Getting Started with the Malawi Atlas

The Malawi Atlas was created to provide everyone access to information about Malawi and the ability to use mapping to better understand it.

Even though some of the maps have been created for you, you can easily create your own maps with the data.

Each Topic has maps and data that are related. Access the Topics in the "Topics and Views" window by clicking on them.

Each map layer can be turned on and off, and its colors can be changed too. When you highlight a map layer by clicking on its name then it becomes the "Active" layer and you can identify features on it and add information to it. (only the green layers can be made active).

Class Rendering (found in the Spreadsheet) enables you to create indicator maps – with districts colour based on their related values in the spreadsheet. Try it out! I've created some for each topic and published them but you can do the same – edit what I created, or do your own analysis.

Query Builder (found in the Spreadsheet) enables you to ask questions of the data and map the result. For example, this map shows districts where there are more than 100 nurses.

Integrate with **Excel** (found in the Spreadsheet) to get even more out of the data – like create charts and graphs based on the data.

Publish your map in **PowerPoint** (found in the Map File menu – Compose Map). In fact, there are many Topics set up already for you with just District outlines so that you can use these in your own documents.

Add data and documents to the map! The Malawi Atlas can be a document management system with the map as the interface to your related information.

The atlas can also be used over a network, with everyone accessing the same documents and analysis. In order to do this, you need the management tool that is also used to create the atlas (called Dynamic Knowledgebase). If you'd like to use Dynamic Knowledgebase and create your own atlas or edit this one, please contact me - Hugh Williams hugh@dynamicplanet.com and visit the Dynamic Planet web site for more information: www.dynamicplanet.com.

Good luck with the atlas and I hope you find it useful. Please let me know if you do, I'd love to hear your success stories!