### Chapter 10

#### SAFETY AND SECURITY

#### **10.0 Introduction**

This chapter highlights the general perception of household members on safety and security. The survey contained questions on the level of safety during the day, at night and anywhere in the neighborhood. It also asked people's perceptions about the level of satisfaction with the police service as well as what people do after an incident of crime.

### 10.1 Perceptions on safety

Table 10.1 below shows the perception of the population aged 10 years and above according to safety within their own house and within the neighborhood. In Malawi 16 percent of the population feels they are unsafe in their own house. Five percent feels unsafe walking alone in the neighborhood during the day, while 37 percent feels unsafe walking alone at night within the neighborhood.

There is no striking difference between rural and urban areas. Sixteen percent reported feeling unsafe in own house in urban areas. In rural areas this has been reported by 15 percent of the population. Across sex of household head, the rates are also similar as reported by 16 and 15 percent of population in male and female-headed households respectively. By per capita expenditure quintiles, 13 percent of the population in the lowest quintile has reported feeling unsafe in own house. This is seen to be rising with increasing per capita expenditure quintiles. As may be seen from the table below, 19 percent of the population in the highest quintile reported feeling unsafe in own house.

Of the three regions of the country, safety in own house is very low in the central region as reported by 18 percent of the population in that region. The second unsafe region is the southern region followed by the northern region reporting 14 and 13 percent respectively. Although the central region has reported the most unsafe region of the three regions, Nsanje in the southern region has reported the highest proportion of people who feel unsafe in their own house (58 percent). To the other extreme, Nkhatabay, Rumphi and Blantyre rural have reported the lowest proportion of people who feel unsafe in own house.

The survey also gathered information on how safe people feel when walking alone within their neighborhood or village during the day or during the night. Table 10.1 shows only 5 percent of the population feels unsafe when walking alone in the neighborhood or within their village during the day. The proportion

is higher in urban areas (9 percent) compared to rural areas (5 percent). There is no any difference in terms of safety when walking alone in the neighborhood between members of male and those from female-headed households as both have reported 5 percent. However, in terms of per capita expenditure quintile, the lowest quintile has reported the lowest proportion of person who feel unsafe walking alone during the day (3 percent) while 8 percent of the population in the highest quintile reported the same. Of the three regions of the country, the central region has reported the highest proportion of persons who feel unsafe walking alone in their neighborhood (7 percent) while the southern and the northern regions have both reported about 4 percent.

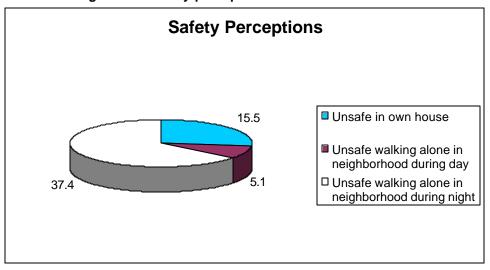


Figure 10.1 Safety perception of household members

Other than walking alone during the day, the respondents were also asked how safe they feel when walking alone in their neighborhood but this time during the night. As may be noted from table 10.1 below, the proportion of persons feeling unsafe when walking alone during the night is much higher at 37 compared to that of walking alone during the day (5 percent). This feeling is almost the same between rural and urban areas as that has been reported by 39 percent of the population in rural and urban areas respectively. In terms of walking alone at night, 38 percent of people from male and 37 percent from female-headed households have reported feeling unsafe walking alone at night. In terms of per capita expenditure quintiles, the lower the quintile the lower the proportion reporting feeling unsafe walking alone during the night and the reverse is also true. Across the three regions of the country, the central region has reported the highest proportion of persons who feel unsafe walking alone in the neighborhood during the night. The southern region follows at 37 percent while the northern region has the least incidences of feeling unsafe when walking alone in the neighborhood during the night as reported by 27 percent of the population in that region. In terms of district specific, Balaka has over three-quarters of the population feeling unsafe when walking alone during the night. Kasungu that has reported almost two-thirds of the population follows this. Nkhatabay may be the safest district to walk alone at night as only less than one percent of the population feels unsafe walking alone during the night.

Table 10.1 Proportion of people aged 10 years and over reporting feeling unsafe in own house and when walking alone in neighborhood and/or village by background characteristics 2005

_	Citatacteris					
Background	Unsafe in own	Unsafe when walking alone in neighborhood or village				
characteristics	house	During day	During night			
Malawi	15.5	5.1	37.4			
Place of residence						
Urban	16.2	8.9	39.4			
Rural	15.4	4.6	37.1			
Sex of household head			-			
Male	15.6	5.2	37.1			
Female	14.8	4.7	38.4			
Per capita expenditure						
1st	12.7	3.0	34.4			
2nd	14.0	4.7	36.2			
3rd	15.2	4.6	37.4			
4th	17.9	6.1	38.2			
5th	18.6	7.7	41.6			
North	12.5	4.4	27.3			
Chitipa	46.7	0.3	44.7			
Karonga	5.5	1.6	8.1			
Nkhata Bay	0.3	0.1	0.3			
Rumphi	0.6	0.0	17.8			
Mzimba	10.4	9.2	33.4			
Mzuzu City	18.2	0.9	51.2			
Centre	18.1	6.6	40.4			
Kasungu	35.6	15.6	<b>40.4</b> 67.1			
Nkhotakota	1.3	3.2	41.5			
Ntchisi	5.7	1.1	43.3			
Dowa	13.7	12.6	53.2			
Salima	19.1	4.3	23.9			
Lilongwe Rural	17.0	4.3 2.4	38.8			
Lilongwe City	11.6	3.3	25.6			
Mchinji	16.3	9.6	24.2			
Dedza	25.3	2.0	42.4			
Ntcheu	25.5 17.5	10.0	31.9			
South	13.7	3.8	37.1			
Mangochi	10.6	5.5	29.1			
Machinga	29.1	0.6	45.0 61.8			
Zomba Rural	7.1	2.9				
Zomba Municipality Chiradzulu	7.2	0.3	38.6			
	5.9	0.0	46.0			
Blantyre Rural	0.7	4.3	21.4			
Blantyre City	22.4	18.9	52.1			
Mwanza	22.7	2.1	36.5			
Thyolo	2.1	0.2	27.4			
Mulanje	5.0	3.1	53.2			
Phalombe	6.4	1.4	34.5			
Chikwawa	4.9	0.0	2.0			
Nsanje	58.0	1.0	8.6			
Balaka	5.7	2.5	77.0			

# 10.2 Level of crime and type of perpetrators

Table 10.2 below shows that the proportion of persons ever attacked during the 12 months period prior to the survey is 4 percent. There were slightly more attacks in the rural areas (4 percent) compared to urban attacks (3 percent). More males (5 percent) have reported being attacked as compared to females (3 percent). By per capita expenditure quintile, the lowest quintile has reported the least proportion of persons who were attacked (3 percent) as compared to the highest quintile (6 percent). Of the three regions of the country, the central region has reported the highest proportion of who were attacked (5 percent) followed by the northern region (4 percent) and then the southern region (3 percent). By district, Kasungu district has reported the highest proportion of persons who were attacked (11 percent) followed by Lilongwe rural at 9 percent. Other districts such as Mwanza and Karonga, have seldom reported any incidence of one being attacked.

In addition to finding out whether a person was attacked or not, the survey also wanted to know the attackers. As table 10.2 below reveals, more than half of the attackers were strangers to those attacked. This has been reported by 55 percent of all persons who were attacked. The next highest reported type of attackers is the neighbour. About 27 percent of all persons who reported to have been attacked reported that a neighbour was the attacker. The least reported type of attacker is a household member.

Looking at the highest reported type of attacker (stranger) across socioeconomic background, shows that there were more attacks by a stranger in urban areas (79 percent) than they were in rural areas (52 percent). Sixty percent of attacks on males were by strangers while 45 percent of the attacks on females were by strangers. The proportion of persons attacked by strangers is also increasing from lower per capita expenditure quintile to the highest per capita quintile.

The northern region had reported the highest incidences of people being attacked by strangers (80 percent) followed by the central region (53 percent) and then the southern region (45 percent). In Salima, nearly 9 out of 10 attacks were carried by strangers while in Kasungu 1 in every 5 attacks was carried by a stranger. On the other hand, districts like Mwanza and Karonga reported no single incidence where a stranger attacked a person.

Table 10.2 Proportion of persons ever attacked during the past year by crime perpetrator according to background characteristics-Malawi 2005

	Proportion of	Turns of attackers						
	persons who	Type of attacker						
Background		Household						
characteristics	been attacked	member	relative	Neighbor	Stranger	Total		
Malawi	3.9	4.1	14.3	26.7	54.9	100		
Place of Residence								
Urban	3.3	6.5	3.2	11.2	79.1	100		
Rural	4.0	3.9	15.5	28.4	52.2	100		
Sex								
Male	5.3	1.8	12.3	25.4	60.5	100		
Female	2.7	8.5	17.8	29.0	44.6	100		
Household per capita Ex	penditure Quin	tile						
1st	2.4		12.0	31.2	50.7	100		
2nd	3.2	3.4	18.5	25.0	53.0	100		
3rd	4.2	4.4	18.5	29.4	47.6	100		
4th	5.3	3.7		24.8				
5th	5.4			24.6				
Northern Region	4.1	2.0	3.5	13.4				
Chitipa	0.5			0.0				
Karonga	0.3			50.0				
Nkhata Bay	0.7			40.0				
Rumphi	1.4			0.0				
Mzimba	1.9			22.6				
Mzuzu City	1.8			14.3				
Central Region	5.3			26.8				
Kasungu	10.6			11.3				
Nkhotakota	0.7			25.0				
Ntchisi	5.4			31.0				
Dowa	6.0			25.8				
Salima	1.7			0.0				
Lilongwe Rural	8.7			35.7				
Lilongwe City	4.3			6.8				
Mchinji	3.2			20.8				
Dedza	4.2			22.4				
Ntcheu	6.6			27.4				
Southern Region	2.8			33.5				
Mangochi	2.2			33.3				
Machinga	7.1			41.3				
Zomba Rural	0.9			9.1				
Zomba Municipality	5.2			41.9				
Chiradzulu	1.1			0.0				
Blantyre Rural Blantyre City	3.3 2.3			31.8 9.7				
	2.3 2.7			9.7 25.0				
Thyolo								
Mulanje	4.0			25.0				
Phalombe	2.7			37.5				
Chikwawa	0.6			11.1				
Nsanje	7.2			61.8				
Balaka	4.9	6.3	15.6	34.4	43.8	100		

# 10.3 Reporting of crime and satisfaction with police

Table 10.3 below shows the proportion of households that reported a crime incident to appropriate authority. Eighteen percent of the persons who were attacked had reported the incident to police. The rate of reporting was higher in urban areas (31 percent) compared to rural areas (16 percent). More males reported crime incidences (20 percent) compared to females (12 percent).

Table 10.3 Proportion of persons who reported a crime to police and the proportion of those who were satisfied with the action by the police by background characteristics—

Malawi 2005

Background characteristics	Proportion who reported an incidence	Proportion satisfied with the Police						
Malawi	17.5	31.0						
Place of Residence								
Urban	31.1	13.4						
Rural	16.0	34.2						
Sex								
Male	20.3	29.6						
Female	12.3	35.6						
Per capita Expenditure Quintile								
1 <sup>st</sup>	12.5	19.6						
2 <sup>nd</sup>	14.8	33.0						
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.3	36.1						
4 <sup>th</sup>	20.5	30.7						
5 <sup>th</sup>	19.2	29.3						
Region								
Northern	14.0	63.8						
Central	15.4	32.5						
Southern	22.6	23.8						

The table further reveals that there is no particular pattern being followed in terms of reporting crimes by expenditure quintiles. The fourth quintile has the highest proportion of persons reporting a crime while the third quintile has the least proportion. Of the three regions of the country, the southern region has the highest proportion of persons reporting crime (23 percent) while the central region and the northern region come second and third at 15 and 14 percent respectively.

For all those who reported a crime to police, the survey further asked them their satisfaction with the way the police handled their case. A third of the reporters reported being satisfied with the police. More people in rural areas were satisfied with the way the police handled their case (34 percent) compared to those in the urban areas (13 percent). More female-headed households (36 percent) reported that they were satisfied with the way police handled their case while only a third of male-headed households who reported a crime to police reported that they were satisfied with the way police handled their case. Like reporting of incidences to police, satisfaction with the police has not followed any particular pattern when we consider expenditure groups. The highest proportion of persons who were satisfied with the police was reported in the third quintile (36 percent)

while the least proportion was reported in the lowest quintile (20 percent). Of the three regions, the northern region has reported the highest proportion of persons who were satisfied with the police (64 percent) while the central region comes second at (33 percent) and finally the southern region (24 percent).

# 10.4 Reasons for not reporting a crime

As noted above, about 80 percent of persons who were attacked/experienced a crime incident did not report the incident to police. The survey therefore asked the reasons as to why these people did not report the incidence to police. Table 10.4 below shows that about 40 percent of the non-reporters did not report the matter to police because the crime was not serious. This is the highest reported reason for not reporting the incidence to police. The second highest reported reason is that the issue was a neighborhood issue and would not require police intervention. This has been reported by 24 percent of all the people who had experienced a crime but did not report that crime to police. The least reported reason (3 percent) for not reporting an incident to police is that the respondent's subjective feeling is that the police is corrupt.

Looking at the most reported reason across socio-economic background, it may be noted that in urban areas, almost half of the unreported incidences were not reported because they were not serious crimes. On the other hand almost two out of five people who did not report a crime in the rural areas did so because they felt the crime was not serious. By sex, there are more males (41 percent) who did not report an incidence because they felt the crime was not serious compared to females (37 percent). By per capita expenditure quintiles, the table shows that there is no particular pattern being followed in terms of reasons for not reporting a crime. The highest proportion of persons who did not report an incident because they felt the crime was not serious is in the highest quintile (44 percent) while the lowest proportion is in the third quintile (35 percent).

Table 10.4 Percentage distribution of reasons for not reporting a crime by background characteristics-Malawi 2005

characteristics-Malawi 2005								
				Reporting				
					Neighborhood			
Background	Crime not		Police		issue, didn't	Other,		
characteristics	serious	too far	corrupt	trouble	want police	specify	Total	
Malawi	40.0	14.1	2.6	9.2	23.7	7 10.4	100	
Place of Residence								
Urban	50.2	9.8	7.2	15.1	5.1	12.7	7 100	
Rural	39.1	14.5	2.2	8.6	25.4	10.2	2 100	
Sex								
Male	41.7	13.7	3.4	9.2	21.8	3 10.2	2 100	
Female	36.9	14.9	1.2	9.2	26.9	) 11.0	100	
Per capita expenditur	e quintile							
1 <sup>st</sup>	41.2	19.3	0.6	8.9	19.2	10.8	3 100	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	39.3							
3 <sup>rd</sup>	34.8							
4 <sup>th</sup>	41.3							
5 <sup>th</sup>	43.7							
Northern Region	39.1							
_	100.0							
Chitipa	100.0							
Karonga	80.0							
Nkhata Bay								
Rumphi	50.0							
Mzimba	11.5							
Mzuzu City	33.3							
Central Region	41.4							
Kasungu	42.1							
Nkhotakota	50.0							
Ntchisi	59.0	2.6	0.0	7.7	25.6	5.1	100	
Dowa	23.1	21.8	0.0	9.0	30.8	3 15.4	100	
Salima	36.4	36.4	18.2	0.0	0.0	9.1	100	
Lilongwe	50.8	14.6	2.0	2.0	22.6	8.0	100	
Lilongwe City	47.6	11.9	7.1	16.7	2.4	14.3	3 100	
Mchinji	47.4	15.8	0.0	0.0	31.6	5.3	3 100	
Dedza	2.0	5.9	0.0	15.7	31.4	45.1		
Ntcheu	50.7	1.3	0.0	5.3	22.7	20.0	100	
Southern Region	38.1							
Mangochi	71.0							
Machinga	36.5							
Zomba Rural	0.0							
Zomba Municipality	54.5							
Chiradzulu	80.0							
Blantyre Rural	38.9							
Blantyre City	57.9							
Mwanza	0.0							
Thyolo	41.2							
Mulanje	42.2							
Phalombe	28.6							
Chikwawa	33.3							
Nsanje	10.9							
Balaka	32.0	8.0	4.0	16.0	36.0	4.0	) 100	

# 10.5 Proportion of households broken into

Other than asking people if they have been attacked outside their homes, the survey also gathered information on whether the dwelling(s) the household is occupying has/have been entered into by someone trying to steal or commit a crime over the past one year as per the date of the survey. Table 10.5 below reveals that 15 percent of households in the country were broken into. This distribution is almost similar across place of residence whereby rural and urban areas have both reported 15 percent and the same is also true across sex of household head. In terms of per capita expenditure, the figures show that the proportion of households that have been broken into in the lower expenditure quintile are lower (10percent) compared to those in the highest quintile (19percent).

Of the three regions of the country, the central region has the highest proportion of households that were broken into (17percent) followed by the southern region (14percent) and then finally the northern region (12percent).

Table 10.5 also reveals the number of times the above-named dwellings were broken into. About 61 percent of households that were broken into were broken into once. These proportions are almost similar across place of residence and across sex of household head. There is a slight decline in terms of proportion of households that were broken into "once" from the lowest per capita expenditure quintile to the highest quintile. However, the opposite is true for dwellings that were broken into twice or more times. The northern region has reported the highest proportion (67percent) of households that were broken into "once". The southern region follows at 63 percent while the central region is the least at 59 percent. Incidentally, the higher the percentage of households broken into "once", the lower the percentage of dwellings broken into more than once in that socio-economic group.

Table 10.5 Proportion of households whose dwellings were broken into and percentage distribution of number of times the dwelling was broken into-Malawi 2005

distribution of nu		Number of times		
	of dwellings	Number of times	dwelling was i	JIOKEII IIILO
Background characteristic		Once	Twice or more	Total
Malawi	14.7		38.6	
Place of residence				
Urban	14.3	59.3	40.7	100
Rural	14.8		38.3	
Sex of household head		<u> </u>		
Male	14.8	60.8	39.2	100
Female	14.4		36.6	
Per capita expenditure qu		33.1		
1st	9.7	62.9	37.1	100
2nd	13.8		37.3	
3rd	12.8		37.4	
4th	15.6		38.5	
5th	18.8		40.2	
North region	11.6		33.1	
Chitipa	25.0		30.0	
Karonga	6.7		33.3	
Nkhata Bay	11.7		46.4	
Rumphi	12.1		44.8	
Mzimba	9.6		22.2	
Mzuzu City	12.5		43.3	
Central region	16.9		41.0	
Kasungu	20.4		28.6	
Nkhotakota	9.6		47.8	
Ntchisi	14.2		35.3	
Dowa	21.7		46.6	
Salima	15.0		50.0	
Lilongwe Rural	14.7		32.6	
Mchinji	27.1		35.2	
Dedza	13.8		53.1	
Ntcheu	18.6		43.9	
Lilongwe City	14.8		50.0	
Southern region	13.6		37.0	
Mangochi	17.9		25.6	
Machinga	19.8		41.1	
Zomba Rural	7.7		40.0	
Zomba Municipality	19.2		33.3	
Chiradzulu	8.8		23.8	
Blantyre Rural	18.8		34.9	
Blantyre City	13.3		48.4	
Mwanza	4.2		30.0	
Thyolo	4.2 9.0		44.2	
Mulanje Phalombe	14.8 21.7		23.9 46.2	
Chikwawa	11.9		31.6	
Nsanje	22.1		40.4	
Balaka	11.7	57.1	42.9	100

# 10.6 Protective measures against crime:

Table 10.6 below shows the percentage distribution of measures households have taken in order to protect themselves against crime. As may be noted, three-quarters of households did not do anything to protect themselves from crime. However, of those who did something, most of them are relying on community policing. This has been reported by 10 percent of all households. The least proportion of households (less than one percent) has reported employing a watchman to protect their households.

By place of residence, there are more households relying on community policing in rural areas (10percent) compared to urban areas (2percent). More male-headed households have also used community policing to protect themselves (10percent) compared to female-headed households (8percent). By per capita expenditure quintiles, the lower quintile has reported a higher proportion of households relying on community policing to protect themselves against crime, and the proportion is declining as the quintiles are increasing. Of the three regions of the country, the northern region has reported the highest proportion of households (15percent) relying on community policing followed by the central region at 9 percent and finally the southern region at 8 percent.

Table 10.6 Percentage distribution of steps taken to protect households from crime-Malawi 2005

D	Established	<b>.</b>			Improved		<b>-</b>		
Background characteristics		Neighborhood	watchmar		house security		Traditional remedies		Nothing
		watch							•
Malawi	9.2	4.2	2 0.6	2.2	3.2	1.1	1.2	2.5	75.8
Place of residence		10.0		2 2 4	4.0	0.2	0.6	2.4	75 4
Urban	1.6								75.4
Rural	10.2	3.3	0.3	3 2.2	3.0	1.2	1.3	2.6	75.8
Sex of household		4.5	. 0.7	. 0.4	0.0	4.4	4.0	0.0	74.4
Male	9.6								
Female	7.7		2. 0.1	1.7	3.0	0.8	1.3	1.6	80.5
Per capita expend									
1 <sup>st</sup>	10.4								
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.7								
3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.7								
4 <sup>th</sup>	9.0								
5 <sup>th</sup>	7.3								
North	14.9								
Chitipa	2.5								
Karonga	0.4								
Nkhata Bay	0.4								
Rumphi	0.0			0.4	0.8	5.5	2.1	1.7	87.8
Mzimba	37.3	5.6	0.0	0.0	1.9	4.4	0.4	0.4	50.0
Mzuzu City	1.3	2.1	0.4	1.3	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.1	90.4
Centre	9.1	6.1	1.0	3.5	1.8	0.9	0.9	3.2	73.5
Kasungu	2.3	9.6	1.0	8.3	1.5	0.4	1.7	0.4	74.8
Nkhotakota	24.6	5.0	1.3	3.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	64.6
Ntchisi	0.8	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.0	2.9	93.8
Dowa	2.9	3.1	1.0	3.5	5.8	0.4	1.5	2.3	79.3
Salima	47.1	3.3	0.4	5.8	0.0	5.0	1.2	8.0	36.3
Lilongwe Rural	2.8	9.8	0.0	2.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	4.4	78.0
Lilongwe City	2.7	13.3	4.6	4.8	4.6	0.4	1.0	1.7	66.9
Mchinji	0.4	0.4	0.0	2.5	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.0	95.0
Dedza	0.8	1.9	0.6	2.3	0.4	0.2	1.0	10.6	82.0
Ntcheu	33.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	2.3	0.4	2.9	57.2
South	8.0	2.9	0.3	1.5	4.8	0.7	1.6	2.4	77.8
Mangochi	4.9	1.4	0.3	3 2.0	22.2	0.7	5.7	11.3	51.6
Machinga	33.9	0.8	0.0	1.7	2.9	0.4	1.9	0.4	57.9
Zomba Rural	0.2				0.0	0.6			
Zomba Municipality	0.0							12.6	
Chiradzulu	0.0								
Blantyre Rural	7.1								
Blantyre City	0.6								
Mwanza	0.8								
Thyolo	0.4								
Mulanje	0.4								
Phalombe	0.4								
Chikwawa	43.8								
Nsanje	0.4								
Balaka	14.6								
- 5.14.14	1 7.0	1.7	J.¬	0.7	, .0	0.0	1.0	2.0	55.¬