

## Chapter 2

### DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

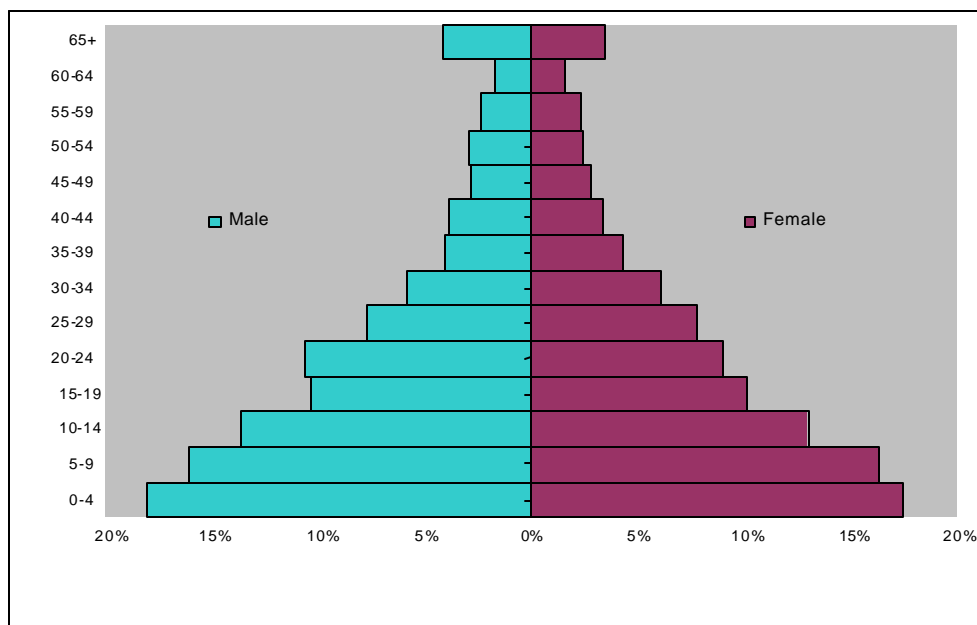
#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a descriptive analysis of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population in the sampled households. For the purpose of IHS2, a household was defined as a person or group of persons related or unrelated who live together and make common arrangements for food, or who pool their income for the purpose of purchasing food. A household member included all persons who have lived in this household for at least 3 months. The Demographic characteristics examined here include; Age, sex, relationship to household head, marital status and place of residence, household size, orphanage, migration, religion and deaths in the households.

#### 2.1 Age and sex distribution

The age and sex distribution of the population in the survey is shown in Table 2.1. The table shows that 49 per cent were male and 51 per cent were female. The table further depicts that 51 per cent of male population were in the urban areas and 49 per cent in the rural areas, whilst 49 per cent of the female population were in the urban and 51 per cent in the rural areas. The table depicts that Malawi has a relatively larger population in the younger age groups. The population structure is shown in Figure 2.1, which shows that the population is wider at the younger age groups than at the older age groups.

Figure 2.1: Population Pyramid



**Table 2. 1 Percentage distribution of population by five-year age groups according to sex and residence, Malawi, 2004**

Age group	Sex		Place of Residence		Total
	Male	Female	Urban	Rural	
0-4	17.2	17.2	15.4	17.5	17.2
5-9	16.4	15.4	12.9	16.3	15.9
10-14	13.0	13.2	12.5	13.2	13.1
15-19	10.1	10.0	11.0	9.9	10.0
20-24	9.0	10.2	12.7	9.2	9.6
25-29	7.8	7.4	11.7	7.1	7.6
30-34	6.1	5.6	6.8	5.7	5.8
35-39	4.3	3.9	4.6	4.0	4.1
40-44	3.4	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.6
45-49	2.8	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.8
50-54	2.4	2.8	1.5	2.8	2.6
55-59	2.3	2.3	1.6	2.4	2.3
60-64	1.6	1.7	0.9	1.7	1.7
65+	3.5	4.0	1.5	4.0	3.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100

## 2.2 Household composition

In IHS2, a household head was defined as the person who makes economic decisions in the household, the breadwinner. Table 2.5 shows the mean household size and percentage distribution of households by household size. The IHS2 estimated a mean household size of 4.5 persons per household across the country. The rural population had a household size of 4.6 persons, while the urban population had a household size of 4.3 persons per household. In terms of household size by age of household head, the highest household size was observed in the heads within the age group 35-49 years (5.6 persons) followed by age group 50-64 with mean size of 4.9 persons, youngest household heads aged 10-14 had the lowest household size 2.8. The table also shows that 8 per cent of the households are single person households and 30 percent of households have 6 or more persons.

**Table 2. 2 Mean household size and percentage distribution of households by household size by background characteristics, Malawi 2005**

Background characteristics	Household size	Number of Usual members				
		1 Person	2-3 Persons	4-5 Persons	6 or more Persons	Total
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>						
Urban	4.3	11.5	28.3	33.9	26.3	100
Rural	4.6	7.2	28.8	33.2	30.8	100
<b>Sex of household Head</b>						
Male	4.7	6.0	26.4	33.8	33.7	100
Female	3.8	13.4	36.4	31.6	18.7	100
<b>Age of household head</b>						
10-14	2.8	50.2	0.0	49.8	0.0	100
15-24	2.9	11.8	65.0	20.2	3.1	100
25-34	4.1	6.2	29.0	46.9	18.0	100
35-49	5.6	4.0	13.9	29.6	52.5	100
50-64	4.9	7.6	25.5	28.3	38.6	100
65+	3.8	17.0	36.9	26.4	19.6	100
<b>Education level of head</b>						
None	4.6	6.3	28.2	33.9	31.6	100
Primary	4.8	6.0	27.8	30.1	36.0	100
Secondary and above	4.5	8.3	27.8	35.1	28.7	100
<b>Household per capita expenditure quintile</b>						
1 <sup>st</sup>	5.8	0.9	13.1	34.5	51.5	100
2 <sup>nd</sup>	5.2	1.6	21.2	37.1	40.1	100
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4.8	3.2	29.1	34.2	33.5	100
4 <sup>th</sup>	4.2	6.9	36.7	33.0	23.4	100
5 <sup>th</sup>	3.4	22.8	36.9	24.7	15.6	100
<b>Marital Status of household head</b>						
Never married	1.8	58.1	31.9	7.4	2.7	100
Married	5.0	1.0	26.6	36.3	36.1	100
Divorced/Separated	3.3	22.3	35.4	28.7	13.6	100
Widowed/Widower	3.6	21.0	34.6	25.9	18.6	100
<b>Region</b>						
Northern	4.9	5.9	26.9	30.9	36.3	100
Central	4.7	7.4	24.9	34.6	33.1	100
Southern	4.3	8.4	32.4	32.6	26.6	100

## 2.3 Households by age and sex of household head

Table 2.3, shows that 77 percent of households are headed by males and 23 percent are female headed. The place of residence of the households also shows that 12 percent of the households are urban while 88 percent is rural.

In terms of age of household head, the distribution shows that 30 percent of the households had their heads within the age group 25-34 and 27 percent had their heads within the age group 35-49, furthermore the table shows that 10 percent of the households had the youngest household heads aged between 10-24 years.

Of the male-headed households the majority were in the 25-34 age-group (34 percent) and the least in the age group 65 and more. Of the female headed households the highest were in the age groups 50-64 (26 percent and the lowest in the age group 10-24 (9 percent).

**Table 2.3 Percentage distribution of households by age and sex of household head according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005**

Background Characteristics	Sex of household head		Total
	Male	Female	
<b>Malawi</b>	77.1	22.9	100
<b>Place of residence</b>			
Urban	13.2	7.9	12.0
Rural	86.8	92.1	88.0
	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Age of household head</b>			
10-24	10.7	9.0	10.3
25-34	33.9	18.7	30.4
35-49	28.7	25.3	27.9
50-64	17.4	26.3	19.4
65+	9.2	20.8	11.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## 2.4 Dependency ratio

Another indicator of household demographics is the dependency ratio, defined in a standard way as the ratio of prime-age adults to the total number of persons in the household outside the economic-active population (children under the age of 15 and adults above 65 years of age).

As table 2.4 below reveals, the dependency ratio for Malawi is 1.1 implying that there are 0.1 more economically inactive persons for every economically active person.

**Table 2.4 Dependency ratio by background characteristics, Malawi 2005**

<b>Background characteristics</b>	<b>Dependency ratio</b>
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>	
Urban	0.8
Rural	1.1
<b>Sex of household head</b>	
Male	1.0
Female	1.4
<b>Per capita expenditure quintile</b>	
1st	1.5
2nd	1.3
3rd	1.2
4th	1.0
5th	0.7
<b>Region</b>	
Northern	1.1
Central	1.1
Southern	1.1
<b>Highest level of education of household head</b>	
Pre-school/nursery	1.3
Junior Primary	1.2
Senior Primary	1.1
Junior Secondary	0.9
Senior Secondary	0.8
University	0.6
Training College	0.8

Dependency ratio is high in the rural areas at 1.1 compared to urban areas at 0.8. By sex of household head, dependency ratio is high in female-headed households compared to male-headed households. By per capita expenditure quintile, the lowest quintile has a dependency ratio of 1.5 while the highest quintile has a dependency ratio that is almost twice as low as the lowest quintile at 0.7. The three regions of the country are at par with a dependency ratio of 1.1. However, there is a strong correlation between dependency ratio and education level of household head. As table 2.4 above shows, dependency ratio is lower as education level is increasing.

## 2.5 Orphanhood

In the IHS2, an “orphan” was defined as a person aged 15 years or below who had lost at least one of the parents. Table 2.5 shows the proportion of children aged 15 years and below who lost one or both parents. The estimated number of orphans from the survey is 706500. Of the children under 15 years about 12 percent have lost one or both parents, of whom 58 percent have lost their father and 23 percent have lost their mother and 19 percent have lost both parents.

The difference by other background characteristics is not distinct, e.g. the difference between urban and rural is not large. In terms of age, older children are more likely to be orphaned and fostered in the ages 10-15 (22 percent).

The southern region has the highest proportion of orphans at 13 percent and the other two regions are at par at 11 percent.

**Table 2.5 Proportion of orphans and percentage distributions of orphans who are aged 15 years and less by type of orphanage according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005**

Background Characteristics	Proportion of orphans	Number of orphans	Type of Orphan				Number of persons aged 0-15 years
			Father Died	Mother Died	Both Parents Died	Total	
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>706,499</b>	<b>57.8</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5,876,757</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>							
Urban	12.8	75,572	58.0	23.3	18.7	100	590,094
Rural	11.9	630,927	57.7	23.3	19.0	100	5,286,663
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	12.1	355,037	57.6	23.6	18.8	100	2,925,207
Female	11.9	351,461	57.9	23.0	19.1	100	2,950,357
<b>Age groups</b>							
0-4	3.5	73,737	70.1	23.1	6.7	100	2,093,217
5-9	11.9	230,156	59.4	25.1	15.5	100	1,928,215
10-15	21.7	402,606	7.8	44.5	47.7	100	1,855,326
<b>Region</b>							
North	11.0	66,536	61.0	20.4	18.6	100	605,127
Centre	10.6	243,588	58.4	24.4	17.2	100	2,291,372
South	13.3	396,374	56.8	23.1	20.1	100	2,980,259

## 2.5 Migration

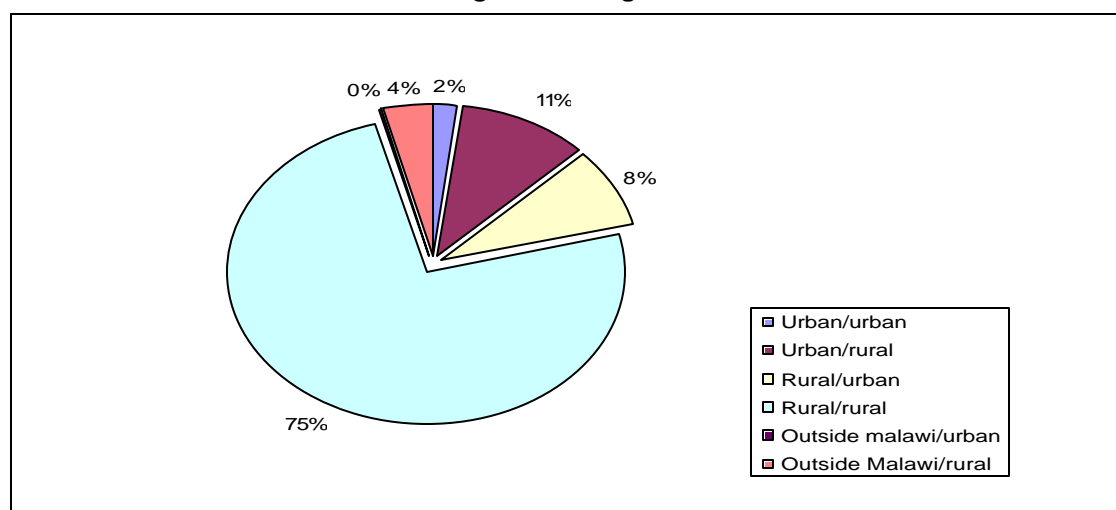
Migration is the geographic movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new permanent or semi permanent residence. The terms "immigration" and "emigration" are used to refer to movements between countries, that is international migration. Corresponding terms to immigration and emigration for movement between areas within a country, that is internal migration are; in-migration and out-migration respectively.

In the IHS2, household members were asked to state whether they have always lived in their current location or they have moved from elsewhere. Stating where they moved from, the time since they moved and reasons for their action. For this analysis, we have restricted migration to include only movements within the last 5 years. The geographical units used in this survey are rural and urban, districts and abroad (outside Malawi).

Table 2.6 shows that 17.2 of the household heads had ever moved from one locality to the other. Of these 2 percent had moved from urban to urban, 11 percent had moved from urban to rural, 8 percent had moved from rural to urban. The majority of households 75 percent have moved from rural to another rural area. International migration was lower with 4 percent having moved from outside Malawi to rural and less than 1 percent having moved from outside Malawi to the urban centers. This is also illustrated in figure 2.2.

Furthermore, the table shows that the main reasons for migrating was in search of schooling 65 percent, family 54 percent and to start work or business 51 percent. Socio economic status and education shows that the richest and highly educated persons have the higher motivation of migrating.

**Figure 2.2 Migration Pattern**



**Table 2.6 Proportion of migrants by movement pattern of migration according to background characteristics, Malawi 2005**

Background Characteristics	Proportion migrants <sup>1</sup>	Movement pattern of migrants						Total
		Urban/urban	Urban/rural	Rural/urban	Rural/rural	Outside Malawi/urban	Outside Malawi/rural	
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Sex of Migrant</b>								
Male	17.0	2.0	11.4	9.2	72.5	0.5	4.4	100
Female	17.5	1.8	10.4	7.4	76.6	0.4	3.4	100
<b>Reasons for migrating</b>								
Family	54.0	2.1	13.1	7.3	72.9	0.5	4.0	100
Schooling	64.5	5.0	12.0	29.1	52.2	0.0	1.7	100
Start Business/Work	50.7	3.7	16.3	18.2	54.9	0.7	6.2	100
Marriage	41.5	0.9	5.1	6.2	85.6	0.3	2.0	100
Other	33.0	0.3	10.6	0.8	82.1	0.1	6.1	100
<b>Education level</b>								
None	18.4	1.0	10.1	7.5	77.4	0.3	3.6	100
Primary	24.9	3.4	15.1	12.0	66.2	0.6	2.6	100
Secondary and above	37.7	8.0	22.8	17.3	48.7	1.3	1.9	100
<b>Household per capita expenditure quintile</b>								
1st	11.6	0.0	7.4	2.0	85.8	0.0	4.8	100
2nd	12.5	0.4	8.8	4.4	81.8	0.1	4.5	100
3rd	17.0	0.5	8.7	7.1	79.9	0.1	3.7	100
4th	20.3	1.3	9.5	11.3	73.3	0.5	4.1	100
5th	31.9	6.5	19.2	15.7	54.8	1.3	2.4	100
<b>Marital Status</b>								
Never married	18.2	4.2	15.5	11.0	66.4	0.4	2.5	100
Married	23.1	1.3	8.3	8.2	77.6	0.4	4.2	100
Divorced/Separated	17.9	1.9	11.3	5.4	75.5	0.2	5.6	100
Widowed/Widower	9.3	1.1	12.2	4.1	71.9	0.8	10.0	100

<sup>1</sup> A migrant has been defined as those people who have not been leaving at their current place of residence for the past five years.