Chapter 7

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS AND AMENITIES

Ishmael V. Gondwe

7.1 Introduction

The possession of a house and productive assets, such as land, livestock, etc are important components of household welfare and are also significant indicators of changing economic conditions and living standards of the households. Poverty status of a household is in part determined by possession of durable assets the household owns.

7.2 Ownership of Main Dwelling Units [1]

The results of the survey show that around 84 percent of the households in the country owned the main dwelling units (houses) they lived in and around 10 percent rented the main dwelling unit they lived in.

In rural areas about 89 percent owned their dwelling units they lived in while in urban areas only about 40 percent owned their dwelling units. Notice that a substantial proportion of urban ultra poor owned their dwelling units as compared to the other households. However, over half of the households in the urban rented the dwelling units they lived in.

The results show that among the socio-economic groups, over 90 percent of the unemployed or those in subsistence agriculture owned the main dwelling units. Close to 46 percent of households whose head was working in public sector owned their main dwelling units while about 45 percent rented the dwelling units they lived in. A substantial proportion of female-headed households (about 90 percent) owned the main dwelling units they lived in as compared to male-headed households (about 82 percent). However, note that only 4 percent of the female-headed households rented their main dwelling units compared to12 percent among the male-headed households (Table 7.1).

[1] Main Dwelling Unit is the dwelling unit in which the head of the household lives

Table 7.1: Distribution of households by ownership of dwelling units at district level

	Owns the Dwelling	Rents the Dwelling	Uses without Paying rent	Temporary Dwelling
Malawi	**84.1**	**9.8**	**5.6**	**0.5**
Rural	88.6	5.2	5.7	0.5
Rural ultra poor	85.9	5.5	7.8	0.8
Urban	39.5	54.9	5.5	0.1
Urban ultra poor	46.0	48.2	5.7	0.1
Northern Region	**87.6**	**8.9**	**3.2**	**0.3**
Chitipa	84.5	12.0	3.5	0.0
Karonga	94.2	4.8	1.0	0.0
Rumphi	93.1	4.4	2.0	0.5
Nkhata Bay	83.1	7.9	8.9	0.0
Likoma	91.0	8.2	0.8	0.0
Mzimba	90.2	7.1	2.3	0.5
Mzuzu City	35.0	53.9	10.4	0.7
Central Region	**83.1**	**10.6**	**5.8**	**0.5**
Kasungu	81.0	14.0	4.7	0.3
Ntchisi	91.3	2.8	5.2	0.7
Dowa	94.2	2.7	3.1	0.0
Nkhotakota	63.4	19.1	17.1	0.3
Mchinji	89.5	3.7	5.3	1.5
Lilongwe Rural	87.5	5.3	6.9	0.4
Salima	86.7	8.9	3.6	0.8
Dedza	94.8	1.8	3.2	0.2
Ntcheu	92.8	1.1	5.1	0.9
Lilongwe City	36.4	58.1	5.5	0.0
Southern Region	**84.1**	**9.3**	**6.0**	**0.6**
Balaka	92.6	0.3	6.4	0.7
Machinga	90.7	5.2	3.2	0.9
Mangochi	93.1	1.9	4.1	0.8
Zomba	90.6	4.1	5.0	0.3
Chiradzulu	84.9	5.6	7.1	2.5
Blantyre Rural	88.8	4.8	5.9	0.5
Mulanje	89.0	3.1	7.3	0.6
Thyolo	81.6	7.6	10.4	0.5
Phalombe	87.6	6.8	5.6	0.0
Mwanza	92.7	3.8	3.6	0.0
Chikwawa	73.3	10.0	15.7	1.0
Nsanje	95.0	3.3	1.7	0.0
Blantyre City	41.9	53.1	5.0	0.0

Zomba Municipality	48.9	44.3	6.3	0.6
Social-economic sector				
Public	45.8	44.6	8.8	0.7
Private formal	52.5	32.4	14.7	0.4
Private informal	81.8	12.7	5.5	0.0
Subsistence Agriculture	94.4	0.8	4.2	0.5
Self employed	74.9	20.8	3.7	0.6
Unemployed	90.2	4.3	4.9	0.6
Other	85.9	6.7	7.4	0.0
Sex				
Male	82.1	11.9	5.5	0.5
Female	89.7	3.8	6.0	0.4

7.3 Type of Main Dwelling Units

About 76 percent of the main dwelling units (that is, those occupied by the head of the household) in the country had thatch as the main roofing material. This is especially so in rural areas where about 82 percent of the dwelling units were thatched and among rural ultra poor it was about 90 percent. About 18 percent of the households in rural areas had roofs made of corrugated iron sheets. The proportion of main dwelling units in urban areas that had roofs constructed with grass thatch was 17 percent. Furthermore, about 24 percent had roofs constructed of corrugated iron sheets (Table 7.2.)

Table 7.2: Percentage distribution of households by type of roofing material of main dwelling unit of household and background characteristics of household head at district level

	Thatch	Iron sheets	Other	Total
Malawi	**75.8**	**23.7**	**0.5**	**100.0**
Rural	81.8	17.8	0.4	100.0
Rural Ultra poor	89.6	10.1	0.3	100.0
Urban	16.8	81.9	1.3	100.0
Urban Ultra poor	24.3	74.5	1.3	100.0
Northern Region	**77.2**	**22.1**	**0.7**	**100.0**
Chitipa	78.7	20.8	0.5	100.0
Karonga	83.8	16.2	-	100.0
Rumphi	73.0	27.0	-	100.0
Nkhata Bay	75.8	23.0	1.2	100.0
Likoma	82.6	17.4	-	100.0
Mzimba	79.5	20.0	0.5	100.0
Mzuzu city	31.0	62.8	6.2	100.0
Central Region	**79.0**	**20.4**	**0.6**	**100.0**
Kasungu	75.2	23.4	1.4	100.0
Ntchisi	89.7	10.3	-	100.0
Dowa	89.9	9.5	0.6	100.0
Nkhotakota	66.1	33.9	-	100.0
Mchinji	88.1	11.9	-	100.0
Lilongwe rural	83.6	15.8	0.6	100.0
Salima	86.3	13.7	-	100.0

Dedza	92.5	7.1	0.5	100.0
Ntcheu	90.1	9.9	-	100.0
Lilongwe city	20.3	78.2	1.5	100.0
Southern Region	**72.9**	**26.7**	**0.4**	**100.0**
Balaka	88.4	11.4	0.3	100.0
Machinga	85.5	14.5	-	100.0
Mangochi	89.7	9.8	0.5	100.0
Zomba rural	81.6	18.2	0.2	100.0
Chiradzulu	73.0	26.1	0.9	100.0
Blantyre rural	76.2	23.6	0.2	100.0
Mulanje	73.1	26.9	-	100.0
Thyolo	65.7	33.5	0.8	100.0
Phalombe	80.5	19.3	0.2	100.0
Mwanza	86.9	13.1	-	100.0
Chikwawa	74.3	25.4	0.4	100.0
Nsanje	87.8	11.8	0.4	100.0
Blantyre city	11.6	87.6	0.9	100.0
Zomba municipality	28.0	72.0	-	100.0

Table 7.2: Percentage distribution of households by type of roofing material of main dwelling unit of household and background characteristics of household head at district level

(cont'd)

	Thatch	Iron sheets	Other	Total
Socio-economic sector				
Public	34.9	64.3	0.8	100.0
Private formal	45.9	52.8	1.2	100.0
Private informal	71.0	28.4	0.5	100.0
Subsistence Agriculture	87.6	12.0	0.4	100.0
Self Employed	63.2	36.5	0.3	100.0
Unemployed	77.2	22.5	0.3	100.0
Other	85.9	14.1	-	100.0
Sex				
Male	73.6	25.9	0.5	100.0
Female	82.1	17.4	0.5	100.0

(-) Insufficient number of households

The most common material used to make walls of the dwelling units was unburnt bricks (about 44 percent). About half of the main dwelling units among the rural ultra poor had walls constructed with unburnt bricks. About 20 percent of the main dwelling units were constructed with burnt bricks. A quarter of the dwelling units in the rural areas used mud as their main material for the walls. In urban areas only less than 1 percent used mud. 30 percent of the dwelling units in Malawi had burnt bricks as the main material for the walls. More in urban areas used burnt bricks compared to those in rural areas (Table 7.3).

At regional level, in the North about 39 percent of the main dwelling units had walls constructed with burnt bricks, compared with about 22 and 34 percent in the Central

and Southern region respectively. About 40 percent of the main dwelling units in the Central region and one third of the dwelling units in the Northern region and 7 percent in the Southern region had walls constructed with mud.

Table 7.3: Percentage distribution of households by type of wall material of main dwelling unit of household and background characteristics of household head at district level.

	Mud	Unburnt Bricks	Burnt Bricks	Cement/ sandcrete	Wood/ bamboo	Other	Total
Malawi	**22.9**	**44.0**	**29.6**	**0.8**	**2.2**	**0.5**	**100.0**
Rural	25.1	43.5	27.9	0.7	2.4	0.5	100.0
Rural Ultra poor	24.8	50.7	20.2	0.9	2.7	0.7	100.0
Urban	1.0	49.1	47.4	2.2	0.0	0.2	100.0
Urban Ultra poor	0.8	61.0	36.1	1.9	0.1	0.2	100.0
Northern Region	**33.2**	**20.7**	**39.2**	**0.2**	**6.5**	**0.1**	**100.0**
Chitipa	58.3	16.4	23.3	-	2.1	-	100.0
Karonga	12.6	16.4	47.9	-	23.1	-	100.0
Rumphi	36.5	9.2	48.4	-	6.0	-	100.0
Nkhata Bay	5.1	34.8	57.5	1.2	1.4	-	100.0
Likoma	9.7	85.5	0.8	-	2.2	1.8	100.0
Mzimba	42.0	19.5	33.7	-	4.5	0.2	100.0
Mzuzu city	5.0	37.8	54.3	2.3	0.7	-	100.0
Central Region	**40.0**	**35.2**	**22.2**	**0.9**	**1.3**	**0.4**	**100.0**
Kasungu	45.7	16.9	33.3	0.8	1.7	1.7	100.0

Ntchisi	73.2	15.1	11.0	-	0.7	-	100.0
Dowa	68.6	16.0	13.1	0.3	1.3	0.6	100.0
Nkhotakota	18.5	30.6	35.9	14.2	0.8	-	100.0
Mchinji	65.8	13.8	19.3	-	1.0	-	100.0
Lilongwe rural	30.2	49.7	19.9	-	0.2	-	100.0
Salima	21.7	50.5	23.7	1.0	3.1	-	100.0
Dedza	84.9	6.1	6.8	0.2	2.0	-	100.0
Ntcheu	16.7	51.8	24.7	-	4.4	2.4	100.0
Lilongwe city	1.3	54.6	43.8	0.2	-	-	100.0
Southern Region	**6.8**	**56.3**	**33.6**	**0.9**	**1.9**	**0.6**	**100.0**
Balaka	5.9	55.4	38.2	-	0.4	-	100.0
Machinga	0.5	72.0	26.4	0.5	0.3	0.3	100.0
Mangochi	6.1	61.3	27.2	0.9	4.0	0.6	100.0
Zomba rural	0.4	72.7	26.3	-	-	0.6	100.0
Chiradzulu	5.7	65.3	27.9	0.8	-	0.3	100.0
Blantyre rural	6.1	59.5	30.5	0.3	3.0	0.6	100.0
Mulanje	2.6	53.8	42.4	-	1.2	-	100.0
Thyolo	9.1	41.8	43.9	0.6	4.2	0.4	100.0
Phalombe	3.3	66.9	29.8	-	-	-	100.0
Mwanza	32.5	28.8	28.2	0.5	8.6	1.4	100.0
Chikwawa	28.9	33.7	25.9	5.4	3.0	3.2	100.0
Nsanje	22.3	41.2	31.7	0.3	3.7	0.8	100.0
Blantyre city	0.4	45.8	49.5	3.8	-	0.5	100.0
Zomba municipality	0.0	46.3	49.4	4.3	-	-	100.0

Table 7.3: Percentage distribution of households by type of wall material of main dwelling unit of household and background characteristics of household head at district level.

cont'd

	Mud	Unburnt Bricks	Burnt Bricks	Cement/ sandcrete	Wood/ bamboo	Other	Total
Socio-economic sector							
Public	10.4	26.4	59.5	2.0	0.6	1.1	100.0
Private formal	7.7	45.0	40.2	4.6	1.8	0.6	100.0
Private informal	16.4	54.7	25.4	1.5	1.7	0.3	100.0
Subsistence Agriculture	30.3	43.3	23.5	0.1	2.4	0.4	100.0
Self Employed	10.4	49.2	37.6	0.7	1.7	0.5	100.0
Unemployed	17.9	47.3	31.0	0.2	3.1	0.4	100.0
Other	30.0	50.4	17.0	2.6	-	-	100.0
Sex							
Male	23.0	42.1	31.2	1.0	2.2	0.5	100.0
Female	22.7	49.2	25.3	0.3	2.1	0.3	100.0

(-) Insufficient number of households

7.4 Water and Sanitation

As one of the most basic human necessities, water is the object of many government and community-based investment schemes. The aim of the CWIQ was to distinguish between various sources of drinking water. These sources include piped water sources, boreholes and open or unprotected sources such as wells, rivers, lakes, etc.

About 60 percent of households in Malawi used communal piped water, or borehole water as their main source of drinking water. Only about 4 percent of the households used water piped into their dwelling units in Malawi. About 24 percent of the households in Malawi used unprotected wells and a further 9 percent used spring, lake, rivers or ponds as their main source of drinking water (Table 7.4).

A bigger proportion of the ultra poor compared to the general population of households used water sources other than boreholes or piped. Also, borehole or piped water was mostly used in urban areas (about 95 percents of households there used these) as compared to rural areas (about 60 percent of households).

At regional level, about 66 percent, 54 percent and 72 percent of households in the North, Centre and South respectively used piped or borehole water as their main source of drinking water.

Table 7.4: Percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water by household size, background characteristics of household head at district level.

	Source of water						
	Piped	Communal stand Pipe/borehole	Protected Well	Unprotected, Rain water	Spring, lake River, pond	Other	Total
Malawi	**3.6**	**60.3**	**2.6**	**24.3**	**9.0**	**0.1**	**100.0**
Rural	1.5	59.3	2.8	26.5	9.9	0.0	100.0
Rural Ultra poor	0.9	56.3	2.6	29.7	10.4	0.1	100.0
Urban	25.0	70.3	0.5	2.9	0.4	0.9	100.0
Urban Ultra poor	13.9	79.2	0.8	4.5	0.9	0.7	100.0
Northern Region	**3.9**	**61.7**	**2.3**	**13.7**	**18.4**	**0.0**	**100.0**
Chitipa	6.6	60.7	0.4	7.8	24.5	-	100.0
Karonga	1.7	59.9	6.7	6.4	25.3	-	100.0
Rumphi	1.0	80.5	1.8	2.5	14.2	-	100.0
Nkhata Bay	2.8	50.2	0.3	18.1	28.7	-	100.0
Likoma	2.6	33.5	-	-	63.9	-	100.0
Mzimba	1.4	63.3	1.9	18.4	15.0	-	100.0
Mzuzu city	49.6	45.5	2.4	1.6	-	0.8	100.0
Central Region	**2.9**	**51.0**	**3.3**	**35.3**	**7.4**	**0.2**	**100.0**
Kasungu	2.2	51.2	3.1	29.4	14.1	-	100.0
Ntchisi	2.8	51.2	0.8	29.5	15.6	-	100.0
Dowa	-	37.8	5.4	38.7	18.2	-	100.0
Nkhotakota	6.0	74.1	2.2	13.4	3.9	0.3	100.0
Mchinji	0.3	44.0	2.1	51.1	2.5	-	100.0
Lilongwe rural	0.3	41.0	5.8	48.2	4.7	-	100.0
Salima	1.2	81.3	1.5	10.9	4.7	0.3	100.0
Dedza	0.2	45.9	2.8	48.3	2.5	0.4	100.0
Ntcheu	0.4	57.0	-	22.7	19.9	-	100.0
Lilongwe city	22.3	70.3	0.8	4.9	0.3	1.3	100.0
Southern Region	**4.1**	**67.6**	**2.2**	**17.7**	**8.3**	**0.1**	**100.0**
Balaka	-	80.8	2.6	11.0	5.6	-	100.0
Machinga	0.4	73.5	1.2	22.0	2.8	-	100.0
Mangochi	0.1	65.3	5.2	12.0	17.5	-	100.0
Zomba rural	1.1	67.3	5.2	20.3	6.0	-	100.0
Chiradzulu	2.9	80.3	1.2	13.9	1.7	-	100.0
Blantyre rural	1.5	66.4	0.2	20.3	11.5	-	100.0
Mulanje	0.5	62.5	3.7	18.1	15.1	-	100.0
Thyolo	5.0	44.1	2.0	46.8	2.0	-	100.0
Phalombe	2.6	67.8	0.5	17.4	11.7	-	100.0
Mwanza	3.3	57.6	0.6	16.0	21.5	0.9	100.0
Chikwawa	8.5	72.2	1.4	8.4	9.4	-	100.0
Nsanje	0.5	87.1	0.4	6.4	5.6	-	100.0
Blantyre city	25.1	73.0	-	0.6	0.7	0.7	100.0
Zomba municipality	23.6	64.7	-	11.8	-	-	100.0

Table 7.4: Percentage distribution of households by main source of drinking water by household size, background characteristics of household head at district level.
(cont'd)

	Source of water						
	Piped	Communal stand Pipe/borehole	Protected Well	Unprotected, Rain water	Spring, lake River, pond	Other	Total
Household size							
1-2	3.6	61.5	2.3	23.1	9.5	0.1	100.0
3-4	2.6	60.8	2.6	23.9	10.0	0.1	100.0
5-6	4.0	59.7	2.7	25.9	7.6	0.1	100.0
7+	5.5	58.6	3.0	24.2	8.5	0.2	100.0
Socio-economic sector							
Public	18.8	63.1	1.8	12.1	3.8	0.3	100.0
Private formal	10.4	67.8	2.7	14.1	4.7	0.3	100.0
Private informal	3.2	68.0	2.7	18.6	7.5	0.1	100.0
Subsistence Agriculture	0.6	56.3	2.7	30.3	10.1	0.0	100.0
Self Employed	5.5	67.8	2.2	15.2	8.7	0.5	100.0
Unemployed	3.6	63.1	3.0	18.5	11.8	-	100.0
Other	-	59.0	-	23.3	17.7	-	100.0
Sex							
Male	3.8	60.1	2.8	23.9	9.2	0.2	100.0
Female	3.0	60.9	2.0	25.5	8.6	-	100.0

(-) insufficient number of households

7.5 Proximity to Drinking Water Source.

About three quarters of the households in Malawi took less than 15 minutes to reach the nearest supply of drinking water. A further 19 percent took between 15 to 29 minutes to get to the nearest supply of drinking water (Table 7.5).

About 93 percent and 99 percent of households in rural and urban areas respectively took less than 30 minutes to reach the nearest supply of drinking water.

At regional level, the proportions of households that took less than 30 minutes to get to the nearest source of drinking water were 95 percent (Central Region), 92 percent (Southern Region), and 91 percent (Northern Region).

Table 7.5: Percentage distribution of households by time taken to reach nearest supply of drinking water by background characteristics of head of household at district level

	Time (minutes)				
	< 15	15 - 29	30 – 44	45 - 59	60+
Malawi	**74.3**	**18.8**	**5.1**	**0.9**	**0.8**
Rural	72.2	20.3	5.6	1.0	0.9
Rural Ultra poor	71.3	22.2	5.0	0.6	0.7
Urban	94.8	4.7	0.5	-	0.0
Urban Ultra poor	94.0	5.6	0.4	-	-
Northern Region	**71.4**	**19.7**	**6.7**	**0.9**	**1.3**
Chitipa	73.1	15.2	8.7	1.7	1.3
Karonga	72.2	16.6	7.2	0.8	3.2
Rumphi	71.1	21.5	5.9	-	1.5
Nkhata Bay	77.3	20.1	2.0	-	0.6
Likoma	66.2	17.0	12.9	-	3.9
Mzimba	68.0	22.0	7.7	1.2	1.0
Mzuzu city	96.1	3.5	-	-	0.5
Central Region	**78.3**	**16.5**	**3.7**	**0.5**	**1.0**
Kasungu	59.2	27.7	7.5	1.6	4.0
Ntchisi	64.3	21.7	9.7	1.7	2.6
Dowa	68.9	17.1	9.0	0.6	4.4
Nkhotakota	87.3	9.9	2.9	-	-
Mchinji	90.4	8.8	0.8	-	-
Lilongwe rural	82.9	14.3	1.8	0.5	0.6
Salima	80.4	14.4	3.2	1.8	0.3
Dedza	72.8	23.0	3.8	-	0.4
Ntcheu	69.1	23.9	6.6	0.5	-
Lilongwe city	92.5	6.8	0.7	-	-
Southern Region	**71.6**	**20.5**	**6.0**	**1.2**	**0.6**
Balaka	67.0	25.6	5.6	1.0	0.8
Machinga	78.8	17.2	3.8	0.2	-
Mangochi	82.9	12.9	2.8	0.8	0.6
Zomba rural	67.6	24.0	5.7	2.1	0.6
Chiradzulu	68.8	22.0	7.3	0.4	1.4
Blantyre rural	70.7	21.5	6.7	1.2	-
Mulanje	50.0	31.6	16.3	0.7	1.4
Thyolo	55.9	31.5	8.8	3.1	0.7

Phalombe	56.1	30.2	9.7	3.7	0.3
Mwanza	72.0	21.3	3.4	0.6	2.7
Chikwawa	83.6	13.8	2.3	0.0	0.4
Nsanje	79.7	15.4	2.3	0.7	2.0
Blantyre city	96.2	3.3	0.4	-	-
Zomba municipality	100.0	-	-	-	-

Table 7.5: Percentage distribution of households by time taken to reach nearest supply of drinking water by background characteristics of head of household at district level.

cont'd

	Time (minutes)				
	< 15	15 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Socio-economic sector					
Public	84.9	11.6	2.9	-	0.6
Private formal	80.7	14.5	3.8	0.7	0.4
Private informal	77.1	17.1	3.3	1.3	1.1
Subsistence Agriculture	72.1	20.3	5.8	1.0	0.9
Self Employed	77.3	19.6	2.5	0.3	0.4
Unemployed	68.0	20.2	8.4	2.0	1.3
Other	90.0	3.9	4.4	-	1.6
Sex					
Male	75.3	18.2	4.8	0.7	0.9
Female	71.3	20.7	6.0	1.4	0.7

(-) Insufficient number of households

7.6 Toilet Facility

7.6.1 Use of Toilet Facility

The type of toilet facility used is an important indicator of the household's hygienic conditions. Toilet facilities were divided into three major groups: flush toilet, Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine (VIP) and pit latrine which included both covered or uncovered pit latrines. A flush toilet is one in which water carries the waste down pipes, whether the water is piped into the toilet or poured in by buckets. A pit latrine refers to a pit dug into the earth. A VIP latrine is one that has been improved by the addition of some kind of construction (usually a pipe) that provides a route for fumes to escape, other than the hole itself.

The results indicate that about 85 percent of the households were using pit latrines in Malawi. Flush toilets were mostly used in urban sector where about 12 percent of the

households used them even covered pit latrines were mostly used in urban sector (Table 7.6).

In rural areas about 14 percent of the households did not use a toilet facility and about 76 percent used pit latrines. In urban areas, only about 1 percent did not use a toilet facility and about 87 percent used pit latrines. About 13 percent did not use any toilet (especially among the rural population). It is worthwhile to note that it is in the Lower Shire area where a big proportion of the households said they did not use any toilet. Note that in Nsanje nearly half of the households were not using any toilet facility.

Table 7.6: Percent distribution of households by type of toilet, facility used, household size and background characteristics of household head at district level.

		PIT		Ventilated Improved Pit		
	None	Uncovered	Covered	Latrine	Flush	Other
Malawi	**12.7**	**75.1**	**9.9**	**0.3**	**1.9**	**0.2**
Rural	13.8	75.5	-	0.2	0.9	0.3
Rural Ultra poor	16.0	78.9	4.1	0.2	0.3	0.5
Urban	1.1	70.7	15.8	0.6	11.9	-
Urban Ultra poor	1.7	81.2	12.3	0.3	4.5	-
Northern Region	**9.5**	**75.7**	**12.6**	**0.2**	**1.8**	**0.2**
Chitipa	0.8	84.8	11.3	1.5	1.5	-
Karonga	10.2	79.7	9.7	0.4	-	-
Rumphi	6.6	85.4	8.0	-	-	-
Nkhata Bay	8.7	81.6	8.6	-	0.8	0.3
Likoma	15.4	53.1	29.3	2.2	-	-
Mzimba	11.6	74.0	13.5	-	0.5	0.4
Mzuzu city	4.0	30.1	31.5	-	34.4	-
Central Region	**12.3**	**78.1**	**7.8**	**0.2**	**1.6**	**-**
Kasungu	12.4	52.4	33.4	0.8	0.9	-
Ntchisi	21.1	46.7	30.7	0.4	1.0	-
Dowa	26.0	48.4	25.2	0.3	-	-
Nkhotakota	2.0	78.4	2.9	2.2	14.6	-
Mchinji	23.8	73.6	2.6	-	-	-
Lilongwe rural	10.0	88.6	1.4	-	-	-

Salima	12.7	81.9	4.4	0.3	0.6	-
Dedza	10.9	86.7	2.2	0.2	-	-
Ntcheu	14.0	84.5	1.2	-	0.2	-
Lilongwe city	0.9	81.1	10.2	-	7.8	-
Southern Region	**13.7**	**72.5**	**11.1**	**0.3**	**2.1**	**0.4**
Balaka	16.1	80.0	3.9	-	-	-
Machinga	11.7	72.5	14.3	-	-	1.5
Mangochi	10.2	73.3	16.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Zomba rural	7.4	73.4	17.8	0.2	0.2	1.1
Chiradzulu	9.5	71.1	17.4	0.3	1.1	0.5
Blantyre rural	10.0	80.9	8.2	0.3	-	0.6
Mulanje	13.0	80.7	6.0	-	0.2	-
Thyolo	14.7	73.8	8.6	0.2	2.7	-
Phalombe	16.2	78.2	4.5	0.8	0.3	-
Mwanza	27.9	66.0	4.8	0.5	0.9	-
Chikwawa	30.8	56.5	3.0	-	9.0	0.8
Nsanje	48.9	47.4	3.4	-	-	0.4
Blantyre city	1.0	67.0	17.9	0.6	13.5	-
Zomba municipality	0.0	55.3	30.9	6.0	7.8	-

Table 7.6: Percent distribution of households by type of toilet, facility used, household size and background characteristics of household head at district level.

(cont'd)

	None	PIT		Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine	Flush	Other
		Uncovered	Covered			
Household size						
1-2	16.3	72.2	9.2	0.2	2.0	0.2
3-4	13.4	75.6	9.0	0.2	1.4	0.3
5-6	11.3	75.6	10.7	0.3	1.9	0.2
7+	8.2	76.8	11.8	0.3	2.7	0.1
Socio-economic sector						
Public	2.2	62.4	20.9	1.0	13.2	0.2
Private formal	4.3	75.5	11.6	1.1	7.2	0.3
Private informal	10.6	76.8	11.0	0.2	1.0	0.5
Subsistence Agriculture	16.1	75.9	7.8	0.0	0.0	0.2
Self Employed	8.9	76.9	12.1	0.3	1.5	0.4
Unemployed	12.6	74.5	11.4	0.1	1.0	0.4
Other	6.0	92.7	1.3	-	-	-
Sex						
Male	10.9	76.0	10.5	0.3	2.0	0.2
Female	17.6	72.5	8.2	0.0	1.4	0.3

(-) Insufficient number of households

7.6.2 Ownership of Toilet Facility

Most of the households in Malawi that used toilet facility did own these facilities (about 85 percent owned the toilet facilities that they used), and about 63 percent that used the toilet facilities owned them exclusively while about 23 percent owned the toilets but were sharing the toilet facility (for example, households living in rented houses of one land lord who built only one latrine for the houses). Thus about 15 percent of those using toilets did not own a toilet facility (Table 7.7).

At rural/ urban level, the results show that about 16 and 3 percent of the households in rural and urban areas respectively did not own toilets.

At regional level, about 17 percent of the households in the Southern Region, 14 and 10 percent of the households in the Central and Northern Regions respectively did not own toilet facilities.

Conspicuously, about 55 and 41 percent of the households in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts respectively did not own toilets.

Table 7.7: Percentage distribution of households by ownership of toilet facility at district level.

	Exclusive	Shared	No toilet facility
Malawi	**62.6**	**22.5**	**14.9**
Rural	64.6	19.3	16.1
Rural Ultra poor	63.2	18.6	18.2
Urban	42.5	54.7	2.9
Urban Ultra poor	37.8	58.5	3.7
Northern Region	**64.4**	**25.3**	**10.2**
Chitipa	84.7	14.4	1.0
Karonga	56.0	32.4	11.6
Rumphi	63.3	28.4	8.3
Nkhata Bay	67.5	21.9	10.5
Likoma	40.2	46.7	13.1
Mzimba	63.0	25.0	12.0
Mzuzu city	65.8	29.3	4.8
Central Region	**63.0**	**23.1**	**13.9**
Kasungu	64.8	22.8	12.4
Ntchisi	64.8	16.5	18.7
Dowa	55.2	22.2	22.6
Nkhotakota	62.6	33.8	3.7
Mchinji	45.7	28.0	26.3
Lilongwe rural	66.8	20.6	12.6
Salima	67.2	18.5	14.3
Dedza	79.6	6.0	14.4
Ntcheu	73.2	9.3	17.6
Lilongwe city	34.2	64.8	0.9
Southern Region	**61.8**	**21.5**	**16.7**
Balaka	66.3	17.0	16.7
Machinga	71.2	12.2	16.6
Mangochi	79.2	7.9	12.9
Zomba rural	72.9	14.7	12.4
Chiradzulu	64.4	20.9	14.7
Blantyre rural	65.0	19.2	15.8
Mulanje	64.9	24.8	10.2
Thyolo	60.1	26.9	13.0
Phalombe	67.9	17.8	14.3
Mwanza	48.6	18.9	32.4
Chikwawa	29.6	29.1	41.3
Nsanje	25.3	19.8	54.9
Blantyre city	45.6	49.9	4.4
Zomba municipality	63.0	36.4	0.6

7.7 Main Sources of Fuel

7.7.1 Fuel for Cooking

The results of the survey show that most of the households in Malawi (about 98 percent) used firewood or charcoal as a main source of fuel used for cooking. In rural areas almost all were using firewood/charcoal and less than 1 percent of the households were using electricity or paraffin. In urban areas, though most of them were using firewood, about 10 percent were using electricity as their main source of fuel for cooking (Table 7.8).

At regional level, about 98, 96 and 91 percent used firewood in Northern, Central and Southern Regions respectively. About 1 percent in the Northern Region, 3 percent in the Central Region and about 6 percent in the Southern Region used charcoal for cooking.

Table 7.8: Percentage distribution of households by type of main source of fuel used for cooking by background characteristics of household head at district level.

	Fuel used for cooking				
	Firewood	Charcoal	Paraffin	Electricity	Other
Malawi	**93.9**	**4.1**	**0.2**	**1.1**	**0.7**
Rural	98.4	0.6	0.0	0.2	0.7
Rural Ultra poor	99.2	0.1	-	-	0.7
Urban	48.5	39.3	1.4	9.7	1.1
Urban Ultra poor	64.7	32.9	0.3	1.1	1.0
Northern Region	98.3	1.2	0.1	0.4	0.0
Central Region	95.6	3.0	0.3	0.5	0.6
Southern Region	91.4	5.7	0.1	1.7	1.0
Socio-economic sector					
Public	76.5	14.9	0.5	6.9	1.2
Private formal	82.3	12.7	1.0	3.3	0.7
Private informal	88.7	8.9	0.5	1.1	0.8
Subsistence Agriculture	99.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8
Self Employed / Other	87.7	10.5	0.1	1.6	0.1
Unemployed	95.1	3.5	0.1	0.8	0.5
Other	100.0	-	-	-	-
Sex					
Male	93.1	4.8	0.2	1.2	0.6
Female	95.9	2.2	0.0	0.8	1.0

7.7.2 Fuel for Lighting

About 88 percent of the households used paraffin as their main source of lighting. Less than 5 percent used electricity as a source of lighting. About 5 percent used grass However, in urban areas, about 34 percent were using electricity, though among the urban ultra poor only about 12 percent were using electricity as their main source of fuel for lighting (Table 7.9)

Table 7.9: Percentage distribution of households by main source of fuel used for lighting by background characteristics of household head at regional level.

	Fuel used for lighting					
	Paraffin	Electricity	Grass	Candles	Firewood	Others
Malawi	**87.5**	**4.4**	**4.9**	**0.7**	**2.2**	**0.3**
Rural	90.3	1.4	5.3	0.3	2.4	0.3
Rural Ultra poor	88.7	0.8	7.5	0.1	2.9	0.1
Urban	60.4	33.6	0.2	5.6	0.1	0.1
Urban Ultra poor	81.2	11.5	0.3	6.7	0.1	0.2
Region						
Northern Region	91.9	3.7	1.9	0.4	1.7	0.3
Central Region	86.8	3.1	7.1	1.0	1.7	0.2
Southern Region	87.1	5.6	3.7	0.6	2.6	0.4
Socio-economic sector	74.2	22.6	0.8	1.3	0.2	0.9
Public	82.4	14.3	1.0	1.6	0.7	-
Private formal	86.4	5.3	3.8	2.2	1.7	0.6
Private informal	90.0	0.2	6.6	0.2	2.7	0.2
Subsistence Agriculture	87.3	7.7	1.1	2.6	1.2	-
Self Employed	87.1	3.6	5.4	0.1	3.1	0.7
Unemployed	91.5	-	8.5	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sex						
Male	89.0	5.1	3.5	0.8	1.4	0.2
Female	83.3	2.4	8.8	0.5	4.4	0.5

(-) Insufficient number of households

7.8 Ownership of Assets

Information on ownership of durable goods/property was also collected. These items included iron, sewing machines, fridges, TV, radios, watches or clocks, stoves and beds.

About 2 percent of the households in Malawi owned either a car or a motorcycle. A larger proportion (about 35 percent) of households owned a bicycle. A substantial proportion of people in rural areas (about 36 percent) owned bicycles, as compared to the urban areas (29 percent). Almost none of the ultra poor households owned a car or motorcycle in both the urban and rural areas (Table 7.10).

The results reveal that over half of the households in Malawi (about 55 percent) had a radio. Among the rural households about 53 percent did have a radio while among the rural ultra poor about 37 percent had a radio. In urban areas about 80 percent of the households had radios. Most of the urban ultra poor also owned a radio. About 61 percent, 52 percent and 57 percent of the households in the Northern Region, Central Region and Southern Region respectively had a radio (Table 7.11).

Less than 3 percent of the households in Malawi had a TV. In urban areas, about a fifth of the households had a TV while in rural areas only about 1 percent owned a TV. About 7 percent of the ultra poor in urban had a TV. In rural areas less than 1 percent of the ultra poor households owned TV.

About 23 percent of the households in Malawi owned an iron while less than 2 percent owned a fridge. About 33 percent of the households in Malawi had a watch or a clock (Table 7.11).

Table 7.10: Percentage distribution of households owning particular assets by background characteristics of head of household at regional level

	House	Car	Motorcycle	Bicycle
Malawi	**84.1**	**1.0**	**0.6**	**34.9**
Rural	88.6	0.7	0.5	35.5
Rural Ultra poor	19.3	-	-	16.6
Urban	39.5	4.8	1.6	29.1
Urban Ultra poor	39.5	-	-	30.1
Northern Region	87.6	0.9	1.2	31.0
Central Region	83.1	0.7	0.2	35.9
Southern Region	84.1	1.3	0.8	35.1

Socio-economic sector				
Public	44.1	2.8	1.9	51.1
Private formal	55.8	2.3	1.1	40.8
Private informal	71.3	1.1	0.4	27.2
Subsistence Agriculture	74.1	0.3	0.2	25.4
Self Employed	61.0	2.1	1.3	35.6
Unemployed	76.5	0.6	0.7	22.3
Other	70.8	-	-	29.2
Sex				
Male	64.7	0.9	0.6	33.7
Female	87.0	0.6	0.2	12.2

Table 7.11: Percentage distribution of households by selected household items owned and background

	Iron	Sewing Machine	Fridge	Television	Radio	Watch or Clock	Modern Stove	Bed
Malawi	**23.4**	**3.7**	**1.9**	**3.0**	**55.2**	**33.1**	**4.8**	**30.0**
Rural	19.9	3.2	0.7	1.2	52.6	29.3	2.6	26.0
Rural Ultra poor	10.0	1.1	-	0.5	36.4	15.4	0.3	6.1
Urban	58.1	8.5	13.3	20.2	80.4	71.0	27.1	69.2
Urban Ultra poor	47.4	5.1	0.1	6.8	74.0	62.1	14.2	51.7
Northern Region	30.6	4.5	1.9	2.6	60.9	47.3	2.7	49.2
Central Region	22.4	3.1	1.3	2.8	51.5	32.1	5.4	24.6
Southern Region	22.6	3.9	2.4	3.2	56.9	30.8	4.8	30.1
Socio-economic sector								
Public	23.3	3.5	3.9	6.8	34.3	29.1	8.8	27.8
Private formal	18.1	2.3	2.1	3.3	39.7	29.2	6.8	24.3
Private informal	17.7	4.0	1.6	2.1	44.4	27.5	4.4	23.7
Subsistence Agriculture	17.6	2.7	0.3	0.6	51.7	24.8	1.2	22.3
Self Employed	20.7	3.4	2.3	3.2	39.8	29.5	4.9	25.7
Unemployed	19.1	3.3	2.0	2.3	43.0	25.1	3.3	28.7
Other	17.5	1.6	-	-	54.2	27.2	1.6	17.0
Sex								
Male	18.5	3.0	1.5	2.3	45.5	27.5	3.9	23.0
Female	21.8	2.8	2.0	2.9	40.8	23.3	3.9	32.0

7.9 Proximity to Health Facility

Any modern health facility (e.g. hospital, dispensary, health centre) was included in the definition of health facility. However, drug stores or traditional healers were not included. The results show that almost three quarters of the households in Malawi took over 30 minutes to reach the nearest health facility. That is, only about 19 percent of the households in Malawi had access to a health facility. There is no big variation among the regions (Table 7.12). However, in Northern Region about 83 percent of the households lived more than 30 minutes of travel away from a health facility compared with 80 and 82 percent in Central and Southern Regions respectively.

Table 7.12: Percentage distribution of households by time taken to reach nearest health facility at district level

	Time (minutes)				
	< 15	**15 to 29**	**30 to 44**	**45 to 59**	**60+**
Malawi	**8.6**	**10.0**	**12.5**	**10.6**	**58.4**
Rural	7.0	8.5	12.1	10.8	61.7
Rural Ultra poor	6.9	7.8	12.4	10.1	62.8
Urban	24.8	25.1	16.7	8.4	25.0
Urban Ultra poor	19.3	24.1	16.6	10.2	29.9
Northern Region	**6.5**	**10.6**	**11.6**	**7.2**	**64.1**
Chitipa	8.2	18.0	12.4	8.9	52.6
Karonga	4.2	12.4	13.3	10.5	59.7
Rumphi	6.2	9.4	10.2	5.4	68.9

Nkhata Bay	4.4	9.2	12.4	8.5	65.5
Likoma	20.5	21.8	15.3	12.6	29.7
Mzimba	5.6	8.5	10.2	6.1	69.6
Mzuzu city	28.8	21.3	23.0	6.8	20.1
Central Region	**9.0**	**10.7**	**13.4**	**10.4**	**56.5**
Kasungu	7.7	10.1	12.6	9.9	59.6
Ntchisi	6.7	10.7	15.0	9.6	58.0
Dowa	7.5	6.0	11.3	14.4	60.8
Nkhotakota	29.0	14.4	8.5	8.0	40.1
Mchinji	4.6	4.7	7.8	6.0	76.9
Lilongwe rural	5.9	10.7	13.4	9.9	60.2
Salima	16.1	8.3	17.0	13.7	45.0
Dedza	3.3	6.0	13.1	12.7	64.9
Ntcheu	7.0	8.2	15.3	12.4	57.2
Lilongwe city	22.3	29.0	19.5	7.4	21.9
Southern Region	**8.8**	**9.3**	**11.9**	**11.5**	**58.6**
Balaka	0.3	5.4	6.9	14.6	72.9
Machinga	7.7	1.9	6.5	11.6	72.3
Mangochi	6.1	4.7	13.8	15.5	60.0
Zomba rural	6.2	7.0	12.1	19.4	55.3
Chiradzulu	1.6	13.9	23.1	7.3	54.2
Blantyre rural	6.6	10.4	8.8	7.0	67.2
Mulanje	1.6	5.4	11.8	11.1	70.1
Thyolo	3.7	8.5	12.1	9.4	66.3
Phalombe	10.5	8.8	16.6	9.4	54.7
Mwanza	4.0	12.0	9.3	12.3	62.4
Chikwawa	35.3	10.6	7.7	8.4	38.0
Nsanje	8.0	10.4	11.5	8.9	61.3
Blantyre city	27.2	21.0	13.1	9.5	29.3
Zomba municipality	15.5	41.6	25.7	8.8	8.4

7.10 Proximity to Primary and Secondary School

Generally, the results show that over half of the households (around 60 percent) in Malawi had access to a primary school. In urban areas around four fifths of the households had access to a primary school while in rural areas around 58 percent of the households had access (Tables 7.13).

Number of households who had access to a secondary school was much smaller. In Malawi about 18 percent of the households had access to a secondary school. Over 85 percent in rural areas took for more than 30 minutes to reach a secondary school. In urban areas around 45 percent of the households took 30 minutes or more to reach the nearest secondary school.

Table 7.13: Percentage distribution of households by time taken to reach nearest school by background characteristics of head of household at district level.

	Primary School					Secondary School				
	Time (minutes)					Time (minutes)				
	< 15	15 - 29	30 – 44	45 – 59	60+	< 15	15 - 29	30 - 44	45 - 59	60+
Malawi	**29.1**	**31.0**	**22.4**	**7.8**	**9.7**	**7.3**	**10.6**	**14.3**	**12.1**	**55.7**
Rural	27.3	30.7	23.1	8.3	10.6	5.2	8.9	13.8	12.2	60.0
Rural Ultra poor	25.5	29.6	24.8	7.6	12.5	5.6	8.2	13.3	12.3	60.7
Urban	47.3	33.4	15.5	2.8	1.0	28.8	27.3	19.7	11.6	12.6
Urban Ultra poor	40.6	36.9	17.2	3.4	1.8	25.4	27.0	21.5	12.8	13.2
Northern Region	**29.4**	**30.3**	**21.3**	**6.3**	**12.7**	**4.5**	**7.4**	**11.3**	**7.3**	**69.5**
Chitipa	32.0	22.7	16.9	8.6	19.8	5.4	16.1	15.2	6.6	56.7
Karonga	17.1	29.3	24.4	8.7	20.5	1.0	7.8	8.5	9.8	72.8
Rumphi	31.8	29.8	23.0	3.0	12.4	1.0	6.8	7.1	5.9	79.3
Nkhata Bay	29.9	31.9	25.0	4.6	8.7	7.5	4.1	11.3	4.6	72.5
Likoma	17.5	46.9	14.2	14.5	6.9	3.8	4.1	22.8	14.9	54.4
Mzimba	30.7	30.8	20.8	6.5	11.2	4.8	5.4	10.5	7.2	72.1
Mzuzu city	44.5	38.3	13.9	1.1	2.2	10.3	25.1	28.9	11.3	24.4
Central Region	**28.1**	**31.9**	**23.6**	**6.8**	**9.6**	**7.7**	**12.0**	**15.7**	**13.0**	**51.5**
Kasungu	26.3	24.5	25.0	6.7	17.5	5.9	9.2	15.4	16.3	53.3
Ntchisi	26.5	30.7	17.9	3.1	21.9	4.1	5.9	5.4	16.4	68.2
Dowa	25.4	30.2	23.5	5.3	15.6	6.2	4.8	10.8	16.2	62.0
Nkhotakota	52.9	25.4	9.2	2.9	9.6	15.1	17.0	12.5	10.7	44.7
Mchinji	31.6	26.7	22.5	8.9	10.2	8.7	7.4	12.5	9.7	61.7
Lilongwe rural	24.4	35.9	27.2	5.3	7.2	5.1	15.0	20.0	14.1	45.8
Salima	37.7	27.9	15.7	8.9	9.8	6.7	11.5	21.9	10.1	49.7
Dedza	15.8	29.9	31.7	13.1	9.6	0.0	1.1	7.8	11.9	79.2
Ntcheu	24.1	31.7	23.7	10.5	10.0	5.6	10.9	12.7	12.7	58.1
Lilongwe city	44.7	39.7	13.8	0.4	1.3	28.4	28.3	22.9	10.5	10.0
Southern Region	**29.9**	**30.3**	**21.6**	**9.0**	**9.1**	**7.6**	**10.1**	**13.8**	**12.5**	**55.9**
Balaka	17.8	48.9	23.8	4.8	4.7	3.4	7.8	8.9	17.1	62.7
Machinga	25.9	38.1	20.9	7.8	7.3	4.4	5.7	5.9	9.5	74.6
Mangochi	27.1	28.2	25.4	10.9	8.5	4.5	5.7	11.4	11.0	67.5
Zomba rural	23.3	35.3	22.2	11.3	7.9	2.7	5.3	16.2	21.6	54.2
Chiradzulu	24.1	30.9	33.7	5.9	5.4	6.4	15.5	22.4	11.8	43.9
Blantyre rural	40.0	27.9	16.8	7.0	8.3	10.2	9.7	15.0	9.3	55.8
Mulanje	24.8	26.8	27.8	12.8	7.8	0.8	9.3	14.9	16.2	58.8
Thyolo	12.0	23.9	28.5	14.1	21.4	1.2	7.3	16.3	12.6	62.7
Phalombe	24.2	30.4	23.6	10.4	11.4	8.1	14.1	15.4	7.4	54.9
Mwanza	27.6	32.4	16.0	8.2	15.9	3.4	7.4	7.2	8.7	73.3
Chikwawa	58.0	22.2	8.0	4.1	7.7	13.1	9.9	9.8	7.1	60.1
Nsanje	36.3	27.3	10.2	9.1	17.2	6.3	8.4	11.2	6.2	67.8
Blantyre city	48.4	27.8	17.9	5.2	0.7	29.8	26.3	16.7	12.9	14.3
Zomba municipality	63.7	30.6	4.5	1.3	0.0	41.1	33.6	12.6	8.8	3.9
Socio-economic sector										
Public	48.0	24.9	17.5	4.4	5.2	16.8	17.4	16.8	11.6	37.4
Private formal	35.0	31.7	19.4	7.9	6.1	15.4	15.7	18.3	12.8	37.9
Private informal	31.4	30.2	22.3	8.5	7.6	9.4	10.8	14.8	15.9	49.1
Subsistence Agriculture	25.6	31.3	24.5	8.1	10.5	4.3	7.9	13.0	12.4	62.4
Self Employed	33.6	33.6	18.4	5.0	9.3	11.4	17.4	17.5	8.5	45.3
Unemployed	25.7	29.3	19.8	11.7	13.5	5.4	10.3	12.5	12.0	59.7

Other	32.5	40.8	15.9	3.4	7.3	13.1	2.2	8.5	15.9	60.3
Sex										
Male	29.8	31.1	21.9	7.5	9.7	7.6	11.0	14.5	11.9	54.9
Female	27.3	30.5	23.8	8.7	9.7	6.5	9.3	13.6	12.8	57.8