the assembly. The District Commissioner on the other hand heads the secretariat of the assembly. Several directorates are responsible for the secretariat's work in particular areas. The assembly secretariat coordinates activities of the assembly and provides technical support to the assembly (i.e. implementing assembly decisions).

(a) Local Government System and Functions

Zomba District Assembly was established under Local Government (District Councils) Act Cap.22.02 of the Laws of Malawi. The District Assembly is a corporate body, which has perpetual succession and can sue or be sued. It also has powers to make and terminate contracts. According to the Local Government Act of 1998, the Assembly is mandated to carry out the following functions:

- Policy formulation and decisions on governance and development for a local government area
- Support local democratic institutions and participation
- Promote socio-economic development through District Development Planning
- Mobilise resources within the local government area for governance and development
- Maintain peace and security in the area in conjunction with the Malawi Police Service
- Pass bylaws for improving governance of the local government area,
- Appoint, develop, promote and discipline staff
- Cooperate with other local assemblies to learn from their experience & exchange ideas,
- Perform other functions, deliver essential local services and registration

The act also allows Zomba District Assembly to manage and maintain postal services, dispensaries, home craft centres, markets, rest houses, roads and bridges within the assembly's jurisdiction. The act also empowers the assembly to (i) borrow or lend money; (ii) levy rates of land or property; (iii) collect taxes and fees; (iv) maintain and manage disposal and treatment of waste; (v) establish, maintain and manage markets; and (vi) supervise market buildings and premises. The act equally provides that the assembly must have the following service committees: finance committee, development committee, education committee, works committee, health and environment committee, appointment and disciplinary committee.

(b) District Executive Committee

The District Executive Committee (DEC) is the technical and advisory body of Zomba District Assembly and the local committees under it. The DEC is responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the District Development Planning System. Zomba District Executive Committee consists of the heads of devolved sector departments, the directors of the National Ministries' Offices in Zomba District, important parastatals (i.e. ESCOM, SRWB) and, either as a full member or observer, development partners and NGOs operating within the District. DEC, as the implementation body of the District Assembly identifies, prioritizes and studies the feasibility of community projects, development proposals and supervises and trains the VDCs, AECs, ADCs and other relevant bodies. DEC also oversees and monitors implementation of approved projects.

(c) Area Development Committee

An Area Development Committee (ADC) is a body of representatives from all Village Development Committees (see below) in a Traditional Authority (TA) area. Zomba District has 10 Area Development Committees (ADCs). The ADC receives, scrutinizes, prioritises, and prepares project proposals from VDCs for onward submission to the DEC. It also mobilises community resources, including labour, for the implementation, monitoring and supervision of projects. The Area Executive Committee advises the ADC on all technical aspects of the project.

(d) Village Development Committees (VDC)

A VDC covers the area of one Group Village Headman. The Group Village Headmen are de facto the chairs of VDCs. The Village Development Committees are responsible for facilitating the planning of development activities in their areas of jurisdiction, which is the smallest and lowest level of participatory planning. The committees also identify, supervise and monitor development projects.

(e) Malawi National Government Sectors

Almost all ministries/departments have offices at the District level carrying out their respective functions and mandates. Ministries not represented at the District level have their activities implemented through the office of the District Commissioner. Nevertheless, all ministry/department activities are channelled through the District Executive Committee (DEC), with the DC coordinating and overseeing the activities. Below is a list of Ministries represented in Zomba District.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security	Ministry of Education and Vocational training	Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Health and Population
Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security (Police)	Ministry of Trade, Industry and Private Sector Development	Ministry of Information and Tourism	Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development
Ministry of Justice and Constitutional affairs	Ministry of Labour	Ministry of Lands, Housing and Surveys	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Public Works	Ministry of Sports Youth and Culture	Ministry of Women and Child Development	<i>Source: ZDA 2009</i>

Statutory Corporations present in the District include:

ADMARC	ESCOM	Southern Region Water Board	Malawi Postal Corporation
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(f) Non Governmental Organisations

In addition to above mentioned Malawi Government institutions, a number of non-governmental organisations are actively promoting development throughout the District. The number and distribution of NGOs in the District is shown in the following table (1).

Table 1: NGOs Operating in Zomba District, area and main focal area

NGO	Location	Focal area
<i>World Vision International</i>	<i>TA Mwambo TA Mlumbe TA Malemia</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS; Home based care; Life saving skills; Food security</i>
<i>CADECOM</i>	<i>TA Kuntumanje TA Mkumbira</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>
<i>Inter Aide</i>	<i>TA Chikowi (Thondwe) TA Mwambo</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS; Home based care; Life saving skills</i>
<i>DAPP</i>	<i>TA Chikowi and TA Mwambo</i>	<i>Agriculture and HIV/AIDS</i>
<i>YONECO</i>	<i>Throughout the District</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS; Home based care; Life saving skills</i>
<i>Malawi Red Cross</i>	<i>TA Mwambo</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS; Home based care; Life saving skills</i>
<i>Invest in Knowledge Initiative</i>	<i>Throughout the District</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS</i>
<i>Dignitas International</i>	<i>Throughout the District</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS; VCT; Provision & administration of ARV; Home based care</i>
<i>Emmanuel International</i>	<i>TA Mwambo and Malemia</i>	<i>Food security; Food for Work Programme & Assets for Work Programme</i>
<i>CHRR</i>	<i>TA Malemia</i>	<i>Advocacy on human rights & constitutional review</i>
<i>Action Against Hunger</i>	<i>TA Kuntumanje TA Mwambo</i>	<i>Food security</i>
<i>Zam Zam</i>	<i>TA Malemia TA Kuntumanje STA Nkagula</i>	<i>Food security; Improved sanitation & provision of potable water</i>
<i>Catholic Health Commission</i>	<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	<i>HIV/AIDS</i>
<i>CRECCOM</i>	<i>Throughout the District</i>	<i>Education improvement; Gender based violence programmes</i>
<i>Malawi CARE</i>	<i>Throughout the District</i>	<i>Education on rights; Legal aid</i>

Table 1: NGOs Operating in Zomba District, area and main focal area (continued)

NGO	Location	Focal area
Danish Hunters Association	TA Mwambo TA Kuntumanje	Sustainable use of natural resources, especially birds of Lake Chilwa
Wildlife & Environment Society of Malawi	Throughout the District	Sustainable use of natural resources
MACRO	Throughout the District	VCT; Birth control; HIV education & training
Bwalo Initiative	TA Chikowi, TA Mlumbe and TA Mwambo	Legal aid; Human rights; Gender; HIV/AIDS; Food security
Paralegal Advisory Services	In prisons	Legal aid to prisoners; Education on rights
Women Legal resources Centre	TA Kuntumanje	HIV/AIDS and Gender
CCJP	Throughout the District	Governance
Orphan Support Africa	Throughout the District	Material, financial & technical support to CBOs
Sub-Saharan Africa Family Enrichment	Throughout the District	Life skills education
Hunger Project	TA Mwambo	Food security; Micro finance
UNDP	TA Mlumbe	Millenium Villages programme
WFP	Throughout the District	Food and Nutrition
COMPASS	Throughout the District	Sustainable use of natural resources
World Fish Centre	TA Mlumbe	Fish farming
National Initiative for Civic Education	Throughout the District	Civic education

Source: National Initiative for Civic Education 2006

(g) Traditional Authorities

The powers and basic functions of Traditional Authorities are rooted in tradition. The Traditional Authority leaders (Chiefs) act as overseers of customary land, keepers of traditions and, today, supervisors of development in their areas. In addition to these tasks, TAs mobilise people for development work, grace traditional ceremonies and functions and sit as ex-officio members in the District Council. Traditional Authorities

and Group Village Headmen typically chair the Village Development Committees (VDCs) and ADCs in their respective localities.

Zomba District consists of six Traditional Authorities (TAs) and four sub-Traditional Authorities (STAs); Chikowi, Kuntumanje, Malemia, Mkumbira, Mlumbe and Mwambo, the sub-Traditional Authorities are Mbiza, Ngwelero, Nkagula and Ntholowa. There are 83 Group Village-Headmen and 1,571 Village-Headmen. Chief Kuntumanje and Chikowi are Senior Traditional Authorities.

TA Chikowi has the highest number of villages, 467 representing 29.7% of the total number of villages in the District. It also has the highest number of Village Development Committees (VDCs). TA Mkumbira has the least number of villages and VDCs in the District.

Table 2: Number of Villages and Village Development Committees, by TA

Traditional Authority/ADC	Number of Villages	Number of VDCs
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	<i>451</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	<i>325</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>TA Malemia</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Zomba District</i>	<i>1,571</i>	<i>48</i>

Source: Zomba District Assembly, 2009

1.2.2 Informal Administrative Structures

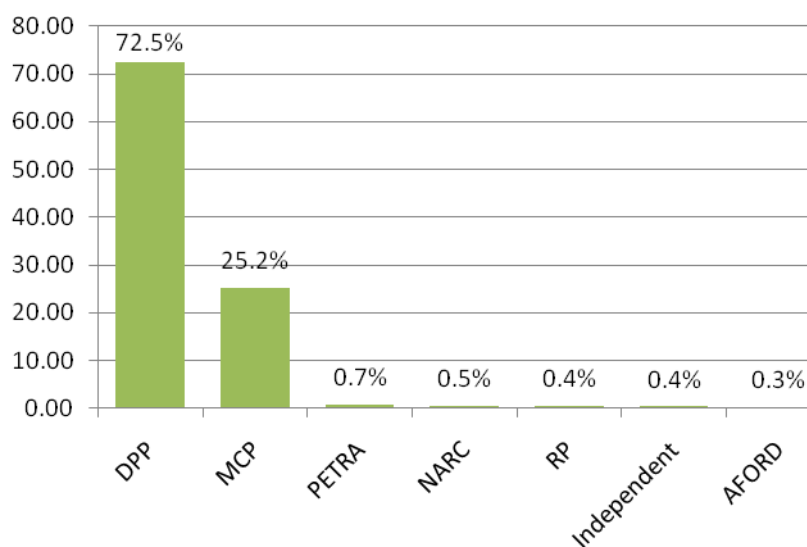
The District has 287 registered community based organisations (CBOs). Most of these CBOs carry out HIV/AIDS related interventions such as home based care (HBC), orphan care, youth activities and awareness campaigns. However there are some CBOs and support groups that contribute to social and civic work that are not yet registered with the assembly.

1.2.3 Local Politics

All major political parties of Malawi are also registered and operating in Zomba District. The votes from Zomba District in the 2009 Malawi General Elections is depicted in Illustration three below. The representation of the ten Zomba District Constituencies in

the National Parliament is assured through the elected ten Members of Parliament (MPs), of which eight are from the DPP and the remaining two are independent candidates.

Illustration 3: Results (in %) of the 2009 Presidential Election in ZD



Source: Malawi Electoral Commission, 2009

Zomba District ward councillors are absent since the year 2000, with the next local election forecasted to be held in 2010.

1.3 THE PEOPLE

1.3.1 Languages

The predominant languages mostly used for communication in the household are Chinyanja, Chichewa and Chiyao. Most people however speak Chichewa and are able to communicate in the national language.

1.3.2 Culture

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 sister. Children are made to undergo a series of initiation ceremony at puberty, known as *jando*, *chidotolo* 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 still performed during such initiation ceremonies in Zomba District. Each tribe has its own traditional dance, for instance *Likwata*, *Chioda* and *Juri* are common among the *Yaos*; *Mazomba* and *Mganda* is 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 modernisation.

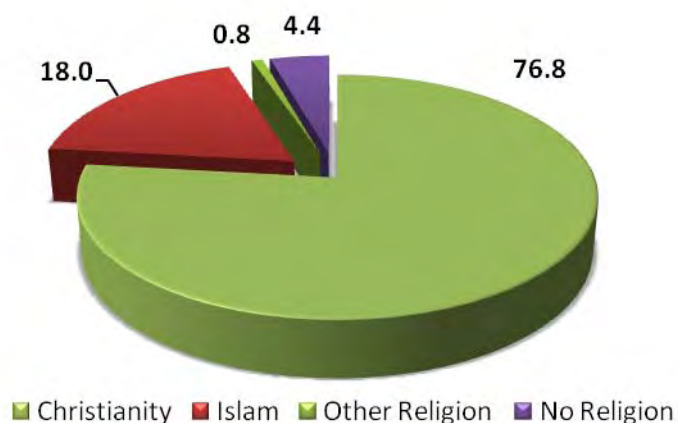
1.3.3 Ethnicity

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

1.3.4 Religion

Religions play an important role in the life of the people of Zomba District. Christians are the major religious group (76.8%), subdivided in various denominations, such as Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Baptist and Adventist. The second major Religion practiced in the District is Islam (18%). 4.4% of the people were citing no religions and 0.8% believe in other religions. Religious institutions and organizations are very important stakeholders in the District's development 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.

Illustration 4: Religious composition of District



Source: National Statistical Office, 1998

1.3.5 Income

When speaking about income in Zomba District, it must be noted first and foremost that most of the people in the District are living and working outside the formal income-orientated monetary economy. People receiving a regular monetary income only make up six percent out of the total population, together with the group of self-employed they represent only about 11% of the population. The rest, nine people out of ten, have no regular income and rely on seasonal (agriculture) and casual income. This fact itself does indicate anything about the level of income, but it is a prime indicator on the structure of income generation in the District and the great income insecurity people face. In terms of income, the people of Zomba District rely mostly on unpaid work, dominant in the large agricultural sector, with uncertain future earnings. The whole regular income sector, whether wage earning jobs, self employment or tenancy is considerably underdeveloped in Zomba District in comparison with either the Southern Region or Malawi as a whole.

Table 3: Share of population (in%) by type of payment

	<i>Mlimi (unpaid)</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Ganyu (Casual)</i>	<i>Unpaid Family Business</i>	<i>Self Employed</i>	<i>Tenant</i>
Zomba District	85	6	2	1	5	0.2
<i>Southern Region</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Malawi</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>0.4</i>

Source: National Statistical Office, 2008

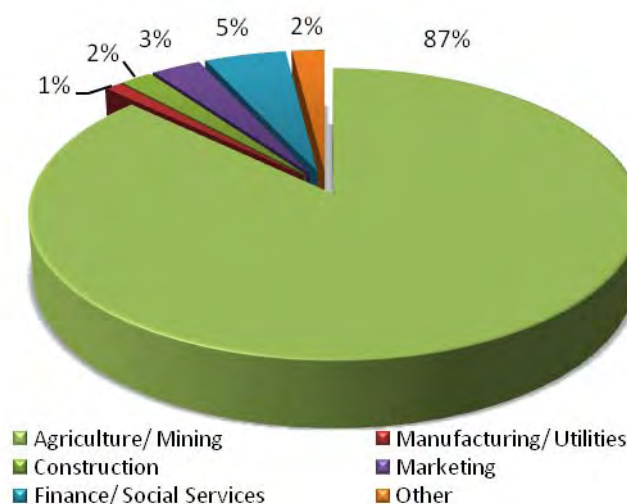
Income statistics reveal however, that unpaid agricultural labor is not only the major source of income, but also likely the most profitable source of income for the people of Zomba District in comparison with salary- or enterprise-based labor. In fact, agriculture based household incomes are higher than in most Districts of Malawi and certainly than the national average.

Table 4: Average annual household income by source

	<i>Salaries</i>	<i>Agriculture</i>	<i>Enterprises</i>	<i>Other</i>
Zomba District	4,684.9	21,645.1	15,635	1,539.8
<i>Southern Region</i>	<i>16,356.6</i>	<i>11,833.7</i>	<i>26,610.3</i>	<i>3,745.1</i>
<i>Malawi</i>	<i>18,331.2</i>	<i>19,680.6</i>	<i>29,769.9</i>	<i>4,848.4</i>

Source: National Statistical Office 2009

Illustration 5: Income by type of economic activity



The

Source: National Statistical Office 2009

uncertainty about future earnings and requirements of steady input requirements for agricultural based activities against future earnings combined with the very poorly developed regular secondary and tertiary sector in Zomba District are a leading cause for the high poverty incidence in the area, as shown by the poverty figures in table five. As a result, disposable household income is among the lowest in Malawi, and, to put it in perspective, one of the lowest in the world. On average, a household of an average size of 4.1 persons has an disposable income of 66,855 MKW per year, that is 183 MKW per Household per day. Measured against the international poverty line of 1 \$US per day, every single person in Zomba District is, statistically speaking, considered as living in absolute poverty.

Table 5: Mean annual household expenditure

	<i>Household</i>	<i>per capita</i>
Zomba District	66855	19431.4
<i>Southern Region</i>	<i>83814.2</i>	<i>23696.1</i>
<i>Malawi</i>	<i>99532.2</i>	<i>26058.6</i>

Source: National Statistical Office 2005

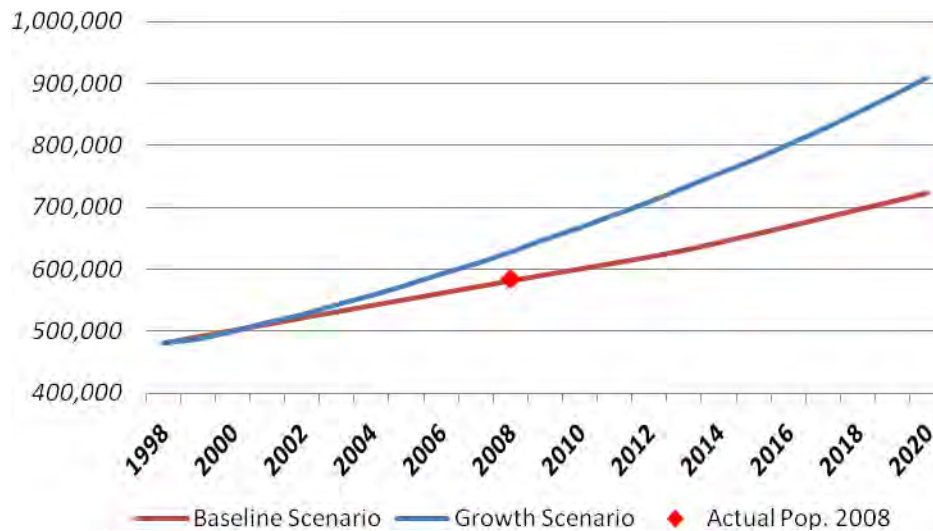
1.3.6 Poverty Incidence

Poverty is wide spread in Zomba District. About 70% of the population within the District fall below the national poverty line, making Zomba District one of the three poorest Districts in Malawi, with only Machinga (73%) and Nsanje (76%) Districts reporting higher poverty levels. Out of the total poor, 41% fall under the national ultra poverty line. In this category, Zomba District scores an unfortunate second rank, with only Nsanje reporting a higher figure (44%). Poverty in Zomba District is therefore severe and considerably higher than the already poorer southern region and more so if compared to the national figures (see table six). In absolute terms, seven out of ten people living in poverty means for Zomba District that an estimated 408,217 people, almost 100,000 households are poor, out of which 198,098 people can be classified as extremely poor. Poverty in Zomba District is thereafter 2/3 as wide spread than in Malawi and severe poverty is about twice as high. These poverty figures, combined with the low proportion of people receiving regular income and the resulting insecurity about future income due to extreme price fluctuations in seasonal goods (crops etc.), result in a magnitude of poverty which is very severe.

Table 6: Share of people living below the poverty line in Zomba District

	<i>poor</i>	<i>ultra poor</i>
<i>Zomba District</i>	<i>70.0</i>	<i>41.0</i>
<i>Southern Region</i>	<i>64.4</i>	<i>31.5</i>
<i>Malawi</i>	<i>52.4</i>	<i>22.4</i>

Source: National Statistical Office, 2005

Illustration 6: Population predictions for Zomba District

Source: NSO 1999 and District calculations

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 forecast until 2020 (see Illustration six) projects the total population of Zomba District to raise up to 910 thousand inhabitants, assuming a constantly increasing (exponential) growth rate. These projections (Growth Scenario) from the year 2000 can already be described as too high, and the national as well as Zomba population growth rate has been constantly decreasing in the last decade, in line with the worldwide trend of declining population growth rates. 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 will be found in between both projections.

2.1 POPULATION SIZE & GROWTH

Zomba District has a total population of 583,167, representing 4.5% of the total population of Malawi according to the 2008 Population and Housing Census carried out by the National Statistical Office. More than half (52.6%) of all inhabitants of the District

are 18 years or younger. Zomba District is the 3rd most populous District in the southern region of Malawi after Mangochi and Thyolo.

The average annual population growth rate between the 1998 and 2008 census was estimated at 2.0% and thus considerably lower than the Malawian average of 2.8% and the average for the Southern Region (2.4%). Between 1998 and 2008, the total population grew by 102,421 people, representing a total increase of 21% (Malawi: 31.5%; Southern Region: 26.8%). The average population growth below the national and regional average can be attributed to the already high population density in Zomba District and the high rate of rural out-migration to the proximate urban centres (e.g. Blantyre, Zomba, Balaka, Liwonde etc.). Out of the total 2008 population, 279,484 are men (48%) and 303,678 are women (52%). During the 1998-2008 decade, male population grew by 1.9%, while the female population grew by 2.0%. This deviation can be attributed to the higher mortality rate for boys compared to girls and to the lower life expectancy for men compared to women.

On the Sub-District level, the Traditional Authority (TA) Mbiza is home to the largest share of the District's population (137,761), overtaking TA Mlumbe as the most populated TA in Zomba District. It had grown from 113,375 in 1998. This trend can be attributed largely to a natural population increase, the same can be said about for all the Traditional Authorities and Sub-Traditional Authorities, except for TA Mkumbira where the population actually fell because of the struggling fish industry in the area.

Table 7: Zomba District population including TA's and sub TA's by sex and age

Area	Population			
	Total	Male	Female	Below 18
Zomba District	583,167	279,489	303,678	306,771
TA Kuntumanje	72,889	35,072	37,817	38,410
TA Mwambo	116,083	55,714	60,369	61,196
STA Mkumbira	4,858	2,881	1,977	3,106
TA Chikowi	57,389	27,302	30,087	29,769
STA Mbiza	137,761	66,314	71,447	72,596
TA Mlumbe	133,502	63,626	69,876	70,468
TA Malemia	60,685	28,580	32,105	32,218

Source: National Statistical Office 2008

The population of Zomba District is divided into 142,394 Households with, on average, 4.1 persons living in each household (see table eight). Household size stayed relatively constant during the last two decades, only increasing slightly from 4.0 in 1987 and 1998 to the current figure of 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. 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 local number.

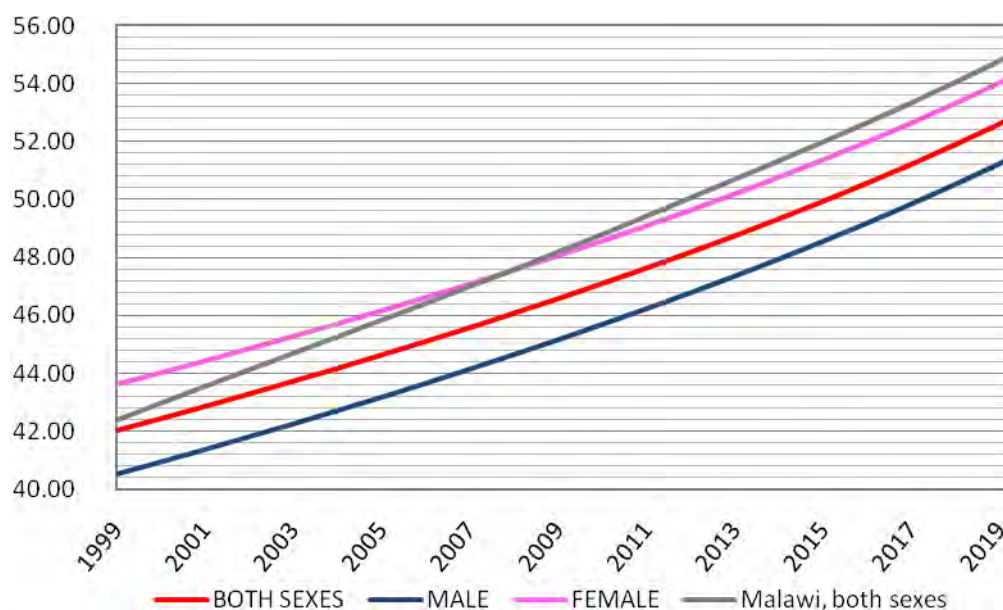
Table 8: No. of Households and size by area; 1987, 1998 & 2008

	2008		1998		1987	
	<i>No. of HH</i>	<i>Pers. per HH</i>	<i>No. of HH</i>	<i>Pers. per HH</i>	<i>No. of HH</i>	<i>Pers. per HH</i>
Zomba District	142,394	4.1	135,369	4	110,046	4
Southern Region	1,389,566	4.2	1,121,844	4.2	1,005,660	3.7
Malawi	2,957,683	4.4	2,273,846	4.3	1,912,591	4

Source: National Statistical Office 1998; 2008

2.1.1 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth in 2006 was calculated at 43.7 years for males and 46.6 years for females, resulting in an average life expectancy at birth of 45.1 years, perfectly in line with the long term projections for the District. This development was a marked improvement from 40.5 years for males and 43.6 years for females in 1999, whereas life expectancy rose by 8% for males and 7% for females. Life expectancy, however, is about two years lower than the national average for both sexes, although coming from an above average level pre 1999. 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.

Illustration 7: Life expectancy at birth in Zomba District by sex; 1999-2020

Source: National Statistical Office 1998a

2.1.2 Birth Rate

The District registered a crude birth rate of 36.4 births per 1,000 people in 1987, 50.2 in 1999 and 48.1 in 2006. This decrease between 1999 and 2006 is possibly due to relative improvement in family planning and generally improved education levels, as both tend to lower birth rates. In comparison, the national average was estimated at 42.0 for Malawi as a whole.

2.1.3 Mortality Rate

The infant mortality rate was 106.3 and 86.0 for males and females respectively in 1999, as compared to 88.6 and 72.5 for 2006. This indicates a decline in the birth rate and infant mortality rate during this period, indicating a slight overall improvement in living standards. According to the Integrated Household Survey of 2005, 9.8% of the households in the District reported at least one death in 2002 and 2003, which was lower than the national average of 13.3%. Deaths within the age group of 25-49 accounted for 55.2% of the District total, which was markedly higher than 37.6% for the nation. The second highest rate of 20.7% was reported by persons 50 years and older, which was still lower than the national average of 24.8%. The least reported deaths were in the age groups of 5-14 and 15-24, both of which were 6.9%, much lower than 11.3% and 9.7% in the nation for the age groups 5-14 and 15-24, respectively.

2.1.4 Total Fertility Rate

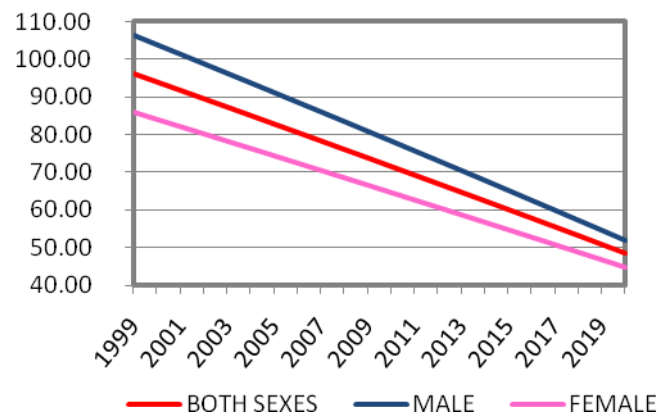
The total fertility rate is defined as the average number of children a woman is expected to have during her reproductive life. The rates for the District were 6.8, 6.2 and 6.0 in 1987, 1999 and 2006, respectively. This trend indicates women on average are having one child less today than twenty years ago.

2.1.5 Migration

There is little current data on migration patterns within Zomba District, and little data is available for Malawi as a whole. However, the National Statistics Office conducted an integrated household survey to understand current migration patterns within the country. The survey shows that young

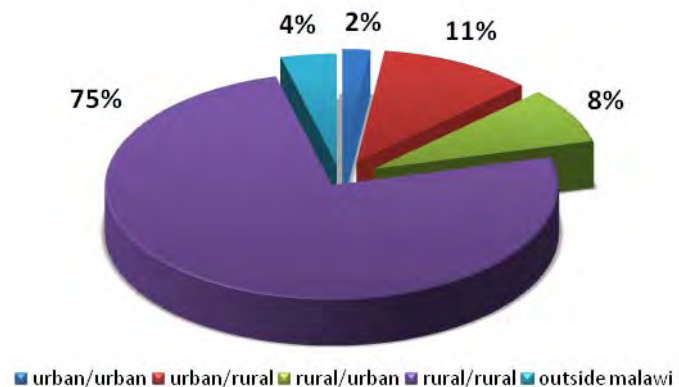
men aged 15-34 are the most likely group to migrate in search for education and employment. When extrapolating the national results for Zomba District, this means that most inhabitants, regardless of sex, migrate from their place of origin to other rural areas (75%), urban areas (8%), other countries in search of employment opportunities (1%). 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.

Illustration 8: Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births in Zomba District by sex; 1999-2020



Source: NSO 1998a

Illustration 9: Migration pattern by destination

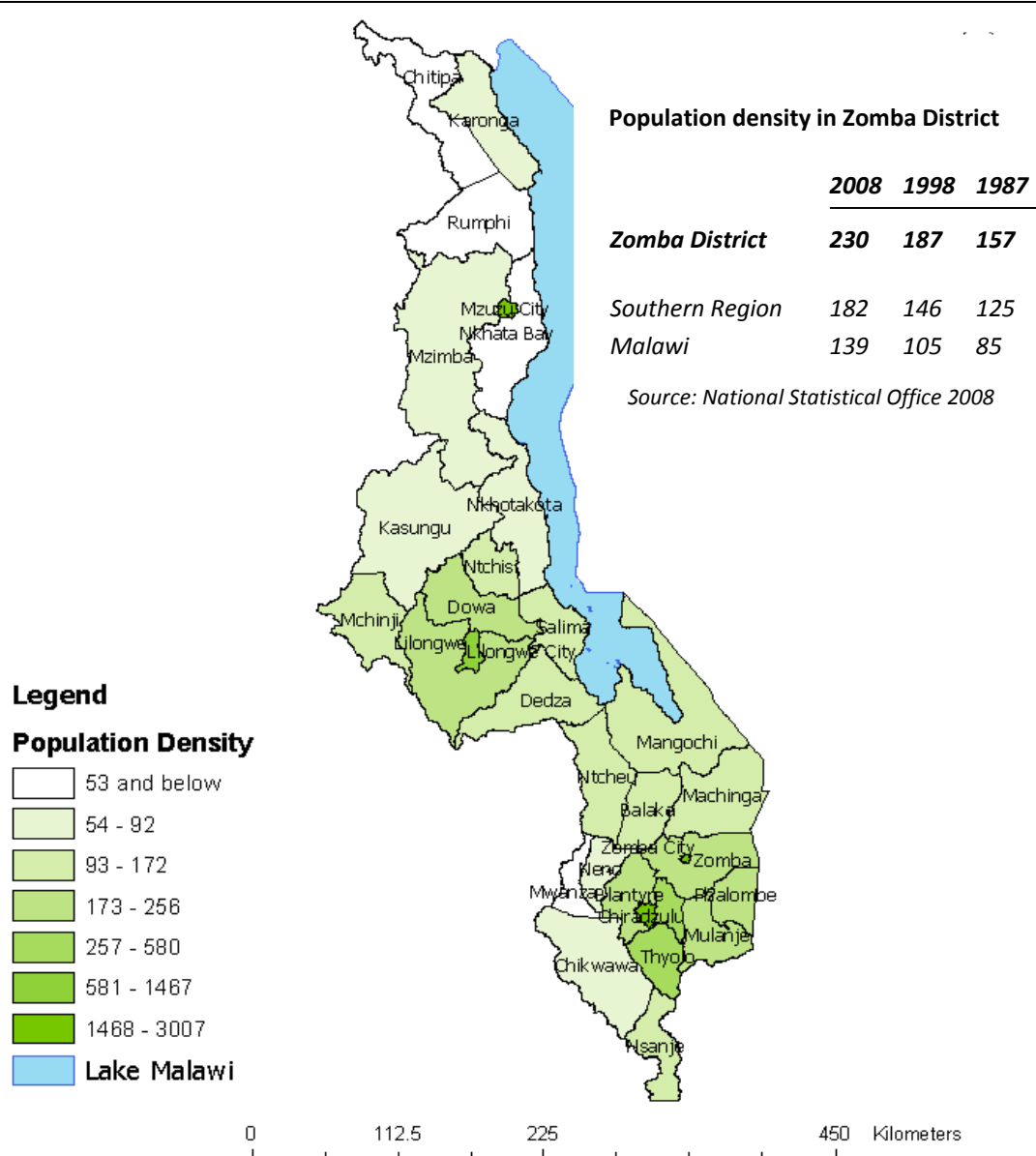


Source: NSO, 2006

2.2 POPULATION DENSITY & DISTRIBUTION

The population density in Zomba District increased from 187 since the last census was carried out up to 230 persons per square kilometre in 2008. Zomba District is one of the five most densely populated Districts in Malawi (average density: 139 Inh/km²), not counting urban centres. Due to fertile soils, the availability of water, the favourable landscape and climate, Zomba District, and the southern region as a whole, are, throughout history, more densely populated than the rest of the country.

Illustration 10: Map of Malawi showing Population Density by District, 2008



Source: National Statistical Office, 2008

On the sub-District level, Traditional Authority Chikowi is the most densely populated area with a density of 255 persons per square kilometre (1998), followed by Mwambo (195) and Kuntumanje (182). The Lake Chilwa area of Traditional Authority Mkumbira had the population density of 58 persons per square kilometre in 1987 and 56 persons per square kilometre in 1998, indicating overall population decline due to the struggling fish industry.

Table 9: Population density by TA's

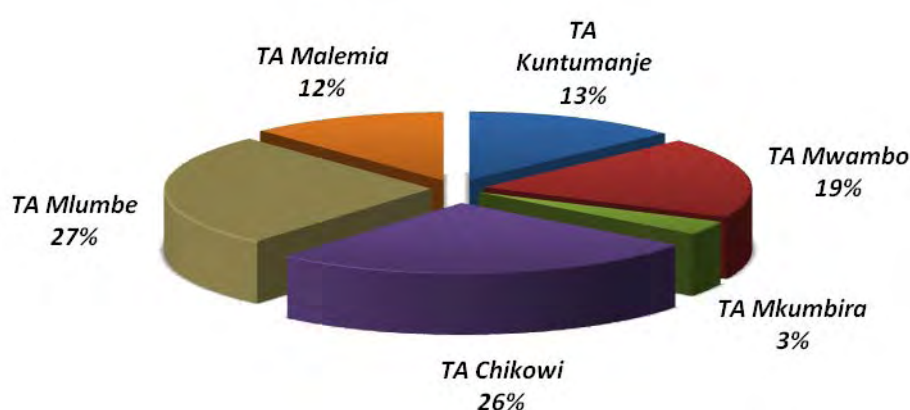
TA	Area (km²)	Pop. Density
<i>Chikowi</i>	660	255
<i>Mwambo</i>	482	195
<i>Kuntumanje</i>	332	182
<i>Mlumbe</i>	678	170
<i>Malemia</i>	306	157
<i>Mkumbira</i>	83	56

Sources: NSO 1998

Platzhalter for LAND USE cover

Zomba District has a total area of 2,580 square kilometres. TA Mlumbe has the largest area covering 678 square kilometres, followed by TA Chikowi and TA Mwambo with 660 and 482 square kilometres, respectively. TA Mkumbira is the smallest with 83 square kilometres. See Illustration six below for a detailed overview of land area by TA.

Illustration 11: Land area (in %) by TA



Source: National Statistical Office, 1998

Table 10: Agricultural land use, size (in Ha) and conditions, by EPA

EPA	Gross Area		Estates		Smallhold		Estate arable		Smallhold arable	
	Arable	Non Arable	Arable	Non Arable	Arable	Non Arable	Wet Land	Dry Land	Wet Land	Dry Land
Nsondole	11,435	1,250	226	-	11,435	1,250	-	225	2,250	10,345
Dzaone	15,686	7,268	450	45	15,231	7,223	30	420	1,968	13,713
Ngwelero	18,360	3,450	-	143	18,125	3,307	60	310	3,990	1,840
Chingale	40,000	600	111	-	39,290	-	-	111	700	38,590
Malosa	10,200	800	-	-	10,200	800	-	-	500	10,200
Mpokwa	20,427	10,340	1,271	224	18,972	10,300	64	1,207	1,897	17,075
Thondwe	36,216	245	19,950	155	15,991	90	295	19,655	219	15,772
Likangala	5,675	3,625	-	-	5,675	3,624	-	-	2,412	-
District	157,999	27,578	22,008	567	134,919	26,594	449	21,928	13,936	107,535

Source: Ministry of Local Governments and Rural Development, 2009

3.1 LAND TENURE SYSTEM

There are three main categories of land ownership in the District; (1) Customary Land, (2) Public Land and (3) Private Land.

3.1.1 Customary Land

Customary Land belongs to the people and is held in trust and administered by Traditional Authorities (Chiefs). This Land, which includes community forests, is most abundant in rural areas and very susceptible to transfer of ownership. This form of land ownership and administration is the most common form in Zomba District.

Customary Land accounts for over nine tenth of the total land are in the District, in absolute terms that is over 2280 sq km. The primary use of customary land is agriculture and community land (forests, open space and graveyards).

3.1.2 Public Land

Public Land is government owned land and land reserves defined under the Land Act. Public land accounts for about eight percent of the total land are in Zomba District, or roughly 200 sq km.

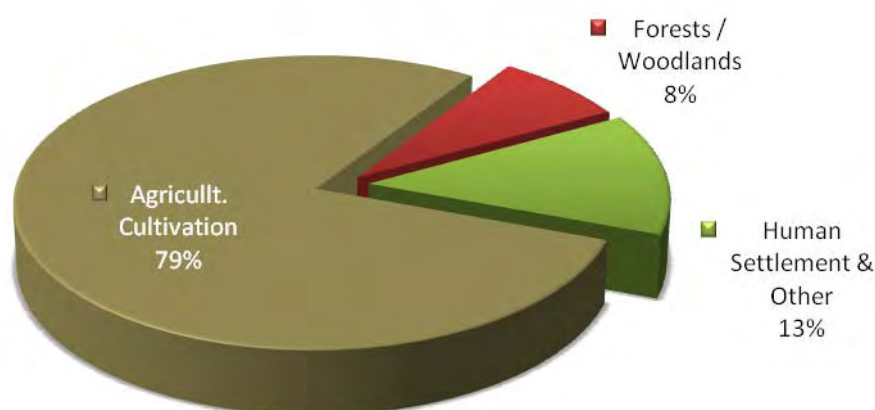
Primary use of public land is the Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve (90 km²), followed by national Infrastructure, specifically national roads plus road reserve; land lines and power and water facilities. A second major public land use is for security and defense (Air Wing, Army Barracks, Police Academy and Prisons). A minor amount of land belongs to the national education and health system.

3.1.3 Private Leasehold

Private land, leased from customary land makes up a very small portion (<2% or about 50 km²) of the total land area of Zomba District. Only very slowly people or institutions are registering customary land for secure tenure under leasehold. The main land use is for community services, especially religious facilities like churches and adjacent education and health posts. Also private schools and health posts use this form of land tenure.

3.2 LAND USE SYSTEM

Illustration 12: Land use in Zomba District



Source: National Statistical Office, 2008

Illustration 12 gives an overview of the proportion of land utilized for certain land use purposes, with agricultural and settlement land mostly under customary tenure and forest mainly under public tenure. No significant commercial or industrial estates exist in Zomba District.

3.3 LAND CONFLICTS

Increasing population pressure on land and the lack of formal land administration in the District are the primary reasons Zomba District has a number of problems related to land matters, most notable being land encroachment, land grabbing and border disputes. Land encroachment is mostly experienced in TA Mlumbe. This can largely be attributed to the area having some private commercial estates and that most of the terrain is hilly. The commercial estates occupy most of the fertile and good land in this area, whereas the local people are confined to the remaining marginal land. In addition, a number of villages that encroached into the private estates used to be of people who were formerly resident tenants within the estate lands. Land grabbing is another major problem. This is more pronounced in Mwambo and Chikowi Traditional Authorities, possibly due to the high population levels in these areas. Furthermore, general public ignorance on issues related to land matters slows the process of land management and administration.

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Zomba District is endowed with a vast range of natural resources ranging from rich forests, comparatively fertile soils to water resources from rivers and Lake Chilwa. Most of these natural resources, however are not used effectively and sustainably and thus are heavily threatened by mis- and over-utilisation. Encroachment into forest reserves and cultivation along riverbanks and marginal areas has resulted in massive erosion and siltation of rivers and persistent floods in the low-lying areas. Commercial charcoal burning is a special problem in Zomba District, especially around the Domasi area.

4.1 FOREST RESERVES AND WILDLIFE

Zomba District is home to the famous Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve on the Zomba Plateau. The protected forest area is around 90 km², with some semi intact forests adjacent to the actual reserve. Zomba District has no Game reserves, and while the endemic wildlife is mostly extinct in Zomba Districts, some rare species succeed to survive in the protected forests on the Zomba Plateau.

Table 11: Conserved Forest area (in ha)

	<i>conserved</i>	<i>plantable</i>
<i>Zomba Plateau</i>	4,570	4,166
<i>Zomba outer slopes</i>	4,790	1,174
<i>Total</i>	9,360	5,421

Source: Zomba District Databank, 2007

Zomba District can be separated into two distinct biotic communities. The highlands, which is semi-evergreen forest, while the other part is primarily savannah, turning into moderate wetlands towards Lake Chilwa. Vegetation is characterised by 'Miombo' woodlands (on the plateau, hills and escarpments), and 'Mopane' woodlands, which are largely dominated by *Colophospermum mopane* with open glades cover the fringes of the District. These woodlands tend to be associated with mopanosol soils and compact alkaline soils with unstable structural characteristics resulting in a low level of cultivation. Woodlands consisting of natural tree species like *brachystegia stipulata*, *brachystegia manga*, *brachystegia speciformis* and *jusbemadia globifora*. Wetland vegetation is dominated by perennial wet fringes. However, the natural vegetation has been reduced and disturbed in recent years due to cultivation.

Most afforestation efforts have been taking place in forest reserves and the plantation in collaboration with the Private sector and Donors/NGOs. Table 11 shows conserved areas for replanting in comparison to the total plantable area (in ha). The idea of community forests in the District was instituted when the Blantyre Fuel Wood Project handed over operations in 2002. These forests are Namilongo, Ulumba and Ntonya. In addition, there have been efforts to carry out afforestation programs through MASAF, like the Chikomwe Hills afforestation (25 ha) and rural livelihood programmes (43 ha). There are several factors that have led to the high rate of deforestation in the District, with the production of fuel wood, fires (either accidental or deliberate) and population growth being the most prominent ones.

The loss of natural forests has several immediate negative effects on the livelihoods of the communities in Zomba District, namely (i) siltation of rivers resulting in flooding during the rainy season in the lower areas of Namasalima and Chaweza; (ii) declining of water levels rendering some rivers dry during some seasons of the year; (iii) loss of habitats for aquatic life (i.e. the extinction of Domasi Matemba); (iv) soil degradation and the resulting loss of productivity; and ultimately (v) the loss of cultivatable land due to erosion and land degradation.

4.2 AQUATIC AND MARINE RESOURCES

Zomba District has one prime water body, Lake Chilwa, Malawi's third biggest Lake. Lake Chilwa, an inland drainage lake located 25 kilometres eastwards from Zomba City, is the only lake in the District. The lake varies in its size according to annual water intake from rain and rivers. It is a prominent source of water and fish for many residents of the District and surrounding areas. Apart from Lake Chilwa, two small artificial Lakes/Reservoirs exist on the Zomba Plateau, which bear a high importance for aquatic life and water resources for the people of Zomba District and especially Zomba City which entirely relies on water from the Zomba Plateau reservoirs.

Zomba District is crossed by ten rivers, namely the Shire, Likangala, Thondwe, Domasi, Mulunguzi, Naisi, Namadzi, Phalombe, Lintipe and Likwenu. Zomba Plateau is the source of all but two of these rivers, namely the Shire, which originates in Lake Malawi and Phalombe, which originates on Mulanje Mountain. The rivers form part of the Lake Chilwa Catchment Area. The Lake Chilwa aquatic biotope, comprised of the Lake and the surrounding marsh, is a huge water body still largely intact, although constantly under pressure at its borders and due to overuse (overfishing). If no measures are taken to sustainably use the aquatic resources, the biotope and its flora and fauna will most probably be deteriorating steadily. In recent years, water level fluctuation are

decreasing due to the steady decreasing water intake from rivers, with these rivers themselves being highly overused and polluted. Conservation efforts are being done mainly to protect the fauna (fish).

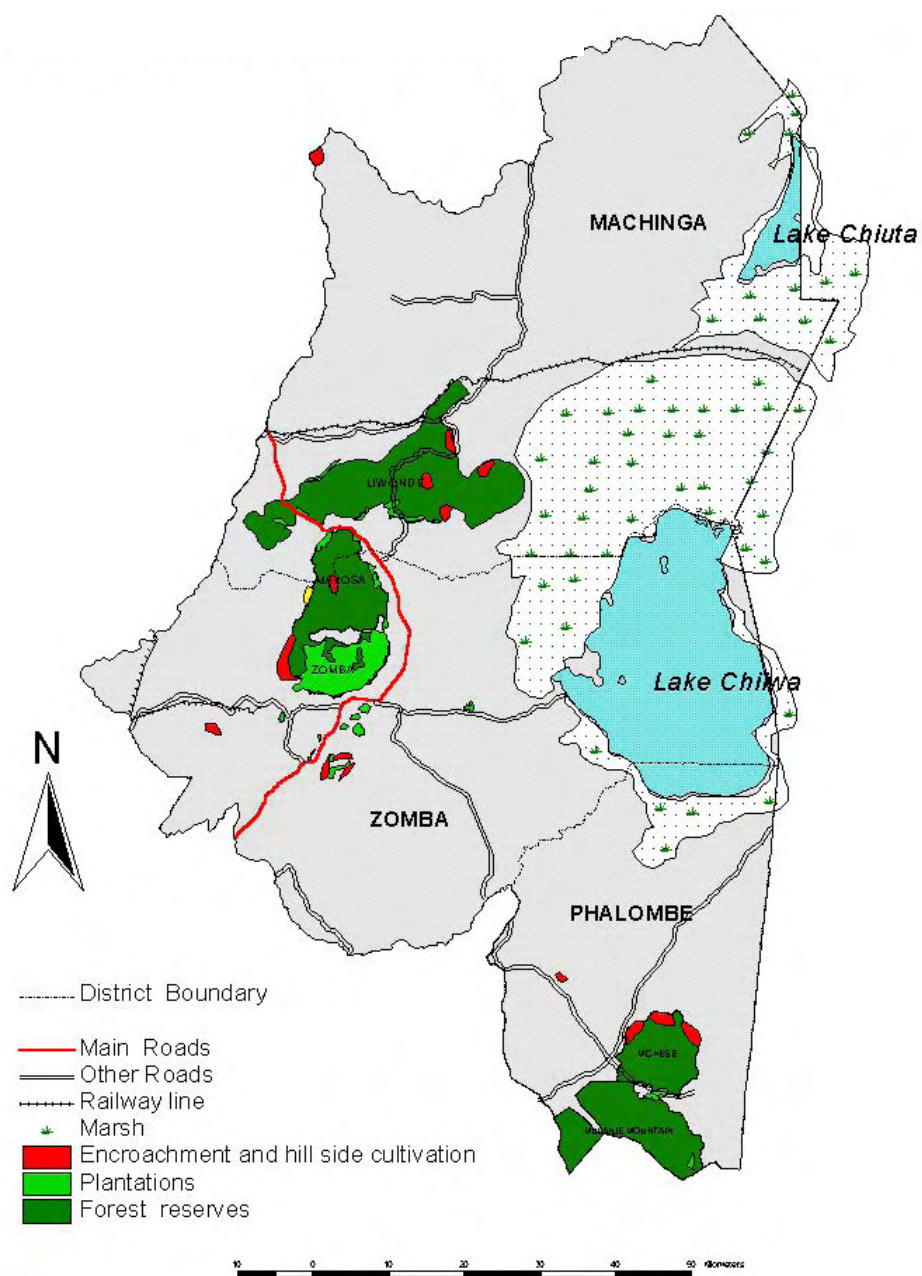
4.3 ENVIRONMENTALLY-CRITICAL AREAS

Illustration 13 (see next page) shows the critical hot spots with regard to the environment, with the two most pressing issues being soil degradation and water depletion.

Soil degradation is rampant in Ngwerelo EPA due to poor farming practices followed by Malosa EPA because of cultivation along marginal areas. In the Phalombe plains of Mayaka and Jali, there is considerable decline of soil fertility because there is continuous use of the land without following proper land husbandry practices. The result of this is a steady decline in agricultural yield over the past three years. Ultimately, the land loses the ability to sustain the current population, resulting in ever declining incomes and ultimately people are and will be forced to cultivate in marginal areas or emigrate. The use of fertilizer through the fertilizer programme, though highly successful in Zomba District, exacerbates the problem due to short term gains in productivity and yield, although the root causes are not tackled and will most likely result in a long term loss of natural soil fertility.

The amount of water available in the District is more than sufficient, however, it varies dramatically between years based upon rainfall levels and successive river water levels, even in years of high rainfall, the level of water diminishes significantly within rivers during dry season because of the lack of rain and the effects of widespread deforestation and soil degradation. Silt caused by soil erosion is filling depressions of riverbeds, so that the number and size of pools of water available during dry season is diminishing. This affects the amount of water available to communities for activities such as fishing, irrigating, and domestic use. The level of water pollution continues to rise primarily because of fertilizer residues and, to a minor extent, improper disposal of waste that result from increased population growth and land pressure.

Illustration 13: Environmentally critical areas in Zomba District



Source: Zomba District Assembly, 2008

5.1 AGRICULTURE

The economy of Zomba District is by all means dominated by agriculture. The District has a total land area of 258,000 hectares. Out of this area, 203,028 hectares are under cultivation, 20,16 hectares are forests/woodland, and the remaining area, 34,812 hectares is for human settlements.

Zomba District Agriculture Office is technically under the supervision of Machinga ADD. The District Agriculture Office has 8 EPAs namely Mpokwa, Chingale, Dzaone, Malosa, Thondwe, Nsondole, Ngwelero and Likangala. There are 101 sections. The District Agriculture Development Officer (DADO) heads the District Agriculture Office, Agriculture Extension Development Coordinators (AEDC) head EPAs and an Agriculture Extension Development Officer (AEDO) mans a Section.

5.1.1 Crops

(a) Agricultural Production

Of all the cash crops, cassava has the highest yield for all the years with 177,017 metric tons during the 2003/04 growing season. The District produced more maize than any other food crop from 2003/04 to 2007/08 growing seasons.

Table 12: Major Agricultural products in Zomba District 2003-2008, by area (ha) and yield (mT)

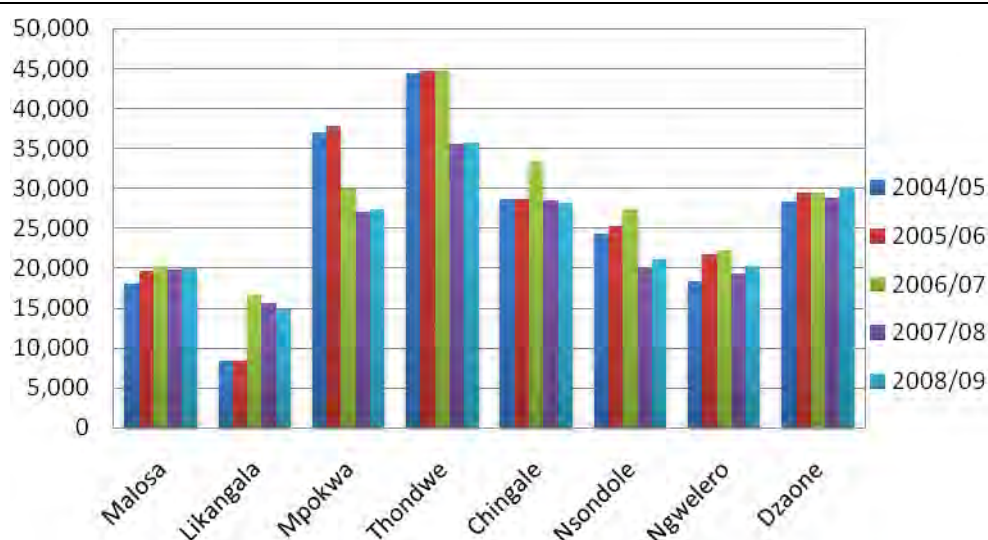
	2003 - 2004		2004 - 2005		2005 - 2006		2006 - 2007		2007 - 2008	
	Area	Yield	Area	Yield	Area	Yield	Area	Yield	Area	Yield
Maize	73,428	75,656	76,107	50,448	80,012	120,883	67,366	162,260	85,003	120,821
Rice	1,987	3,382	3,632	6,047	3,955	9,169	4,612	12,416	5,045	8,389
G/nuts	5,333	3,369	8,256	3,116	7,992	5,685	8,802	6,853	9,642	6,680
Sorghum	4,383	3,634	7,648	3,342	7,995	6,564	8,410	7,031	8,393	6,810
Beans	2,178	699	3,177	1,479	3,687	1,973	4,462	2,173	4,790	1,977
Tobacco	6,461	5,952	6,028	4,647	5,549	5,260	3,179	3,103	4,358	3,494
Cassava	14,744	177,017	11,458	97,164	12,069	156,209	11,354	165,450	11,897	167,188
S/potato	10,604	79,301	6,738	45,178	9,020	112,624	9,120	118,451	9,807	105,291
Cotton	3,542	2,180	4,410	2,457	3,687	3,038	3,949	3,357	3,483	2,610
total	122,660	351,190	127,454	213,878	133,966	421,405	121,254	481,094	142,418	423,260
Yield/ha		2.86 mT		1.67 mT		3.14 mT		3.96 mT		2.97 mT

Source: District Agriculture Development Office, 2009

The major crops produced in Zomba District are Maize, Rice, Tobacco, Beans, Sorghum, Cassava, Cotton, Sweet Potato and Ground Nuts. Table 12 shows the yields in metric Tons (mT) of these major crops grown and their area in Hectares (Ha). The figures clearly indicate the steadily increasing agricultural production and extension of cultivation areas, with a sharp decline in agricultural production during the 2004/05 agricultural season as compared to the other seasons followed by a singular drop in cultivation area, most probably as a result of lower farm incomes in the previous year. Most remarkably, agricultural production rapidly regained strength with an almost doubling yield in the following year (05/06). On a yield per area basis 05/06 and 06/07 were exceptionally high yielding seasons.

The number of farm families in the District increased from 207,651 to 223,916 between 2004/05 and 2006/07 growing seasons but sharply decreased to 194,650 and 197,508 in 2007/08 and 2008/09 growing seasons respectively. It is believed that these fluctuations of farm families, mostly migrating farmers, largely attributed to the in- and decreasing of the maize production during these respective periods. Thondwe Extension Planning Area has the highest number of farm families, although together with Likangala and Mpokwa EPAs show a decline in overall numbers. This drop can be linked attributed to the rural outmigration to urban centres, likewise indicating a saturation point of agricultural sustainability is reached.

Illustration 14: Number of farm families by EPA; 2004-2009



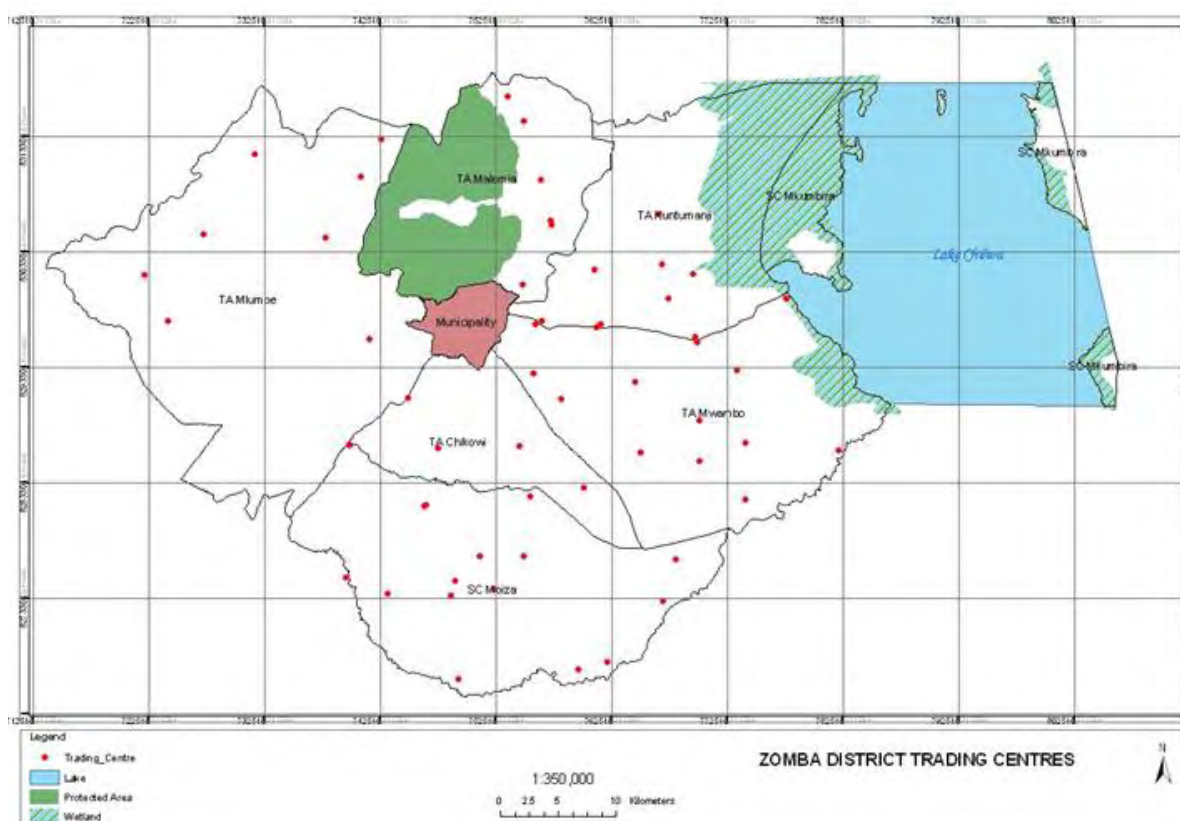
Source: District Agriculture Development Office, 2009

(b) Agricultural Markets

The District has a total of 25 ADMARC markets and 31 District Assembly markets. The name and distribution of these markets is shown in the table and illustration below.

Mwambo	Mlumbe	Malemia	Chikowi	Kuntumanje	Mkumbira
Jali; Govala; Likangala	Mpita; Chimseu; Mswaswa; Chingale; Mmambo; Masaula; Nachikwangwala	Domasi; Malosa; Naisi	Dzaone; Sunuzi ; Zomba; Mayaka; Thondwe; Jenala; Chimwalira; Ngwelero; Chikomwe	Mpeta; Msondole	Kachulu

Illustration 15: Location of trading centres in Zomba District



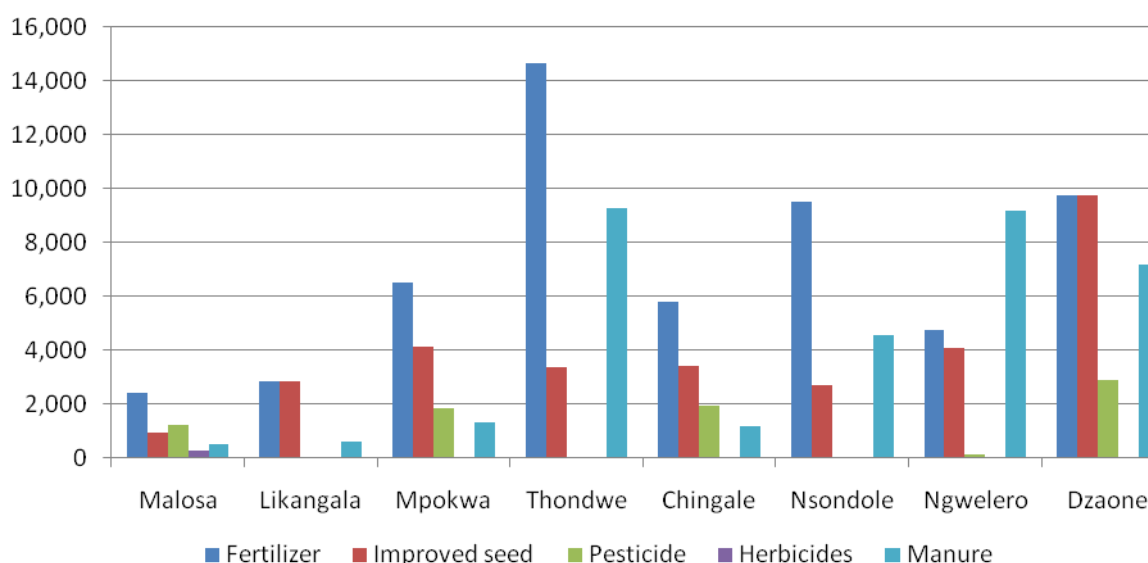
Source: District Agriculture Development Office, 2009

(c) Agricultural Practice

There is a great variety of agricultural practices offered which the farmers are encouraged to follow in the District. These practices not only help the farmers to harvest enough food and cash crops but also improve soil fertility. The practices include labour saving technologies, soil and water conservation, soil fertility Improvement, conservation farming and rain harvest.

The use of improved inputs is one of the practices that is strongly encouraged. These inputs include fertilizer, manure, herbicides, pesticides and improved seed varieties. The following Illustration (16) is showing the number of farmers who adopted these improved farm inputs in the various EPAs.

Illustration 16: No. of Farmers adopting various farm input, by EPA



Source: District Agricultural Development Office, 2009

(e) Irrigation

The District has high potential for irrigation, mainly due to (i) the natural incline from the Plateau (the major source of freshwater) to the cultivation areas, (ii) the availability of perennial rivers like Likangala, Naisi, Songani, Shire and others, (iii) the low groundwater level in the plains around Lake Chilwa, and (iv) the huge freshwater reservoir of Lake Chilwa itself. There are currently ten irrigation schemes in the District. Likangala Extension Planning Area has five schemes (Kanda, Likangala, Chiliko, Ngala, and Segula).

Mpokwa has three (Kanjedza, Mkanga and Kachere). Chingale and Malosa EPAs have one scheme each (Kalisinje and Minama, respectively). Maize and vegetables are the main crops grown under irrigation. The main types of irrigation used in the District include (i) river diversion, (ii) gravity fed irrigation, (iii) treadle and motorised pump, and (iv) watering cane and residual moisture.

Table 13: Main Types of Irrigation used in Zomba District (in No.)

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<i>Treadle pumps</i>	147	196	196
<i>Motorized pumps</i>	9	14	14
<i>Water cans</i>	64	88	88
<i>Gravity fed</i>	58	75	75
<i>River impounding</i>	18	34	34
<i>Dams</i>	1	1	1

Source: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, 2009

Table 14: Irrigation Area in Ha (actual and potential), 2009

	Actual	Potential
<i>Treadle pumps</i>	509	860
<i>Motorized pumps</i>	84	160
<i>Water cans</i>	242	120
<i>Gravity fed</i>	1,114	1,250
<i>River impounding</i>	23	80
<i>Dams</i>	40	40
<i>District total</i>	2,012	2,510

Source: Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, 2009

The potentially irrigable land was estimated at around 2,510 ha, of which today about 75% (2,012 ha) are under irrigation. The table above (14) shows total area under irrigation versus the potential area in hectares by types of irrigation. It also gives the percentage of the area under irrigation to the potential.

5.2 FISHERY

Fish is a significant resource for the communities in Zomba District. There are approximately 3,400 fishermen in Zomba District. The numbers fluctuate steadily because of the seasonal nature of fishermen.

(a) Fishing Grounds

The main sources of fish are artificial habitats (ponds/dams) and natural habitats (Lake Chilwa and rivers). Lake Chilwa, which provides a great percentage of fish caught in the District is divided into three ecological zones called *minor strata*, Chinguma, Chisi and Kachulu. One *minor stratum* can cover two or more TAs. Each stratum has several fish landing sites, in total over 30 in Zomba District. Fluctuations in water levels can cause the landing sites to temporarily change locations.

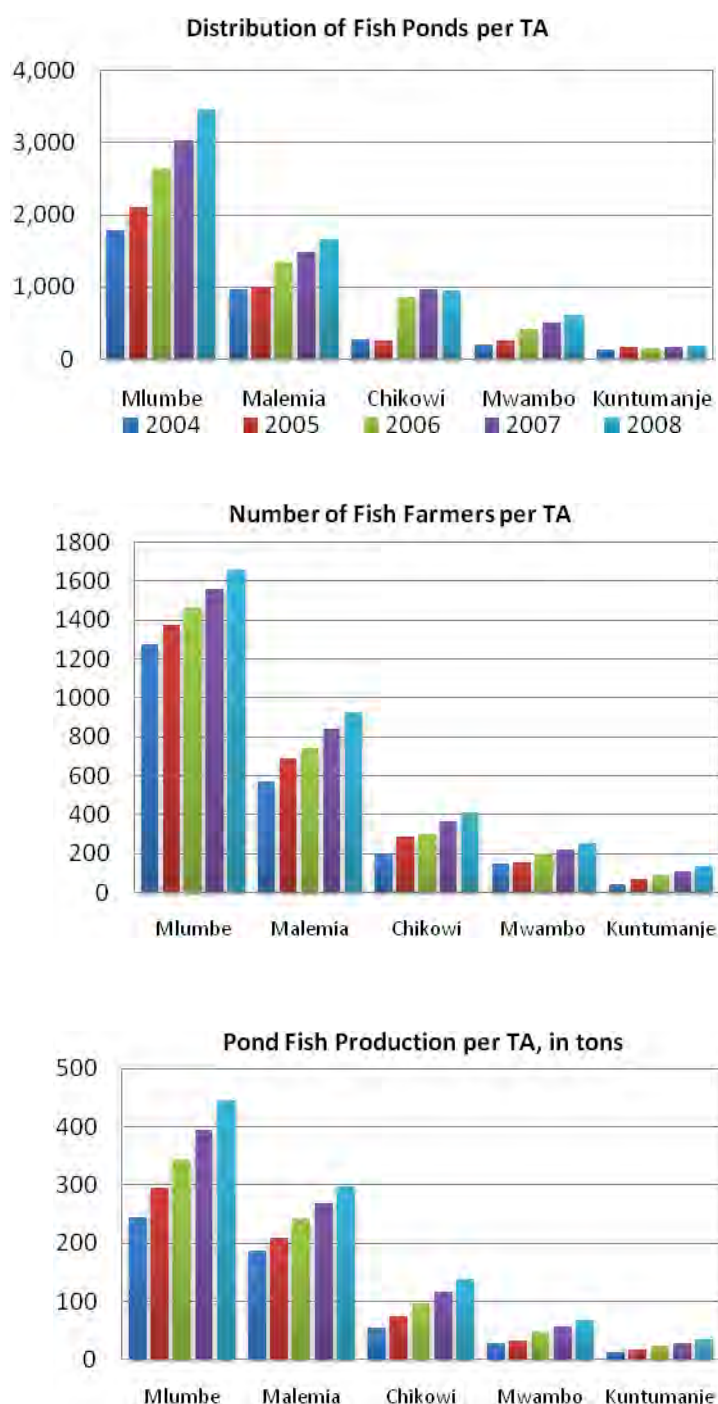
(b) Production

Aquaculture, production of fish in ponds and dams, is gaining popularity in Zomba District. During the past four years (2004-2008), fish production has increased from 527 tons in 2004 to 983 tonnes in 2008, representing an increase of 87% (!). At the end of 2009, it is estimated that the number will exceed 1,000 tons. The main four fish species are Makumba (*Oreochromis shiranus*), Chilinguni (*Tilapia rendalli*), Chambo (*Oreochromis karongae*) and Mlamba (*Clarias gariepinus*). These species account for about 80% of the total catches.

More and more communities practice fish farming, actively supported by national institutions and NGOs, most notably the National Aquaculture Centre (NAC) production initiative of fingerlings; NAC not only produces these fingerlings, it also identified and trained farmers in fingerling production and catfish nursing. TA Mlumbe has a large number of fish farmers mainly because it is the impact area of the World Vision International C-Fish Programme. Data regarding production does not segregate fish production by species.

(c) Fishery services and activities

Illustration 17: Statistics on Aquaculture



Source: Zomba District Databank, 2008

Fish is distributed within the District (including Zomba City) through local markets. Some species, especially Matamba, are further transported to major cities (Blantyre, Lilongwe etc.). Marketing is currently done by individuals. The distribution chain starts by fishermen selling their catches to processors who clean, dry and/or smoke the fish. These processors then sell the fish to retailers, who eventually sell them in fish markets. Note that many of the processors are women who often form groups to receive funding from micro-financing institutions. There is no company involved in selling fish from Lake Chilwa. Below is a list of local fish markets per TA.

TA Mwambo	TA Chikowi	TA Mlumbe	TA Malemia / TA Kuntumanje
<i>Jali</i>	<i>Mayaka</i>	<i>Chingale</i>	<i>Domasi</i>
<i>Govala</i>	<i>Jenala</i>	<i>Chinseu</i>	<i>Songani</i>
<i>Matiya</i>	<i>Ngwelero</i>	<i>Masaula</i>	<i>Ngwalangwa</i>
<i>Blantyre</i>	<i>Chimwalira</i>	<i>Chipini</i>	<i>Sakata</i>
<i>Mpyupyu</i>	<i>Khonjeni</i>	<i>Thondwe</i>	<i>Namwera T/Off</i>
<i>Gomani</i>	<i>Makina</i>	<i>Namadidi</i>	<i>Malosa</i>
<i>Sombi</i>	<i>Likhomo</i>	<i>Nachikwangwala</i>	
<i>Mua</i>	<i>Six Miles</i>	<i>Chigumula</i>	
8	11	8	6

Fish processing in Zomba is basic, and small-scale operators perform all of it. The main processing technologies consist of sun drying and smoking fish. Because the technology processes the entire fish, no other products or by-products are created. The department of fisheries is the key player in the provision of fishery services. There are some donor agencies and NGOs that also support the fisheries sector in Zomba

Table 15: Donors / NGOs supporting fisheries

Organization / Agency	Intervention	Area
<i>JICA</i>	<i>Research, fingerling production, small scale fish farming development</i>	<i>Domasi</i>
<i>World Fish Centre</i>	<i>Fish farming Research and community outreach</i>	<i>Zomba DDistrict</i>
<i>FAO</i>	<i>Small scale cat fish (Mlamba) production</i>	<i>Chingale</i>
<i>Compass</i>	<i>Participatory Fisheries Management</i>	<i>Lake Chilwa</i>
<i>World Vision</i>	<i>Small scale fish farming</i>	<i>Chingale</i>

Source: Zomba District Fisheries Office, 2006

Six fishery extension workers cover all the six TAs. The fisheries sector is encouraging community participation in the management of fishery resources, and local institutions have been established to manage fishery, both in Lake Chilwa and natural rivers. Fish farming extension services are provided at the following three levels – individual, club and association. There are 40 clubs in the District. Zomba Fish Farmers Association is the only legally registered association. There are three beach village committees (BVC) in the Chinguma *minor stratum*, five BVCs in Chisi *minor stratum* and eight BVCs in Kachulu *minor stratum*. In addition, 14 river village committees (RVC) exist within TA Mwambo. The lake is also closed from 1st December to 28th February each year to allow natural regeneration of the fish population. The following three area fisheries associations (AFA) serve Lake Chilwa: Mwambo AFA, Kuntumanje AFA and Mkumbira AFA. BVCs and RVCs falling under the jurisdiction of a particular TA are responsible to their AFAs.

5.3 LIVESTOCK

The main types of livestock are cattle, goats, pigs, poultry and sheep. Chingale and Malosa are the areas with the most livestock. Poultry is the most commonly raised livestock followed by goats and cattle.

Table 16: Livestock Population in ZD, 2006-2009

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
<i>Local Chicken</i>	460,655	623,300	800,545
<i>Goats</i>	103,374	128,722	153,392
<i>Rabbits</i>	27,301	71,584	84,664
<i>PigIndigenous</i>	13,778	51,218	70,292
<i>Doves</i>	44,180	93,482	62,362
<i>Ducks</i>	36,658	46,514	62,362
<i>G/Fowls</i>	25,964	72,959	49,195
<i>Ckicken-Blackaustrop</i>	8,895	17,878	28,293
<i>Dogs</i>	14,682	20,795	24,299
<i>Sheep</i>	10,321	14,031	16,360
<i>Turkeys</i>	6,375	29,139	15,426
<i>Cattle-Beef</i>	11,573	12,621	13,913
<i>Chicken-Broilers</i>	4,888	10,332	12,033
<i>PigExotic</i>	12,495	9,308	11,171
<i>Chicken-Layers</i>	15,272	6,708	6,972
<i>Cattle-Dairy</i>	797	910	1,029
District Total	797,208	1,209,501	1,412,308

Source: Zomba District Databank, 2009

5.3.1 Livestock Products

Meat, milk and hides are the major livestock product in the district. Generally, production is low due to poor feeding, poor shelter and use of unimproved breeds.

5.3.2 Livestock Facilities

There are 11 functional dip tanks, Mayaka Dip Tank and Chingale Dip tank, 2 functional Milk Bulking groups; Thondwe and Naming'azi Bulking Groups. There are 9 functional slaughter slabs. Artificial Insemination will mostly be done in Thondwe EPA where an AI technician has just been trained. Below is a table showing the livestock facilities.

Table 17: District Livestock Facilities, by EPA

	No. of Dip Tanks	Slaughter Slabs	Milk Bulking Groups
<i>Mpokwa</i>	3	1	2
<i>Malosa</i>	-	2	-
<i>Nsondole</i>	2	-	1
<i>Ngwelero</i>	2	2	-
<i>Dzaone</i>	1	-	-
<i>Thondwe</i>	-	1	1
<i>Likangala</i>	1	2	-
<i>Chingale</i>	2	3	-
<i>District Total</i>	11	11	4

Source: Zomba District Databank, 2009

5.3.3 Livestock Diseases

The following are the livestock diseases for livestock in the district: African swine fever for pigs, Foot and Mouth for goats, Babesiosis and Trips for cattle. Gumboro and New Castle affect poultry.

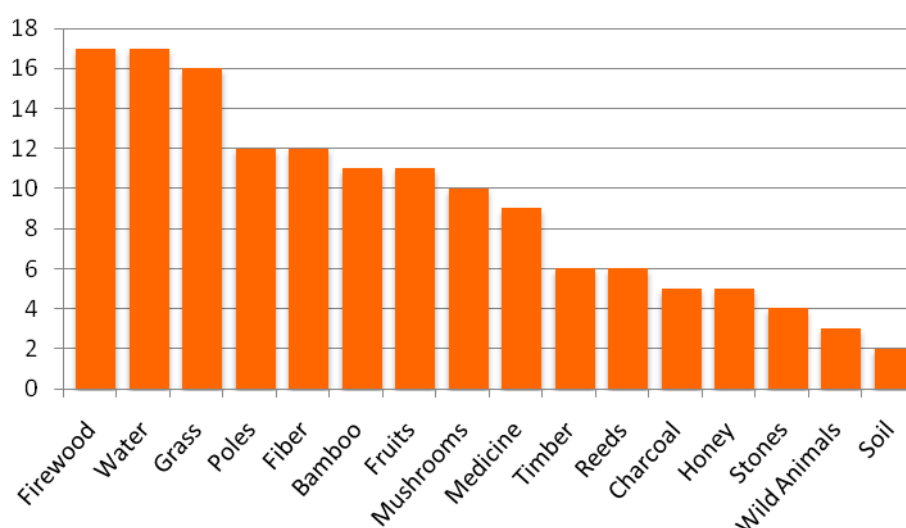
Mpokwa, Malosa and Chingale are the most serviced areas within the district.

There are no veterinary clinics in all the EPAs. However, there are 9 veterinary extension workers with Mpokwa and Ngwelero having 2; dzaone has none while the rest have 1 each.

5.4 FORESTRY

Zomba District is, still, comparatively well endowed with forest, however, sustainable forest management is not yet well established. Illustration 18 shows that the top ten forestry products are of extractive types, with the results being visibly throughout the District. The semi-evergreen forest on the highlands, consisting of natural tree species like *brachystegia stipulata*, *brachystegia manga*, *brachystegia specifformis* and *jusbemadia globifora*. Wet- and lowland vegetation is dominated by perennial wet fringes. However, the natural vegetation has been reduced and disturbed in recent years due to cultivation. The forest in Zomba Districts is either customary community forest or state owned forest in the Zomba-Malosa Forest Reserve.

Illustration 18: Most common forestry products in Zomba District



Source: Zomba District Forestry Office, 2009

Afforestation efforts have been taking place in forest reserves and the plantation in collaboration with the private sector and Donors/NGOs. Table 11 (please refer to the Chapter on Environment) shows conserved areas for replanting in comparison to the total plantable area. The idea of community forests in the District was instituted when the Blantyre Fuel wood Project handed over operations in 2002. These forests are Namilongo, Ulumba and Ntonya. Apart from these there has been efforts to carry out afforestation programs through MASAF, like Chikomwe hills afforestation (25 ha) and rural livelihood programmes (43 ha). There are several factors that have led to the high rate of deforestation the District, with the production of fuel wood, fires (either

accidental or deliberate) and population growth being the most prominent ones. The loss of natural forests has several immediate negative effects on the livelihoods of the communities in Zomba District, namely: (i) siltation of rivers resulting in flooding during the rainy season in the lower areas of Namasalima and Chaweza; (ii) declining of water levels rendering some rivers dry during some parts of the year; (iii) loss of habitats for aquatic life (i.e. the extinction of Domasi Matemba); (iv) soil degradation and the resulting loss of productivity; and ultimately (v) the loss of cultivatable land due to failure to replant and because of this the area is prone to erosion and land degradation

5.5 MINING

Mining activities only cover crude stone quarrying and sand mining, many 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. The only major factory in the District at Changalume seized operations due to depletion of limestone deposits.

Mineral deposits found in Zomba comprise of 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 aegerin and smoky quartz. The minerals mentioned are mined by small scale artisan miners.

Dimension stones are produced from synites 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. Rock aggregate, is crushed mostly from synites along the main roads. As mentioned above, these comprise of aegerine and varieties of quartz like smoky quarts. These are mined from Zomba and Malosa Mountains.

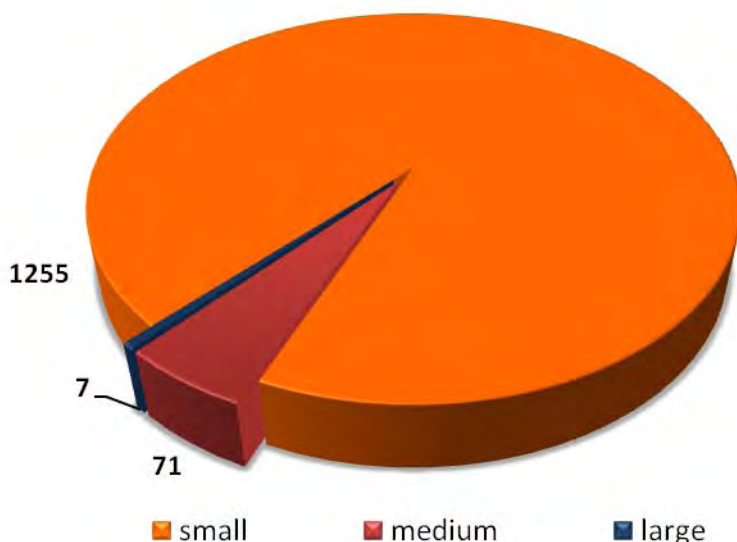
5.6 COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

5.6.1 Type and Size of Business Establishment

The Zomba District enterprise structure 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 traders, 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 agroprocessing, forestry products, fisheries, small scale mining and quarrying.

Illustration 19: Registered Enterprises in Zomba District, by size



Source: Zomba District Assembly, 2009

Based on the Tentative Malawi Business Classification Scheme of Categories, Illustration 19 shows the enterprises by their size and it demonstrates that of the 1,333 enterprises registered most (1,255 representing about 94%) are small while 71 are medium and only 7(1%) can be classified as large.

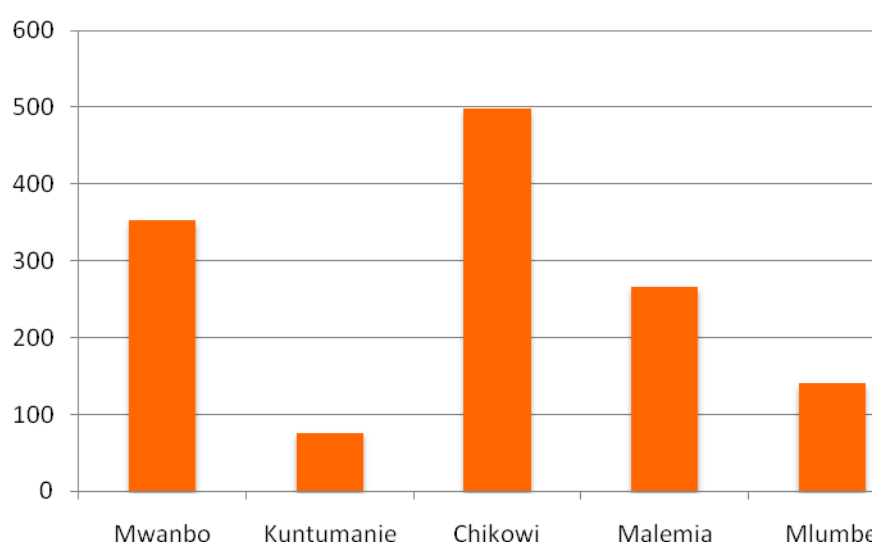
The trend of registered enterprises in an eight year period (1999-2006) shows a steady decline of registered enterprises in Zomba District from 1,404 down to 1,333 (-5%). This was mainly due to a number of closures, in particular affecting grinding mills and local groceries as a result of the low yielding 2004/2005 farming season.

Since the crisis period 04/05, recovery is visible throughout the District but mainly in the informal sector, not yet reflected in the statistics. These businesses were and still are, among other challenges, also exposed to the physical insecurity of property. The capacity of the rural poor to diversify sources of income for poverty reduction is negatively affected by this incidence. However, as noted before, opportunities have surfaced since, and the last 3-4 years have witnessed a remarkable decline in cases of physical insecurity. 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 Sunuzi highway that connects Zomba to Phalombe and Mulanje Districts. A

new Zomba-Blantyre Road, that will further improve the linkage with the commercial hub, is in the pipeline. 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 further, the introduction of itinerant markets has also opened up new market opportunities for many businesses that keep moving their merchandise.

There are 32 principal trading centres in Zomba District, the top ten in terms of turnover in descending order are: Mayaka, Namwera, Jail, Thondwe, Songani, Chimseu, Govala, Dzaone, Chimwalira, 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.

Illustration 20: No. of registered enterprises in Zomba District, by TA



Source: District Business Promotion Office, 2008

Illustration 20 shows that TA Chikowi has the largest absolute number, and accounts for 37% of enterprises likely because 12 of the 32 principal trading centres are in that area. TA Malemia has 26% of the enterprises while TA Kuntumanje has the least with 6%.

The presence of large companies in the District is negligible in terms of employment and turnover considering that only 2% 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, most of them public, include: Agricultural Development and Marketing Company (ADMARC), Electricity Supply

Commission of Malawi (ESCOM), Southern Bottlers (SOBO), Malawi Telecom Limited (MTL), Telecom Networks Malawi (TNM) and Sunbird,

(a) Tourism and Agriculture

Table 15: Number of business establishments by sector and size

	Type	Size			Total
		Small	Medium	Large	
Tourism	<i>Accommodation</i>	6	1	1	8
	<i>Hotel</i>	1	1	-	2
	<i>Curios</i>	4	-	-	4
	<i>Lodges</i>	6	2	1	9
	<i>Rest House</i>	20	13	2	35
	Total	37	17	4	58
Agriculture	<i>Agricultur Produce</i>	4	20	1	25

Source: District Business Promotion Office, 2008

Table 15 shows that the tourism sector accounts for 64% of all registered enterprises and, though significant for the economy in Zomba District, must still be classified as small, even more so if measured against the great potential in the District. Accommodation mainly represents structures built for rental purposes including residential and business premises. Over 60% of the enterprises in the tourism sector are rest houses, with the majority of them in a substandard state while the only international standard hotel is the *Sunbird* Ku-Chawe on the Zomba Plateau, at the same time the only large Company operating in the District apart from the national statutory companies, ESCOM, ADMARC, Malawi Postal Services and SRWB.

In the agriculture sector 80% of the registered enterprises are medium with a focus on crop produce as well as farm input marketing and the majority of these are ADMARC selling points situated at the major trading centres.

(b) Manufacturing, Energy & Mining, Agro-processing and Liquor trade

Table 16: Number of businesses by sector and size

Sector	Type	Size		
		Small	Medium	Large
<i>Light scale</i>	<i>Bakery</i>	1	1	-

<i>manufacturing</i>	<i>Carpentry</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Coffin Workshop</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>
	Total	37	6	-
<i>Energy and Mining</i>	<i>Mining</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Filling Stations</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	Total	-	3	-
<i>Agro-Processing</i>	<i>Maize Milling</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Rice Milling</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Tailoring</i>	<i>113</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Liquor Trade</i>	Total	181	2	-
	<i>Chibuku Bar</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Liquor trading</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Bars</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Beer Brewing</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>Bottle Store</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>
	Total	45	7	1

Source: District Business Promotion Office, 2008

Table 16 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 (95%) which basically covers general carpentry and coffin/furniture shops whose subsector declined by 37% during the last decade based on the 1999 data.

In the energy sector, it is noteworthy that the District has no filling stations, but with the construction of various new roads, there might be some opportunities for petrochemical companies to establish facilities along those roads (i.e. the Zomba Jali Road). All needed petrochemical products are currently provided by the facilities in Zomba City.

Mining activities only cover crude stone quarrying and sand mining, many in the informal subsector. There are however opportunities for small scale surface gemstone mining along the western part of Zomba Mountain in the area of Traditional Authority Mlumbe. The only major factory at Chungalume closed down due to depletion of limestone deposits.

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 remained unchanged while grain milling increased by 52% from 1999. There are however abundant opportunities in the agroprocessing sector since Zomba is endowed with plenty of locally available and untapped or underutilised natural resources and

many agricultural products including soya beans, cassava, cotton, rice, water melons, avocado pears, vegetables, tobacco and many other fruits.

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 the following centres: Songani, Govala and Chimseu and Zomba City.

The major constraints in the agro-processing sector are about lack of standards development 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.

In the liquor trading sector, 85% of the enterprises are classified as small and the sector is dominated by sales of alcohol brewed outside the District.

(c) Trade and Services

Table 17 shows that the number of established markets comprise 2% of the enterprises under trade and distribution while the rest, not counting the numerous informal traders, are groceries, other retail, wholesale and butcheries. There are nine registered butcheries (goat meat, beef and pork) in the District. Groceries representing about 80% of all the enterprises in this sector. The only *Peoples* supermarket at Namwera turn off trading centre has since closed.

Table 17: Number of businesses by sector and size

	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size</i>		
		<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Large</i>
<i>Trade and Distribution</i>	<i>Established Market</i>	3	2	-
	<i>Grocery, Butchery, retail and wholesale</i>	290	6	-
	Total	293	8	-
<i>Service</i>	<i>Education</i>	8	9	1
	<i>Garage</i>	8	3	-
	<i>Transport & Communications</i>	9	2	-

<i>Exchange System</i>	-	1	-
<i>Postal Service</i>	5	-	-
<i>Telephone Bureau</i>	48	-	-
<i>Health Centre</i>	2	1	-
<i>Maternity Clinic</i>	-	1	-
<i>Private Hospital</i>	1	1	-
<i>Restaurant and</i>			
<i>Tearooms</i>	165	-	-
<i>Other**</i>	384	8	-
Total	630	26	1

Source: District Business Promotion Office, 2008

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, frying chips, grain storage, hall hiring, mill repairing, distributors and transporters, youth centre, photo studio, radio and watch repairer, shoe repair, small financial service, traditional healer, video show and warehousing.

Apart from the above, a small businesses sector of arts and craft exists in Zomba District, which covers welding, knitting, tinsmiths, cane furniture, pottery and curios; the few businesses are all classified as small.

(d) Technical support and extension services

The main trainings extended to the business community include: 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. Skills trainings are conducted in value addition enterprises such as oil extraction, juice and jam making, 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 training. 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 and management.

The majority of small scale businesses continue to be run on poor business management due to inadequate basic business knowledge of the community and contradicting and non coordinated enterprise support. Except for isolated cases in the District, extension service in business is mainly restricted to groups that access micro-financing while the majority is left to run their business based on common sense and inherited or copied business practices.

5.6.2 Banking and Credit Facilities

(a) Commercial Banks and Financial Institutions

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). These Banks include *National Bank*, *STANDARD BANK*, *New Building Society*, *Malawi Savings*, *First Merchant Bank* and *Opportunity International* (OIBM) which just started operations last year. OIBM focuses at rural outreach and has since intensified in the area under the Millennium Village Project in TA Mumble. On-farm activities are also supported by the banks.

Average Commercial Bank interest rates have stabilised at about 21% (ZDA 2008) a drop from 27% in 2006, 35% in 2003 and over 50% in 1999. If conditions remain, the current reduced cost of borrowing is likely going to accelerate investment in the District.

(b) Microfinance

In addition to commercial banks operating in Zomba City, the District has the following credit institutions: *Malawi Rural Finance Company* (MRFC), *Pride Malawi*, *Malawi Rural Development Fund* (MARDEF), and *Foundation for International Community Assistance*.

The other financial institutions providing general credit financing specifically to public servants are *Capital Financial Services* 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.

The National Association of Business Women, Development of Malawian Entrepreneurs, Small Enterprise Development and Izwe Financial Services have either reduced their presence or completely ceased operations in the District. Most of them now operate from Blantyre.

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 70 million MKW to 545 groups in 353 villages.

It is noted that MARDEF and MRFC now have a loan recovery rate at 90%, which is a major shift and an emerging opportunity considering that loan repayment for micro-financing institutions, was one of the leading challenges less than 5 years ago. This is possible mainly because of the intensified peer oversight coupled with reduced periodic loan repayment durations.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Self Help International, World Vision and the Millennium Villages Project also support business associations and cooperatives in their local impact areas (TA Kuntumanje, TA Mlumbe) in the District.

Credit access for many entrepreneurs, however, remains a major constraint considering the ever increasing demand structure in the District, inadequate funding e.g. the average loan for group loans for each member in MARDEF has been 10,000.00 MKW and sometimes there is duplication of credit support and efforts.

5.7 LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

5.7.1 Labour Force

The Ministry of Labour together with the District Assembly provide a number of services to the public to improve the social and economic status of people, both employed and unemployed. Labour force participation in Zomba District is 84.9% (2008), slightly above the national (82.4%) and southern (82.3%) average. The employment rate is at an all time high with 98.7% (Malawi 96.9; Southern Region 97.6%).

Table 18 below shows the number of registered job seekers for various job categories. It is clearly shown that most job seekers are service or production workers. Service workers include security guards, house personnel (cooks etc), production workers include bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, painters etc. There are more people registered in this category because there are no major industries in Zomba. The absence of major industries is also the reason why there are very few people registered for sales, administrative clerical and professional work.

Table 18: Registered job seekers vs. employed by sector, 2004-2008

	<i>Registered</i>					<i>Employed</i>				
	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>Professional</i>	7	4	2	3	4	3	2	2	1	-
<i>Administrative</i>	3	2	2	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
<i>Clerical</i>	4	3	5	8	9	3	2	2	1	1
<i>Sales</i>	12	8	8	8	5	8	6	5	6	3
<i>Service</i>	396	276	294	318	315	185	143	175	190	197
<i>Agricultural</i>	46	33	39	42	19	20	15	11	12	12
<i>Production</i>	113	79	116	125	130	69	52	46	50	52
Total	634	443	555	600	622	312	238	308	334	345

Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2009

The statistics of registered job seekers likely do not show the complete picture as people also tend to register at the Zomba City Labour Office, where opportunities also exist to find employment. The figure gives the number of people who registered and those who got employment through the District Labour Office. Looking at the number of people that were employed through the Labour Office, it indicates that the office is an valuable institution in bringing people into new jobs and improve the social and economic status of people.

Table 19: Various employment statistics for Zomba District, 2008

Labour force participation, employment-& unemployment rate by sex									
	labour force participation			employment rate			unemployment rate		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Zomba District	84.9	84.5	85.2	98.7	98.7	98.7	1.3	1.3	1.3
<i>Southern Region</i>	82.3	81.5	83.1	97.6	97.1	98.1	2.4	2.9	1.9
<i>Malawi</i>	82.4	81.7	83	96.9	96.1	97.6	3.1	3.9	2.4

Distribution of currently employed persons aged 15 years and above							
	Agriculture& Mining	Manufacturing & Utilities	Construction	Marketing	Finance & Services	Other	
Zomba District	87	1	2	3	5	2	
<i>Southern Region</i>	75	2	3	7	7	7	
<i>Malawi</i>	77	2	3	6	6	6	

Distribution of currently employed persons aged 15 years and above by type of employer						
	Private		Public	Mlimi		Estate
	Business	Individual		Self Employed	Self Employed	
Zomba District	3	3	2	5	85	1
<i>Southern Region</i>	7	6	4	11	69	2
<i>Malawi</i>	7	6	4	11	70	2

Distribution of currently employed persons aged 15 years and above by type of payment							
	Mlimi (Not Paid)	Wages/ Salary	Payment In Kind	Casual Ganyu	Unpaid Family Business	Self Employed	Tenant
Zomba District	85	6	0	2	1	5	0.2
<i>Southern Region</i>	70	13	0	3	3	11	0.2
<i>Malawi</i>	71	12	1	3	3	10	0.4

Source (all above): National Statistical Office, 2008

5.7.2 Conditions of Employment

It is the mandate of the Ministry of Labour that workers who get injured in relation to their employment are compensated for their injuries. Workers' Compensation Act No.7 (2000) was enacted for the very purpose. Table 20 shows that most injuries are caused by road accidents and by handling of materials. However, there is a decline in the number of road traffic accidents since 2004, attributed to the efforts taken by the Road Traffic Department in informing and enforcing road regulations. Note that the cases that were referred to Lilongwe for finalisation in 2008 were more than the registered cases. This was like this because cases that were registered in 2007 were referred in 2008.

Table 20: Number and type of labour accidents, 2004-2008

<i>Type of accident</i>	<i>Number of Accidents reported</i>					<i>Cases to Lilongwe for Finalization</i>				
	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2004</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>Road Accident</i>	37	34	18	13	11	23	34	17	11	10
<i>Attacks by thugs</i>	9	9	13	10	6	6	9	13	10	6
<i>Working material</i>	26	16	18	18	9	17	16	17	15	9
<i>Falling down</i>	5	17	16	12	12	3	17	16	10	12
<i>Dog bites</i>	0	4	6	8	9	0	4	6	7	7
Total	77	80	71	61	38	49	80	69	52	38

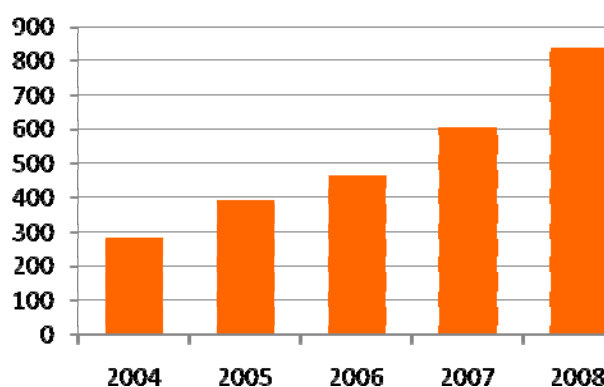
Source: District Labour Office, 2009

Zomba District Labour Office continues to receive an increasing number of labour complaints (see Illustration 21). The increase is largely attributed to the fact that the knowledge about labour rights, both by employees and employers is becoming more wide spread throughout the corporate landscape in Zomba District. The District Labour Office plays an important part in this regard, as it continuously sensitises workers and employers about rights and regulations, ensuring a sound, productive and respectful relationship between employers and their employees. Zomba District Assembly, together with the business community believe 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.

Labour inspection are an important part of the operations of the Ministry of Labour because by means of inspections both the employers and the employees are sensitised on all rights and regulations. Table 21 shows that Zomba Labour Office has to make more effort to increase the number of inspections conducted.

Every year, the Zomba District Labour Office is helping job seekers to find periodic work in other Districts, in particular in the north of Malawi, for example as tobacco tenants and other harvesting jobs. The Illustration below show the steady general declines in the number of seasonal work migrants. This development is welcomed because it indicates that the District economy is more and more able to provide employment to its people.

Illustration 21: Registered Labour disputes.



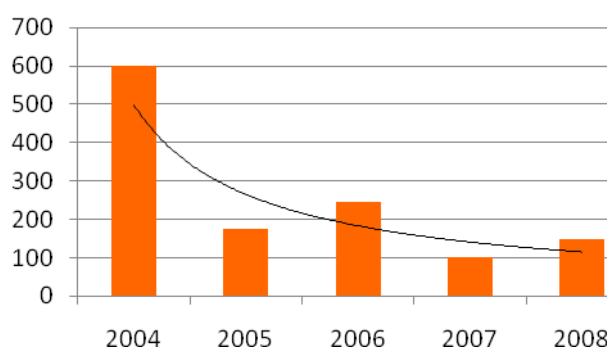
Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2009

Table 21: Annual Labour Inspections

<i>Inspection</i>	<i>2005</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>
<i>Routine</i>	4	10	57	25
<i>Follow-up</i>	9	5	-	2
<i>Special</i>	-	-	-	-
Total	13	15	57	27

Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2009

Illustration 22: No. of Annual work migrants



Source: Zomba District Labour Office, 2009

5.8 TOURISM

Zomba District is endowed with natural beauty and various tourist attractions. The main natural tourist attractions are the Zomba-Malosa Mountains with the forest reserve and Lake Chilwa. In addition, historical buildings, cultural heritage and also Zomba City, as the centre of the District, offer a variety of potentially interesting places and activities. However, the tourism potential is not fully utilised in Zomba District. On the one hand, lack of tourism related data and explicit information about the industry are scarce, on the other hand, development is hindered by the lack of a clear tourism development strategy.

The potential for the development for a vibrant and profitable tourism sector in Zomba District are plentiful, yet partially untapped. In general, Zomba District's location in the proximity of the large agglomerations Blantyre and Zomba City, to a lesser extent even Lilongwe, makes it a potentially prime recreation area for leisure tourist, especially for the emerging urban middle-class. In addition, business tourism (conventions and workshop) is on the rise in Malawi, and with the few destinations of today, possible emerging destination in Zomba District have a potential to be successful. Last but not least, the national efforts to promote Malawi as an international tourism destination will, if adequate strategies and places are developed, have a positive impact on Zomba District, especially considering the natural beauty of the District and its diversity and at the same time proximity to Malawi's true tourism treasure, the Lake.

(a) Business tourism (Workshops & Conferences)

Zomba District today has only 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 rural Zomba. The existing convention facilities in Zomba District appear adequate for meeting the current demand. Most workshops and conferences however are held within Zomba City at private conferences halls in lodges/hotels and in various governmental training facilities.

(b) Leisure tourism

The Zomba Plateau, Malosa Mountain 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, purchasing fresh exotic fruits, discovering cultural heritage and relaxation are just 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, 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 travellers. There are two accommodations with high budget facilities, one with middle budget facilities and one with low budget facilities. In addition one can find private cottages which are more difficult to access, but nevertheless worth visiting.

Tourist infrastructure on Malosa Mountain is less developed than on the Zomba Plateau. No formal hiking paths are labelled 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 than on Zomba Plateau and/or for digging crystals. Certain parts of Malosa contain many indigenous species of plants and trees. The "Chilema Wonder Tree" at the base of the mountain is arguable 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.

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 Mpotot Lagoon Bird Hunters' Club. In general term though, Lake Chilwa remains an un-tapped tourism potential within the ditrict.

When speaking about tourism in Zomba District, reference has also be made to Zomba City, the first capital of Malawi. Zomba City's rich cultural heritage complements the District's natural beauty. Tourists who come to the City to see historical relics may also find of interest the following two historical facilities in rural Zomba. Mikuyu Prison Memorial tract, a location dedicated to the legacy of political prisoners during the rule of Malawi's first President, His Excellency Dr. Hastings Banda. A portion of the prison, which is still used as a normal correctional facility up to this day, 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 teacher training and education service. Currently (mid 2009), major renovations are underway to establish up a fully-fledged museum at the site.

The District is also known for its rich cultural traditions, such as Masewe, Mangangje and Sikili Dances normally performed during important social functions. A small amount of rural communities, including Community Based Organisations (CBOs), perform cultural dancing 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 an 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.

(e) Accommodation

Zomba District and City have to be seen as one entity when speaking about tourism. Zomba has lots of accommodations ranging from low-budget to high-standard facilities. Zomba has nine officially registered accommodations with the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Culture and many more, mostly in the lower standard category are not registered but used. The table below shows registered accommodations and restaurants which are in Zomba District (ZD) and Zomba City (ZC). 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 22: Registered Accommodations in Zomba City & District 2008

		<i>Visitors/Month (2008 average)</i>	<i>Nights/Month (2008 average)</i>	<i>No. of rooms/beds</i>
<i>Ku-Chawe Inn</i>	ZD	661	649	40/65
<i>Zomba Forest Lodge</i>	ZD	-	-	-
<i>Hotel Masongola</i>	ZC	444	509	43/77
<i>Annies Lodge</i>	ZC	273	465	44/48
<i>Peter's Lodge</i>	ZC	-	-	-
<i>Ndindeya Motel</i>	ZC	604	1019	44/79
<i>Zinenani Motel</i>	ZC	220	238	17/25
<i>Mulunguzi Cottage</i>	ZD	-	-	-
<i>Masuku Cottage</i>	ZC	-	-	-
<i>Panjira Guesthouse</i>	ZC	-	-	-/4
Total (reported)		2202	2880	188/298

Source: Zomba City & District Tourism Office, 2008

According to the accommodation analysis (Table 22) Zomba District and City have, on average, 2202 visitors per month who are using accommodation. Unfortunately these figures do not show the full picture as there are many accommodations which are not registered or submitting data.

There are unfortunately no reliable statistics on the actual number of tourists and their reasons for travelling to Zomba. The figures which are indicated for the accommodations present a rough estimate about the minimum reliable figure. Witnessing the rapidly expanding tourism facilities, the actual figure is believed to be higher by a considerable factor.

(f) Communication

Zomba City and District are well communicated 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, especially Zomba Plateau is very well equipped with infrastructure. Transportation however is a major constraint in developing the tourism potential at this location.

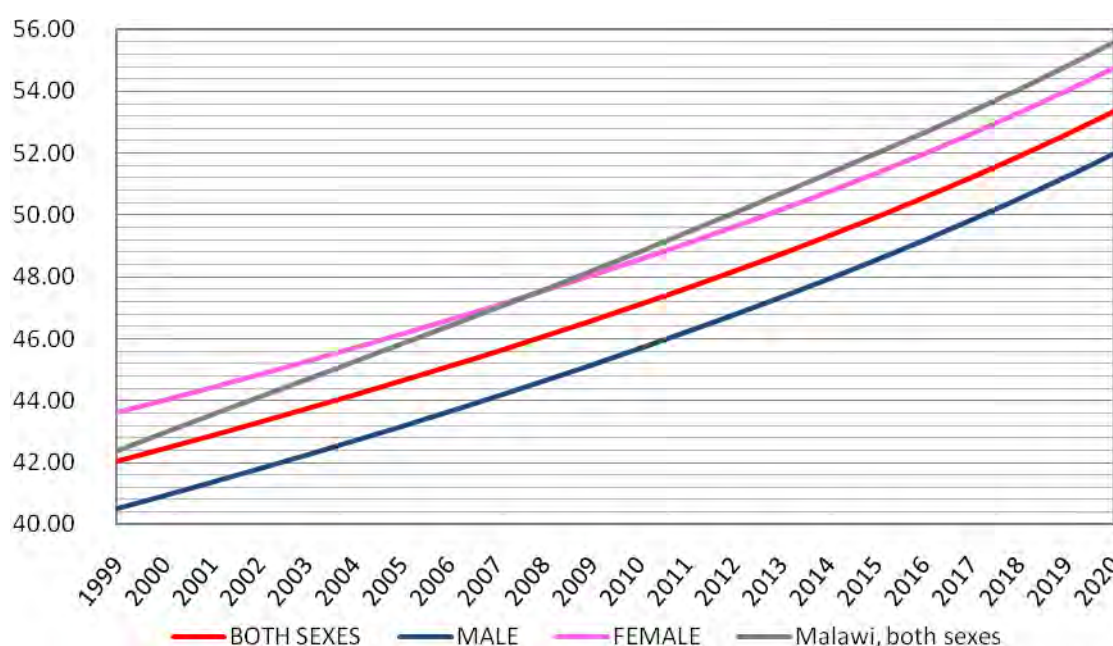
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6.1 HEALTH

6.1.1 Life Expectancy

Life expectancy at birth for the people of Zomba District was calculated at 43.7 years for males and 46.6 years for females, resulting in an average life expectancy at birth of 45,1 years (2008), in line with the long term projections for the District. This figure marks a sharp improvement from 40.5 years for males and 43.6 years for females in 1999, meaning life expectancy rose by 8% for males and 7% for females. Life expectancy in Zomba District however is about two years lower than the national average for both sexes, although coming from an above-average level pre 1999. 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.

Illustration 23: Life expectancy at birth in Zomba District by sex; 1999-2020



Source: National Statistical Office, 1998; DHO, 2008

6.1.2 Morbidity

The leading cause of morbidity in the District for basic curative (outpatient) services is, by far, Malaria, which is endemic in Zomba District and accounts for one third of all morbidity cases. In fact, Malaria has been the leading cause of morbidity for over a decade and accounts for an ever increasing percentage of morbidity cases in the District. This is mainly to the fall in morbidity cases for other causes and not due to the increase in Malaria cases itself, in fact, Malaria cases decreased from over 200,000 during the last decade to about 189,000 in 2008, representing a sharp decline considering the increasing total population.

Table 23: Leading causes for Morbidity (in %), 1998 and 2008

	1998	2008
<i>Malaria</i>	31	66.8%
<i>over 5 years</i>	-	37.3
<i>under 5 years</i>	-	29.5
<i>Respiratory related</i>	22	8.7
<i>Skin Disorder</i>	8	6.9
<i>Common injuries & wounds</i>	18	4.1
<i>Diarrhea</i>	8	4.0
<i>Eye infection</i>	4	3.5
<i>STI</i>	-	3.4
<i>Ear infection</i>	4	2.2

Sources: Zomba District Health Office, 2009

Malaria incidence rates per TA are as follows: Likangala (43.41%), Domasi (42.33%), Chingale (39.11%), Namasalima (34.80%) and Bimbi 31.64%. Acute Respiratory Infection incidence rates are highest in Bimbi (6.36%), Likangala (6.18%) and Domasi (16.2%). Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) are more prevalent at St. Lukes (3.4%), Domasi (1.9%), Namasalima (1.65%) and Bimbi (1.6%). Skin incidence rates are most prevalent in Thondwe (5.5%), Makwapala (4.3%), Likangala 3.3% and Bimbi 1.4%.

6.1.3 Mortality

Malaria is the leading cause of mortality for inpatients of all age groups, followed by pneumonia for persons over five years old and malnutrition. Pneumonia for persons under five, meningitis and anaemia were fourth, fifth and sixth respectively. Although HIV/AIDS caused the seventh highest level of deaths during the period, it is important to remember persons dying of other diseases may have also have been HIV/AIDS positive. The dramatic rise in malnutrition between 2004 and 2005 was caused by the low yielding agricultural season.

Table 24: Mortality from top ten diseases

	2004	2005	2006
<i>Malaria</i>	137	123	240
<i>Pneumonia > 5</i>	98	67	
<i>Malnutrition</i>	23	73	57
<i>Pneumonia < 5</i>	59	58	
<i>Meningitis</i>	40	41	
<i>Anaemia</i>	38	33	
<i>HIV/AIDS</i>	29	27	
<i>Tuberculosis</i>	0	0	39
<i>Diarrhoea < 5</i>	10	17	
<i>Diarrhoea > 5</i>	27	0	
<i>Obstetric</i>	6	4	2
<i>Typhoid</i>	4	1	
<i>Cholera</i>	1	1	0

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2007

The number of inpatient deaths decreased 27.7% from 660 to 477 per year during the period of July 2002 through June 2005 due to various interventions, such as awareness campaigns, open days and workshops on health and the importance of seeking medical care early, and, above all, increased quality of health services.

The infant mortality rate was 106.3 and 86.0 for males and females respectively in 1999, as compared to 88.6 and 72.5 for 2006. This indicates a decline in birth rates and infant mortality rate during this period, indicating a slight overall improvement in living standards. According to the Integrated Household Survey of 2005, 9.8% of the households in the District reported at least one death in 2002 and 2003, which was

lower than the national average of 13.3%. Deaths within the age group of 25-49 accounted for 55.2% of the District total, which was markedly higher than 37.6% for the nation. The second highest rate of 20.7% was reported by persons 50 years and older, which was still lower than the national average of 24.8%. The least reported deaths were in the age groups of 5–14 and 15–24, both of which were 6.9%, much lower than 11.3% and 9.7% in the nation for the age groups 5–14 and 15–24, respectively.

6.1.4 Health Facilities

Medical care services in Zomba District are provided at health posts, clinics, health centres and hospitals. These health centres are either owned or operated by the Ministry of Health and Population (MOH), Christian Hospital Association of Malawi (CHAM), or private practitioners and institutions. People in the District also avail of medical services from traditional healers and traditional birth attendants. Traditional healers are practitioners widely recognized by people in the community who rely on rituals and beliefs in healing the ill. Traditional birth attendants on the other hand, are trained local residents who assist pregnant women in child delivery. Services from government health facilities are free while CHAM and private health facilities charge for their services. The District has a total of 636 beds, 358 maternity beds (56.3%), 210 holding beds (33.0%) 44 Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) beds (7.0%) and 24 general beds (3.8%). CHAM facilities provide more than half of the number of general beds within the District.

(a) Health Post & Clinics

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.

(b) Dispensaries

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 cases a medical assistant. There are 19 dispensaries in the District; four MOH, two CHAM and 13 private.

(c) Health Centres

Zomba District has nine government health centres, and six are operated by. 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.

(d) Hospitals

Zomba District has no general 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. In addition, the hospital serves as a training hospital for Malawi College of Health Sciences.

Other hospitals in the District are Domasi Rural Hospital and Zomba Mental Hospital operated by the Ministry of Health and Population. St Luke Hospital is owned by CHAM. Domasi Rural Hospital offers both curative and preventive services. It also serves as a referral centre for Namasalima, Bimbi, H Parker 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.

6.1.5 Health Facilities by TA

(a) TA Malemia

TA Malemia, home to 60,685 people, has two hospitals with general, maternity and NRU beds. Overall, this area of the District is considerably better in terms of bed capacity than other areas.

Table 25: Health centres & posts in TA Malemia

	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>HSAs</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>	<i>No. of People in catchment area</i>
Domasi Rural Hospital (MOH)	<i>Machinjiri</i>	9	<i>Maternity: 24</i>	36,593
	<i>Malemia</i>		<i>NRU: 24</i>	
	<i>Matindiri</i>		<i>General: 24</i>	
	<i>Matuta</i>			
	<i>Mkwate</i>			
	<i>Mtwiche</i>			
	<i>Myamuka Namwera</i>			
St. Luke's Hospital (CHAM)	<i>Chikundi</i>	7	<i>Maternity: 25</i>	28,728
	<i>Chilunga</i>		<i>General: 129</i>	
	<i>Chitenjere</i>			
	<i>Mchengawedi</i>			
H. Parker (CHAM)	<i>Kasonga</i>	2	<i>Holding = 4</i>	8,417
	<i>Maningazi</i>			
	<i>Mdumu</i>			
	<i>Mkwera</i>			

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

(b) TA Kuntumanje

TA Kuntumanje has a population of 72,889 and is served by three MOH-run health centres. TA Kuntumanje has maternity and holding beds, but it does not have general beds. Upgrading Makwapala to a rural hospital would be a leap in Health service to the community.

Table 26: Health centres & posts in TA Kuntumanje

	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>HSAs</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>	<i>No. of People in catchment area</i>
Makwapala (MOH)	<i>Kalupe</i>	11	<i>Maternity: 8</i>	43,393
	<i>Khanda</i>		<i>Holding: 2</i>	
	<i>Mkumbira</i>			
Namaslima (MOH)	<i>Kalindo</i>	6	<i>Maternity: 8</i>	24,333
	<i>Matewere</i>		<i>Holding: 2</i>	
	<i>Mkuba</i>			
	<i>Namwera</i>			
	<i>Nawata</i>			
	<i>Katanda</i>			
Bimbi (MOH)	<i>Chimwai</i>	7	<i>Maternity: 8</i>	23,124
	<i>Chipengule</i>		<i>Holding: 2</i>	
	<i>Lipholo</i>			
	<i>Phatama</i>			
	<i>Nsondolo</i>			

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

(c) TA Mkumbira

TA Mkumbira has one health post on Chisi Island with three outreach posts and four HSAs serving the population of 4,858. For specialized health services, people are referred to Likangala Health Centre in TA Mwambo. Communities living across Lake Chilwa, such as Lungadzi, Chisoni, Ngota and Chinguma have difficulties accessing services at Likangala Health Centre.

Table 27: Health centres & posts in TA Mkumbira

	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>HSAs</i>	<i>No of Beds</i>	<i>No. of People in catchment area</i>
Chisi Island (MOH)	<i>Chinguma</i>	4	-	<i>Included within the Likangala Population</i>
	<i>Lungadzi</i>			
	<i>Ngotangota</i>			

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

(d) TA Mwambo

Mwambo Traditional Authority is inhabited by 116,083 people and the area is served by two CHAM and two MOH health facilities. Only CHAM institutions have general beds, which are still too few given the large population within the area.

Table 28: Health centres & posts in TA Mwambo

	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>HSAs</i>	<i>No of Beds</i>	<i>No. of People in catchment area</i>
Likangala (MOH)	<i>Chiwangache</i>	6	<i>Maternity: 10 Holding: 2</i>	30,354
	<i>Kachulu</i>			
	<i>Makawa</i>			
	<i>Mbalu</i>			
	<i>Mpyupyu</i>			
	<i>Mwambo</i>			
	<i>Mwanyumbu</i>			
	<i>Nansasala</i>			
Matiya (CHAM)	<i>Chauma</i>	10	<i>Maternity: 21 General: 10</i>	26,558
	<i>Chaweza</i>			
	<i>Chilambe</i>			
	<i>Chilipaine</i>			
	<i>Havala</i>			
	<i>Kapenuka</i>			
	<i>Komina</i>			
	<i>Mgoli</i>			
	<i>Mkula</i>			
	<i>Saiti</i>			
Pirimiti (CHAM)	<i>Kabwere</i>	9	<i>Maternity: 17 General: 19 NRU: 20</i>	25,960
	<i>Kumisuku</i>			
	<i>Malemba</i>			
	<i>Nthipera</i>			
	<i>Phulusa</i>			
	<i>Mmina</i>			
Chamba (MOH)	<i>Chingondo</i>	6	-	19,962
	<i>Namakoka</i>			
	<i>Mtokota</i>			

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

(e) TA Chikowi

TA Chikowi has a population of 57,389. All health centres in the area have maternity beds. Lambulira is the only health centre with holding beds. There are no general beds or NRU beds within TA Chikowi.

Table 29: Health centres & posts in TA Chikowi

	<i>Outreach</i>	<i>HSAs</i>	<i>No. of Beds</i>	<i>No. of People in catchment area</i>
Ngwelero (MOH)	<i>Ndalama</i>	9	<i>Maternity: 10</i>	48,355
	<i>Sakalawe</i>			
	<i>Sunuzi</i>			
Mayaka (CHAM)	<i>Buleya</i>	14	<i>Maternity: 10</i>	44,029
	<i>Chamenga</i>			
	<i>Chanda</i>			
	<i>Chikaza</i>			
	<i>Khuvi</i>			
	<i>Makauka</i>			
	<i>Mwembere</i>			
Lambulira (MOH)	<i>Chikopa</i>	10	<i>Maternity: 8 Holding: 2</i>	31,330
	<i>Chisuzi</i>			
	<i>Kwipululu</i>			
	<i>Mwanafumu</i>			
	<i>Nachuma</i>			
	<i>Sadi</i>			
Nasawa (MOH)	<i>Chikalimbo</i>	9	<i>Maternity: 10</i>	28,694
	<i>Kamwendo</i>			
	<i>Mpawa</i>			
	<i>Mthune</i>			
	<i>Nanjiri</i>			
	<i>Nembese</i>			
Magomero (CHAM)	<i>Dzaone</i>	6	<i>Maternity: 10</i>	22,972
	<i>Jailosi</i>			
	<i>Saiti</i>			
	<i>Wallace</i>			

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

(f) TA Mlumbe

Mlumbe Traditional Authority 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). Thondwe Health Centre is extremely difficult to access by people from Maera, people prefer to travel to Namadzi Health Centre in Chiradzulu District.

Table 30: Health centres & posts in TA Mlumbe

	Outreach	HSAs	No of Beds	No. of People in catchment area
Thondwe (MOH)	<i>Chikanguya</i> <i>Chikepa</i> <i>Dindi</i>	17	<i>Maternity :19</i>	51,367
Namikango (CHAM)	<i>Linjidzi</i> <i>Maela</i>			
Chingale (MOH)	<i>Chilunga</i> <i>Matewere</i> <i>Mitumbiri</i> <i>Mlusu</i> <i>Ndalemani</i>	9	<i>Maternity: 8</i> <i>Holding: 2</i>	27,350
Chipini (CHAM)	<i>Balamanja</i> <i>Kapalasa</i> <i>Mkwate</i> <i>Mwangata</i>	6	<i>Maternity: 20</i> <i>General: 20</i>	19,858
Nkasala (CHAM)	<i>Kambende</i> <i>Kampalira</i> <i>Milale</i>	7	<i>Maternity: 10</i>	19,169
Chilipa (CHAM)	<i>Guta</i> <i>Matanda</i> <i>Sambango'ma</i>	4	<i>Maternity: 10</i> <i>General: 24</i>	14,190
M'Mambo	<i>Mkumba</i> <i>Usumani</i>	2	<i>Holding: 2</i>	12,695

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

6.1.6 Patients

The following table (31) shows that the numbers for in/out patients have been fluctuating over the past four years. However, the percentage for inpatient attendance compared to total attendance has remained relatively constant during the period, ranging between 4.7% and 5.0%. Conversely, the percentage of outpatient to total attendance has ranged from 95.0% to 95.3%. Overall, it is difficult without an operational study to identify the cause of poor attendance to health centres, but poor record keeping is a factor. As of June 2005 the in bed – inpatient space ratio for the District was 1:29, the ideal ratio should be 1:1.

Table 31: Trend of inpatients & outpatient attendances 2003-2006

	2003		2004		2005		2006	
	<i>Patients</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Inpatient</i>	29,364	4.9	31,553	5.0	27,428	4.9	29,656	4.7
<i>Outpatient</i>	572,758	95.1	600,350	95.0	528,326	95.1	594,955	95.3
Total	602,122	100.0	631,903	100.0	555,754	100.0	624,611	100.0

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2007

6.1.7 Health Personnel

In the District, there is only one (!) laboratory assistant thus the smallest ratio of personnel to the total population. Nurses, with a ratio of 1 to 7,775, 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: 145,791, is about three times higher than 1:50,000 that is recommended by the Ministry of Health (see Table 32). However, it should be noted that Zomba Central Hospital has six doctors.

Ngwelero, Chamba and Chisi have no nurses. Chisi and Mmambo have no medical assistant. Only four facilities have doctors. Of all facilities, 15 have no medical assistant. These shortages negatively impact delivery of health services to the community.

The shortage of staff is caused in part by the fact that many health works 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.

Table 32: Number of health personnel per health centre

	<i>Nurses</i>	<i>Medical Assistants</i>	<i>Clinical Officers</i>	<i>Doctors</i>	<i>Environmental Health Officer</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Domasi</i>	8	1	1	-	1	11
<i>Likangala</i>	3	1	-	-	1	5
<i>Chingale</i>	2	1	-	-	1	4
<i>Ngwelero</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1
<i>Lambulira</i>	1	1	-	-	-	2
<i>Namasalima</i>	2	1	-	-	-	3
<i>Makwapala</i>	1	1	-	-	-	2
<i>Thondwe</i>	2	1	-	-	1	4
<i>Thondwe Pastoral</i>	1	-	1	1	-	3
<i>Nasawa</i>	3	1	-	-	1	5
<i>M'Mambo</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Chisi</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Magomero</i>	3	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Mayaka</i>	3	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Chipini</i>	5	-	-	1	-	6
<i>Matiye</i>	1	2	-	-	1	4
<i>Chilipa</i>	2	1	-	-	-	3
<i>Nkasala</i>	1	1	-	-	-	2
<i>Chamba</i>	-	1	-	-	-	1
<i>St Luke</i>	22	2	5	2	1	32
<i>Forest</i>	1	-	-	-	-	1
<i>H Parker</i>	2	-	1	-	-	3
<i>Pirimiti</i>	6	1	-	-	-	7
<i>Mpunga</i>	1	-	1	-	-	2
<i>Namikango</i>	4	-	-	-	-	4
Total	75	17	9	4	7	112
Medical Personnel to Population	1:7,775	1:34,303	1:64,796	1:145,791	1:83,309	

Source: Zomba District Health Office, 2006

6.1.8 Family Planning

Of the total number of women of childbearing age (15-49 years), about one third used contraceptives free of charge, representing an average increase of 27.4%. Most women opt for injectable contraceptives, possibly because it is easy to follow and it is confidential. Overall, *Depoprovera* is the contraceptive used most, but condom use had the highest growth rate of 78.5% during the period. The decrease *Norplant* use by women decreased because of the lack of medical assistance required.

Table 33: Coverage of contraceptive use by women

	2005 - 2006	Change
<i>3 months supply of Depoprovera</i>	36,440	24.7%
<i>3 months supply of condoms</i>	5,953	78.5%
<i>3 months supply of pills</i>	2,106	3.2%
<i>Sterilization (tubal ligation)</i>	642	-6.3%
<i>Norplant</i>	176	-43.9%
<i>IUCD</i>	6	n/a
<i>Total number & %'age of women receiving contraceptives</i>	45,324	27.4%
	29.0%	

Source: Zomba DHO, 2007

6.1.9 HIV & AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is one of the greatest health problems in Zomba District, and believed to be one of the single most influential challenges in the development of Zomba District, as it cuts across various sectors and issues. The estimated HIV/AIDS prevalence rate for Zomba is 17.8%, considerably higher than the national average estimated at 14%. The prevalence rate for females (24.6%) is more than twice as high as the one for males (10.5%). While the prevalence rates rose up until 2005/06, the recent years were marked by stagnation and even a slow decline. According to results from the July 2006 HIV Testing & Counselling Week, TA Chikowi has the highest HIV infection rate at 20.1%, followed by TAs Mwambo and Malemia at 15.9% and 12.7, respectively. TA Kuntumanje has the lowest infection rate at 8.6%.

The number of people between the ages of 15 and 49 being tested has grown exponentially during the last decade, from 665 (2002) to over 19,500 (!) to date (May 2009). The number of HIV positive persons having receiving Anti-Retroviral (ARV) treatment stands close to 10,000, a stunning success.

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 Counselling (HTC), (b) Anti Retroviral Therapy and (c) Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (MTCT). These programmes run alongside support programmes on Information Education and Communication and Home Based Care (HBC). The DHO works with four NGOs (Dignitas International, Inter Aide, MACRO and Banja La Mtsogolo) in the core programmes. There has been a rapid increase in HIV/AIDS programmes in the District between 2004 and 2007 (especially in HTC). 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 by 20 facilities evenly distributed within the District. Zomba rural only has two ARV clinics (St. Lukes Hospital and Chipini Health Centre). PMTCT services are offered at four sites (Domasi Hospital, Matawale Health Centre, St. Lukes Hospital and Chipini Health Centre). Because of 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 Hospital.

The National AIDS Commission (NAC) provides grants for CBOs. A total of 36 CBOs benefited from grants between September 2004 and December 2006. The following table (34) displays the distribution of HIV/AIDS grants.

Table 34: Totals grants for HIV & AIDS approved between 2004 & 2006

	<i># of CBOs Funded</i>	<i>Total Amount (MK)</i>
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>6,870,635.00</i>
<i>TA Malemia</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>9,687,070.00</i>
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>6,287,110.00</i>
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1,354,720.00</i>
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1,913,830.00</i>
<i>Zomba District</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>26,113,365.00</i>

Source: AIDS Coordination Office, Zomba District Assembly, 2007

Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) and the Income Generating Public Works Programme (IGPWP) support social programmes that give priority to persons affected and infected by HIV/AIDS.

(a) Workplace programmes

Workplace based interventions are carried out in six institutions: Malawi Institute of Education, Domasi College of Education, St Luke's Hospital, Geological Survey and Chancellor College. Plans are underway to develop a District-wide workplace policy.

The education sector also provides HIV/AIDS information to pupils through the teaching of "Life Skills" and pupils "AIDS Toto" or "Why Wait? Clubs". The clubs are particularly active in areas where NGOs operate. Insufficient expertise amongst the teachers negatively impact these programmes largely due to lack of orientation on the part of patrons.

(b) Capacity & 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 19 international and local NGOs execute different programmes, particularly in advocacy and impact mitigation.

The District response to HIV/AIDS is guided by an annual District Implementation Plan that is derived from the national priorities, as outlined in the National HIV and AIDS Action Framework (2005-2009) and the National Integrated Annual Work Plan. The District AIDS coordinating committee is responsible for the task of developing the annual plan.

6.2 WATER & SANITATION

6.2.1 Safe water access & main sources and condition of water facilities

Rivers, lakes, dams and underground water are the main sources of water supply within the District. Over 79.6% of households have access to improved water sources. According to an integrated household survey, the percentage of District households drawing water from sources considered unsafe or inaccessible has declined from 52% to 20%. This improvement is attributed to the availability of well-trained water point committees that maintain water facilities in most areas.

Communal taps (17.3%), boreholes (20.6%) and unprotected shallow wells (62.1%) are the main source of individual water supply. According to District Databank, TA Malemia has the highest number of communal taps, while Senior Chief Chikowi, TA Mwambo and Mkumbira have none. This implies that TA Kuntumanje no longer has the best access to safe water, as reported in 2000.

The highest number of boreholes is in TA Mlumbe (221), while the least are in TA Mkumbira (19).

The overall number of protected (shallow) wells has increased from 66 in 2000 to 269 in 2007. TA Chikowi has the highest number of protected wells. TA Mkumbira once more registered the least number of protected wells. TA Mkumbira has the least access to safe water sources because of its terrain.

6.2.2 Access to sanitary latrines

Sanitation includes hygienic disposal of solids & liquid wastes. At household level this includes human excrete, kitchen rubbish, waste water from bathing or washing and any other discarded items. Household access to improved sanitation as well as sanitary toilet facilities is at 59% in the District, slightly lower than the national average (62%).

A large proportion (58%) of households uses traditional latrines with roofs, while only 1% utilise modern facilities such as flush toilets and VIP latrines. Over 28% of household have latrines without roofs. Almost 13% of households have no toilets facilities, resulting in indisposed human excrement wherever people find convenient. Access to sanitary facilities is challenging as population grows and sanitation facilities deteriorate, rendering access from safe to unsatisfactory (80% in 2000 to 59% 2005). However, the number of households having toilet facilities or latrines has increased from 76% in 2000 to 87% in 2006.

6.2.3 Methods of waste disposal

Methods of refuse disposal used by households include: burning and placing in dustbins, rubbish pits, bushes, gardens and composite pits. Like other parts of the country, rubbish pits are the most commonly used method (69.4%), followed by public rubbish heaping (12.7%). Dustbin, burning & other proper refusal disposal are the least preferred methods of waste disposal (see Table 35). 16.6% of households have no method of rubbish disposal. Irresponsible disposal of human excrement contaminates water sources, especially during rainy season. This leads to waterborne diseases, such as cholera, bilharzias, typhoid & dysentery, especially in lakeshore communities around Lake Chilwa.

Table 35: Methods of refuse disposal

	<i>%'age of Household</i>
<i>Rubbish bin</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Rubbish pit</i>	<i>69.4</i>
<i>Burning</i>	<i>0.4</i>
<i>Public rubbish heap</i>	<i>12.7</i>
<i>Others</i>	<i>0.4</i>
<i>None</i>	<i>16.6</i>
Total	100.0

Source: Integrated Household Survey 2005

6.3 EDUCATION

Education services in the District can be divided into the following three sections – pre-school, primary school and secondary school. Both private and public institutions provide education services. Pre-school education prepares and promotes the social, intellectual, emotional and physical development of children. Community based pre-school institutions 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 192 public primary schools and one private primary school with a total enrolment of 147,417 pupils. There are 23 public secondary schools, one grant-aided secondary school and five private secondary schools with a total enrolment of 3,719. The literacy rate is 61.9% at present, which is lower than the national rate of 64.0%

Table 36: Population (in %) aged six and over by highest level of education attended

	Male				Female			
	No Education	Primary 1 - 4	5 - 8	Secondary or Higher	No Education	Primary 1 - 4	5 - 8	Secondary or Higher
Zomba District	15.5	39.5	28.3	16.3	22.6	42.6	25.3	9.2
<i>Southern Region</i>	20.6	37.8	26.2	15.1	32.8	38.4	21.1	7.4
<i>Rural Malawi</i>	22.9	39.8	26.6	10.4	33.4	40.0	21.3	5.0

Source: National Statistical Office 2009

The primary school section aims at developing basic literacy. It forms the largest section of the education system, followed by the secondary section. These sections are well established and easier to coordinate than the pre-school section. Private and public institutions provide both primary and secondary education. Primary education in public schools is free, whilst secondary school students must pay fees. There are more private secondary schools than private primary schools. Overall, over 90% of institutions providing primary and secondary education are public.

6.3.1 Primary Schools

The number of public primary schools increased 10.3%, from 174 schools in 1999 to 192 as of 2006. It can be observed that the larger the geographical size of the TA the more the number of schools.

(a) Students

TA Chikowi has the highest enrolment, followed by TA Mlumbe. Mkumbira has the smallest enrolment. Overall, total enrolment has been consistent within TAs between the years 2003-2005. TA Mwambo has experienced an overall increase in enrolment.

The overall pass rates have progressively decreased over the years for both boys and girls due to a decline in the quality of education. The pass rate for boys continues to be higher than for girls, except in TA Mkumbira. Typically girls have a lower pass rate because they spend much time performing household duties, while in the case of TA Mkumbira many boys engage in fishing. Overall, less than 35% of the pupils in the District who receive a JCE make it to secondary school. This is due to a shortage of public secondary schools, which limits access for students.

Table 37: Primary school pass rates, 2004-2006

	2004		2005		2006	
	B	G	B	G	B	G
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	72%	66%	77%	66%	74%	60%
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	71%	58%	55%	55%	55%	55%
<i>TA Malemia</i>	80%	62%	83%	69%	80%	66%
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	33%	100%	11%	56%	77%	100
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	64%	49%	68%	52%	67%	49%
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	77%	63%	74%	69%	75%	61%
Zomba District	66%	66%	61%	61%	60%	49%

Source: District Education Office Zomba, 2007

There has been a general decrease in dropouts for both boys (B) and girls (G) over the past years. This is because of free primary school education, as well as introduction of school feeding programmes by the World Food Programme (WFP).

(b) Teaching staff and number of students per teacher

The District has 1,396 primary school teachers, of which 1,389 are qualified and only 7 are unqualified. These teachers are however poorly distributed in many TAs, and many TAs have a shortage of teachers. In the case of TA Kuntumanje, the low number of teachers is partially because of a shortage of teacher houses. Overall, the District has one teacher per 106 students. The ratio has grown from 66 in 1999 as a result of the Government's free primary school education programme. The Ministry of Education recommends sixty students per teacher. Less than half of the TAs meets the recommended ratio, and most TAs have 100 students per teacher. The District overall has a critical shortage of teachers, and this shortage has been increasing over the years.

Table 38: Primary school teachers & ratio to student by TA

	Teachers	Students	Students per Teacher
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	366	46,016	124.7
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	89	14,480	162.7
<i>TA Malemia</i>	273	13,327	48.5
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	18	901	50.1
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	296	39,284	132.7
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	347	33,409	95.7
Zomba District	1,389	147,417	105.6

Source: District Education Office Zomba, 2005

(c) Teacher Development Programmes

Almost two thirds (60%) of teachers undergo continuous professional development programmes at least once per year, which is positive but still below the national requirement of every teacher undergoing in-service training three times a year. The programmes are conducted within the District's 12 teacher development centres. These programmes mainly face funding challenges.

(d) School equipment & capacity

The overall classroom-student ratio for the District is 1:128, which is more than double the recommended ratio of 1:60. The District has a critical shortage of classrooms in all TAs.

Table 39: Primary school classroom -student ratio, 2005

	Total Enrolment	Number of Classrooms	Classroom- Student Ratio
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	14,480	58	1:250
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	46,016	310	1:148
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	39,284	303	1:130
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	901	7	1:129
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	33,409	280	1:119
<i>TA Malemia</i>	13,327	192	1:69
Zomba District	147,417	1,150	1:128

Source: District Education office Zomba, 2005

The number of students per desk is very high in all TAs. This suggests that most of the students do not have a desk for effective study. On average, the primary schools in the District have 12 students sharing one desk.

Table 40: Primary school desk - student ratio, 2005

	Total Enrolment	Number of Desks	Desk Unit- Student Ratio
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	901	50	1:18
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	14,480	912	1:16
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	46,016	3,265	1:14
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	33,409	2,363	1:14
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	39,284	2,964	1:13
<i>TA Malemia</i>	13,327	2,953	1:5
Zomba District	147,417	12,507	1:12

Source: District Education Office Zomba, 2005

6.3.2 Secondary Schools

There are three types of secondary schools in the District: government, grant-aided and private secondary schools. Missionaries run grant-aided secondary schools with some support from government. There are 23 government secondary schools, one grant-aided and five private schools in the District. The distribution of these secondary schools is as shown in the following table (41). As there are no secondary schools in TA Mkumbira, students must attend secondary schools within other TAs.

Table 41: Secondary schools per TA, 2005

	Number of Schools	
	Government	Private
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	7	-
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	2	-
<i>TA Malemia</i>	3	4
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	-	-
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	7	-
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	4	1
<i>Zomba District</i>	23	5

Source: District Education Office Zomba, 2005

(a) Students

The geographical area of a TA has direct correlation on enrolment, with the larger area having the greatest number of students. In absolute numbers, TA Chikowi has the highest enrolment, and TA Kuntumanje the lowest. In recent years, total enrolment within the District is increasing. The enrolment rates are very low for all TAs. TA Mkumbira has no secondary schools within the TA. It is possible that children of secondary school age living within TA Mkumbira travel to other TAs for school, but no statistics currently exist for verification. The following table (42) gives a detailed overview on net enrolment by Traditional Authority.

Table 42: Secondary school net enrolment, 2005

	<i>Children of Sec. School Age</i>	<i>Total Enrolment</i>	<i>Enrolment Rate</i>
<i>TA Malemia</i>	6,816	720	11%
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	15,597	907	6%
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	13,604	761	6%
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	21,130	1,033	5%
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	8,339	298	4%
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	941	-	0%
<i>Zomba District</i>	66,427	3,719	6%

Source: District Education Office Zomba 2005

Generally, the dropout rate for girls is higher than boys. In 2005, the total of girl dropouts was 431 versus 355 for boys. TAs Chikowi and Mlumbe have the highest numbers of total dropouts at 279 and 271, respectively. TA Kuntumanje has the lowest number of dropouts (54).

JCE pass rate is higher for males than females in all the TAs at JCE level, though there is a comparatively higher increase for females in recent years than for males, meaning a slow catch-up process is underway. The overall pass rate is 76.8%.

Table 43: JCE passes (in %) by TA, 2005

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	66.8%	82.7%	76.3%
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	60.5%	93.3%	80.6%
<i>TA Malemia</i>	79.8%	91.5%	86.9%
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	-	-	-
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	66.0%	78.2%	74.4%
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	45.5%	78.7%	67.7%
<i>Zomba District</i>	65.8%	83.2%	76.8%

Source: South East Education Division Zomba, 2005

MSCE pass rates are, again, higher for males than for females for a variety of cultural reasons. Although female pass rates have been rising for the past years, they tend to be more attributed to general increase in pass rates.

Table 44: MSCE Passes (in %) by TA, 2005

	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	44.7%	55.0%	51.4%
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	7.1%	34.4%	26.1%
<i>TA Malemia</i>	37.6%	70.3%	55.9%
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	-	-	-
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	30.6%	65.1%	56.6%
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	22.0%	43.8%	36.0%
<i>Zomba District</i>	35.6%	58.2%	50.1%

Source: South East Education Division Zomba, 2005

(b) Teaching staff and number of students per teacher

The largest challenge the District faces in regard to teachers seems to be the large percentage of unqualified teachers. On average, only 34% of the secondary school teachers are qualified, and this undoubtedly contributes to a lower standard of education. Overall there is a good ratio of students per teachers. TA Kuntumanje is the only exception with 60 students per teacher.

Table 45: Teachers & Students per TA, 2005

	<i>Teachers</i>			<i>Student</i>	<i>No. Students</i>
	<i>Qualified</i>	<i>Unqualified</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Enrolment</i>	<i>Per Teacher</i>
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	20	33	53	1,033	20
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	0	5	5	298	60
<i>TA Malemia</i>	28	13	41	720	18
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	12	31	43	907	22
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	2	38	40	761	19
<i>Zomba District</i>	62	120	182	3,719	20

Source: District Education Office Zomba, 2005

(c) School equipment & capacity

Excluding TA Mkumbira, which has no secondary school, the student-classroom ratio is above average for all TAs. Approximately two students share one desk. This indicates that (i) classroom facilities are much better than in primary schools and (ii) a good number of pupils have effective learning possibilities.

Table 46: Secondary students per school, classroom & desk, 2005

	No. of Students	No. of Classrooms	Students Per Classrooms	No. of Desks	Students Per Desk
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	1,033	30	34	705	1.5
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	298	10	30	118	2.5
<i>TA Malemia</i>	720	22	33	318	2.3
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	907	35	26	527	1.7
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	761	31	25	346	2.2
Zomba Distrct	3,719	128	29	2,014	1.8

Source: District Education Office Zomba, 2005

(d) Other Facilities

Table 47: Other secondary school facilities by TA, 2005

	No. of Schools	Safe Water Supply		Electricity		Play - grounds		Sports Ground		Workshops / Labs	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<i>TA Chikowi</i>	7	5	71%	1	14%	3	43%	0	0%	1	14%
<i>TA Kuntumanje</i>	2	2	100%	0	0%	1	50%	0	0%	0	0%
<i>TA Malemia</i>	8	3	38%	1	13%	1	13%	1	13%	1	13%
<i>TA Mkumbira</i>	0	0	n/a	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
<i>TA Mlumbe</i>	7	6	86%	2	29%	3	43%	1	14%	2	29%
<i>TA Mwambo</i>	5	5	100%	1	20%	2	40%	0	0%	1	20%
Zomba District	29	21	72%	5	17%	10	34%	2	7%	5	17%

Source: South East Education Division Zomba, 2005

6.4 SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Social Welfare Services provided in Zomba District include child and orphan care, probation and after care, relief, rehabilitation of people with disabilities, repatriation, school social work, matrimonial counselling and hospital social work.

6.4.1 Community based organisations (CBOs)

The number of CBOs and Support Groups registered by the District Social Welfare Office has increased from 15 in 2000 to 287 in 2006. These CBOs and support groups have clearly defined catchment areas and conduct the following activities: orphan care, care of chronically ill adult and child patients through home based care (HBC), and youth activities, including dissemination of HIV/AIDS information. According to the District Databank, the highest number of CBOs and support groups is in Zomba-Malosa Constituency (65) followed by Zomba – Likangala (56), Zomba – Ntonya (48), Zomba – Thondwe (36), Zomba – Chingale (27), Zomba – Nsondole (20), Zomba – Chingale (18), Zomba – Chisi (10) and Zomba – Lisanjala (7).

6.4.2 Community based child care (CBCC)

CBOs and support groups have established 240 CBCC centres as an intervention for orphan care and development of families to enable them to provide adequate care and protection during child development. There are 2,400 caregivers who work as volunteers in the District. Among them, only 260 are properly trained in their work. 2,140 are untrained because of lack of financial resources. 14 CBOs have erected Early Childhood Development structures, of which eight were in TA Malemia, three in TA Mlumbe, two in TA Mwambo and one in TA Chikowi.

6.4.3 Disabled Persons

In 2006 the District had over 954 registered persons with disabilities, which is an approximate 40% increase from 677 in 1998 due to more people willing to register. Services offered to these people include medical rehabilitation, counselling and education. Seven persons with disabilities were sent to either Mulanje Vocational Centre for the Blind or Kamuzu Vocational Centre (Magomero) for vocational rehabilitation. In 2005, two maize mills were donated to two CBOs assisting people with disabilities.

6.4.4 Orphan Care

The District had about 10,000 orphans. 200 CBO members from 20 CBOs were trained on how to help government take care of orphaned children and allow them to be integrated into the mainstream of society. Of the total 287 operational CBOs caring for orphans, 51 received funding from MASAF for 60 projects that focused on income generation. The breakout by TA is as follows. TAs Mkumbira and TA Kuntumanje had the lowest number of projects because of little community participation during the project formulation process.

Table 48: OVC Projects by TA

TA Malemia	20
TA Mlumbe	15
TA Mwambo	13
TA Chikowi	8
TA	3
Kuntumanje	
TA Mkumbira	1

Source: District Databank

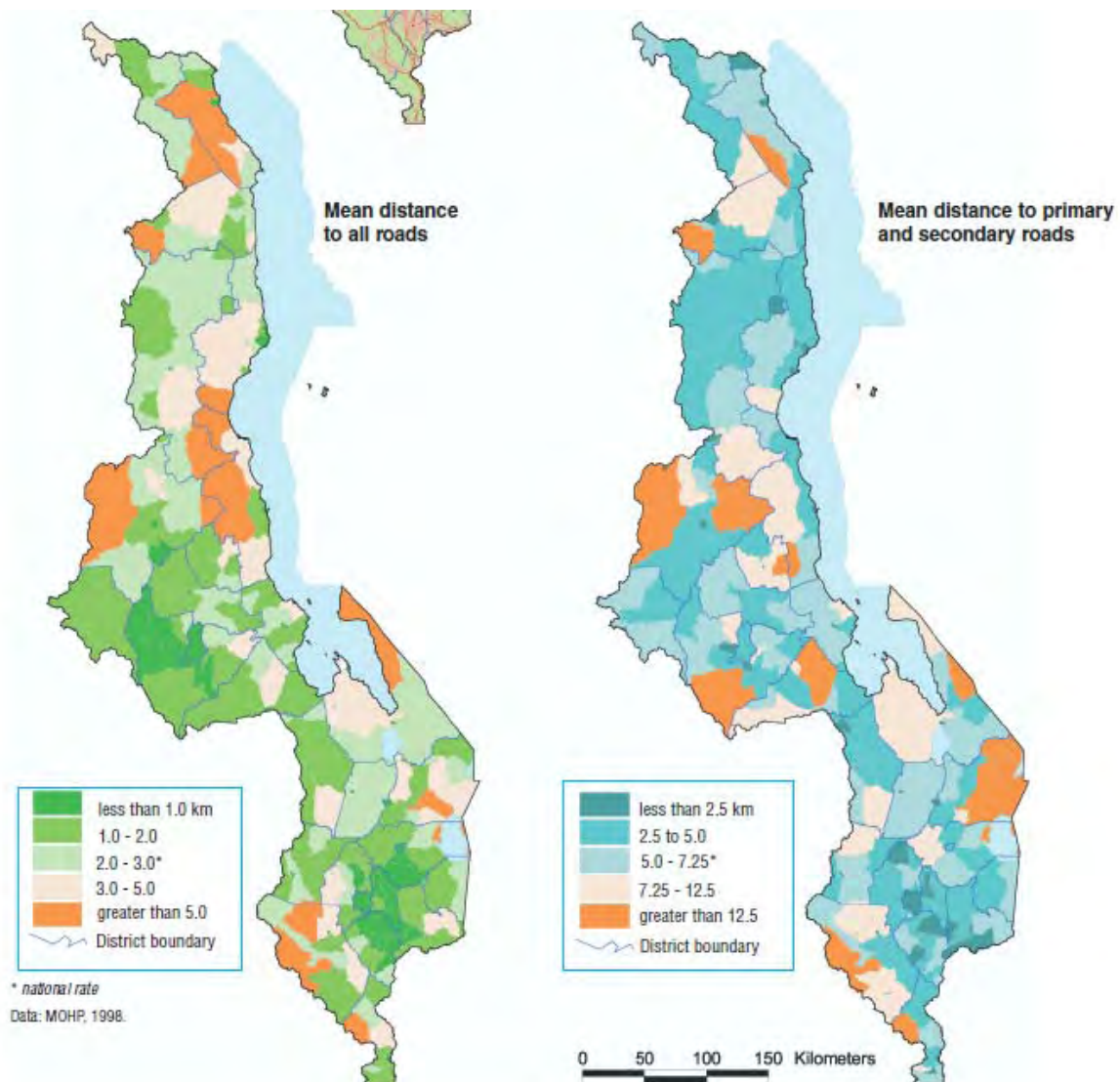
6.4.5 Destitution

People considered as destitute include the victims of criminal acts, deserted wives, street children, the aged, orphans and refugees. Through the Public Assistance Programme, the Social Welfare Office assists the destitute by providing them transport and other assistance on short-term basis. The Office helps facilitate the return of these clients to their homes. Inadequate funding has limited the effectiveness of this assistance programme. In fact, some bus companies stopped accepting travel warrants because of inadequate reimbursement. Of a total of 79 clients who were destitute, 29 clients or 37% were provided with transport to return home. Out of 350 students who sought school fees assistance from the Social Welfare Office, only 37% or 130 students received assistance from either well wishers or the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Zomba District is communicated with other parts of Malawi through a, in national terms, comparatively well developed infrastructure network. Roads provide connections to different parts of the District and neighbouring Districts. In addition, telephone lines, cellular coverage, internet, postal services water and electricity grids connect the District.

7.1 ROADS

Illustration 24: Mean distance from home to roads, 2002



Source: Benson et al. , 2002

Zomba has a comprehensive network of roads. In terms of access to roads, in fact, the people of Zomba District enjoy one of the best access to roads, as it can be clearly seen in Illustration 24. The majority of roads however are in a poor state, which is exacerbated during rainy season because of inadequate drainage.

(a) Main Roads

The Blantyre-Zomba-Lilongwe (M3) Road is still the only major road that passes through the District. It runs from Namadzi to Likweni. The road is bituminised and is in medium condition. In the near future, the Zomba-Blantyre sector will be upgraded to a four-lane tar road which will drastically increase the already good communication in the southern part of the District.

(b) Secondary Roads

There are currently four secondary roads in the District covering a distance of 86.3 kilometres. This is a significant decrease from six roads covering 150.9 kilometres in 2000. The table below shows these roads.

Table 49: Secondary Roads in Zomba District (in Km)

	<i>Name of Road</i>	<i>Length</i>
S139	<i>Railway Line-Chingale-Changalume -Zomba</i>	<i>27.5</i>
S142	<i>Junchon S139-Nkoloma (7 Miles)</i>	<i>15.8</i>
S143	<i>Zomba Air Wing-Kachulu</i>	<i>27.0</i>
S141	<i>Ku-Chawe</i>	<i>16.0</i>
S144	<i>Zomba Air Wing-Namadzi is being bituminised</i>	<i>-</i>
	<i>District Total</i>	<i>86.3</i>

Source: District Databank, 2006

(c) Tertiary Roads

The number of tertiary roads increased from five in 2000 to nine in 2009 largely due to upgrading of certain roads; the tertiary road network now totals 136.6 km, an increase of over 20% during this period.

Table 50: Tertiary Roads in Zomba District (in Km)

	Name of Road	Length
T402	Namwera T/off-Makungulu Bridge	4.7
T405	Jali-Chaweza	14.0
T405	Thondwe-Jali via Mayaka	37.3
T401	Chikwenga-Chingwandembo	21.3
T400	Chawawa-Masaula	10.8
T403	Jokala-Nsondole	9.2
T404	Jali-Chamba	6.0
T407	Nkonjeni River-Namadzi River	19.3
T408	Genela-Mayaka	14.1
	District Total	136.7

Source: District Databank, 2006

(d) District Roads

Table 51: District Roads in Zomba District

	Name of Road	Length
TA Mlumbe	Chawawa-Masaula-Guta (D286)	16
	Namitembo-Matanda (D287)	17.5
	Chinseu-Nankhunda Turn-off (D288)	12
	Pyman-Mbala Estate (D290)	12
TA Chikowi	3 Miles-Mpyupyu-Mwambo (D299)	33
	Chipande-Kapende (D300)	8
	6 Miles-Buleya (D301)	20.2
TA Mwambo	Likangala-Mikuyu (D297)	3.5
TA Malemia	Domasi-Sumayisi (D292)	2
	Songani-Mkhuba (D293)	22.4
	Domasi-Chesomba (D294)	6.7
	Songani-Kasonga (D295)	11.5
TA Mbiza	Zaone-Nasawa (D291)	7.5
	Mlamwa-Matiti (D302)	12.6
TA Kuntumanje/	Songani-Mkhuba (D293)	22.4
Nkagula	Tisaiwale-Khanda (D296)	10
	Chidule-Mwandamba (D298)	8.8
	District total	253.4

Source: District Databank, 2006

(e) Feeder Roads/Undesignated

The District has three undesignated roads, namely Gwaza (UD/J), Namadzi (UD/I) and Ngwelero (UD/K).

7.1.1 Bridges

The District has a number of bridges varying in capacity up to 30 tonnes. 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. Attention must be paid to the problems such as wash-away, vandalism, lack of maintenance and poor workmanship.

Table 52: Bridges in Zomba District

	Name of Road	Name of Bridge	Condition
TA Mlumbe	Zaone-Nasawa (D291)	Utwe; No 2	All Broken Down
TA Malemia	Domasi-Chesomba (D294)	Domasi: No 2, 3 & 4	All Functioning
TA Nkagula	Tisaiwale-Khanda (D296)	Bridge No , 2 & 3; Naisi	All Functioning
TA Chikowi	3 Miles-Mpyupyu (D299)	Namiwawa, No 2, 3 & 4; Nalikukuta; Namiwawa; Mbidi; No. 8 & 9; Likangala; No. 11; Nakhombe	All Functioning
TA Mlumbe	Chipande-Kapende (D300)	Namisonga; Namatope	All Functioning
	Lambulira T/off-Buleya (D301)	Nalikukuta 1 & 2; Chimvu; Thonelive	All Functioning
	Mlamwa-Matiti (D302)	Sumuzi; Utwe	All Functioning
TA Mulumbe	Namadzi-Maera (VD/I)	Namadzi	All Functioning
TA Chikowi		Nambande	
TA Chikowi	Mayaka-Ngwelero (UD/K)	Sumuzi	Functioning

Source: District Databank, 2006

7.1.2 Transport

The most common mode of transport in Zomba District is, by a large margin, walking, followed by cycling. For medium distances, within the District or to neighbouring areas, the most common mode of transport are Mini-busses. Distant travels are mostly done by regular buses, or multiple mini-bus itineraries. Other common means of transport include taxis, especially in the suburban areas around Zomba City, or , although very seldom, boats on Lake Chilwa. Infrequent modes of transport are horses or oxes.

TA Mlumbe and STA Mbiza are still the most disadvantaged with regards to accessibility to public transport, especially during rainy season, due to adverse road conditions. The islands of Chisi, Chinguma, Ngotangota and Lungazi in TA Mkumbira are accessible only by water and air transport.

7.1.3 Rail

The Limbe-Liwonde-Nayuchi Railway passes for a short distance through the western part of the District, but no freight and passenger services is available. An old connection to the mining area to the west of the Zomba Plateau exists but does not attract service anymore.

7.1.4 Transport Terminals

The most frequented transport terminal serving the District is the bus station in Zomba City. In every District market centre and also at schools there are formal bus stops. With the advent of Mini-buses, and the commonly used hop-in hop-off system, transport terminals lost their function and instead the stop is at a customer's choosing.

Zomba District has a semi-formal cargo rail station at the old mining area to the west of the Zomba Plateau, although no service is offered anymore.

Zomba District has no commercial airport, but occasional government flight service is offered to the military airstrip north-east of Zomba City.

There is no formal harbour, but there are a number of customary fish landing sites, where ad hoc boat charters can be arranged. For a full listing, please refer to chapter 5.2 (a).

7.2 COMMUNICATION

7.2.1 Postal Services

There are currently ten post offices and five postal agencies. The post offices are located at Zomba City, Domasi, Chilema, Jali, Majaka, Nasawa, Mlumbe, Thondwe, Magonero and Chingale. The Postal Agencies are found in Mwambo, Namadidi, Masaula, Sakata and Namisonga. Services in these facilities include sale of postal stamps, postage of letters and parcels, postal and money order transfers and telegraphic services.

7.2.2 Telephone Network

The District continues having both automatic and manual telephone exchange systems. The automatic exchange system, located in Zomba boma, has increased its hard-line connections from 1,120 in 2000 to 5,782 in 2006. This growth is due to increased demand for telephone services, which has resulted into the establishment of large numbers of private paying telephone bureaus. The manual exchange system, located at Jali, still operates 13 lines.

7.2.3 Cellular Network

Two cellular network operators offer services in Zomba District, Telecom Network Malawi (TNM) and Zain (former Celltel). Both providers cover the populated areas throughout the District, with still large uncovered areas, both due to topography and low population density. Due to the unsatisfactory land based telephone services, the number of cellular phone user is rapidly increasing with the District and outnumbers land line users by a large factor.

7.2.4 Radio and Television Network

All major national Radio and Television programs 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 programs available in the District is growing exponentially. Unfortunately, no statistics on audience is available.

7.2.5 National Publications

All major newspapers are readily available in market centres. Unfortunately, no statistics on readership are available.

7.2.6 Internet services

Although no official statistics are available, internet use is steadily growing in the District, mainly wireless service via the cellular network. Cable based services are only available in Hotels (Zomba Plateau) and in Zomba City.

7.2.7 Other Services

Due to the bad state of the Malawi land-line telephone network, fax, telex and telegraph services are limited. Facsimile services are offered at post offices and in the Hotels on the Zomba Plateau.

7.3 ELECTRICITY & ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY

ESCOM supplies hydroelectric power to the District. ESCOM registered 436 new household connections in 2004, 346 new household connections in 2005, and 416 new household connections in 2006. Approximately 62% of the power is used in households. Industrial and commercial usage consumes 11.4% and 26.6%, respectively. The figures however do not differentiate connections within Zomba City from those within the District. According to the Integrated Household Survey 2004-2005, most households within the District (99.4%) use firewood for cooking, which is an increase of 12.4% from 87.0% in 2000. Charcoal and crop residue/sawdust contribute 0.4% and 0.2%, respectively. Paraffin remains the most common source of lighting energy (93.8%) in the District. This is far above the national average of 84.0%. Other sources include firewood (2.5%), grass (2.9%), electricity (0.6%), and dung gas (0.2%).

The major challenges affecting energy supply in the District include: high cost of electric construction materials and distribution transformers, electricity black outs, power surges, high rate of deforestation, high solar power installation cost and high electricity charges.

PLATZHALTER FOR CRIME

8.1 CRIME

Crime reports are very scarce, but the records of the Malawi Police in Zomba District do provide a general tendency. The most common types of crimes reported, in descending order in 2008 were property thefts, assaults and breaking offences.

There are steady fluctuations in the number of Officers, but on average there are about 340 Police officers in Zomba District, of which 253 (73.3%) are male and 92 (26.7%) are female. The police/public ratio in 2008 was 1:1,585. The crime prone areas are the major agglomerations, Zomba City, Domasi, Thondwe, Jali and Chingale. In the rural area, cattle theft is also named as a problem. The total number of crimes reported has decreased by 2.6%, from 4,778 in 2004 to 4,652 in 2008.

Crimes against property, such as theft and burglary, are the most common crimes committed in the District. These crimes are motivated by economic reasons. There are also incidences of crimes against persons, mainly rape. Juvenile delinquency is increasingly becoming a problem in the District, especially in secondary schools and tertiary education institutions. Committed offences include theft and burglary, physical assault and rape. Actions taken depend upon the gravity of the offence committed by the convicted. Juvenile delinquents either remains in communities, serve community service orders, serve probation, or go to either Mpemba Boys Home or Chilwa Approved School.

Apart from Zomba City, there are no Fire Services available in Zomba District

Private security companies, the biggest of them G4S, are increasingly gaining popularity in spite of the inability of the police to protect property and prevent crimes. These private services are theoretically available throughout the District, but due to the associated costs, only businesses and wealthy individuals can afford such services.

9.1 VISION 2020

Zomba District embraces the Malawi Vision 2020, which reflects the long-term aspirations of Malawians and forms the basis for short and medium-term policies and strategies. The 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.”

9.2 MALAWI GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) is the overarching operational medium-term strategy for Malawi designed to attain the nation’s Vision 2020. The main thrust of the MGDS is to create wealth through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development as a means of achieving poverty reduction. This is expected to transform the country from being a predominantly importing and consuming economy to a predominantly manufacturing and exporting economy.

The MGDS place emphasis on six key priority areas (i) agriculture and food security, (ii) irrigation and water development, (iii) transport infrastructure development, (iv) energy generation and supply, (v) integrated rural development, and (vi) prevention and management of nutrition disorders and HIV/AIDS. These six key priority areas are also expected to accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the areas of health, education, gender, environment, and governance. The integrated rural development in particular will among other things entail the establishment of rural growth centres. This is expected to rejuvenate the rural economies and transform them into potential engines for economic growth that translate to increased redistribution of wealth countrywide. In all its efforts, Zomba District Assembly actively promotes the achievement of the MGDS by prioritising development projects and programs in these six key areas.

In the compilation and production process of this socio-economic profile, and through thorough analysis of the state of the District, Zomba District Assembly has extracted key issues for further consideration in the subsequent District development process, especially for the production of the District Development Plan (DDP).

In line with the MGDS and Vision 2020, the District Assembly has so far identified 13 major developmental issues from a situational analysis conducted in the District, bearing in mind competences and areas of influence by the local assembly. These issues provide a basis for the District development framework to build upon, objectives leading to the formulation of the District Development Plan, areas where development authority lies within national government hands or specific agencies, Zomba District assembly will focus their effort on lobbying and advocacy.

The following are the development issues in Zomba District

1. Education
2. Maternal Health
3. Infant and Child Health
4. HIV/AIDS and STIs
5. Income
6. Environment
7. Agriculture
8. Water
9. Mobility
10. OVCs
- 11 ICT Services
12. Knowledge Management
13. Domestic harmony

1 Education

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Improve access to, quality & equity of education until 2012	<i>Inadequate teaching and learning materials</i>	<i>Provide adequate teaching & learning materials</i>
	<i>Shortage of trained teachers</i>	<i>Provide school infrastructures</i>
	<i>Inadequate school infrastructure</i>	<i>Recruit teachers</i>
	<i>Poverty</i>	<i>Improve bursary schemes</i>
	<i>Child labour</i>	<i>Conduct sensitisation campaigns on special needs education</i>
	<i>Negative cultural influence</i>	<i>Lobby for an integration of special needs education into the curriculum</i>

2 Maternal Health

Objectives	Challenges	Strategies
Reduce maternal mortality by 1/3 until 2012	<i>HIV&AIDS</i>	<i>Provide communication facilities</i>
	<i>Shortage of staff</i>	<i>Lobby for adequate skilled health personnel</i>
	<i>Clampasia</i>	<i>Intensify family planning campaigns</i>
	<i>Septicaemia</i>	<i>Provide anti malaria drugs</i>
	<i>Haemorrhage</i>	<i>Provide insecticide treated nets (ITN)</i>
	<i>Communication problems (telephone or radio)</i>	<i>Sensitise communities on the importance of delivering babies at health centres</i>
	<i>Transportation problems for referrals</i>	<i>Lobby for good road maintenance</i>
	<i>Delays in seeking medical attention</i>	<i>Provide refresher courses to TBAs</i>

3 Infant and Child Health

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Reduce the infant mortality by 1/3 until 2012	High disease prevalence Delays in seeking medical attention	Establish proper diagnostic facilities Increase number of skilled health personnel
Reduce child mortality by 1/3 until 2012	Inadequate provision of PMTC, NRU & ARV	Increase accessibility to immunisation Establish adequate NRUs Improve delivery of HBC services Promote awareness on the importance of health education

4 HIV/AIDS and STIs

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence by 1/3 until 2012	Harmful cultural practices Poverty Slow rate of behavioural change on sexual issues Inadequate health facilities and personnel Lack of District policy framework	Intensify IEC on safe sex practices Increase number of HTC/PMTC/ ARV centres Sensitise communities on safe cultural practices. Promote IGAs Develop and operationalise workplace policy Provide adequate testing reagents & drugs Promote data collection and dissemination on STIs Promote dietary diversification

5 Income

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Assist Households to substantially raise income until 2012	<i>High unemployment levels</i> <i>High cost of living</i> <i>Limited access to credit facilities</i> <i>Low produce prices</i> <i>Diseases</i>	<i>Creating linkages between communities & lending institutions</i> <i>Intensify extension services in business management</i> <i>Intensify commercial farming</i> <i>Promote crop diversification</i> <i>Encourage aquaculture</i> <i>Promote appropriate fishing methods</i> <i>Promote income generating activities</i> <i>Train & support community groups in entrepreneurial skills</i>

6 Environment

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Reduce environmental degradation by 1/3 until 2012	<i>Land pressure</i> <i>Poor land husbandry practices</i> <i>Wanton cutting down of trees</i> <i>Inadequate environmental conservation techniques</i> <i>Poor disposal of refuse</i>	<i>Conduct awareness campaigns on importance of family planning</i> <i>Intensify forestry patrols</i> <i>Plant trees and vertiva grass</i> <i>Orient communities on forestry management</i> <i>Develop alternative & affordable sources of energy</i> <i>Intensify environmental friendly IGAs</i> <i>Enact and enforce bylaws</i> <i>Intensify modern farming methods</i> <i>Improve waste management</i>

7 Agriculture

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Increase agricultural production by 1/3 until 2012	<i>Erratic rainfall patterns</i>	<i>Promote intensive farming</i>
	<i>Land degradation</i>	<i>Intensify irrigation farming</i>
	<i>High cost of farm inputs</i>	<i>Improve marketing strategies</i>
	<i>Poor post produce- harvest handling</i>	<i>Improve post-produce handling techniques</i>
	<i>Low rate of adoption of modern farming methods</i>	<i>Reduce land degradation</i>
	<i>Land shortage</i>	<i>Promote Farmer Based Organisation</i>
	<i>Poor extension services</i>	<i>Promote Agro-processing Industry</i>
	<i>Losses of harvests due to poor storage methods</i>	<i>Institutionalise District Agricultural Extension Services</i>
	<i>Pests & diseases</i>	<i>Promote animal health and regulatory services</i>
	<i>High feed costs</i>	<i>Train farmers on seed multiplication techniques</i>
	<i>Lack of adequate breeding stock</i>	
	<i>Heavy reliance on indigenous breeds</i>	

8 Water

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Increase access to clean safe water by 50% until 2012	<i>Uneven distribution of boreholes & water points</i>	<i>Rehabilitation & extension of existing gravity fed piped water system</i>
	<i>Poor maintenance of boreholes & water points</i>	<i>Drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes</i>
	<i>Vandalism</i>	<i>Train & empower all water point committees on community based maintenance of water facilities</i>

9 Mobility

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
To improve accessibility of Zomba District by 60% until 2012	<i>Inadequate roads & bridges</i> <i>Inadequate maintenance of roads & bridges</i> <i>Lack of bituminised roads in rural areas</i> <i>Vandalism</i> <i>Lack of reliable transport on/to Lake Chilwa</i>	<i>To upgrade feeder roads to all weather roads</i> <i>Empower communities to initiate self-help initiative in road construction & maintenance</i> <i>Engage skilled personnel & contractors on road construction/repair</i> <i>Improve motorised boats & landing sites along Lake Chilwa</i> <i>Encourage community patrols against vandalism</i> <i>Sensitise community on consequences of vandalism</i>

10 OVCs

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Increase opportunities for OVCs by 1/3 until 2012	<i>Death toll due to HIV/AIDS</i> <i>Overstretched extended families</i> <i>High cost of living</i> <i>Early marriages</i>	<i>Provide IGAs</i> <i>Mainstream OVC</i> <i>Build capacity of CBOs</i> <i>Improve networking among stakeholders</i>
Assist the community to enhance their entrepreneurial skills by ¼ until 2012	<i>Inadequate business extension staff</i> <i>High illiteracy</i> <i>Inadequate vocational skills</i>	<i>Conduct business training sessions</i> <i>Provide adequate skills & vocational centres</i>

11 ICT Services

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Increase access to telecommunication, postal & internet services by 1/5 until 2012	<i>Inadequate telecommunication & postal facilities</i>	<i>Lobby for an upgrading of telephone exchange systems</i>
	<i>Vandalism of telecommunication & postal facilities</i>	<i>Lobby mobile phone providers to increase network coverage</i>
	<i>Lack of computer skills</i>	<i>Increase number of post offices</i>
	<i>Lack of adequate & fast internet facilities</i>	<i>Conduct civic education on negative effects of vandalism</i> <i>Lobby for the establishment of more computer schools</i>

12 Knowledge Management

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
To enhance decision making at all levels	<i>Inadequate skills in data management</i>	<i>Build capacity of Data Coordinating Committee</i>
	<i>Poor coordination</i>	<i>Synchronise data management systems</i>
	<i>Multiple reporting systems</i>	<i>Improve coordination</i>

13 Domestic Harmony

Objective	Challenges	Strategies
Reduce domestic violence by ¼ until 2012	<i>Cultural beliefs</i>	<i>Build capacity of Data Coordinating Committee</i>
	<i>High level of illiteracy</i>	<i>Synchronise data management systems</i>
	<i>Poverty</i>	<i>Improve coordination</i>
	<i>Alcohol & drug abuse</i>	<i>Build capacity of Data Coordinating Committee</i>
	<i>Inadequate enforcement of legal frameworks</i>	

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The 2009 Zomba District Socio Economic Profile presents the information necessary for a contemporary situation analysis and serves as the evidence base in the District Development Planning Framework. The SEP is not only a planning document, but by embracing the principle of bottom-up planning, it is a first step of involving all relevant stakeholder in the District Planning Process. The SEP is also seen as a first communication point between the people and the Assembly, through an bottom up data compilation process, and vice versa, by a top down comprehensive information distribution from the Assembly back to the communities.

The SEP contains ten chapters presenting general features and the most recent data on demography, land use, the environment, economy, social services and infrastructure. The final part is focussing on the national and local development priorities, which will be addressed by the District Development Plan.



Zomba District Assembly Department of Planning and Development

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