

## STRATEGIC FOCUS

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Malawi office (CDC-Malawi) has collaborated with the Government of Malawi's (GOM) Ministry of Health (MOH) and non-governmental organizations to implement high-impact HIV and tuberculosis (TB) initiatives. CDC-Malawi 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-Malawi continues to support the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief's *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. Scale-up of TB preventive treatment (TPT) is another key initiative to promote epidemic control by reducing TB incidence among people living with HIV (PLHIV).

CDC-Malawi's strategic focus is to collaborate with implementing partners (IPs), to:

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

## KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Building Public Health Capacity and Infrastructure

*Optimizing the HIV Cascade to Reach Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets:* CDC-Malawi supported sites employ innovative interventions to optimize case finding, including the scale-up of active index testing and piloting outpatient department screening tools to reduce testing volume and improve positivity rates. Implementing partners (IP) are expanding patient-centered care using data-driven, evidence-based approaches, including identifying bottlenecks affecting continuity in treatment and providing psychosocial support. Additional approaches aim to increase access to both comprehensive TB/HIV prevention and care and treatment services, such as VMMC, PrEP, and differentiated service delivery models (e.g., offering refills for six months and advanced HIV disease services).

**Increasing Public Health and Clinical Health Expertise:** CDC-Malawi supports increasing Malawi's epidemiological capacity via the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP), which focuses on training front-line healthcare workers to respond to health threats. During 2021-22, FETP will introduce an intermediate-level program. Additionally, CDC-Malawi has been supporting the MOH via strengthening human resources in health care. Since 2017, CDC-Malawi has supported the addition of over 3,000 nurses, clinicians, laboratory staff, data clerks, and lay cadres to the clinical workforce.

**Strengthened Laboratory Systems:** CDC-Malawi provides technical and financial assistance to the MOH for the development of both national laboratory policy and strategic plans to guide and monitor HIV and TB program implementation; continuous quality improvement activities to achieve international accreditation; improving efficiency of the integrated national sample and result transportation system to ensure accessibility of laboratory services; and training of laboratory staff.

### Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems Surveillance:

CDC-Malawi is supporting the GOM to establish and scaleup several surveillance systems and programs. Major programming includes birth and death registration with cause of death reporting, birth defects surveillance in selected sites to evaluate the association between ART and birth defects, and HIV drug resistance surveillance. In addition, CDC-Malawi has supported the MOH in establishing a recent HIV infection surveillance system. During 2021-2022, the recency surveillance system will expand to include 27 districts. CDC-Malawi supported the 2020-2021 Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment (MPHIA) to assess progress made in addressing gaps identified in the 2015-2016 MPHIA that inhibited achieving UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets by 2020, as the country strives to meet the UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets. The UNAIDS 95-95-95 targets are, by 2030: 95 percent of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status; 95 percent of all people with diagnosed HIV will receive sustained ART; and 95 percent of all people receiving ART will have viral suppression. MPHIA is a nationally representative household survey, which provides HIV/AIDS indicators at national and zonal levels.

**Establishing Electronic Monitoring Systems:** CDC-Malawi has supported the establishment of electronic medical record (EMR) systems at over 700 HIV treatment sites. The EMR systems aid in clinical management of HIV clients, supply chain management, and the reporting of the geographical distribution of HIV cases by age and gender.

## Key Country Leadership

President:  
Lazarus Chakwera

Minister of Health:  
Khumbize Kandodo  
Chiponda

U.S. Ambassador:  
Robert Scott

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Kelsey Mirkovic

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$580 (2020)

Population (millions):  
19.13 (2020)

Under 5 Mortality:  
42/1,000 live births (2019)

Life Expectancy:  
64 years (2019)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 8.1% (2020)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 9,800 (2020)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 460,000 (2020)

Reported Number  
Receiving Antiretroviral  
Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15):  
807,343 (2020)

[Global Tuberculosis  
\(TB\) Epidemic](https://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en)  
([who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en](https://www.who.int/tb/country/data/profiles/en))

Estimated TB Incidence:  
146/100,000 population  
(2019)

TB Patients with Known HIV  
Status who are HIV-Positive:  
47% (2019)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
88% (2018)

Estimated TB Mortality:  
37/100,000 population  
(2019)

**DGHT Country Staff: 49**  
Locally Employed Staff: 32  
Direct Hires: 8  
Fellows & Contactors: 9

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

September 2021 | 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

