

# Benefits of Slower Population Growth in Balaka District

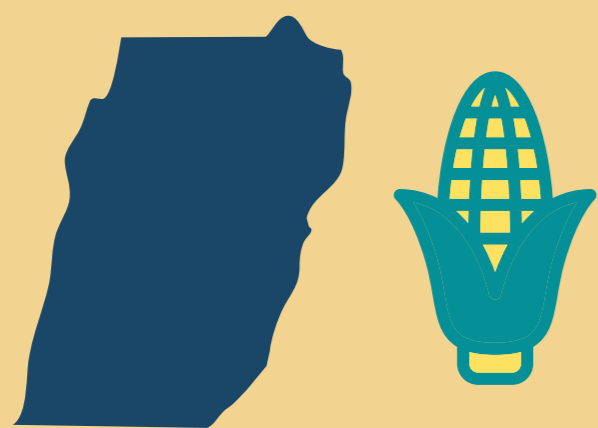


Rapid population growth is significantly affecting Malawi's ability to meet basic health, education, agriculture, and economic needs.

In **Balaka**, the population is expected to increase from approximately **436,937** in 2018 to **618,398** by 2030.

**By 2030**, slower population growth from lower fertility in Balaka could result in:

Reduced pressure on land and agriculture



**13** less people per km<sup>2</sup> than if current population growth continues

A health care system with less human resource shortages



**19** less community health workers would need to be hired

More resources for children's education



**15** less primary schools would need to be built

An education system with less teacher shortages



**200** less primary teachers would need to be hired

Couples in Balaka want smaller families...

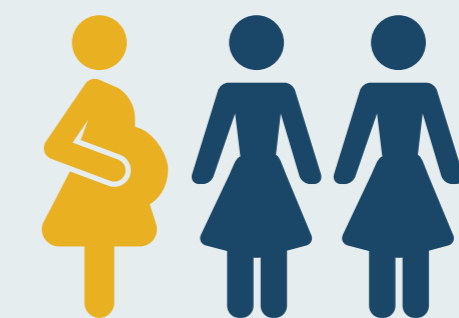
**4.6** number of children per woman



**3.6** desired number of children



**1 in 3** girls 15–19 years of age have begun childbearing



**1 in 5** married women would like to avoid pregnancy but are not using family planning



**Investing in family planning benefits families and development across all sectors.**

Data from Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16 and RAPID projections for Balaka District. Developed with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Health Policy Plus project.