

# Benefits of Slower Population Growth in Chikwawa District



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

In **Chikwawa**, the population is expected to increase from approximately **583,461** in 2018 to **874,200** by 2030.

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

**Reduced pressure on land and agriculture**



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

**A health care system with less human resource shortages**



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

**More resources for children's education**



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

**An education system with less teacher shortages**



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

**Couples in Chikwawa want smaller families...**

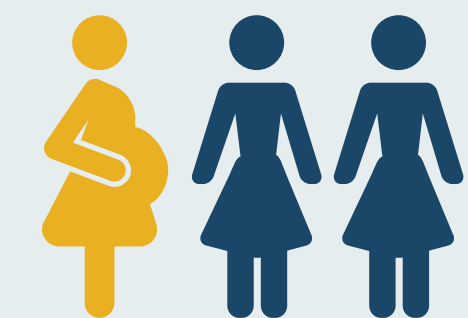
**5.6** number of children per woman



**4.3** 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 Chikwawa District. Developed with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development-funded Health Policy Plus project.