

## MALAWI\*

## Strengthening feminist voices by supporting women's participation in political decision- making and leadership positions

**DURATION: 02/2025 – 01/2027**

Malawi is a predominantly rural country where over 80% of the population depends on smallholder agriculture, with women and girls playing an important role in the labor force. Yet women remain vastly underrepresented in politics, holding just 23.3% of parliamentary and 14.6% of local council seats. In the northern region, numbers are even lower. Deep-rooted patriarchy, limited party support, and systemic gender bias continue to block women's access to leadership. This limits progress on key issues, including the fight against gender-based violence (GBV). Through this project, MBAWEMI WOCHRICE aims to increase women and girls' participation in the 2025 elections and beyond, advancing gender equality, influencing policy change, and ensuring women's rights are prioritized at all levels of decision-making.

**This project aims to** increase the meaningful participation of women and girls in political processes and decision-making ahead of Malawi's 2025 elections. Key strategies to implement this project are:



**Building capacities of women,** including young women, political party gatekeepers such as committee chairs or party secretaries, traditional leaders, and local structures to strengthen leadership skills, gender awareness, and political engagement.



**Supporting women aspirants to advocate, lobby and engage** political parties and duty bearers in demanding policy reforms and greater representation, using a rights-based approach to amplify accountability and justice.

\*Districts of Mzuzu, Nkhata-Bay and Mzimba.



## KEY TARGETS INCLUDE

150

with strengthened capacities to develop issue-based campaign manifestos and run for elections

**WOMEN  
POLITICAL  
ASPIRANTS**

198

are engaged and deliberately support women, youth and persons with disabilities to reach leadership positions

**CHAIRPERSONS,  
POLITICAL PARTY  
SECRETARIES OR  
PARTY INFLUENCERS**

200

trained to implement community level HeforShe action plans

**MALE  
CHAMPIONS**

10

with strengthened capacities to engage and advocate for women's political participation

**WOMEN'S  
RIGHTS  
ORGANIZATIONS**

## PARTNERSHIPS



**Mzuzu Youth Association (MYA)**

## KEY ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Train aspiring women leaders in public speaking, self-esteem, and manifesto development to enhance their readiness for councilor, MP, and presidential races in 2025.
- ▶ Host role modeling sessions and public debates to build confidence and visibility of women candidates, with participation from prominent women leaders.
- ▶ Engage political party gatekeepers and leaders through lobbying meetings and panel discussions to increase the number of women and youth candidates in primaries and elections.
- ▶ Mobilize voter support through public debates, market-day campaigns, and radio jingles promoting gender equality and women's leadership.
- ▶ Combat GBV and harmful norms via community dialogues, media campaigns, and roadshows focused on preventing violence against women in politics and public life.



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[www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)



[wochricembawemi@gmail.com](mailto:wochricembawemi@gmail.com)