

# Economic reforms to addressing population impacts on development

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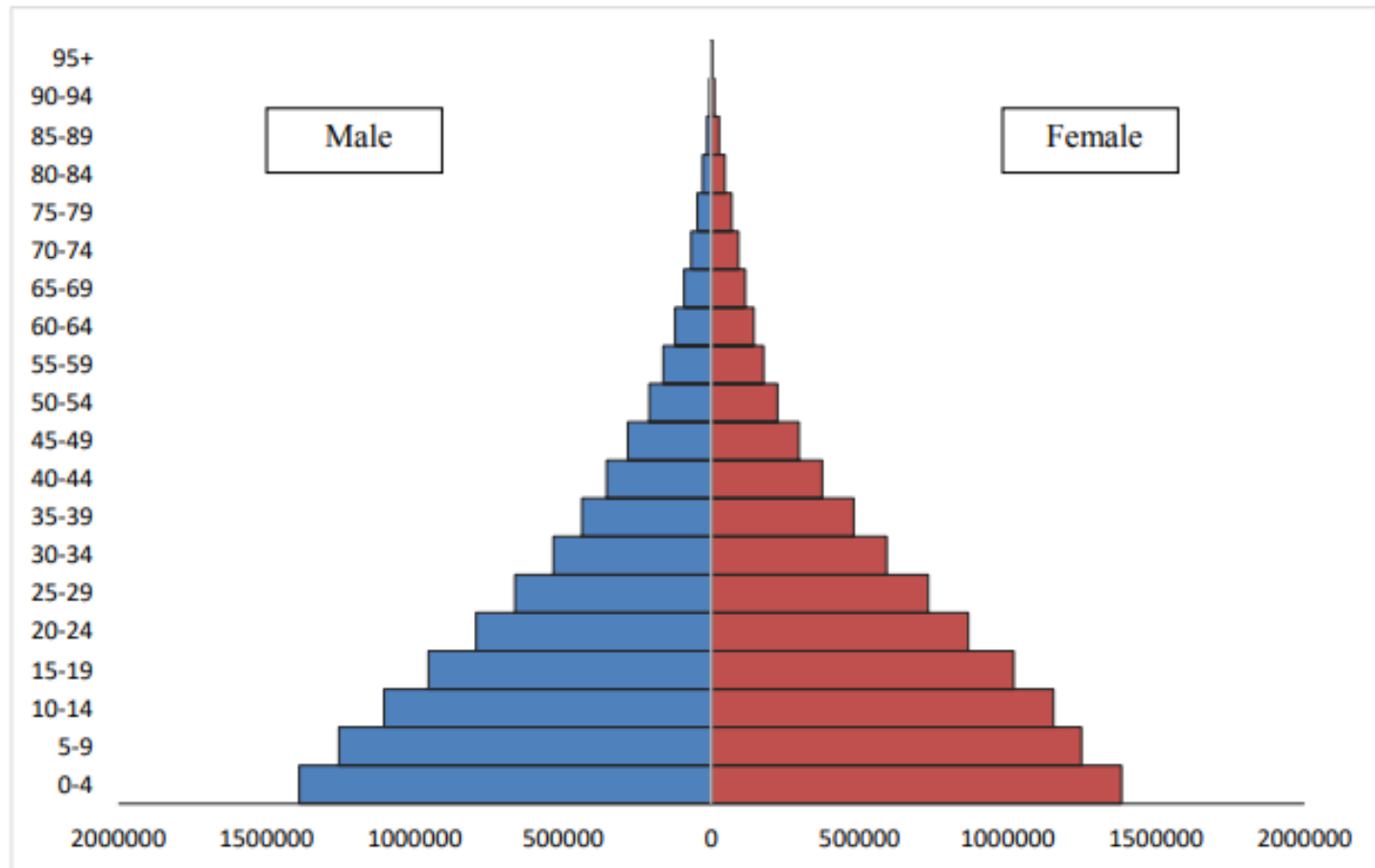
*2020 ECAMA Conference, Mangochi, November 19<sup>th</sup>*

# A country in transformation

- Malawi is undergoing a demographic transition characterised by:
  - Declining fertility: An avg of 4.2 children per woman
  - Infant mortality reduced from 134/1000 to 33/1000 births between 1992-2018
- However:
  - 54% of the country's population is below 18 years
  - High adolescent fertility: about 101 births per 1000 adolescents
  - About 40,000 adolescent pregnancies attributable to the COVID new normal
  - The result is more youth dependents

# A youthful population denotes high dependency

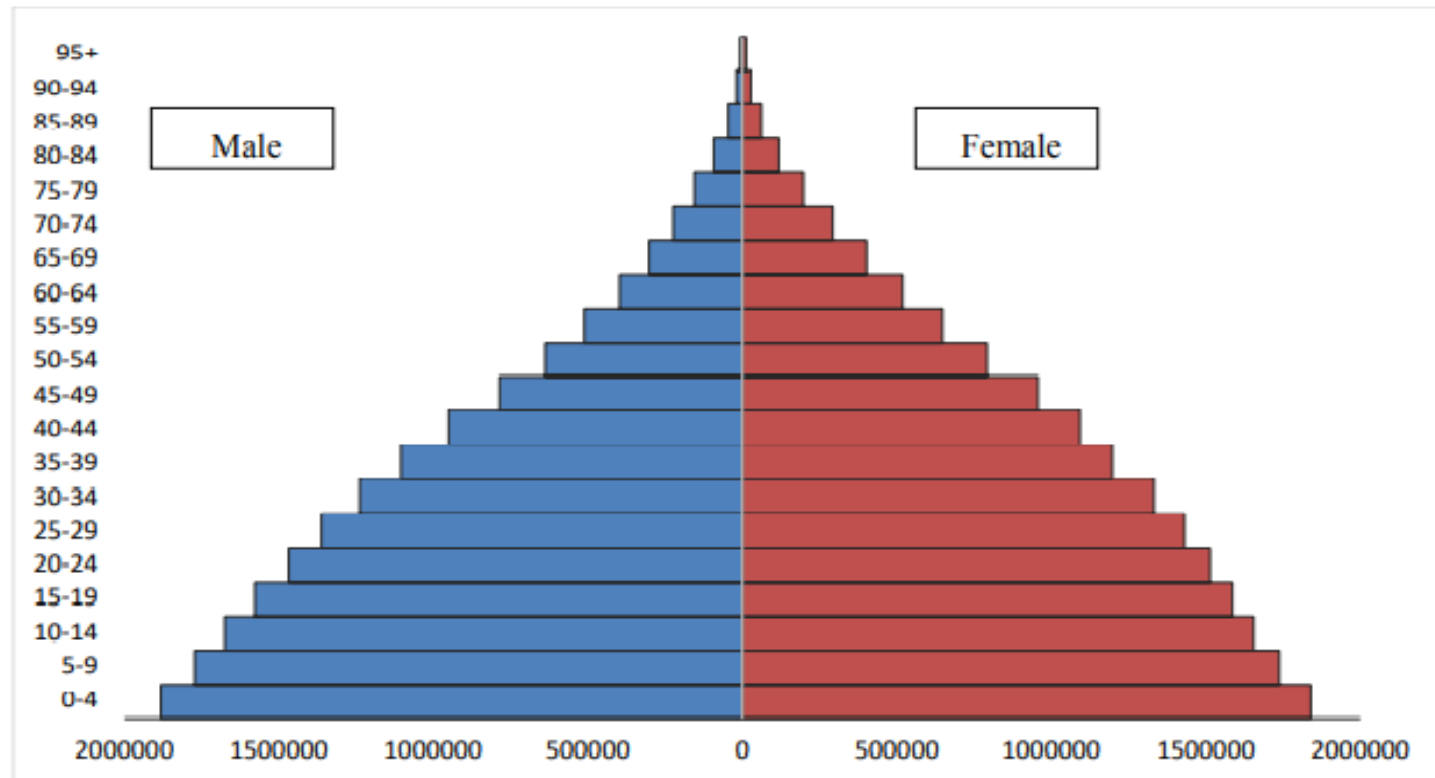
**Malawi Population Pyramid, Malawi 2018**



*Source: Malawi Population and Housing Census 2018*

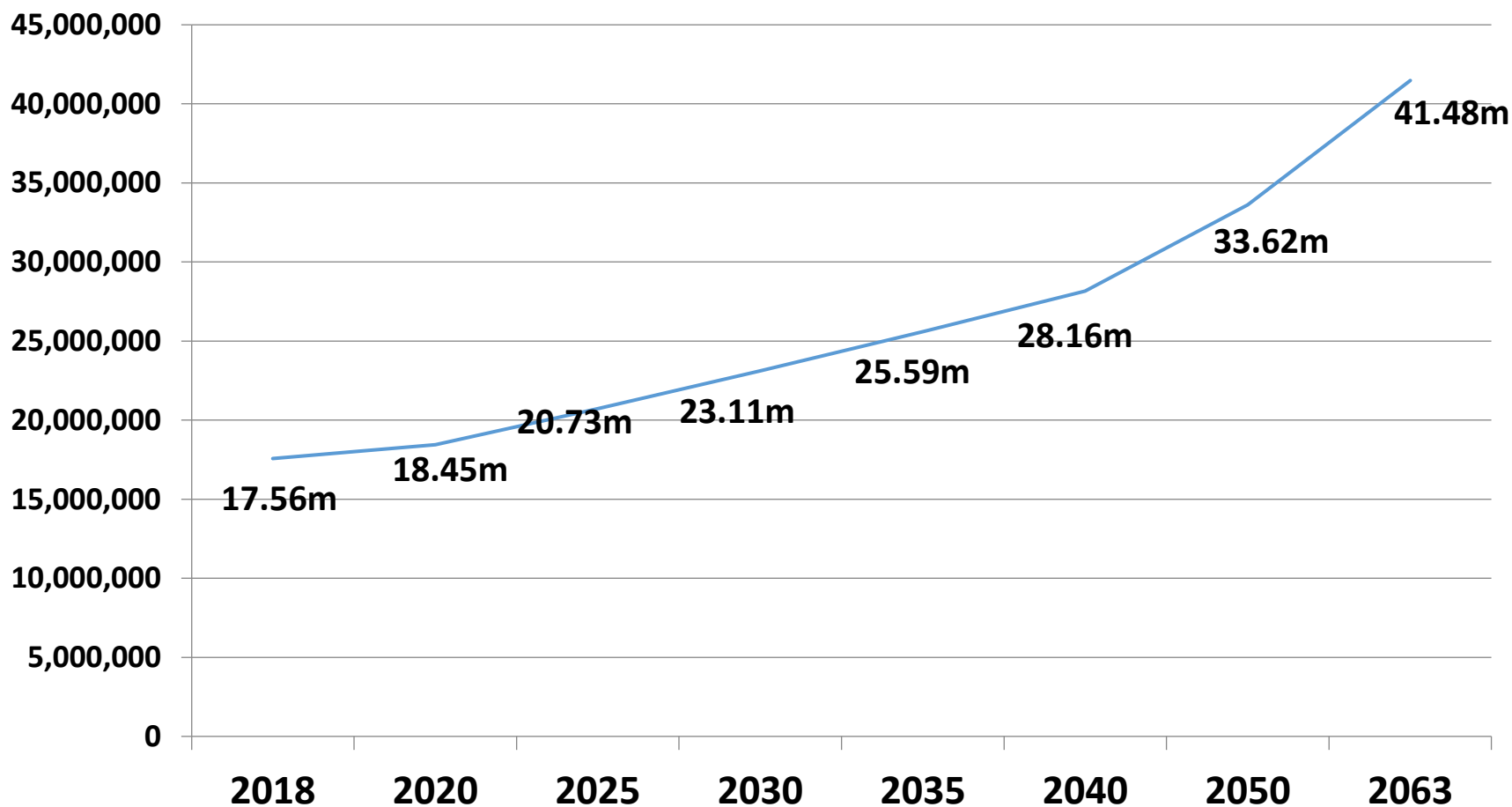
# More working class, and an even more youthful population in 2050

**Malawi Population Pyramid, 2050**



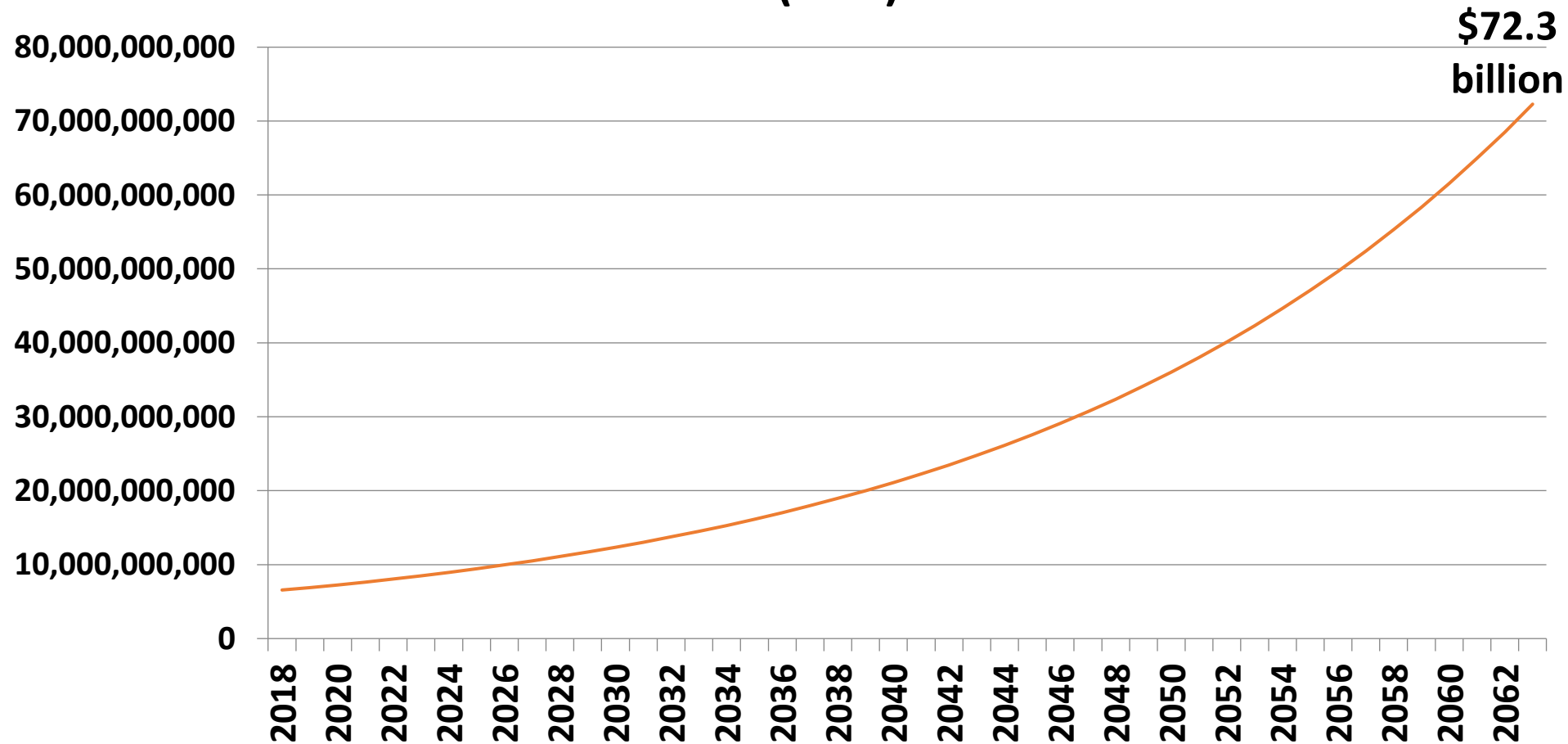
*Source: Malawi Population and Housing Census 2018*

# Population to double before 2063



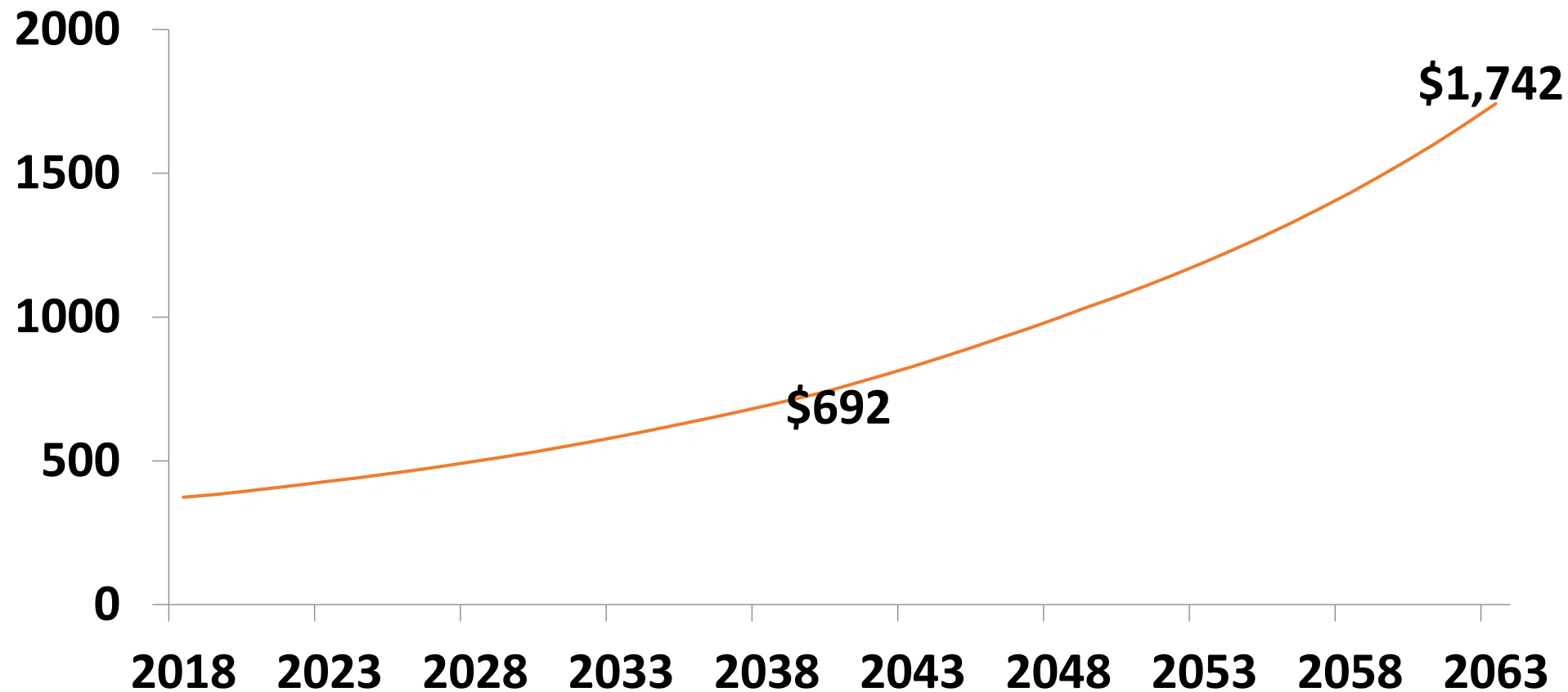
# GDP is set to grow

**GDP (USD)**

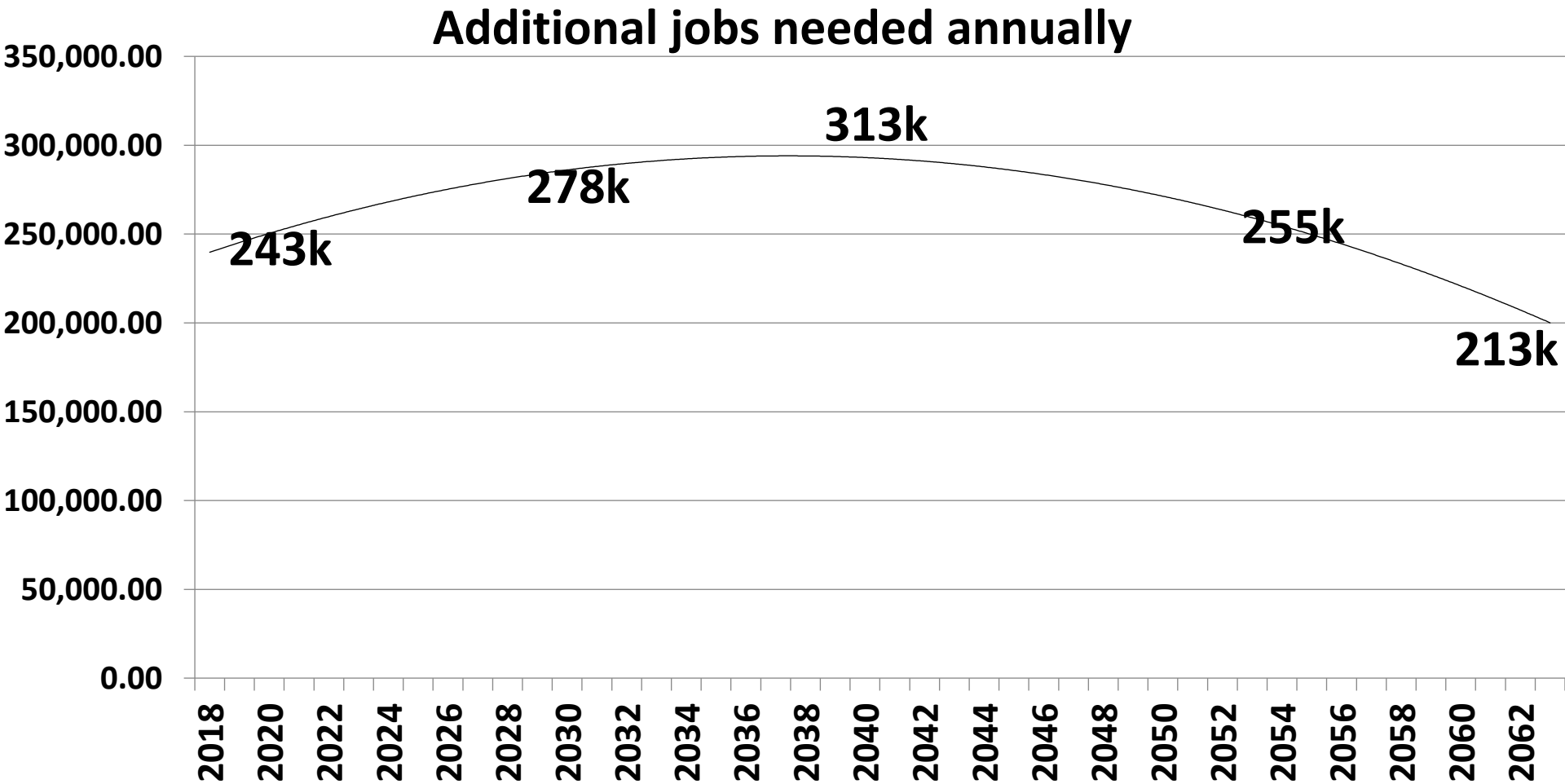


Malawi can transform into a MIC.  
There, however, is a caveat!

### GDP per Capita (USD)

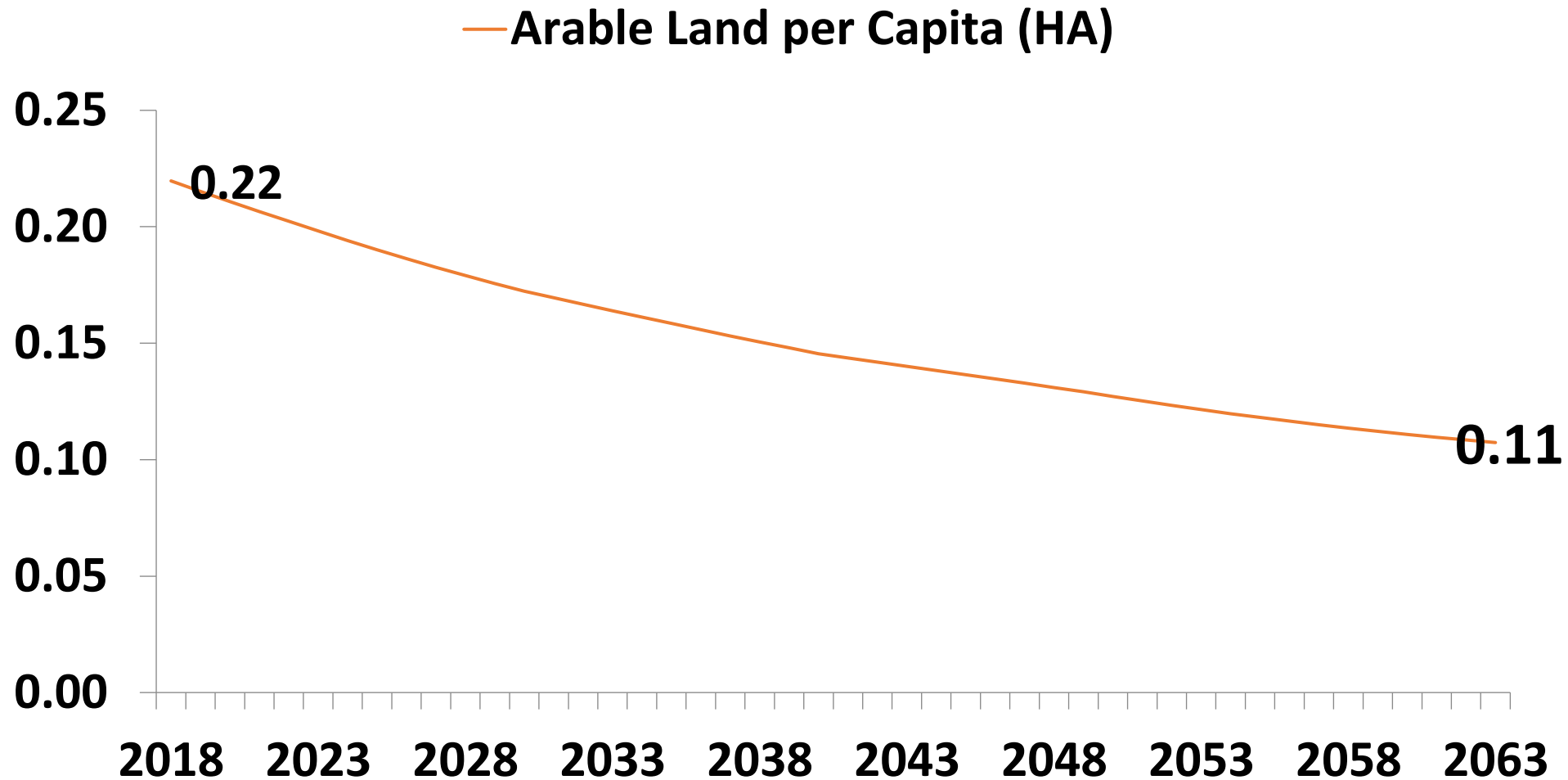


# Annual increases in labour force calls for innovative job creation strategies

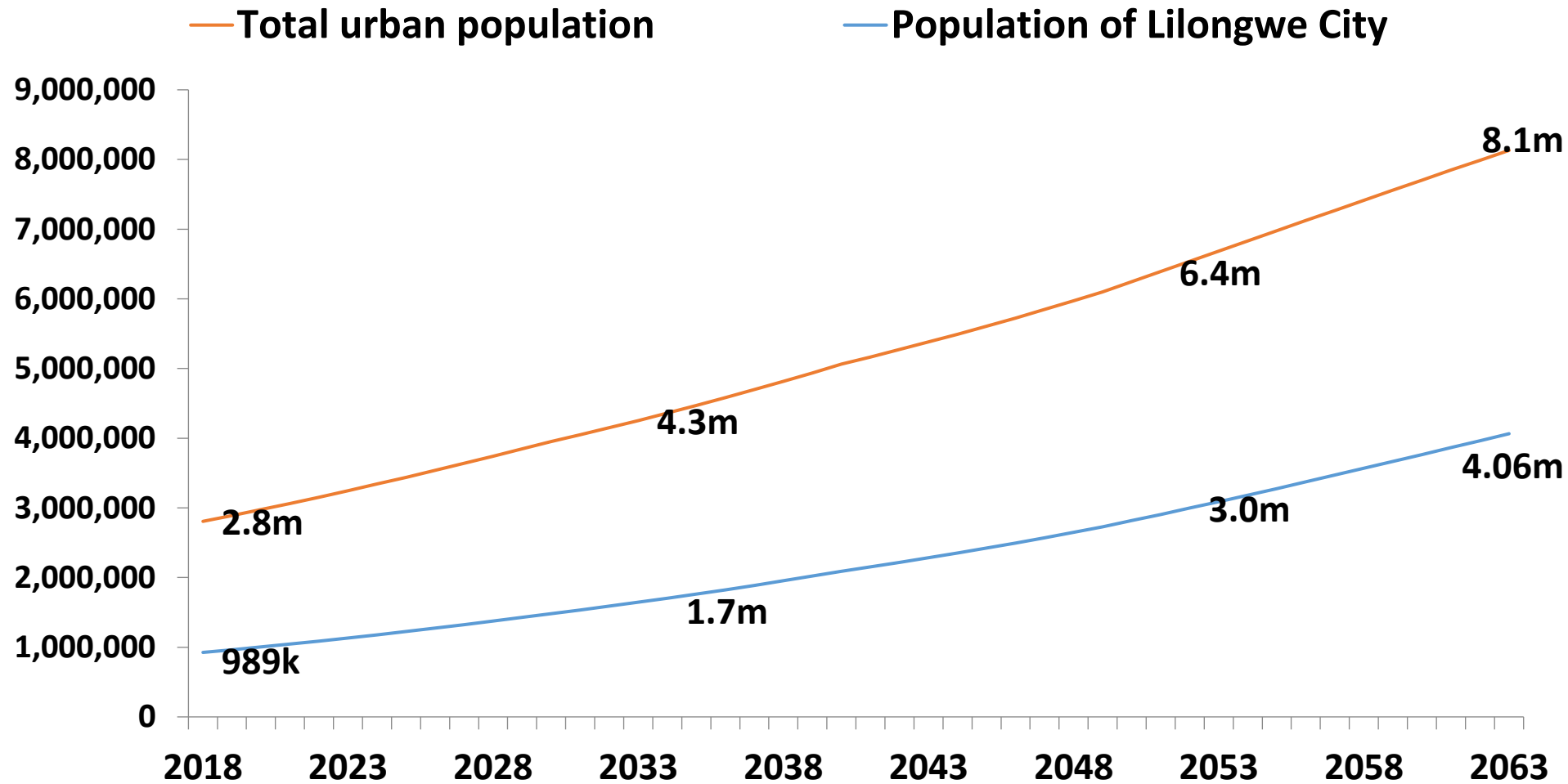




# Less land per capita may lead to lower yield



# Pressure on urban infrastructure and services



# Food for thought!

- Reflect on what economic transformational approaches should we consider to ensure and multi-sectoral population-centred investments?
  - How do we incorporate issues of young people, including their inadequate access to education, SRHR information and services?
  - What transformative approaches can induce job creation for young people?
  - Where best would investments improve agricultural yield and economic diversification?
  - What economic reform approaches can we consider as conduits to fertility decline?