

## 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 evidence-based, high-impact HIV programs. 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 (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 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 2030 HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets: 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. 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 are expanding patient-centered care using data-driven, evidence-based approaches, identifying bottlenecks affecting continuity in treatment and providing psychosocial support, access to 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) focuses on training frontline healthcare workers to respond to health threats. During 2021-22, FETP introduced an intermediate-level program. CDC-Malawi has supported over 3,000 nurses, clinicians, laboratory staff, data clerks, and lay cadres to the clinical workforce since 2017.

**Strengthening Laboratory Systems:** CDC-Malawi supports the MOH in establishing and sustaining laboratory capacity for HIV viral load testing, early infant HIV diagnosis (EID), COVID-19, tuberculosis, and other opportunistic infections. Increased capacity has resulted in 835,642 viral load tests being conducted in 2021. Currently, CDC is supporting the scale-up of plasma sample use for viral load testing. Plasma testing allows for more accurate patient management. CDC assists with the implementation of continuous quality improvement for both conventional and point-of-care testing laboratories. In 2021, the country received international accreditation of four molecular laboratories in viral load testing.

### Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems Surveillance:

CDC-Malawi supports the GOM in establishing and scaling up surveillance systems and programs. These include 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 has expanded to include 27 of the 28 districts in Malawi. 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 survey. MPHIA is a nationally representative household survey that provides HIV/AIDS indicators at national and zonal levels. The 2020-2021 MPHIA survey showed 88-98-97 achievements towards UNAIDS goals. In FY23, CDC-Malawi 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-Malawi has supported the establishment of electronic medical record (EMR) systems at over 750 HIV treatment sites. The EMR 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-Malawi has invested in improving infrastructure to facilitate EMR use and established a support helpdesk for user support. During COP22, CDC-Malawi plans to increase infrastructure investments, EMR functionality, and the coverage of the EMR systems.

## Key Country Leadership

President:  
Lazarus Chakwera

Minister of Health:  
Atupele Austin Muluzi

U.S. Ambassador:  
David Young

CDC/DGHT Director:  
Kelsey Mirkovic

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

Per Capita GNI:  
\$630 (2021)

Population (millions):  
19.65 (2021)

Under 5 Mortality:  
38.6/1,000 live births (2020)

Life Expectancy:  
64.7 years (2020)

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

Estimated HIV Prevalence  
(Ages 15-49): 7.7% (2021)

Estimated AIDS Deaths  
(Age ≥15): 11,000 (2021)

Estimated Orphans Due to  
AIDS: 540,000 (2021)

Reported Number Receiving  
Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)  
(Age ≥15): 855,396 (2021)

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

Estimated TB Incidence:  
141/100,000 population  
(2020)

TB Patients with Known HIV  
Status who are HIV-Positive:  
45% (2020)

TB Treatment Success Rate:  
88% (2019)

**DGHT Country Staff: 41**  
Locally Employed Staff: 27  
Direct Hires: 8  
Fellows & Contractors: 6

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

