



**COUNTRY REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATISTICS  
CRESS  
MALAWI**

**2015**







**MALAWI GOVERNMENT**  
NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE

**MALAWI COUNTRY REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR STATISTICS**

**JUNE 2015**  
© Published National Statistical Office  
with the support of PARIS21



## ACRONYMS

ADB	African Development Bank
AMIS	Agricultural Marketing Information System
APES	Agricultural Production Estimate Survey
CDC	Center for Disease Control
CRESS	Country Report on Support for Statistics
DEAP	Development Effectiveness and Accountability Programme
DfID	Department for International Development
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DoEPD	Department of Economic Planning and Development
EMIS	Education Management Information System
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GOM	Government of Malawi
HMIS	Health Management Information System
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
IHS4	Fourth Integrated Household Survey
ILO	International Labour Office
JHU	Johns Hopkins University
LMIS	Labour Management Information System
MACRA	Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority
MASEDA	Malawi Socioeconomic Database
MoAIWD	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
MoEMNR	Ministry of Energy, Mining and Natural Resources
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MoIT	Ministry of Industry and Trade
MoJCA	Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoLMD	Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development
MoTPW	Ministry of Transport and Public Works
NAC	National Aids Commission
NSA	National Statistics Act 2013
NSO	National Statistical Office
NSS	National Statistical System
PARIS21	Partnership for Statistics in 21 <sup>st</sup> Century
PE	Programme Estimates
PHC	Population and Household Census
SAVVY	Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Agency
USAID	United States Aid for International Development
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization



## CONTENTS

Acronyms .....	2
1. Main Findings .....	5
2. Introduction .....	10
3. Objective of the study .....	10
4. Methodology.....	10
5. Review of Malawi Statistical System.....	12
6. Main findings .....	- 20 -
7. Challenges, Lessons learnt and recommendations.....	- 34 -
8. Annexes.....	36

## 1. Main Findings

### Introduction

- 1.1. The National Statistical Office (NSO) was established in 1963 and mandated by the Statistics Act of 1967 that was repealed in 2013. It is headed by the Commissioner of Statistics.
- 1.2. The NSO has a ten year survey programme that includes a population and housing census in either end and/ or surveys in between. The office is a central depository of all official statistics in Malawi.
- 1.3. The NSO coordinates the National Statistical System that has the following ten formal members: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD); Ministry of Health (MoH); Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST); Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT); Ministry of Labor and Manpower Development (MoLMD); Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW); Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW); Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA); Ministry of Energy, Mining and Natural Resource (MoEMNR); and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA).
- 1.4. The Government of Malawi (GoM) and several development partners have supported the NSO and the National Statistical System (NSS) line ministries and departments both financially and technically during production, management and dissemination of statistical products.

### Objective

- 1.5. The Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) aims at improving efficiency of the National Statistical System through a better co-ordination and stakeholder engagement in production, management and dissemination of statistics in Malawi by informing policy makers and identifies statistical needs.

### Methodology

- 1.6. The survey was financially and technically supported by the Partnership for Statistics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PARIS21).

- 1.7. Major stakeholders in statistics had a questionnaire to fill. The semi-structured questionnaire collected data on current projects, adhoc and future planned statistical activities.
- 1.8. Results of this assessment were validated in several forum such as National Statistical System Steering Committee Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Producer Meeting held from 9-10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and Donor meeting that was organized on 26 June 2015. During these meeting, results were discussed and agreed upon.

## **Funding Institutions in the National Statistical System**

### **Current statistical activities**

- 1.9. Statistics production in Malawi is supported by the Government of Malawi and development partners, namely, Norwegian Government, United States Aid for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, United Nations Fund for Population Agency (UNFPA), African Development Bank (ADB), International Labour Organization (ILO), European Union (EU), Flanders, Global Fund, National Aids Commission (NAC), United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), UNWomen, Department for International Development (DfID), GIZ, Irish Aid, Johns Hopkins University (JHU), World Health Organization (WHO), Malawi Communication Regulation Authority (MACRA), PARIS21, Center for Disease Control (CDC) and others.
- 1.10. Government of Malawi has funded about 8.34 million US\$ from the national budgets to statistical activities over the period 2012 - 2015. Much of this funding has been channeled to the National Statistical Office to pay for personal emoluments and ORT. Other major beneficiary to Government national budget are Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development.
- 1.11. The study found that development partners have funded various statistical activities from 2012 to 2015. Over the period, the NSO has been funded to the tune of 9.84 million US\$. It was found that most of this funding was used in major national surveys such as the Malawi Millennium Development Goals Endline Survey 2013/2014.

- 1.12. In NSS Government line Ministries and Departments, about 13.04 million US\$ has been used to fund statistical activities. Ministry of Industry and Trade has been supported with about 2.33 million US\$. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has received about 0.02 million US\$ which is the least among all NSS line Ministries.
- 1.13. Funding to on-going projects has accumulated to about 31.22 million US\$ for the past four years since 2012 and development partners have provided about 73 percent of the funds.
- 1.14. The GoM has been increasing funding towards statistics. The trend shows that in 2012/13 financial year, GoM funded statistical activities by 1.59 Million US\$ while in 2014/2015, GoM increased funding to 2.60 Million US\$. Top four recipients of funding for statistics from government are National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health.
- 1.15. Similarly, development partners have increased funding to on-going activities over time from 3.84 million US\$ in 2012 to 8.52 million US\$ in 2014 (about 120 percentage increase).

### **Adhoc Activities**

- 1.16. During the 2012-2015 periods, there have been a number of adhoc activities that the NSO and other line ministries have implemented. Adhoc activities during this period included Gender Based Violence Survey 2012, Real Time Mortality Monitoring, 2015 Count Down Case Study, ICT Survey 2014, Model Disability Survey 2015, Areal Frame Survey, Energy Saving Bulbs Efficiency Assessment and Early Grade Reading Assessment. These surveys were not within the NSS survey programme but critical need for such information necessitated their implementation. Areal Frame Survey in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development received about 22 percent of the total funding to adhoc activities.
- 1.17. Adhoc activities have accumulated funding to about 8.65 million US\$ over the period. Most adhoc activities have been implemented by the National Statistical Office and have been conducted between 2014 and 2015.

## **Future activities**

1.18. National Statistical System has a number of activities that have been planned for 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 fiscal years. Most of these activities will be implemented by the NSO and they are in line with the NSO survey programme. Future statistical activities highlighted in this report have financial commitments and include, Demographic Health Survey 2015, Integrated Household Survey 2016/17, Census Mapping 2016/17, Development of Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP), Food Security and Market Assessment. Total commitment by the time of CRESS data collection amounts to 13.12 million US\$.

## **Lessons Learnt**

1.19. Collecting of financial data faces sensitivity challenges where institutions are not willing to share budgets and disbursed funding. However, within the framework of NSS, contact persons in Government institution and development partners assisted gathering the required data.

1.20. The study has learnt that there are few projects that directly aim at institutional, human and physical capacity development in statistics.

## **Recommendations**

1.21. The report found increasing number of adhoc activities. This means that such emerging issues might not have been captured during planning sessions of the NSO and sectoral plans. This is because data users' needs change as time passes. In view of this, the report propose that the planning processes of NSO and sectoral plans should be consultative enough to give chance to all partners in statistics and this will ably address, most of statistical needs of all users.

1.22. On one hand, the report suggests that development partners should be able to respond to the request of the NSO and sectoral statistical units for better planning during plan development. On the other hand, since the NSO plan was developed in 2011/12, statistical needs of most partners might have changed hence the need to review and inclusively redesign a statistical plan that should address the changing needs of statistical stakeholders.

- 1.23. Strengthen coordination amongst stakeholders by including the CRESS as part of the on-going activities of the NSO to be used as a basis for discussions with development partners and the Government

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

A Country Report on Support to Statistics (CRESS) is fundamental as it maps sources and levels of funding to statistical activities across the National Statistical System (NSS). It is one of the efforts to ensure aid effectiveness in line with the Accra Agenda Action 2008 that consolidated prevailing best practices and guiding principles in aid effectiveness. Among other things, this report allows implementing agencies such as the NSO, Ministries and Departments, the Government of Malawi and development partners respect principles of aid effectiveness. Through support from the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (PARIS21), a CRESS data collection was conducted to identify statistical projects that have been implemented over the period 2012 to 2014 or those activities being planned for in the future. The Report seeks to identify and map out support while answering questions such as who fund, what is being funded, where is the funding going and how much is the funding. Furthermore, the CRESS data collection assesses the implementation of the National Statistical System Strategic Plan.

## **3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY**

The underlying objective of the CRESS is to improve efficiency of the National Statistical System (NSS) through better co-ordination and stakeholder engagement in production, management and dissemination of statistics in Malawi. Specifically, the report seeks to:

- (i) Identify and inform policymakers and partners the volume and modalities of financing statistics in the country;
- (ii) Strengthen and enhance co-ordination and level of engagement of the NSO and other data producers' frontiers; and
- (iii) Monitor the needs of financing statistics in terms of institutional, human and physical capacity development.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

The NSO adapted a semi-structured questionnaire developed by PARIS21. PARIS21 also provided technical assistance during development of the CRESS questionnaire.

The study developed two types of questionnaires. The first questionnaire was sent to government ministries and departments and captured information relating to national and external resources. The second questionnaire, circulated to development partners, captured statistical support provided to NSO and line ministries and departments.

The study collected three folds of dataset. First, data was collected on on-going projects that institutions implement and have been supported either using national or external resources. Second, data was gathered on adhoc projects. And last, the study team compiled data on future projects that are planned to be implemented. CRESS captured data from 2012/2013 fiscal year to 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Questionnaires were circulated through emails one to two weeks prior to data collection. Thereafter, the study followed up with stakeholders to clarify and get further information critical to the report. Most stakeholders especially development partners provided data through email while others filled hard copy questionnaires. Data collection and call backs took approximately 10 working days. Collected data was entered in excel and analyzed using basic excel functions. Results of the assessment were validated during NSS Steering Committee Meetings, Donor meeting and User-Producer meetings.

## 5. REVIEW OF MALAWI STATISTICAL SYSTEM

### 5.1. National Statistical System

The National Statistical System (NSS) was officially launched in 2006 to enhance coordination of statistical production and dissemination in the country. It has a coordination unit under the leadership of the Commissioner of Statistics and headship of Chief Statistician. The secretariat mentors and supervises Statistics Units over management information systems in NSS Government line Ministries, namely, Ministries of Education, Science and Technology; Health; Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development; Labour and Manpower Development; Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare; Industry and Trade; Home Affairs; Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Transport and Public Works. The NSS unit develops statistical guidelines that are internationally aligned and facilitates their use across the NSS. The NSS envisions to make “statistics available at the fingertips of users” for evidence based decision making. In 2013, the NSS was legally established by an Act of Parliament and is made of NSO, line Ministries, research and training institutions and development partners. The NSS is guided by its strategic planning in which the first was developed in 2008 and run until 2012. The second strategic plan was developed in 2012/13 and run up to 2017<sup>1</sup>. The strategic plan includes all sectoral plans of aforementioned line ministries and departments. Annex 1a details establishment in the NSS line Ministries and Departments<sup>2</sup>.

### 5.2. National Statistical Office

The National Statistical Office is a government department that was established by an act of parliament and operates under the recently repealed National Statistics Act (NSA) 2013<sup>3</sup>. It is mandated to collect, produce and disseminate statistical information in the country for evidence based decision making. It has its head Office in Zomba and three regional Offices. It is headed by the Commissioner of Statistics who is appointed by the President of Republic of Malawi based on professional competency as stipulated in the NSA 2013.

---

<sup>1</sup> National Statistical System. 2013. Multiyear Strategic Plan 2013-2017

<sup>2</sup> National Statistical Office. 2011. Functional Review 2011.

<sup>3</sup> National Statistics Act. 2013. [www.nsomalawi.mw](http://www.nsomalawi.mw)

The Commissioner of Statistics manages four divisions, namely, Economics; Demographic and Social Statistics; Agricultural and Natural Resource Statistics; Publication Information and Statistical Systems; and Finance and Administration. The Commissioner also provides advisory role on statistics to all Government ministries and departments as stipulated in the act. Annex 1c details organogram of the NSO<sup>4</sup>.

The NSO has a five multiyear strategic plan that runs from 2012 to 2016. Activities have been planned and costed for the period and are in line with a national survey programme. Table 1 shows a ten year survey programme where it has a Malawi Population and Housing Census at both ends of the ten year programme, five yearly, three yearly, two yearly, annual and monthly surveys in between the two census period.

---

<sup>4</sup> National Statistical Office. 2012. Strategic Plan 2012-2016

**Table 1: Malawi Survey Programme**

	FREQ (Yr)	TIMELINE (2000s)											INDICATORS	
		08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
Population and Housing Census	10	√											√	Population; Housing
National Census of Agriculture and Livestock	10									√	√			Production; Yield; land tenure system
National Census of Economic Activities	10								√					Employment, Turnover, Business characteristics
Demographic and Health Survey	5			√					√					Fertility rates; Mortality rates; etc
Integrated Household Survey	5			√	√				√	√	√			Poverty and other welfare indicators
Labour Force Survey	5						√						√	Employment; Labour Force participation
MDG Endline Survey	5						√					√		Anthropometrics; Fertility rate
Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy	3	√			√			√				√		Births, deaths & causes of death
Child Labour Survey	2		√		√		√		√		√			Child labour force participation
Biological Behavioral Surveillance Survey	2	√		√		√		√		√				HIV and AIDS
Medium Business Enterprise Survey	2	√		√		√		√		√			√	Employment; Remuneration; Business Characteristics
School to Work Transition Survey	2		√		√		√		√		√			Transition rates
Non-Profit Institution Serving Households Survey	2		√		√		√		√		√			Output for GDP and Foreign Grants
Balance of Payment Survey	2		√		√		√		√		√			International Services and Foreign Grants
2018 Population and Census Mapping	1		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		Updated sampling frame; etc
Welfare Monitoring Survey	1	√	√					√	√				√	Annual socioeconomic statistics
Annual Economic Survey	1	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		Employment; Business Characteristics
Foreign Private Capital and Investor Perceptions Survey	1	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		Foreign investment flows & perceptions
Consumer Price Index	12	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		Consumer Prices

### **5.3. Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) has a Statistical Unit that is based in the Department of Planning. The unit is responsible for collection and production of agricultural statistics. The Statistical Unit is headed by a Chief Statistician who reports to the Director of Planning in the ministry. The Chief Statistician is assisted by a Principal Statistician, a Statistician and several statistical clerks. Annex 1a provides detailed statistical establishment in the ministry.

The MoAIWD formulated an Agricultural Statistics Strategic Master Plan<sup>5</sup> to guide and improve coordination and implementation of agricultural statistics for the period from 2013 to 2017. It is aligned to the Malawi National Statistical System, globally known as the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS), Strategic Plan 2013-2017. The plan was developed in partnership with the National Statistical Office, the International Food Policy Institute, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations and Agricultural Statistics Forum. Major activities highlighted in the strategic plan include

- Agricultural Production Estimate Survey
- Agricultural Market Information System
- Food Security Surveillance Survey
- Post-Harvest Losses Survey
- Area Frame Survey

The Agricultural production Estimate Survey (APES) takes place three times a year. Data collection for APES takes place in December, March and May of every farming year. Agricultural statistics activities are supported by the Government of Malawi and development partners, namely, USAID, EU, DfID, Flanders, Norway, Irish Aid, FICA and the World Bank.

### **5.4. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) has a Statistical Unit headed by a Chief Statistician who is assisted by a Principal Statistician, two statisticians, assistant statisticians and statistical clerks. It reports directly to the

---

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Agriculture. 2013. Malawi Agricultural Statistics Strategic Master Plan 2013-2017.

Director of Planning and Policy in the Ministry. The unit heads the Education Management Information System (EMIS) and implements the following statistical activities:

- School mapping
- School censuses and
- Cohort tracking

EMIS activities receive financial and technical support from the Government of Malawi, UNICEF, UNESCO, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, DfID and others.

### **5.5. Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development**

The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development (MoF & EPD) does not have a dedicated statistical unit. However, it coordinates data collection for monitoring and evaluations of ministries programmes, projects and activities in the country. It also manages other activities on statistical systems. It coordinate activities on Development of Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP) within the Department of Economic Planning and Development. Apart from capacity building activities, it supports activities such as Malawi Socioeconomic Database and Poverty and Inequality Monitoring systems. The Ministry is also responsible for reporting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) hence requiring data from all sectors. DEAP is supported by the Government of Malawi, UNDP, UNICEF and European Union. DEAP also coordinates Monitoring and Evaluation data collection in the country.

### **5.6. Ministry of Health**

The Ministry of Health has a Statistical Unit that is headed by the Chief Statistician assisted by one Statistician and 252 statistical clerks. The Unit reports to the Director of Planning Department. Its major activity is the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and include:

- Training users on the use of data from HMIS;
- Supervising Zone and District HMIS;
- Review and conduct quality assessment meetings;
- Routine data collection on HMIS

HMIS activities are supported by several partners, namely, GIZ; DfID; EGPAF; UNFPA; UNICEF; WHO; CDC and GESCO (SSDI).

### **5.7. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs**

The Ministry of Justice has a statistical unit headed by a Statistician, assisted by assistant statisticians and statistical clerks and reports directly to the Directorate of Planning. The Unit is responsible for data collection and basic analysis. Its major activity is data collection for Democratic Governance M & E system in the Ministry.

### **5.8. Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development**

The Statistical Unit in the Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development aims providing timely and reliable labour market information to all stakeholders. It is headed by a Statistician, who is assisted by an Assistant Statistician, 4 senior Statistical Clerks and 3 Statistical clerks. The Statistician reports to the Director of Planning Department through the Chief Planning Officer. The Unit collects data on the following areas:

- Public Employment Services Information;
- Workers' Accidents and Compensation registration;
- Child labour information;
- Labour relations information (Industrial disputes registered and settled);
- Technical education enrolment and completion rates;
- Skills testing and certification;
- Occupational Safety and Health statistics (work place administration and inspection);
- General labour inspections (conditions of work);
- Outreach training programmes;
- Technical teacher recruitment and retention; and other

### **5.9. Ministry of Energy, Mining and Natural Resources**

The Statistical Unit in the Ministry of Energy, Mining and Natural Resources is commissioned to produce high quality statistics for evidence based decision making, planning, and management of the energy and mining sector. It is headed by a

Principal Statistician, who is assisted by an assistant Statistician. Basically, the Unit collects secondary data from public institutions such as Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority, Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi and National Oil Company.

#### **5.10. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**

Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development does not have a statistical unit but it has heavy activities on monitoring and evaluating government activities at district and city councils level. Most of its monitoring and evaluation activities are supported by UNICEF. Meanwhile, the Department of Economic Planning and Development and NSO with financial support from UNICEF are integrating the socioeconomic data bank at district level with the Malawi Socioeconomic Database (MASEDA).

#### **5.11. Ministry of Transport and Public Works**

A Statistics Unit in the Ministry of Transport and Public Works is a section of the Policy and Planning Division. Currently, it is comprised of one Assistant Statistician who is supported by Economists/Transport Planning Officers to carry out statistical activities. The Unit collect, analyze and disseminate statistics in the transport sector through a quarterly Transport Statistics Bulletin.

#### **5.12. Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare**

The Ministry of Gender has a Statistical Unit that is headed by a Principal Statistician, who is supported by assistant Statistician. The Unit reports to the Director of Planning. It collects and provides statistics for planning, monitoring and evaluating activities in the Ministry. It produces data that feeds into the Integrated Child Management Information System. Statistical activities in the Ministry are supported by UN Women, UNICEF and others.

#### **5.13. Ministry of Industry and Trade**

A Statistical Unit in the Ministry of Industry and Trade collects and produce statistics on trade, investments and industry. It is headed by a Principal Statistician, who is supported by an assistant Statistician and Statistical Clerks. It produces a quarterly factsheet on trade and industry statistics. It has one major project that the Ministry implement in collaboration with the National Statistical Office. The project aims at

improving trade statistics and information system in the Country. It is supported by European Development Fund.

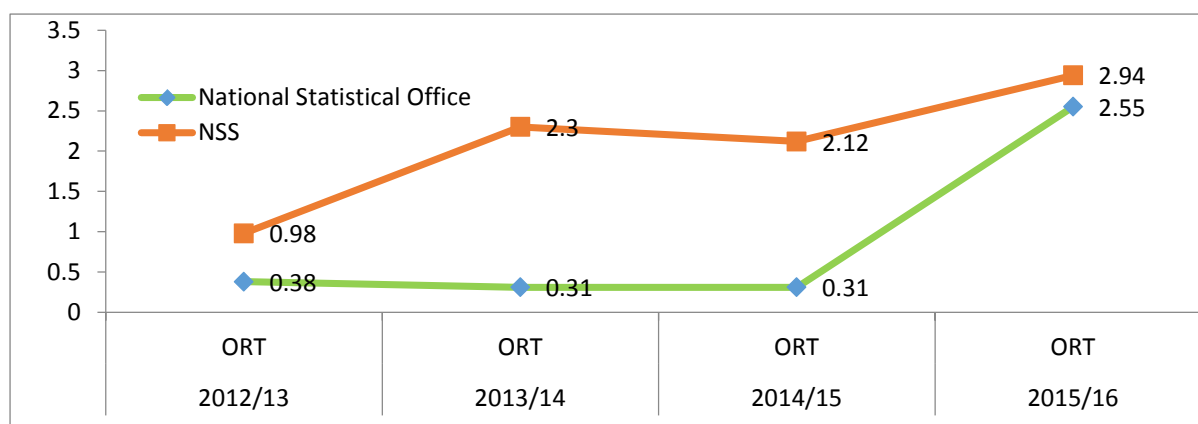
## 6. MAIN FINDINGS

### 6.1. Current projects

#### 6.1.1. National Budgets

The GoM follows a July to June fiscal year. In this section, we present national budgets for various Government Ministries and Departments from 2012/13; 2013/14; 2014/15 and 2015/2016 fiscal years. For the past three fiscal years, government has allocation 6.97 million US\$ of the national budget to statistical data production. Table 02 shows an increasing trend in allocation of national funds to statistical data production. For instance, NSO allocation has increased from less than 0.5 million in 2012/13 to 2.55 million US\$ in 2015/16 (see Figure 1a)

**Figure 1a. Government support to statistics in million US\$ (2012-2016)**



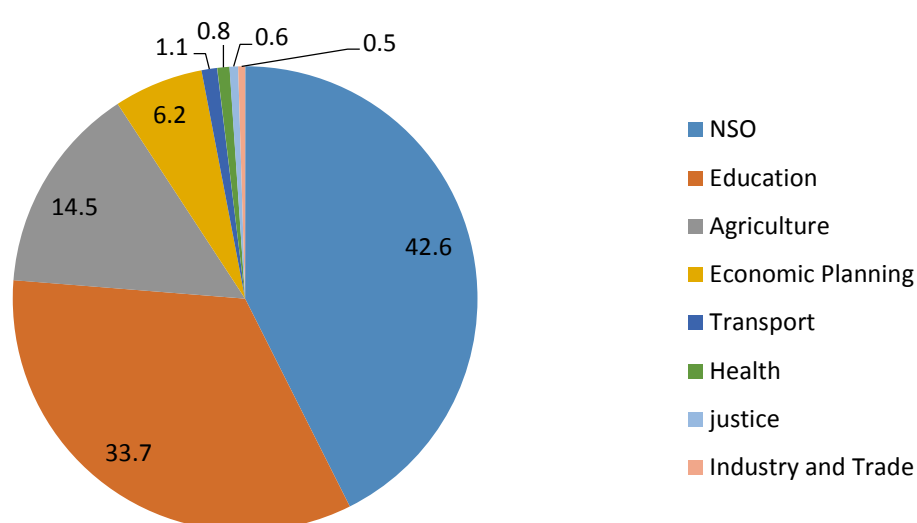
In 2012/2013, the NSO was allocated a national budget of 0.38 Million US\$ while in 2015/16, the Office was allocated 2.55 Million US\$ (this is an estimated figure). Although the NSO gets national financial support to implement and oversee the implementation of National Strategy for Development of Statistics, the Department of Economic Planning partly gets a national budget allocation to further coordinate activities of the statistical system. For the past three years, the Department of Economic Planning had allocation of 0.40 Million US\$ to execute statistical activities.

**Table 2: National budgets on data production by institutions in Million US\$**

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Total
Institution	ORT	ORT	ORT	ORT	ORT
National Statistical Office	0.38	0.31	0.31	2.55	3.55
Ministry of Agriculture (Agricultural Statistics)	0.34	0.32	0.31	0.25	1.21
Department of Economic Planning and Development	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.52
Ministry of Education (EMIS)	0.06	1.46	1.28	-	2.81
Ministry of Health (HMIS)	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Labor (LMIS)	0.02	0.02	0.03	-	0.07
Ministry of Energy	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Gender	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Industry and Trade	-	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.04
Ministry of Transport	0.02	0.03	0.03	-	0.09
Ministry of Local Government	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Home Affairs	-	-	-	-	-
Ministry of Justice	0.02	0.02	0.02	-	0.05
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>0.98</b>	<b>2.30</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>8.34</b>

Of the line Ministries, the Ministry of Education has the highest ORT allocation for statistical data production. This funding is used to implement Education Management Information System (EMIS) activities such as school mapping, census and cohort tracking. It has a total funding of 2.81 million US\$ for data production for the past three fiscal years. The funding trend has not been stable as depicted by Table 2; however, an increasing trend is shown.

**Figure 1b: Share of Government funding to statistics – cumulative 2012-2014**



Ministry of Agriculture has large ORT allocation for production of statistical data in the Country (see Table 2). In the Ministry of Agriculture, this is because of intensive activities such as Annual Agricultural Production Estimate Survey and Agricultural Market Information System.

Ministries of Labour, Transport, Industry and Trade and Ministry of Justice depicts similar but increasing trends in allocation national budgets towards statistical data production. Find Annex 1b on specific statistical activities that have allocations in national budget by fiscal years.

### **6.1.2. Development partners**

Development partners (DPs) are key stakeholders to the Malawi National Statistical System. Not only do they provide both financial and technical resources but also use statistics for their planning and monitoring development programs. Malawi has a donor group on statistics which meets to discuss among other things planned statistical activities and also take a review on the implementation of activities. A lead donor coordinates the donor group of which In the current set up is Norway. DPs in statistics include United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, World Bank (WB), United Nations Fund for Population Agency (UNFPA), Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FAO), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Programme (WFP), International Labour Organization, United Nations Women, PARIS21, Center for Disease Control (CDC), European Union (EU), Norway, Department for International Development (DfID), United States Aid for International Development (USAID), GIZ, Irish Aid, Johns Hopkins and NAC/FHI. Annex 1b shows specific projects supported by development partners in the country.

#### **6.1.2.1. National Statistical Office**

Table 3 shows that the NSO has experienced increasing support to statistical production over the past 4 years. This support is much pronounced during major surveys such as Malawi Demographic and Health Survey and Millennium Development Goals Endline Survey. USAID (US\$ 4.36 Million), Norway (US\$ 1.87 Million) and the World Bank (US\$ 1.32) are the major development partners that

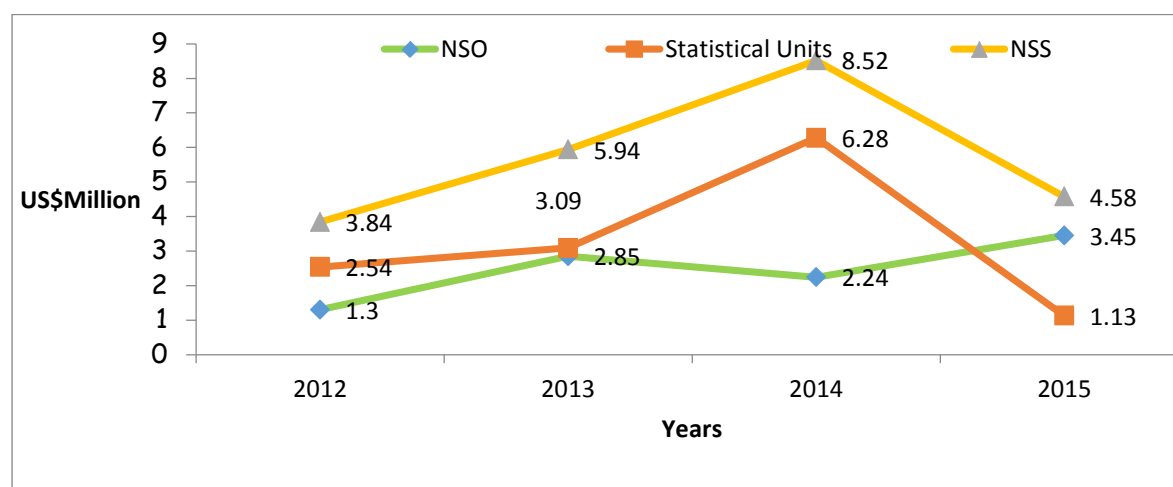
supported statistical activities over the reporting period. For instance, between 2012 and 2015, USAID supported statistical activities by 31% of the total support to statistics. Nonetheless, Norway provides support to most statistical activities at the NSO. Development partners supported statistics directly to NSO by US\$ 2.41 Million in 2012, US\$ 3.88 Million in 2013, US\$ 3.62 Million in 2014 and US\$ 4.06 Million in 2015. In total, NSO has received financial support of US\$ 14.07 Million from 2012 to 2015.

Furthermore, Table 3 shows that NSO received support from development partners to conduct a Welfare Monitoring Survey 2014/15. The survey provides data on socioeconomic and other welfare indicators. In addition, the WMS 2014/15 will provide statistical data on UN Governance, Peace and Security module. The survey was supported by UNDP, UNICEF and Norway. Total funding to WMS 2014/15 was 0.405 Million US\$ with each development partners contributing about 0.135 Million US\$.

In addition, during 2012-2015 period, the NSO received both financial and technical support to implement a Millennium Development Goals Endline Survey, Integrated Household Panel Survey, Labour Force Survey, and Biological Behavioral Surveillance Survey from UNICEF, UNDP, World Bank, UN Women, Norway, DfID and others. In 2015, the Office is also implementing Child Labour Survey and Demographic and Health Survey with support from International Labour Force (ILO) and USAID to tune of .25 million and 3.25 million US\$ respectively.

Figure 1c shows an increasing trend in terms of support that NSO, Statistical units in the Ministries and the whole National Statistical System receive from development partners particularly from 2012 to 2014. There was however a decline in funding to the NSO in 2014 whilst in the same year there was an increase in funding to the Ministries. There is also a need to determine causes of the sharp decline in funding to statistics in 2015 particularly to the line Ministries.

**Figure 1c: Development partners support to statistical activities in Malawi 2012-2015**



**Table 3: External support on statistical data production at NSO in Million US\$**

Statistical Activities	Development partners	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Biological Behavioral Surveillance Survey	NAC	-	0.24	0.20	-	0.44
Biological Behavioral Surveillance Survey	FHI360	-	0.01	-	-	0.01
Census Mapping	UNFPA	0.01	0.03	0.06	-	0.10
Census Mapping	UNCA	0.02	-	-	-	0.02
Census Mapping	USAID	-	-	0.33	-	0.33
Census Mapping	UNICEF	-	-	0.07	-	0.07
Demographic and Health Survey	USAID	-	-	-	3.25	3.25
Integrated Household Panel Survey	GIZ	0.27	-	-	-	0.27
Integrated Household Panel Survey	WB	0.13	0.39	0.10	-	0.62
Integrated Household Panel Survey	Norway	-	0.35	-	-	0.35
Integrated Household Panel Survey	DfID	-	0.47	-	-	0.47
Labour Force Survey	ADB	0.39	-	-	-	0.39
MASEDA	UNICEF	-	-	-	0.08	0.08
MDG Endline Survey	UNICEF	-	0.35	-	-	0.35
MDG Endline Survey	WHO	-	-	0.35	-	0.35
MDG Endline Survey	UNDP	-	-	0.12	0.02	0.14
MDG Endline Survey	USAID	-	-	0.40	-	0.40
MDG Endline Survey	UNWOMEN	-	-	0.02	-	0.02
MDG Endline Survey	UNFPA	-	0.10	-	-	0.10
MDG Endline Survey	Norway	-	0.20	-	-	0.20
National Statistical System	Norway	0.01	-	0.09	0.02	0.12
National Statistical System	DfID	-	0.30	-	-	0.30
National Statistical System	GIZ	0.04	-	-	-	0.04
National Statistical System	UNDP	-	-	-	0.03	0.03
National Statistical System	PARIS 21	-	-	0.01	0.01	0.02
Norwegian Capacity Building	Norway	0.43	0.41	0.07	0.04	0.95
Welfare Monitoring Survey	UNICEF	-	-	0.14	-	0.14
Welfare Monitoring Survey	NORWAY	-	-	0.14	-	0.14
Welfare Monitoring Survey	UNDP	-	-	0.14	-	0.14
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>All DPs</b>	<b>1.30</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>9.84</b>

### 6.1.2.2. NSS Government Line Ministries and Departments

Until 2010, the Malawi National Statistical System has been supported by the African Capacity Building Foundation. In facilitating production of nationally owned data, the NSO in collaboration with the Department of Economic Planning and Development and Statistics Norway developed a project on promoting national strategy for development of statistics. The project was approved in 2012 and is supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Department for International Development (DfID). The overall objective of the project is two-fold: First, to improve the ability of the NSS to deliver high quality statistics. Second, to increase the use of statistics produced within the NSS in policy processes in Malawi. Other financial resources for the NSS from time to time has been from UNDP, GIZ and PARIS21 (see Table 3).

**Table 4: External support on statistics for NSS Government line Ministries and Departments in Million US\$**

Statistical Activities	Institution	DP	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Improving Trade Stat & Info. System	Industry and Trade	EU	0.84		1.49		2.33
Health Service Provision Assessment	Health	USAID			1.64		1.64
Malawi Indicator Survey	Health	USAID			1.10		1.10
Famine Early Warning System Network	Agriculture	USAID	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1.80
Dept. of Effectiveness & Accountability Programme	Economic Planning	UNDP, EU, UNICEF		0.40	0.50	0.68	1.58
Labour Management Information System (LMIS)	Labour	AfDB, UNDP	1.25				1.25
Energy Saving Bulbs Efficiency Survey	Energy	DfID			0.63		0.63
Agriculture Production Estimates Survey (APES)	Agriculture	WB		1.52			1.52
Ministry of Education(Social Impact)	Education	USAID			0.35		0.35
Gender	Gender	UNWOMEN			0.04		0.04
Food Security Assessment and Market Assessment	Economic Planning	WFP			0.08		0.08
Business Registration Impact Evaluation	Economic Planning	WB		0.70			0.70
Democratic Governance Support	Justice	EU, UNDP		0.02			0.02
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>2.54</b>	<b>3.09</b>	<b>6.28</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>13.04</b>

Malawi National Statistical System has two-folds of statistical units in Government line Ministries and Departments. On one hand, it has fully developed statistical units

in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). On the other hand, there are a number of Ministries whose statistics units are being developed and these include Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), Ministry of Labour and Manpower Development (MoLMD), Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW), Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Ministry of Energy, Mining and Natural Resource (MoEMNR) and Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA).

Ministry of Agriculture conduct an Annual Agricultural Production Estimate Survey (APES) with support from both Government of Malawi and development partners. The survey aims at providing data on hectare, yield, and production of agricultural crops. It also provides data on number of livestock and assets owned by households in the country. APES also provide statistics basing on secondary data obtained from Tobacco Control Commission, Sugar Companies and other cash crop associations. In 2013, the World Bank provided financial support of 1.52 million US\$ for APES activities.

Ministry of Industry and Trade in collaboration with the National Statistical Office implements a programme on improving trade statistics and information systems. The programme aims at improving policy decision making, coordination and implementing capacities in the areas of trade, investment and private sector development. The project has two fold purposes: (i) enhance ownership, formulation and evaluation of well-informed development trade policies and strategies suited to local conditions and (ii) support businesses with efficient, reliable and up to date trade information including market intelligence data and report. This programme is funded by the European Development Bank. It started in 2011/2012 and will run up to 2016 and its phases are commonly called Programme Estimate (PE). In 2013/2014, it was funded to the tune of 0.84 Million US\$. PE 3 is running from 2014 to 2016 and is supported<sup>6</sup> to the tune of 1.49 Million US\$.

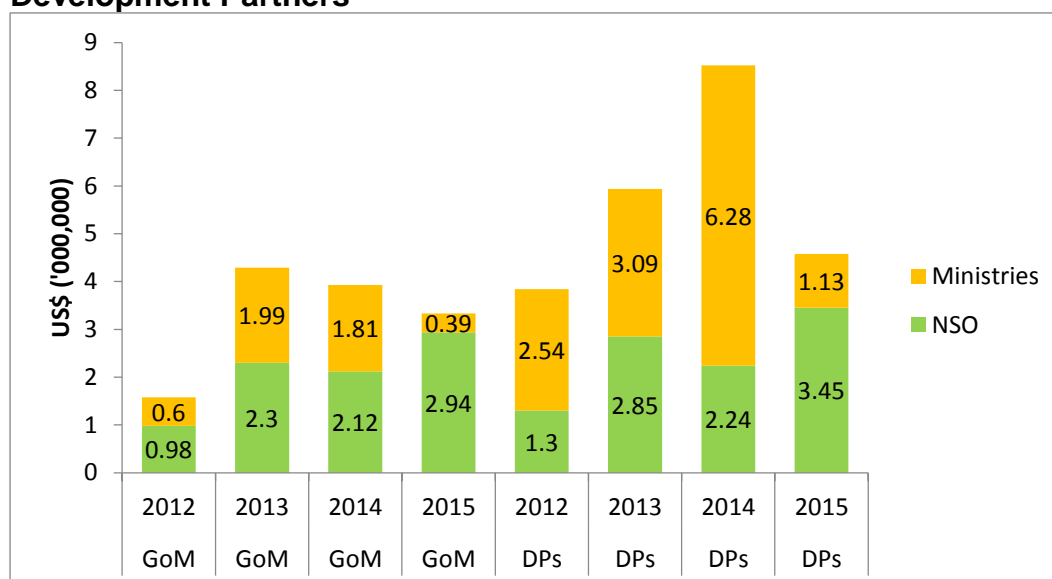
---

<sup>6</sup> These figures are component of the budget.

Ministry of Health through the National Malaria Control Programme implemented a Malaria Indicator Survey in 2014 with financial support from Global Fund and USAID and technical support from the ICF International, National Statistical office, World Health Organization and University of Malawi's College of Medicine. The support was 1.10 million US\$. The key objectives of Malawi Indicator Survey 2014 was to measure level of ownership and use of mosquito nets, assess coverage of intermittent preventive treatment for pregnant women, measure prevalence of malaria and lastly assess trend in key malaria indicators since 2012 in Malawi.

The Department of Economic Planning and Development is implementing a Development Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP)<sup>7</sup> that coordinate all Government programme evaluation data collections in the country. It is financially supported by UNDP, UNICEF and EU. From 2013, the Department has received funding of about 1.58 million US\$ for DEAP.

**Figure 1d: Annual funding to Statistics by Government of Malawi and Development Partners**



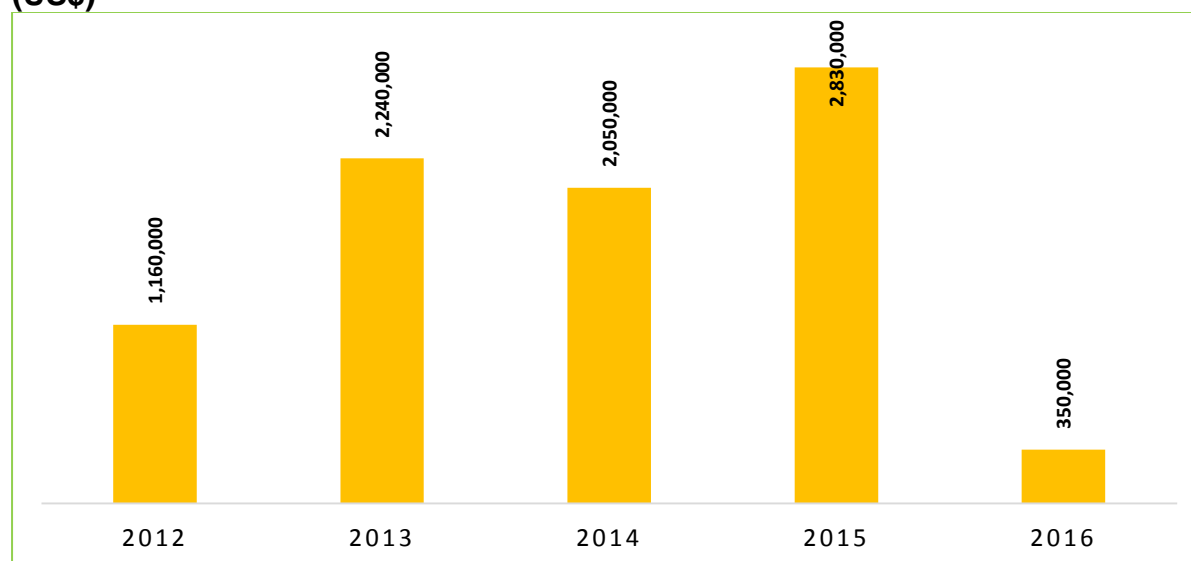
From the figure above, there was a sharp increase in funding to statistics particularly to line Ministries by development partners in 2014. Both the Government of Malawi and development partners have increased their funding to the NSO in 2015 – this may be a result of cyclical surveys such as the Demographic and Health Survey expected to roll out in 2015 which is positive sign of alignment to the NSDS.

<sup>7</sup> Through the DEAP, UNDP funding NSS poverty and welfare surveys at the National Statistical Office.

## 6.2. Adhoc Project

Development partners have continuously supported statistical activities in the country. Support towards adhoc activities has been increasing from 2012 to 2015. Figure 1e shows financial support from Development partners towards adhoc activities in the country.

**Figure 1e: Development partners support towards ad hoc activities 2012-2015 (US\$)**



Gender Based Violence Survey was one of the key adhoc surveys that NSO conducted in 2012/2013 financial year in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. It was supported by UNFPA, EU and UN Women to the tune of 0.11 Million US\$ (see Table 5). It aimed at assessing the extent of various forms of gender based violence in the country.

Real Time Mortality Monitoring was a three year statistical project that captured data on maternal and child mortality rates. It ran from 2012 to 2014. The project was implemented by the National Statistical Office with financial support of 0.21 Million US\$ from Johns Hopkins University, USA.

Count Down to 2015 Case Study is a three year statistical project that documents progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The project will run from 2013 to 2015. It is implemented by NSO in collaboration with Ministry of Health and with financial support from World Health Organization. Table 5 shows that the total funding for Count Down to 2015 Case Study is 0.16 Million US\$.

National Evaluation Platform is a new approach that brings together data from multiple sources and provides statistical answers to Government priorities and financial support by policy makers. It is technically and financially supported by Johns Hopkins and will run from 2013 to 2016. It has a total funding of 0.07 Million US\$.

In 2014, the National Statistical Office implemented a Sample Vital Registration with Verbal Autopsy (SAVVY) which was done in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Centre for Disease Control. It has received a total funding of 0.38 Million US\$.

**Table 5: Financial support on ad hoc projects (Million US\$)**

Institution	DPs	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Gender Based Violence Survey	UNFPA, EU, UN Women	0.11					0.11
ICP	ADB	0.03					0.03
ICP	SADC			0.03			0.03
Feed the Future Survey	TANGO	0.11	0.04				0.16
JHU Documentation	JHU		0.35				0.35
Junior Exchange programme	Norway	0.02	0.09				0.11
Real Time Mortality Monitoring	JHU	0.05	0.16				0.21
Count Down to 2015	WHO		0.16				0.16
National Evaluation Platform	JHU			0.02	0.05		0.07
Pregnancy History Survey	JHU	0.16					0.16
RACE Survey	JHU		0.01				0.01
ICT Survey (MACRA)	MACRA			0.27	0.14		0.41
MENOS	WB	0.47	0.01				0.48
MASAF	WB	0.13	0.21	0.04			0.38
School to Work Transition Survey	ADB	0.07	0.02	0.08			0.17
Child Labour Force Survey	ILO				0.25		0.25
CCM	SAVE-USAID		0.08				0.08
SAVVY	USAID			0.38			0.38
Listen to Malawi	WB			0.25	0.25		0.50
Verbal Autopsy and Social Autopsy(VASA)	JHU		0.15	0.00			0.15
Model Disability Survey	Norway, WHO				0.01		0.01
Country Report on Support for Statistics	PARIS21				0.01		0.01
Cassava Experiment Study	WB				0.22		0.22
Area Frame Survey	MoAIWD				1.90		1.90
National Reading Assessment	MoEST		0.33			0.35	0.69
Energy Efficiency Assessment	DfID, MoEMNR		0.63				0.63
Health Service Provision Assessment	MoH			0.98			0.98
Justice and Accountability Survey	UNDP	0.01					0.01
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>1.16</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>8.65</b>

NSO is implementing an Information Communication and Technology Survey with support from MACRA. It aims at collecting data on access and use of information and communication technologies in Malawi. Field work run from November to December 2014. It was implemented by NSO with support from MACRA and had a total funding of 0.41 Million US\$.

Listening to Malawi is a data collection project that is supported by the World Bank. It aims at collecting data using mobile phones with no or very limited face to face interview. It is implemented to evaluate a cost effective approach to data collection. It is implemented by the NSO and will run from 2014 to 2016. It has a total disbursement of 0.50 Million US\$.

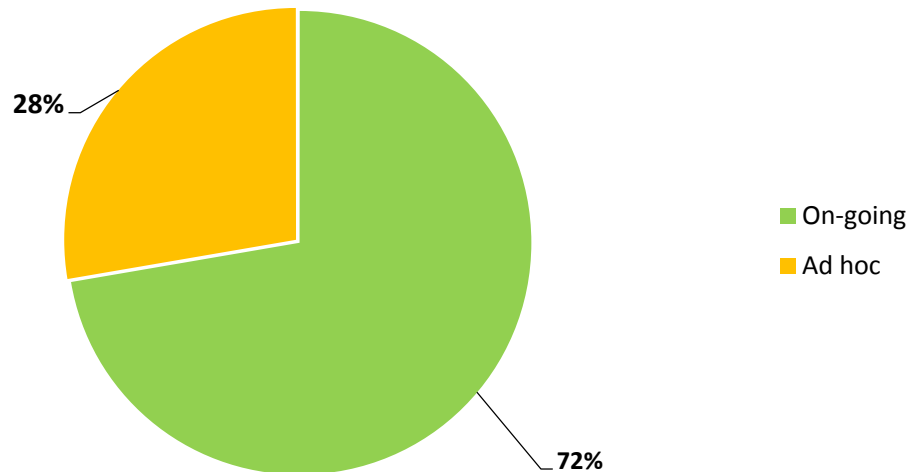
Cassava Experiment Study is supported by the World Bank and it will be implemented between 2015 and 2016. It aims at experimenting four approaches, namely, crop cutting, diary, recall and mobile data collection, to estimating cassava production and productivity. It is conducted by the NSO in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Research Services, IITA, UNFAO and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It has a total funding of 0.22 Million US\$ US\$.

Area Frame Survey is a project that is implemented by Ministry of Agriculture with financial support from [USAID]. It aims at improving agricultural production estimation through satellites and imaginaries. It will run from 2014 to 2016 and has a total funding of 1.90 Million US\$.

In 2013/2014 fiscal year, the Ministry of Energy, Mining and Natural Resources conducted an assessment on efficiency and impacts of energy saving bulbs with financial support from Department for International Development (DfID) (see Table 5). The study aimed at finding out whether Government promoted energy saving bulbs are efficient and have reduced cost of electricity at household level.

The data from the study shows that of the total funding to statistics, 28 percent was on ad hoc activities estimated at about 8.65 million US\$ compared to 22.57 million US\$ (72 percent) directed to activities that were planned in the NSDS (as on-going).

**Figure 1f: Share of ad hoc activities to planned activities – 2012 to 2015**



About 27 ad hoc surveys have been carried out between 2012 and 2015. Nearly three-quarters of these surveys (74 percent) were externally<sup>8</sup> requested either highlighting the dynamic needs of statistics from external stakeholders or resistance by the external partners to join their support to statistics through the NSDS.

---

<sup>8</sup> Externally funded here means the institution or organization that requested the survey is not a national institution.

### 6.3. Future Projects

The study found that most activities for statistical data production are ongoing. Table 6 shows future activities that are planned in the Malawi statistical system over the period 2015/16 to 2016/17 fiscal years.

**Table 6: Future planned statistical activities in Million US\$**

Project	Institution /Ministry /Department	Development partners	2015/16	2016/17	Total
Fourth Integrated Household Survey	NSO	GoM, USAID, WB	2.17		2.17
Demographic and Health Survey	NSO	GoM, USAID, Irish Aid, UNICEF, NAC, UNFPA	4.86		4.86
2018 Population and Census Mapping	NSO	GoM, UNFPA		3.35	3.35
Development of Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP)	Economic Planning	UNDP, EU and UNICEF	1.50		1.50
Data Visualization and Interpretability	NSO	PARIS21	0.0095		0.01
Multination Enterprise Survey	Labour	Govt	0.0095		0.01
Women Profiling	Labour	Govt	0.0168		0.02
Labour Management Information System	Labour	AfDB	1.200		1.20
Governance Peace and Security	Justice	EU, UNDP	0.005		0.01
HEA Food Security Assessment; and Market Assessment	Economic Planning	WFP	0.080		
Malawi Civil Service Census	NSO	Government			
NSO Capacity building	NSO	Norway			
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>9.77</b>	<b>3.35</b>	<b>13.12</b>

The NSO plans to conduct the Fourth Integrated Household Survey (IHS4) in the 2015/16 fiscal year with a committed budget of 1.6 million US\$. The Integrated Household Surveys in the Country are supported by Government of Malawi, USAID, World Bank and other partners, namely, DfID, Norway, Irish Aid and others.

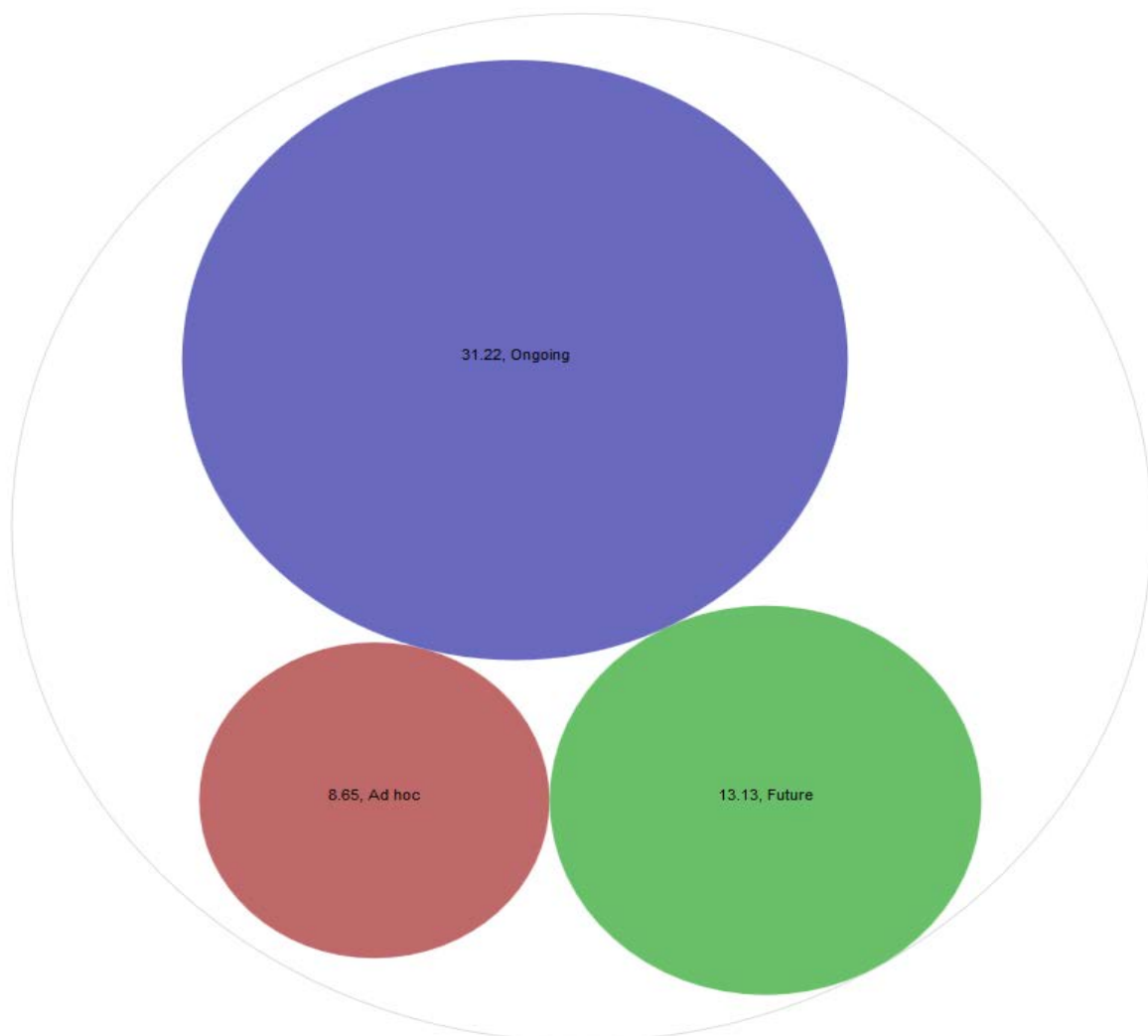
Malawi Demographic and Health Survey is planned in the first quarter of 2015/16 fiscal year. It aims at updating demographic and several key health indicators in the Country. It is financially supported by USAID, Irish Aid, UNICEF, National AIDS Commission and UNFPA with total budget of 4.86 Million US\$.

Malawi Population and Housing Census (2018) Mapping is planned to take place two years before a Population and Housing Census (PHC) to updates sampling frame for the census. The census is scheduled in 2018 hence the census mapping will be conducted in 2016 with a budget of 3.25 Million US\$. It is partially supported by UNFPA as the lead development partner. On annual basis, the NSO has routine

activities over Census mapping. These annual census activities cost about 0.04 Million US\$ a year.

The Development of Effectiveness and Accountability Programme (DEAP) is also planned for 2015/2016 with a budget of 1.5 Million US\$. The programme is implemented the Department of Economic Planning and Development and supported by Government of Malawi, UNDP, EU and UNICEF.

**Figure 1g: Past and future funding to statistics at a glance**



## **7. CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **7.1. Challenges faced during implementation of statistical activities**

The report found a number of challenges that are faced by stakeholders in statistics. Below is a list of challenges that partners in statistics have reported during the study:-

- Limited internet connectivity compromises sharing of statistical data between partners. This has affected transferring of administrative data from district level to ministry level.
- Low capacity development in information and communication technology to manage and implement management information system that would facilitate data sharing between partners.
- Understaffing in most sectoral statistical units.
- Low funding levels to implement statistical activities. Compounding the problem is low allocation and disbursement of funding from national budget for statistics and withholding of funding by most development partners during the 2012-2015 period.

### **7.2. Lessons Learnt during data collection**

During data collection for the Country Report on Support for Statistics, the team learnt the following challenges that can be lessons for future implementation of CRESS data collection:

- Data collection questionnaire should be sent two weeks before team follows up with particular stakeholders;
- Appointments, with NSS or Statistics contact persons, should be made during circulation of the data collection questionnaires;
- Data collectors should be on top of statistical activities in the Ministries to help in probing for more financial information;
- Government ministries and departments should be consulted first before meeting development partners. This should be able to help data collectors follow up on all activities that line ministries and departments have indicated to be supported by particular development partner.

### **7.3. Recommendations**

- 7.3.1. The report has found increasing number of adhoc activities. This means that such needs might not have been captured during planning sessions of the NSO and sectoral plans. In view of this, the report proposes that the planning processes of NSO and sectoral plans should be consultative enough to give chance to all partners in statistics and this will ably address, at a minimum, statistical needs of all users.
- 7.3.2. There is also need to regularly update the NSO and sectoral plans e.g. bi-annual to accommodate new surveys.
- 7.3.3. Assuming the development of NSO and sectoral plans was inclusive, the report suggests that development partners should be able to respond to the request of the NSO and sectoral statistical units for better planning.
- 7.3.4. Strengthen coordination amongst stakeholders by including the CRESS as part of the on-going activities of the NSO to be used as a basis for discussions with development partners and the Government.

## 8. ANNEXES

### Annex 1a: NSS establishment as in the Functional Review 2011<sup>9</sup>

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>Chief Statistician</b>	<b>Principal Statistician</b>	<b>Statistician</b>
Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development	1	1 (1)	2 (1)
Education, Science and Technology	1 (1)	1 (1)	2 (1)
Energy, Mining and Natural Resources		1 (1)	2
Health	1 (1)	1	2(1)
Home Affairs		1	2
Transport and Public Works		1	2
Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare		1 (1)	2
Justice and Constitutional Affairs		1	2 (1)
Industry and Trade		1 (1)	2 (1)
Labour and Manpower Development		1	2 (1)

(Numbers in brackets are filled position as of June 2015)

<sup>9</sup> In parenthesis are numbers filled on that establishment.

Annex 1b: National Statistical Office Organogram

