

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Malawi office has collaborated with the Government of Malawi's (GOM) Ministry of Health (MOH) and non-governmental organizations to implement evidence-based, high-impact HIV programs. CDC supports use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for those at high risk of contracting HIV, HIV testing and counseling, prevention of HIV transmission, antiretroviral therapy (ART), and uptake of voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC). In addition, CDC continues to support the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief's (PEPFAR) *Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-Free, Mentored, and Safe* (DREAMS) program to address social factors that put adolescent girls and young women at risk for HIV disease. TB preventive treatment (TPT) scale-up promotes epidemic control by reducing TB incidence among people living with HIV (PLHIV). CDC's strategic focus in Malawi is to collaborate with implementing partners to:

- Build public health capacity and infrastructure, and
- Strengthen surveillance and health information systems

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Building Public Health Capacity and Infrastructure:** According to 2020–2021 Malawi Population Based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA), Malawi has achieved 88-98-97 of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets: 95 percent diagnosed among all PLHIV, 95 percent on ART among those diagnosed, and 95 percent virally suppressed among those treated. CDC supports innovative interventions to optimize case findings, including scale-up of active index testing and piloting outpatient screening tools to reduce testing volume and improve positivity rates. Implementing partners are expanding patient-centered care using data-driven, evidence-based approaches, and identifying and addressing bottlenecks affecting continuity in treatment. In addition, implementing partners are providing psychosocial support, access to comprehensive TB/HIV prevention, care, and treatment services, such as VMMC, PrEP, differentiated service delivery models (e.g., offering 6-month refills, teen clubs, high viral load clinics), and advanced HIV disease services. Continuous quality improvement has recently expanded to include optimizing TPT completion rates.

**Increasing Public Health and Clinical Health Expertise:** CDC supports increasing Malawi's epidemiological capacity through the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP). Since 2016, Malawi's FETP has trained more than 190 frontline health workers over 17 cohorts to respond to health threats. The first intermediate FETP cohort in 2022 trained 12 field epidemiologists. CDC has supported more than 3,000 nurses, clinicians, laboratory staff, data clerks, and lay cadres since 2017.

**Strengthening Laboratory Systems:** CDC supports MOH to establish and maintain quality assured laboratory diagnostic services for HIV, TB, HPV, and other non-communicable diseases. CDC also supports the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) to develop the capacity to prepare for and respond to emerging and re-emerging diseases. To sustain the national quality assurance program, PHIM's reference laboratories are producing specimen genotyping and proficiency panels for TB, HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B tests. CDC continues to assist conventional and point-of-care testing molecular laboratories to achieve 95 percent of HIV viral load coverage and to diagnose all infants that were exposed to HIV. To ensure laboratory services are accessible to clients, CDC supports an integrated sample transportation system covering 790 facilities across all districts. CDC supports 14 conventional molecular laboratories with infrastructure, equipment maintenance, human resources, data management, and biosafety. Laboratories are implementing a quality management system, and as of 2023, nine laboratories achieved international accreditation for HIV viral load testing. CDC has seconded subject matter experts to strengthen MOH's central coordination and monitoring of activities.

**Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems Surveillance:** CDC supports MOH to establish and scale up surveillance systems and programs. These include birth and death registration with cause-of-death reporting, birth defects surveillance in sites to evaluate the association between ART and birth outcomes, HIV drug resistance surveillance, and a recent HIV infection surveillance system now in 27 of Malawi's 28 districts. CDC supported the 2020–2021 Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) to assess progress made in addressing gaps identified in the 2015–2016 survey. In FY 2023, CDC plans to implement key population size estimation, including biological and behavioral surveillance among female sex workers, men who have sex with men, male sex workers, and transgender women.

**Establishing Electronic Monitoring Systems:** CDC has supported the establishment of electronic medical record (EMR) systems at more than 760 HIV treatment sites, which covers all clients on ART in Malawi. The systems aid in the clinical management of HIV clients, supply chain management, and the reporting of the geographical distribution of HIV cases by age and gender. CDC has invested in improving infrastructure to facilitate EMR use and established a support helpdesk to respond to assistance requests.

Key Country Leadership

President:  
Lazarus Chakwera

Minister of Health:  
Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda

U.S. Ambassador:  
David Young

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Kelsey Mirkovic

**Country Quick Facts**  
([worldbank.org/en/where-we-work](http://worldbank.org/en/where-we-work))

Per Capita GNI:  
\$640 (2022)

Population (millions):  
20.4 (2022)

Under 5 Mortality:  
41.9/1,000 live births (2021)

Life Expectancy:  
62.9 years (2021)

**Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic**  
([aidsinfo.unaids.org](http://aidsinfo.unaids.org))

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 7.1% (2022)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 10,000 (2022)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 470,000 (2022)

Reported Number Receiving  
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)  
(Age ≥15): 891,950 (2022)

**Global Tuberculosis  
(TB) Epidemic**  
([worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb\\_profiles/](http://worldhealthorg.shinyapps.io/tb_profiles/))

Estimated TB Incidence:  
132/100,000 population  
(2021)

TB Patients with Known HIV  
Status who are HIV-Positive:  
45% (2021)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
90% (2020)

**DGHT Country Staff: 48**  
Locally Employed Staff: 27  
U.S. Direct Hires: 8  
Fellows & Contractors: 6  
Current Vacancies: 7

Our success is built on the backbone of science and strong partnerships.

September 2023 | The CDC Division of Global HIV & TB activities are implemented as part of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR); non-HIV related TB activities are supported by non-PEPFAR funding

