About Malawi

Save

Society

For English

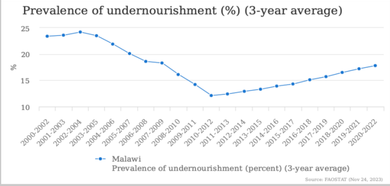
Malawi, an introduction
Politics
Brief
Society
Economy
Infrastructure
Adversity
Means of subsistence
Wikicrouch
Agriculture
Characteristics of the terms
Characteristics of the terms
Core as a food product
Core as a commercial product
Healthcare
Education

Version

Version

Version

period of 3 years.



Corn as a trade product

According to the World Bank, global agricultural development is the engine of individual and collective prosperity and one of the most powerful tools against extreme poverty. The system is a series of actions to bring agricultural goods and services from the production areas to the final consumer. It in a chain along which the products run in the different operations.

With the introduction of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1987, it became possible for private traders in Malawi to buy/sell agricultural products. In that restructuring, Agriculture Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) withdrew from the market as a state-owned company at the insistence of the World Bank and trade was liberalized. Trade in corn as a national food product also became self-sufficient. That seemed like the best strategy to improve access to food for everyone in Malawi in a fairer system. At the same time, a number of indicative (non-binding) prices were introduced to protect small farmers from unscrupulous traders, but that could not prevent unwanted side effects from occurring. The competitive market forces did not seem to benefit small farmers. There are indications that there is conspiracy between private traders.

Due to the lack of competitiveness, the agricultural economy in Malawi has been minimally developed. As a cause, reference is made to fragmentary organizational structures, the inefficient presence of unnecessary intermediaries and the lack of accurate and timely information. In the latter case, it is objective market information that farmers can use when making production and marketing decisions and when negotiating the purchase and sale of their products.

In most cases, a first bid from a buyer is not responded to, but in the trade-off, the farmers are very uncertain. Traders tend to negotiate bottom prices while farmers go out to get a price that is between the government-recomended selling price for corn and corn consumption prices in the local market. Because the fixed prices no longer exist and the information available is often one-sided, farmers sometimes unintentionally sell their products at a loss in order to have cash.

In most cases, traders in agricultural supplies and buyers of agricultural products also appear to have no data on supply and demand. As a result, it can happen that stocks are lost due to depletion or rot, which has consequences for availability.

These two common aspects in the food chain are the cause that agricultural markets in Malawi are not working properly and economic growth is not getting off. Although there is a logistical need to gain insight into food needs and stocks, there is a lack of insight although the markets are integrated. In that situation, consumer prices for corn have been manipulated in such a way that poverty and hunger continue to plague the population continuously.

The existence of unfair trade can continue to exist as a result of the poorly organized peasant cooperatives that maintain access to lucrative markets through bribery and corruption. Due to a lack of market awareness, the self-sufficient farmers have meanwhile become increasingly poor in their dependence position. In a general sense also the rural communities due to the lack of assets, lack of storage facilities due to liberalisation and exploitation.

In Malawi, the local market is essential for the food supply and is a meeting place for the latest news. It is the place to buy the daily food, trade crops and where prices are determined. The market area also has a social function in local activities, music, sports and to play bao. Especially in the afternoon, the run-up increases.

The market offering is focused on the local need of almost exclusively the basic necessities. The products are offered by market merchants from a market stall and by farmers from the area. Because the price of each product is negotiated, the amount of the supply is not fixed. They can be such that families cannot afford the daily groceries. Several factors contribute to price volatility such as deficits or surpluses at that time, macro-economic factors and government measures.

Stabilising prices is not easy for several reasons. In a general sense because of the poorly functioning market forces and the mass export of non-existent agricultural surpluses to be able to repay loans in dollars.

Because there has been no economic impulse, it can be stated that the private sector has not been able to fill the gam after ADMARC's departure. The underperforming of agricultural marketing is certainly not only the result of the lack of participation and the lack of adequate market information. It also concerns the inefficient agricultural marketing systems and the undesirable level of commercialization. Despite these worrying market effects, additional policies have not been made, perhaps because the government benefits from the export of non-existent surpluses of corn and from the repeated devaluation of the Kwacha at the expense of the residents.

Healthcare

'Health care'

(See also the substantive theme 'Health care'

Eating low-calorie corn porridge on a daily basis has consequences for the health status of the inhabitants of Malawi due to lack of necessary nutrients. Then it is not so much about the physical condition or the mental strength, but more about the resilience to diseases, defects and, for example, when drinking contaminated water. Diarrhea due to poor hygiene can be fatal.

The state of health and its experience has been researched, looking at the most common complaints over a period of 14 days. It turned out that a third of the population had a fever and suffered from malaria at that time.

Disease symptoms population Malawi during the last two weeks in %	Malawi	Rural	Urban
Malaria and fever	34,1	35.2	26,0
Sore throat and flu	21,3	20,4	27,0
Headache	9,0	9,0	9.1
Stomach pain	8,2	8,1	9.1
Joint pain	4.8	4,9	4.2
Diaree	3,3	3.0	5,3
Other condition	19,3	19,3	19,4

Health services in Malawi are provided by public and private institutions. The public sector includes all health facilities covered by the Ministry of Health and are free when used. The private institutions charge user fees, as well as the traditional healers who are also part of health care. Malawi's health care system has three levels, namely primary, secondary and tertiary care. These different levels are interconnected through a established reference system.

Important progress has been made in the last ten years, especially in preventing child and maternal mortality and combating HIV, AIDS and malaria. Despite this, mortality rates remain high, particularly due to HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhea and perinatal conditions. In children, especially chronic hunger, lung diseases and malaria are the main reasons for premature death.

See also the theme 'health care'.

Education

'Education'

In 1994, the government of Malawi introduced free primary education and that led to a large infloy. Classes with hundreds of children arose due to the huge shortage of teachers and inadequate infrastructure.

The school system in Malawi is based on the 8-4-4 model, i.e. 8 years of primary education, 4 years of secondary and 4 years of university education and is based on accessibility, equality and quality. There is little appreciation for the profession of teacher and not at all for teachers.

Children go to primary school in Malawi at the age of six. For that, some children have to walk 10 km there and 10 km back. Along the way they pick up fruit from the trees, because they have not yet eaten *nsima*. School time starts with a meeting in the schoolyard. That takes 15 minutes with announcements and singing the school song. School hours are from 07.30 to 14.30, with 'agriculture' being the most important subject. There is a large shortage of teachers in a number of schools. One of the reasons is that the school has to offer a house and the school often cannot afford that. The shortage of teachers and the lack of teaching and learning materials are partly the cause of extremely poor school performance in primary education. Many students are still unable to read with comprehension after several years of primary school. Once a year there is routinely a school inspection, but little attention is paid to the quality of education. During the first year of primary school, almost 20% of primary school students stop

If the students pass primary education they are selected to attend secondary education. In 1999, the Government of Malawi expanded access to secondary education with *Community Day Secondary Schools*. Here too, problems arose from undermanned schools, the lack of basic infrastructure and lack of teaching and learning materials. Especially the quality of the teachers and the lack of basic knowledge had major consequences for the completion of secondary education.

With a diploma, the student could then register for tertiary education under conditions. Over the years, several public and private universities and colleges have been built, but the success rate here is exceptionally low here too.

See also the theme of 'education'.

For Khasu, we had brought school supplies for 700 children. There we were received by the school board, teachers, village chief, district head, parents and 800 children

back

To the top

© 2022 - 2024 MALAWI, the warm heart of Africa

Powered by JoomWeb