

# About Malawi



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### In the picture



By growing corn on the same fields, they become exhausted and the yield becomes less



Altered cultivation is a necessity. That is also important for food diversity and as a market product



The laborious and distant obtaining of water to irrigate the corn field is one of the reasons for migrating



Irrigate with a solar pump



One cabin per family. Together with other family members a household



Cottage with a roof of corrugated iron. Now without mice



A business park without innovation



There is a future in making clothing. But also for mosquito nets



In 2006, Mwandama was implemented as Millennium Village

## On the matter

### [The United Nations Millennium Declaration](#)

In 2000, the *United Nations Millennium Declaration* was signed by government representatives of 189 countries, which was intended to jointly eradicate global poverty.

The so-called millennium objectives were divided into eight concrete plans that should in principle be achieved in 2015. These related to poverty, education, child and maternal mortality, health care, the environment and the position of women. The eighth goal was about global efforts to achieve these goals, such as more development assistance and a fairer global trading system. (see: <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millenniumdoelstellingen>)

For that project, the talented development economist Jeffrey Sachs was recruited in 2002 as a special advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Based on the idea that there was a direct relationship between poverty and international security, in which disease, hunger and resentment are a breeding ground for terrorism, the objectives were further elaborated. The intention was for the Western world to invest more involved in combating global poverty and to look at development aid in a different way. Not year after year with small bits, but for a certain period of time to make the third world countries economically debt-free so that they could invest in their own development.

According to Sachs, achieving a reasonable and affordable solution to get out of poverty as a third world country was not a problem, but more the human inability to achieve global cooperation needed to introduce solutions. There was a lot of criticism on his 2005 bestseller "The End of Poverty". Not only about his way of thinking, his clinical method of approach, but also about his person. (Nina Munk, *The Idealist*, Jeffrey Sachs and the quest to end the poverty).

To start, Sachs began energetically by asking for support for his own Millennium Villages Project at lectures and meetings. It was calculated that \$120 per resident was needed to get a rural village free of hunger with access to good health care and opportunities to develop independently as a village. After private donations raised \$200,000,000, he could start his first project in Sauri (Kenya). In Malawi, Mwandama and Gumulira were realized as Millennium Villages in 2006.

In the implementation of the projects, the local problems turned out to be enormous. Not least because of the conservative villagers and the confrontation with modern technologies, so that not everything could be achieved as intended. Also through corruption, selfishness and opposition.

In 2015, the extensive *United Nations Millennium Declaration* was terminated and evaluated, see ([https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(18\)30065-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(18)30065-2/fulltext)). The contemporary effect of the Millennium Project in Mwandama is summarized in <http://mv-aid.org/mv/mwandama.html>.

### Problems

Malawi's problem is not necessarily a question of Malawi itself, but of those who think they can solve the problems with all the good intentions of it, such as agricultural experts, consultants, policy makers and scientists. Their expensively paid advice comes in almost all cases from carefully edited scientific books and studies. These advices build on scientific insights, but not on what is going on in the villages and on the fields. In addition, the government lacks vision, initiatives and persuasiveness and that is the problem. The solutions that are proposed 'from below' and in most cases have been applied in practice for years are not taken up. After yet another publication, the order of the day is returned to it and life continues unchanged in the countryside.

Subsidizing agriculture, funding education and health care in Malawi has, as shown, paralyzing effects on government spending.

Because more than half of Malawi's population is under the age of 20, the demographic population growth in Malawi also causes significant challenges. It therefore seems obvious to focus mainly on family planning, but having children is a status for women and is also important as an old-age reserve. For that reason, that topic is not discussed despite the chronic food shortage.

Against this background, there is resentment that the large supply of labor is left unused by the inefficient government. After all, young people in the country do not lack talent or ambition, but education, resources and opportunities. For many young Malawians, there is undeniably the fervent hope of escaping apathetic poverty in health and with enough food. There are opportunities in construction, small-scale industry and in the modernizing of rain-dependent agriculture. These opportunities are not used because vocational training is minimal and markets are missing. There are also opportunities for industrial development with a focus on producing semi-finished products that are suitable for export due to the low wages. Partly due to a lack of capital, no initiatives can be expected from the water-headed government and the numerous advisory bodies due to the lack of structure. Meanwhile, little investment is being made in the economy and human capital for growth and the diversification of agriculture, industry, mining, health, transport, environment and energy. The downside is that hunger, unemployment and lack of perspective have meanwhile created a lifeless society.

### Perspectives

This web page summarizes the existing situation in picture and word. After this, under the 'Perspects' redirect button, a regionally different society with prospects and free of hunger is discussed without obligation.

See also: <https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duurzameontwikkelingsdoelstellingen>

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