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Malawi Embarks on Transformative Journey to Revamp Poultry Industry through Government-AGRA Partnership

The Government of Malawi, in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Poultry Industry Association of Malawi (PIAM), has launched a groundbreaking initiative known as the Poultry Delivery Lab The two-day event held in Lilongwe aims to restructure Malawi's poultry sector by developing actionable policies, building investor confidence, and promoting sustainable production. The Delivery Lab marks a decisive step away from mere discussions toward measurable transformation in one of the country's most promising agricultural industries.

Dr. Julius Chulu, the Director of Animal Health and Livestock Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, emphasised that the lab is not just another workshop, but a practical platform designed to generate real solutions. "This initiative is about implementation, not theory," he stated. He highlighted that the poultry sector is a key component of Malawi's agricultural development agenda, capable of creating employment, improving nutrition, and increasing income for thousands of smallholder farmers.

Poultry farming in Malawi has seen steady growth, yet the nation's production still lags its full potential. Chicken meat remains the preferred source of animal protein among Malawians, but average annual consumption stands at only 3.16 kilograms per person — far below the recommended nutritional standards. Despite this, Malawians eat more chicken per capita than citizens of Kenya, a nation with a much higher GDP. This demonstrates the strong domestic demand for poultry products and the sector's untapped potential if barriers are addressed.

A comprehensive value chain study revealed that Malawi could increase poultry production from 83,000 tonnes in 2024 to nearly 130,000 tonnes by 2030 — representing a 48,000-tonne growth opportunity. This expansion could positively impact over 450,000 rural households by linking smallholder farmers to structured value chains that include maize and soybean growers, feed manufacturers, and processors. Such integration could stimulate job creation, enhance rural incomes, and boost national food security.

However, the industry continues to grapple with high production costs, particularly feed expenses, which account for about 77% of total costs. The volatility of maize and soybean prices has made poultry farming financially risky for many small-scale producers. A cost comparison study shows that a Malawian consumer must spend 3.51% of their per capita GDP to buy 10 kilograms of chicken, compared to only 0.24% in South Africa. Dr. Chulu described this disparity as a "stark reminder of inequality in regional competitiveness"

Malawi's poultry industry also faces missed export opportunities. Neighbouring Mozambique, for instance, imports over 30,000 tonnes of poultry annually from South Africa and South America, yet Malawi — due to logistical inefficiencies and policy barriers — has not penetrated this lucrative market. The Delivery Lab seeks to change this by identifying ways to make Malawian poultry products more competitive regionally.

The Delivery Lab has set five core objectives establishing a shared national vision for poultry growth, designing a reform roadmap, developing an accountability framework, implementing a monitoring system, and ensuring strong commitments from both government and private stakeholders. Policy discussions at the Lab focused on revising taxes on soybean cake, reviewing farm-gate price controls, and introducing export facilitation measures through public-private partnerships. These reforms align with the Second Agricultural Productivity Programme (SAPP II), which seeks to promote agribusiness and climate-resilient farming.

AGRA's Country Representative, Chipo Kachiwala, applauded Malawi's bold initiative, describing it as a vital step toward unlocking the sector's potential. She noted that poultry farming is among the fastest-growing agricultural value chains in Africa, with immense capacity to lift families out of poverty. "Our goal is to build a resilient and inclusive agri-food system that empowers farmers, strengthens industries, and drives national development," she said.

Malawi's progress will be showcased later this year at the *Pouttry Futures Forum 2025* in Lusaka, Zambia, where regional leaders will share strategies and commitments to transform *Africa*'s poultry sector. With renewed focus, collaboration, and accountability, Malawi's poultry industry is now poised to take flight—ushering in a newera of growth, innovation, and food security.

https://poultrynews.africa/index.php/2025/11/12/malawi-embarks-on-transformative-journey-to-revamp-poultry-industry-through-government-agra-partnership/



Young Women in Malawi Transform Lives
Through Poultry Agribusiness and Education

In rural Malawi, a quiet but powerful revolution is taking place—one driven by the clucking of chickens and the determination of young women who refuse to be defined by their past. Teen mothers, many of whom once dropped out of school due to early pregnancies and poverty, are now finding renewed hope and independence through poultry farming. This transformation is being made possible by a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Government of Malawi, with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).



The initiative, known as the "Action for Teen Mothers and Adolescent Girls and Boys" project, was launched to empower adolescent girls and young mothers by equipping them with practical agricultural and business skills. Running between 2021 and 2024, the programme integrates agribusiness training, education, and reproductive health awareness to tackle three major challenges that hinder youth development in Malawi: early motherhood, unemployment, and school dropout. Through this initiative, hundreds of teenage mothers have been trained in poultry farming—a sector that provides both quick financial returns and long-term stability.

Among the success stories is 18-year-old Kherena Medson, a resident of Katopola Village in Mchinji District. After becoming a mother at a young age, Kherena thought her dreams of education had come to an end. However, her life took a new turn when she joined the Tinaliyani Junior Farmer Field and Life School (JFFLS), a program supported by FAO under the project. Here, she received extensive training in poultry management, business planning, and marketing. With her group, Kherena received a start-up grant of about USD 4,482, which they used to establish a thriving chicken rearing business. The group focused on egg production, which quickly became a reliable source of income.

Kherena proudly shares that poultry farming has not only allowed her to support her family financially but has also helped her return to school. "We are now able to pay our school fees and meet our daily needs through selling eggs. Poultry farming gave us a new beginning," she says with a smile. The sense of purpose and self-reliance that came from this agribusiness has turned what was once a community challenge into an inspiring success story.

FAO's contribution to the project extended far beyond training. The organization disbursed over USD 170,000 in seed capital to 1,065 young beneficiaries across Malawi, of whom nearly 80 percent were women. Many of these beneficiaries have gone on to start their own small-scale poultry businesses, producing eggs and meat for local markets. The ripple effect of this empowerment is visible not only in individual lives but across communities, as these young women become role models for others.

The poultry projects also serve a nutritional purpose—improving access to affordable protein sources for local households. By encouraging sustainable farming practices, the initiative ensures that participants can continue expanding their enterprises beyond donor support. LNPPA's involvement adds another critical layer—offering reproductive health education and life skills to ensure that the young women can make informed decisions and plan for better futures.

The integration of poultry agribusiness with education and health awareness has proven to be a game-changer. It redefines agriculture as a modern, empowering career path rather than a last resort. Through this model, the partnership addresses both economic empowerment and social reintegration for vulnerable youth, ensuring that no young person is left behind.

As the project continues to inspire new participants, the story of Malawi's teen mothers demonstrates the transformative power of combining agriculture, education, and empowerment. Poultry farming, once seen as a small-scale rural activity, has become a symbol of hope, independence, and resilience. It represents a future where young mothers can dream again, learn again, and build better lives for themselves and their children—one egg at a time.

Source: https://poultrynews.africa/index.php/2025/11/09/young-women-in-malawi-transform-lives-through-poultry-agribusiness-and-education/



As we move closer to the firstive period demand for day old chicks have continued to go up in most outlets. The average price for day old broiler chicks is now trading between KI8 lowest and KI9.50 on the higher side. That can be confirmed from the graph here below. Please take note that this are average prices the actual could be slightly higher or lower depending on the outlet and distance from the hatchery.



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#### DOC PULLETS AND FREE-RANGE CHICKENS PRICES, INCREASES

Prices for village chickens increased from the lowest price of Kl2 obtained in September 2025 to Kl5 lowest in October to the maximum price of Kl9 per day old chick

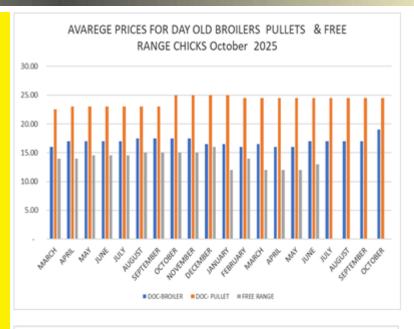
For day old pullets during the month of October the average price was K24.50 per pullet chicks.

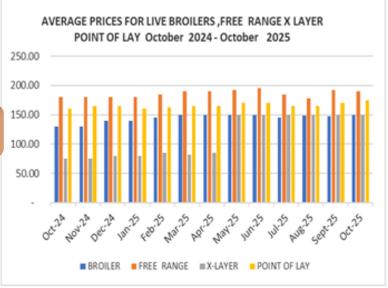
The price for x layers has not recorded any increment from the previous spot price of KIOO last month.

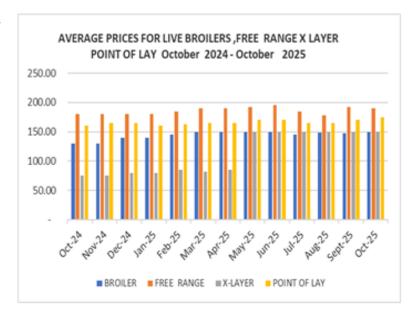
Free range chickens at the open market have not changed the price is slightly above KI45 per bird in terms of average prices.

Live broiler chickens at the open Market have increased from the average price of KI30 last month to about KI50 per bird depending on the size of the chickens and location. It is expected that the price for chickens might go up as move towards Christmas and Newyear.

We assume that the price adjustment could be attributed to the slight increase in the demand for chickens emanating from reduced feed prices. For more details, please refer to the graphs for the day-old chicks, Broilers and processed chickens.









Point of lay chickens have increased from the average price of Kl65 in September to Kl70 to Kl75 per bird. Currently most companies are taking bookings for December and January 2026.

# BROILER FEED PRICES REGISTERED SOME MOVEMENTS

Good news for Broiler and Layer farmers, the price reduction recorded from June, July and August 2025 has been maintained. It can be anticipated that the price for feed may remain the same bearing in mind the bumper harvest recorded during the 2024,2025 farming season. How ever loadshedding is impacting negatively on production of stock feeds. National Average price for starter feeds stands at K650 and Maximum price of K700.

National average for Grower feeds is about K680 highest price and lowest price of K610 cheapest

#### PROCESSED CHICKENS -STABLE

Prices for processed chickens in most supermarkets remained stable during the month of October of October. The demand for processed chickens has been low due to power outages. Consumers are only able to purchase for daily consumption because of the above the price for processed chickens as still between K71 and K74 per kg.

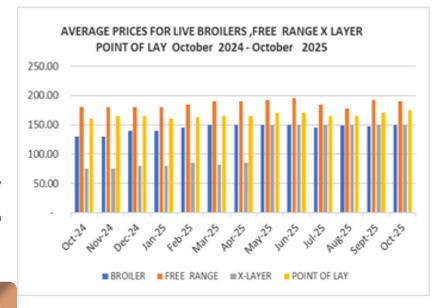
NB: These are Lusaka prices only for

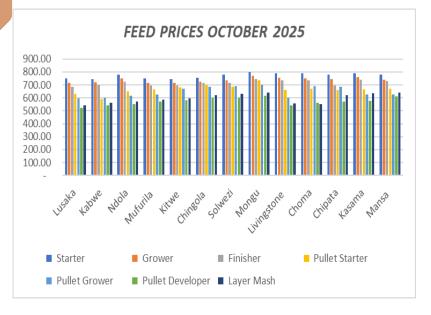
# EGG PRICES REDUCES DURING OCTOBER 2025

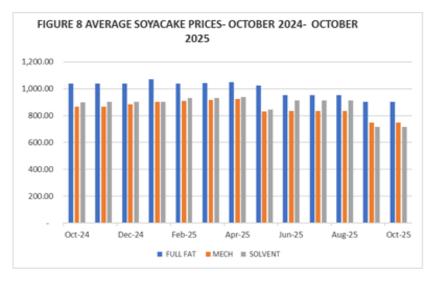
The price for table eggs was on the downward trend during the month of October 2025. Price dropped from as higher as K90 in June to as low as K63 per tray farm gate price. While the price for the retail market dropped to about K74.00 per tray of 30 eggs.

For those compounding their own feeds raw materials are stable and can be sourced from different suppliers. For details, please refer to the figure below for Soyabeans, sunflower cake and number 3 meal.

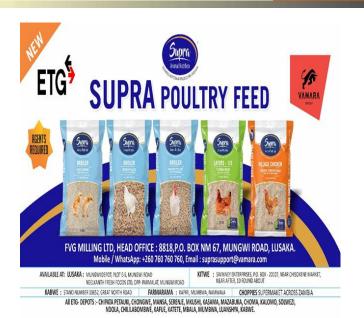
Finisher feed recorded the average lowest price of K600 and K697 the most expensive.













### FIGURE SHOWING MOVEMENTS IN FULL FAT, SOYACAKE



