



Call for Abstracts

**2nd National Conference on Family Planning, Population and Development,
21st to 22nd June, 2016.**

“Harnessing the potential of Family Planning in young people for sustainable socio-economic Development”

Background

The Ministry of Health (Reproductive Health Directorate) and the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development in collaboration with development partners and other stakeholders in family planning, population and development are organizing the **2nd National Conference on Family Planning, Population and Development** to take place in Lilongwe, from **21st to 22nd June, 2016**.

Malawi's population is currently estimated at 17.2 million and is projected to increase further to 43.1 million by 2050. The population structure is youthful with a median age estimated at 17 years. This structure entails that every year a large proportion of female youths enters the childbearing ages while others reach the peak of their childbearing lives. Thus in the absence of effective fertility control measures, a youthful population entails that its fertility rate is likely to stay high in the foreseeable future and is likely to trigger further population growth- population momentum.

The positioning of family planning as a development strategy has become more pronounced since the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994. Use of modern family planning methods among currently married women has increased tremendously in the last two decades in Malawi from 7 percent in 1992 to 57 percent in 2014. However, this increase has not been followed by a corresponding decline in Total Fertility



Rate (TFR) which has only decreased from 7.6 to 5 children over the same period.

The slow progress made in fertility reduction may hinder the socio-economic benefits that can be accrued from Malawi's youthful population; jeopardize the development gains achieved so far from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and constrain achievement of the aspired goals in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Conference

The purpose of the conference therefore, is to advocate for the repositioning of family planning, with a focus on the young people as an integral component of achieving sustainable socio-economic development. The Conference organizing committee is hence calling for papers to be presented at the conference in the following sub-themes:

1. Youth Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights/family planning and demographic dividend;
2. Women and girls empowerment (education, skills development, leadership, economic development) and improving family planning services;
3. Demand creation for long acting and reversible family planning methods for adolescents and young women;
4. HIV and Family Planning/Contraceptive use
5. Male inclusion and involvement in family planning;
6. Barriers to contraceptive use among young people;
7. Innovative approaches, including new technology in youth focused rights based family planning programs;
8. Sustainable resource mobilization for family planning programs, including Public Private Partnerships;
9. Reaching the end user, improving the family planning logistics management to enhance commodity security at local level,
10. Legal and other emerging issues in family planning service provision.

Authors are requested to clearly define the sub-theme they are contributing to.

Contributions

You can submit:

1. Conference papers- Contributions have to be original unpublished works.



2. Posters- One or two pages of visual displays of on-going research. The posters will be shown and commented on in the foyer of the conference venue.

Format of the Abstracts

All the Abstracts should be submitted in electronic format in no more than 500 words (not more than one page of A4 paper size in 12 point Times New Roman font). The Abstract must provide a succinct overview of the poster or paper consisting of the following Sections:

- *Background*: Indicating the objectives of your study
- *Methods*: Indicating the methods used (including for example sample size etc.)
- *Results*: The critical findings in summary form
- *Conclusion(s) and policy implications*: Conclusions should be supported by the findings within your results.

Please provide the full postal and e-mail address of the corresponding author as well as any co-authors. We will correspond exclusively with the corresponding author.

Deadlines for submissions

Abstracts:	22 nd April, 2016
Author notification	5 th May, 2016
Final Papers	23 rd May, 2016

Contacts

For submission of abstracts, posters and any other additional information, please contact the following:

Dr. Benjamin Kaneka (Chairperson of the Publications and Research Sub-Committee): bkaneka@cc.ac.mw or benjakaneka@yahoo.co.uk

AND

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You can also download this call for abstracts at <http://malawi.unfpa.org>

