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Wellington, New Zealand

## Human Rights in Malawi

New data released today show the extent of human rights violations in Malawi.

Data from the Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI), a non-governmental organisation based in Wellington, New Zealand, reveals that the Malawian government continues to neglect human rights, leaving the population vulnerable to a wide range of abuses.

Despite [strong revenue performance](#), Malawi's 'Quality of Life' score of 59.5% is 'very bad', demonstrating that successive governments have failed to meet their human rights obligations to the Malawian people. This summary score speaks to the country's economic and social rights, which include the right to education, food, health, housing, and work.

In particular, Malawi's scores for the rights to water and basic sanitation are in the 'very bad' range, meaning that millions of citizens live without access to water or toilets in their homes, although the country could afford to ensure better living conditions. That being said, Malawi has excellent scores for child health (100%) and reproductive health (100%), indicating that the country is doing as well as possible in these areas at its current income level and will require additional financial resources to make further improvements. Overall, there have been steady improvements in the right to health over the last twenty years.

While Malawi is performing close to average on 'Quality of Life' rights when compared to other countries in Africa, HRMI finds that "Malawi has a 'very long way to go' to meet its immediate economic and social rights duty."

Please note that HRMI does not yet measure civil and political rights in Malawi, but will do so as soon as we secure enough funding to expand.

HRMI spokesperson, Thalia Kehoe Rowden, said, "All people in Malawi deserve to have all of their rights respected. There is a long way to go for the government to meet its human rights obligations under international law."

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**About the Rights Tracker:** The Rights Tracker is a global project to track the human rights performance of countries systematically. Our 2023 dataset launched today includes annual data



on eight civil and political rights for up to 44 countries from the years 2017 to 2022, with Bangladesh, Thailand, and the Maldives added this year. Our data also include inaugural scores on the right to freedom of religion and belief in a pilot set of nine countries. Annual data on five economic and social rights for 196 countries from 2007 to 2020, based on the award-winning SERF Index methodology, is also available. Please visit [rightstracker.org](https://rightstracker.org) for the freely available dataset.

**About HRMI:** The Human Rights Measurement Initiative (HRMI) is an independent non-profit organisation part of a global movement building a world where all people can flourish. We track the human rights progress of countries, producing robust data that anyone can use to push for improvements in how governments treat people. What gets measured gets improved: if something isn't being systematically measured, it can be more easily overlooked and undervalued. HRMI data make it easier for decision-makers to monitor their progress, and prioritise human rights. Advocacy based on sound information is one of the key drivers of change. [www.humanrightsmeasurement.org](https://www.humanrightsmeasurement.org)

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