

NORGLOBAL - 233917/H30

Tittel	Democratisation, Political Participation, and Gender in Malawi
Prosjektansvarlig	CHR MICHELSENS INSTITUTT FOR VIDENSKAP OG ÅNDSFRIHET
Prosjektleder	Inge Amundsen
Prosjektperiode	01.01.14 - 31.12.16

År	Søkt beløp	Bevilgning fra Norges forskningsråd
2014	1 462 000	1 462 000
2015	1 524 000	1 524 000
2016	1 482 000	1 482 000
Sum:	4 468 000	4 468 000

Målsetning

The primary project objective is to better understand what promotes women's participation in politics in Malawi, and the possible effects of women's participation in different political arenas. The goal is to produce new knowledge on the situation of female representation in politics in Malawi, in terms of descriptive, substantive and symbolic representation in the arenas of the executive, parliament, and political parties.

Secondary objectives are

- to disseminate knowledge about the obstacles to (and virtues of) women participation and representation in politics in Malawi, for the sake of improving democracy and governance
- to strengthen the research capacity on gender and politics in Norway and Malawi.

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Prosjektsammendrag

This project is motivated by the need to better understand what promotes women's participation in politics and the possible effects of women's participation in different political arenas.

The challenge to women participation in Malawi is the oscillating process of democratisation. The country experienced a substantial process of democratisation when multiparty elections were introduced in 2003-04, but the country has later experienced significant pressures in the direction of presidentialism, limited political competition, weakened checks and balances, and reduced accountability.

What are the obstacles to and prospects for women's increased political involvement in Malawi? The project proposes to investigate the impact of three forms of representation, within three 'arenas' where politics is played out. We will present the numbers and analyse the trends and patterns of women representation; we will examine how female representation affects the policy process and outcomes; and we will study the attitudes towards women in the public sphere. This will be done in the three political arenas of executive/government, parliament/legislature, and within the political parties.

While the point of departure for undertaking this study is firmly anchored in the Malawian empirical context, the research is also motivated by the broader trends in the scholarship on women in politics and an effort to understand the consequences of women's representation by focussing on substantive ('acting for') and symbolic ('role modelling') representation.

The methodology will basically be qualitative, like process-tracing of pro-women legislation and semi-structured interviews with key actors, official documents, reports, evaluations, newspaper articles and secondary literature. Also quantitative techniques like perception surveys will be used to investigate the effect of female representation on attitudes towards gender, and voting patterns in parliament.

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Tittel	The Political Economy of Governance in Malawi
Prosjektansvarlig	CHR MICHELSENS INSTITUTT FOR VIDENSKAP OG ÅNDSFRIHET
Prosjektleder	Arne Tostensen
Prosjektperiode	01.01.14 - 31.12.16

År	Søkt beløp	Bevilgning fra Norges forskningsråd
2014	1 457 000	1 279 000
2015	1 498 000	1 338 000
2016	1 542 000	1 383 000
Sum:	4 497 000	4 000 000

Målsetning

The primary objective of the project is to produce new knowledge on governance and power relations in Malawi, with institutional emphasis on the civil service (central level), traditional authorities (local level) and faith-based organisations (civil society). Cross-cutting concerns such as corruption and gender relations will inform analyses at all levels. The provision and dissemination of new knowledge about Malawi's political economy is expected to contribute to improving governance and enhancing democratic practice.

The secondary objective of the project is partly to contribute to enhanced and increased research capability in Malawi on social and political conditions, and partly to reproduce and strengthen the competence in Norway on Malawian affairs. Reaching this objective will lay the ground for developing further the collaborative research relationship between the Centre for Social Research and the Chr. Michelsen Institute which dates back to 2003.

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Prosjektsammendrag

This 3-year interdisciplinary project (2014-2016) - comprising sociology, political science and social anthropology - intends to contribute to an improved understanding of Malawi's political economy by studying the functioning of three selected institutions as well as their inter-relationships: the civil service at the central level, traditional authorities at the local level, and faith-based organizations in civil society. While emphasizing the interaction between these institutions, separate institutional analyses will be conducted in their own right and as critical inputs to the overall study of the dynamics between them. Beyond the investigations of each institution at its respective level, the analyses will be informed throughout by two cross-cutting thematic concerns: corruption and gender relations.

By applying historical economy as an approach and historical institutionalism as the analytical framework, the overall research questions include: (a) why do recent public sector reforms seem not to have influenced the civil service significantly in a positive vein? (b) which mechanisms explain the resilience and strengthening of traditional authorities? and (c) how do faith-based organizations influence national as well as local politics?

The project is designed in close collaboration between the Centre for Social Research at Chancellor College and the Chr. Michelsen Institute. Data collection, analysis and publication will be undertaken jointly by researchers from both partner institutions. A highly competent reference group will provide regular advice and support throughout the project's duration.

Outputs will include academic articles as well as policy-oriented briefs. Furthermore, dissemination events will be organized for the benefit of aid agencies and Malawian stakeholders in the civil service, traditional authorities and civil society, as well as the general public.