

## **Statement from the Government of Malawi**

**Delivered by John Bisika**

---

### **Improve gender equality in education, including the achievement of gender parity in primary and lower secondary school**

Malawi has achieved gender parity up to Standard 6 but a gender gap remains for the final two standards of primary school and for lower secondary. In addition, girls' achievement at the end of primary school is below that of boys.

A number of programmes are in place to retain girls in schools and improve their performance. These focus on improving the environment, increasing female representation and role models and providing bursaries. Malawi has also developed a girls' education communication strategy to act as a major advocacy tool for retaining the girls in schools.

#### **PLEDGE:**

Malawi commits to achieving gender parity in Standard 7-8 and Form1 by improving retention, performance and transition of girls by 2014.

It also will implement zero-tolerance measures to eliminate gender-based harassment in schools.

### **Improve early learning outcomes, including increasing Standard 3 literacy rates**

Learning outcomes are very low. A national survey conducted in 2009 reported mean scores for standard 3 pupils of 10% for English and 20% for Mathematics.

Strategies are being implemented with the focus on curriculum, particularly literacy and numeracy, teacher and classroom supply, school meals and grants support to orphans and vulnerable children.

**PLEDGE:**

Malawi commits itself to reducing the PTR to 60 to 1 and will take steps to reduce class size even further in the early years of Standards 1 to 3 where basic skills in literacy and numeracy must be acquired.

**Improve education access for out of school children, including decreasing the number of out of school children**

An estimated 600,000 children of primary school age in Malawi are not in school. The Complementary Basic Education programme offers an opportunity for this group of children to attain basic skills, equivalent to completion of Standard 5, and to return to upper primary school.

**PLEDGE:**

Malawi will scale up its Complementary Basic Education programme so that another 200,000 out of school children acquire basic skills by 2014.

Estimated number of school-age children to benefit by 2014 from the three pledges:

	Total
Pre-primary, 4-5 y	730 000
Primary, 6-13 y	3 400 000
Lower Secondary, 14-15 y	170 000
Out of School Children	200 000
<b>Total children to benefit by 2014</b>	<b>4 500 000</b>

Estimated total budget allocation for Basic Education 2010-2014

	Mill USD
2010/11	207
2011/12	243
2012/13	266
2013/14	285