

Malawi

National Equity Policy Template

Governance

Who is responsible for defining national policies in higher education?

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (<http://www.education.gov.mw/>) with a Directorate of Higher Education (<http://www.education.gov.mw/index.php/about-us/directorates/higher-education>) One of the main themes the directorate is responsible for is equitable access to higher education.
- National Council for Higher Education (<https://www.nche.ac.mw/index.php/about-nche/vision-mission-and-values>)

Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- National Education Sector Plan (2008 – 2017)
- Additional policy documents are listed on the Ministry of Education website, but these are not accessible.

Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

Access and Equity provisions for higher education in the 2008-2017 National Education Sector Plan (pages 24-25):

- “Double enrolment over the next 5 to 10 years focusing on critical academic areas, while increasing efficiency in public universities to keep spending by the state to approximately current levels, and while expanding private universities”
- “Mainstream special needs in all programmes, train teachers for special needs education and establish a special needs unit to monitor related programmes,”
- “Mainstream mitigation of HIV/AIDS among students and staff”

- “Increase access for females and students with special needs where applicable.”

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Gender groups
- Minority groups, based on geographical location,
- Students with disability

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No

Malawi does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

Monetary Policy Instruments

- Student loans
 - Higher Education Student Loans and Grants Board established by Parliamentary Act no: 2 of 2015. (Needs based loans, as well as merit based). Loan Recovery is poor (Darvas, Gao, Shen, Bawany)

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- Specialized institutions targeting underrepresented groups
 - Satellite Colleges (Chancellor College)
- Outreach and bridge programs: offered by CUNIMA for gender equity groups
- Gender-based reformed admission procedures and merit-based regional admission procedures are in place.
- Specialized facilities in colleges: “Recognizing that low female enrollment is in part a consequence of poor facilities to accommodate female students, a number of colleges are in the process of building and

renovating accommodations for female students.” (Darvas, Gao, Shen, Bawany, p86)

- Chancellor College hires special needs instructors for students with disabilities. (Darvas, Gao, Shen, Bawany)

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The Directorate for Higher Education is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures.

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

Malawi does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

Sources

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (<http://www.education.gov.mw/>)

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