



Embassy of Iceland
Lilongwe



Strengthening human rights-based interventions

with a focus on gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment in Malawi

Implementing partner: Malawi Human Rights Commission

Programme period: December 2022 to December 2025

Budget: \$324.000 USD

Location: National level

Summary: The Malawi Human Rights Commission holds the responsibility of enforcing the Gender Equality Act (GEA), where its primary mandate is to promote gender equality, equal integration, influence, empowerment, dignity and opportunity for men and women in all functions of society. However, the MHRC has faced critical financial gaps that have impeded its work. This project aims to provide financial resources and logistical support, facilitating mobility to hard-to-reach areas in Malawi, ensuring the Commission is able to carry out its mandate.

Since receiving support from Iceland:

- MHRC has handled 33 cases encompassing sexual harassment, sex discrimination, and gender-based violence, with successful resolution of 17 cases.
- MHRC has strengthened the gender and youth technical working groups at the District Councils, establishing efficient referral pathways for cases of sex discrimination.
- MHRC has developed information, education and communication materials, including multilingual audio jingles, to advance awareness on sex discrimination in Chichewa, English, and Chiyao languages.
- MHRC has participated in global conferences, notably presenting a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the 86th session of the CEDAW. The report highlights the necessity for a comprehensive review of the Gender Equality Act and increased funding to address challenges faced by vulnerable groups, such as women with disabilities, refugee women, and the elderly.

