Malawi Member of Parliament Survey

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Data Prepared by: Governance and Local Development Institute

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Purpose of the Dataset

Politicians running for parliament are influenced by, and rely on, many different actors in their bid for election. Studies of elections in the West explore what influences members of parliament (MPs) to run for office, highlighting the importance of party support. Yet, much less is known about support for candidates in the Global South. Studies that look at influences on the electoral process in these contexts tend to study voters' choices, suggesting that ethnicity, religion and family connections may play a much greater role than partisanship. Is the same true with regard to politicians' support? To what extent do political parties, or ethnic or religious communities, play a role in determining parliamentary candidates' bids for office?

Scope of Data

Data was collected from November 20, 2021 to January 18, 2022

The survey was offered to all of the 193 sitting members of parliament in Malawi during this time.

Overview of Sampling

In collaboration with the Institute of Public Opinion and Research (IPOR) in Malawi, we obtained the telephone numbers for all sitting members of parliament from parliamentary leadership. This served as the sampling frame for the survey. IPOR asked the Clerk of Parliament to announce the survey at a parliament meeting to increase the likelihood of participation.The list of parliamentarians was divided among enumerators.

Response Rate

Number of Observations: 137

Response Rate: 71%

Acknowledgements

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Consent

Hello, my name is ENUMERATOR'S NAME. I am calling from IPOR, in partnership with the Governance and Local Development (GLD) program at the University of Gothenburg, we are currently conducting a study to learn about Members of Parliament.

We received this phone number from the parliamentary leadership, and are hoping that you will be willing to answer some questions on your experiences.

Participation in this survey is voluntary, and your answers will be confidential. They will be put together with other MP answers to get an overall picture, so please feel free to tell us what you think.

This interview will take 20-30 minutes. There is no penalty for refusing to participate. We would like your opinion with the knowledge that there are no right or wrong answers to these questions and that you may ask for clarification or stop the survey at any time. You are also free to skip questions you consider personal or invasive without penalty.

Are you willing to participate in this survey, either now or at another time?

Citation

Ellen Lust, 2023, "GLD Malawi Member of Parliament Survey Dataset", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/D8MTMW, Harvard Dataverse, V1, UNF:6:Kw0Qlo1xdnkV5GwqL/lwbg== [fileUNF]

Codebook

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
SbjNum [numeric]	Unique respondent identifier	Mean (sd) : 160787816 (468385.2) min < med < max: 160421681 < 160648643 < 163427897 IQR (CV) : 344814 (0)	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
logi_q1 [character]	Date the survey was started (this could be different from the day the survey was completed). Formatted as Year-Month-Day	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
logi_q2 [character]	Duration of the survey (not including breaks if any occured). Formatted as Hours:Minutes:Seconds	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
logi_q3 [factor]	Participation in this survey is voluntary, and your answers will be confidential. They will be put together with other MP answers to get an overall picture, so please feel free to tell us what you think. This interview will take 20-30 minutes. There is no penalty for refusing to participate. We would like your opinion with the knowledge that there are no right or wrong answers to these questions and that you may ask for clarification or stop the survey at any time. You are also free to skip questions you consider personal or invasive without penalty. Are you willing to participate in this survey, either now or at another time?	1. Yes, now 2. Yes, another time (specify) 3. No	137 (100.0%) 0 (0.0%) 0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)
q1 [factor]	Before the last election, did you ever consider but decide not to run in the parliamentary race?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	26 (19.0%) 109 (79.6%) 1 (0.7%) 1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q2_1 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked financial means	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_2 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from national level party leaders	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_3 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from local party members	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_4 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from chief	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_5 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from family members	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_6 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from GVH, VH or TA	1 distinct value	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_7 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from religious leaders	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_8 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked support from those living in neighborhood or village	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_9 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Lacked time	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q2_10 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Sitting MP decided to run	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_11 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Other (specify)	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_12 [numeric]	Why did you decide not run at that time?: Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q2_O11 [character]	Other Specified Value for answer choice 11 in question: Why did you decide not run at that time?	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	125 (91.2%)
q3_1 [factor]	Please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Traditional Authority	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	87 (63.5%) 39 (28.5%) 1 (0.7%) 10 (7.3%)	0 (0.0%)
q3_2 [factor]	Please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Other traditional authorities, such as a Group Village Head or Village head	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	94 (68.6%) 33 (24.1%) 0 (0.0%) 10 (7.3%)	0 (0.0%)
q3_3 [factor]	Please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Family members	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	106 (77.4%) 22 (16.1%) 0 (0.0%) 9 (6.6%)	0 (0.0%)
q3_4 [factor]	Please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Religious leaders	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	86 (62.8%) 39 (28.5%) 0 (0.0%) 12 (8.8%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q3_5 [factor]	Please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Those living in home village or neighborhood	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	110 (80.3%) 17 (12.4%) 0 (0.0%) 10 (7.3%)	0 (0.0%)
q4_1 [factor]	Again, please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : National-level Party leaders	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	81 (59.1%) 44 (32.1%) 1 (0.7%) 11 (8.0%)	0 (0.0%)
q4_2 [factor]	Again, please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Organized social groups/NGOs in the constituency	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	49 (35.8%) 73 (53.3%) 2 (1.5%) 13 (9.5%)	0 (0.0%)
q4_3 [factor]	Again, please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Local party leaders	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	113 (82.5%) 12 (8.8%) 1 (0.7%) 11 (8.0%)	0 (0.0%)
q4_4 [factor]	Again, please tell me, for each of the following, if their support is important for winning a party primary election? : Potential funders	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	59 (43.1%) 57 (41.6%) 1 (0.7%) 20 (14.6%)	0 (0.0%)
q5 [factor]	Were any other groups or individuals, other than those named, particularly important in helping you obtain the party nomination?	1. Yes 2. No 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 4. N/A (Not Applicable)	40 (29.2%) 85 (62.0%) 4 (2.9%) 8 (5.8%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q6_1 [factor]	Now I'd like you to think about other groups or individuals whose support may be important to your success in the general parliamentary election. For each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the election? : Traditional Authority	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	106 (77.4%) 28 (20.4%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q6_2 [factor]	Now I'd like you to think about other groups or individuals whose support may be important to your success in the general parliamentary election. For each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the election? : Other traditional authorities, such as a Group Village Head or Village head	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	121 (88.3%) 13 (9.5%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q6_3 [factor]	Now I'd like you to think about other groups or individuals whose support may be important to your success in the general parliamentary election. For each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the election? : Family members	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	131 (95.6%) 4 (2.9%) 2 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)
q6_4 [factor]	Now I'd like you to think about other groups or individuals whose support may be important to your success in the general parliamentary election. For each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the election? : Religious leaders	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	124 (90.5%) 10 (7.3%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q6_5 [factor]	Now I'd like you to think about other groups or individuals whose support may be important to your success in the general parliamentary election. For each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the election? : Those living in home village or neighborhood	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	129 (94.2%) 5 (3.6%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q7_1 [factor]	Again, for each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the general parliamentary election? : National-level Party leaders	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	96 (70.1%) 38 (27.7%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q7_2 [factor]	Again, for each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the general parliamentary election? : Regional-level Party leaders	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	95 (69.3%) 39 (28.5%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q7_3 [factor]	Again, for each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the general parliamentary election? : Organized social groups/NGOs in the constituency	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	75 (54.7%) 55 (40.1%) 7 (5.1%)	0 (0.0%)
q7_4 [factor]	Again, for each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the general parliamentary election? : Local party leaders	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	115 (83.9%) 19 (13.9%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q7_5 [factor]	Again, for each of the following, would you say they were important or not important to your winning the general parliamentary election? : Potential funders	1. Important 2. Not important 3. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	71 (51.8%) 55 (40.1%) 11 (8.0%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q8 [factor]	In your opinion, how important is it to gaining party nomination to be a member of the largest ethnic group in the constituency?	1. very important 2. somewhat important 3. not very important 4. not important at all 5. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	75 (54.7%) 16 (11.7%) 28 (20.4%) 12 (8.8%) 6 (4.4%)	0 (0.0%)
q9 [factor]	In your opinion, how important is it to winning the election to be a member of the largest ethnic group in the constituency?	1. very important 2. somewhat important 3. not very important 4. not important at all 5. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	72 (52.6%) 18 (13.1%) 30 (21.9%) 12 (8.8%) 5 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)
q10 [factor]	In your opinion, how important is it to be a member of a major religious congregation in your constituency for gaining party nomination?	1. very important 2. somewhat important 3. not very important 4. not important at all 5. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	59 (43.1%) 21 (15.3%) 29 (21.2%) 23 (16.8%) 5 (3.6%)	0 (0.0%)
q11 [factor]	In your opinion, how important is it to be a member of a major religious congregation in the constituency to winning the election?	1. very important 2. somewhat important 3. not very important 4. not important at all 5. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	65 (47.4%) 24 (17.5%) 25 (18.2%) 22 (16.1%) 1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)
q12 [factor]	In your opinion, how important is it to get endorsement of the largest religious congregation in the constituency to winning elections even if a candidate does not belong to that congregation?	1. very important 2. somewhat important 3. not very important 4. not important at all 5. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	70 (51.1%) 20 (14.6%) 27 (19.7%) 17 (12.4%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)
q13 [factor]	In your opinion, how important is to get the endorsement of members of your village to winning the elections?	1. very important 2. somewhat important 3. not very important 4. not important at all 5. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	112 (81.8%) 15 (10.9%) 5 (3.6%) 4 (2.9%) 1 (0.7%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q14_1 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Health care	Min : 0 Mean : 0.3 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_2 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Education	Min : 0 Mean : 0.4 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_3 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Water/sanitation	Min : 0 Mean : 0.4 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_4 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Electricity	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_5 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Infrastructure (e.g. roads)	Min : 0 Mean : 0.5 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_6 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Jobs	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_7 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Poverty	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_8 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Crime	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_9 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Agricultural support	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q14_10 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Other (specify)	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_11 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 1	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_12 [numeric]	What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?: Don't Know/Refuse to Answer 2	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q14_O10 [character]	Other Specified Value for answer choice 10 in question: What do you see as the two most important priorities for your constituency?	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	125 (91.2%)
q15_1 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: inadequate resources within parliament for deliberation and legislative support	Min : 0 Mean : 0.2 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_2 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: inadequate funds for constituency projects	Min : 0 Mean : 0.6 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_3 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: poor relations with local traditional leaders	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_4 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: poor relations with local councilors	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_5 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: poor relations with media/bad coverage	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q15_6 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: poor relations with other parties/MPs	Min : 0 Mean : 0.1 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_7 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: poor relations within own party	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_8 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: too many public demands	Min : 0 Mean : 0.6 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_9 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: too many demands from party leaders	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_10 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: costly elections	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_11 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: Other (specify)	Min : 0 Mean : 0.4 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_12 [numeric]	What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?: Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	Min : 0 Mean : 0 Max : 1	Not Applicable	0 (0.0%)
q15_O11 [character]	Other Specified Value for answer choice 11 in question: What are the biggest obstacles you face doing the work of a Parliamentarian?	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	81 (59.1%)
q16 [factor]	Would you say the interview went. . . ?	1. Well 2. Not so well (specify)	134 (97.8%) 3 (2.2%)	0 (0.0%)

Variable Name	Question Text	Stats / Values	Freqs (% of Valid)	Missing
q17	We have finished, did you enjoy the interview?	1. Yes	127 (92.7%)	0
[factor]		2. Somewhat	9 (6.6%)	(0.0%)
		3. No	1 (0.7%)	
		4. Don't Know/Refuse to Answer	0 (0.0%)	