



Entrepreneurship Ecosystems and Innovation Hubs in Malawi's East African Context

Thambwe Mulenga^{1,2}, Mutharika Chitu², Chirwa Konde^{3,4}

¹ Department of Advanced Studies, Mzuzu University

² University of Malawi

³ Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST)

⁴ Mzuzu University

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Correspondence: tmulenga@gmail.com

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Author notes

Thambwe Mulenga is affiliated with Department of Advanced Studies, Mzuzu University and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Mutharika Chitu is affiliated with University of Malawi and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Chirwa Konde is affiliated with Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and focuses on African Studies research in Africa.

Abstract

Entrepreneurship ecosystems in Malawi's East African context are emerging as critical drivers of economic growth and innovation. Understanding these systems is essential for fostering sustainable development. A mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys with qualitative interviews was employed to gather data from entrepreneurs, policymakers, and industry experts in Malawi's East African region. The survey revealed a need for improved access to financing as the most significant challenge faced by 65% of surveyed entrepreneurs. Additionally, there is a strong interest in establishing more innovation hubs across the country. Despite promising developments, current entrepreneurship ecosystems in Malawi's East African context still face substantial hurdles requiring targeted interventions. Policy makers should prioritise initiatives aimed at enhancing access to finance and infrastructure development for startups. Additionally, government support for innovation hubs is recommended to foster a culture of entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship Ecosystems, Innovation Hubs, Malawi, East Africa, Policy Interventions

Keywords: *African geography, entrepreneurship networks, innovation hubs, small business associations, participatory evaluation, qualitative research methodologies, socio-economic development*

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