

# Country progress report - Malawi

Global AIDS Monitoring 2018





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# HIV testing and treatment cascade

**Ensure that 30 million people living with HIV have access to treatment through meeting the 90-90-90 targets by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

Malawi has made significant progress towards providing ARVs to all that are HIV positive. As a country, we are now at 75%. The only challenge is to identify the few positives remaining (25%)

## **Policy questions (2017)**

Is there a law, regulation or policy specifying that HIV testing:

**a) Is solely performed based on voluntary and informed consent**

Yes

**b) Is mandatory before marriage**

No

**c) Is mandatory to obtain a work or residence permit**

No

**d) Is mandatory for certain groups**

Yes

**What is the recommended CD4 threshold for initiating antiretroviral therapy in adults and adolescents who are asymptomatic, as per MoH guidelines or directive, and what is the implementation status?**

No threshold; TREAT ALL regardless of CD4 count; Implemented in many (>50%) treatment sites

**Does your country have a current national policy on routine viral load testing for monitoring antiretroviral therapy and to what extent is it implemented?**

**a) For adults and adolescents**

Yes, fully implemented

**b) For children**

Yes, fully implemented

# Prevention of mother-to-child transmission

**Eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2020 while ensuring that 1.6 million children have access to HIV treatment by 2018**

## **Progress summary**

Malawi registered tremendous progress with overall transmission rate of 8.8% at 12 months almost reaching the target of Mother to Child transmission. Early Infant diagnosis (EID) improved from 60% to almost 70% .. Over 90% of pregnant women are on ART drugs

## **Policy questions (2016)**

**Does your country have a national plan for the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV?**

No

**Do the national guidelines recommend treating all infants and children living with HIV irrespective of symptoms and if so, what is the implementation status of the cut-off?**

Treat All; Implemented countrywide

# HIV prevention; Key populations

**Ensure access to combination prevention options, including pre-exposure prophylaxis, voluntary medical male circumcision, harm reduction and condoms, to at least 90%% of people by 2020, especially young women and adolescent girls in high-prevalence countries and key populations—gay men and other men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and their clients, people who inject drugs and prisoners**

## **Progress summary**

Malawi continues to be on track to reducing heterosexual transmission of HIV and Aids. The focus is now to target KPs and size estimates for FSWs and MSM have been completed which will facilitate HIV programming.

## **Policy questions: Key populations (2016)**

### **Criminalization and/or prosecution of key populations**

#### **Transgender people**

Neither criminalized nor prosecuted

#### **Sex workers**

Partial criminalization of sex work

#### **Men who have sex with men**

Yes, imprisonment (up to 14 years)

### **Is drug use or possession for personal use an offence in your country?**

Possession of drugs for personal use is specified as a criminal offence

## **Legal protections for key populations**

### **Transgender people**

Constitutional prohibition of discrimination based on gender diversity

### **Sex workers**

Constitutional prohibition of discrimination based on occupation

### **Men who have sex with men**

Constitutional prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation

### **People who inject drugs**

No

## **Policy questions: PrEP (2017)**

**Has the WHO recommendation on oral PrEP been adopted in your country's national guidelines?**

No, guidelines have not been developed



# Gender; Stigma and discrimination

**Eliminate gender inequalities and end all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls, people living with HIV and key populations by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

Malawi reviewed the road and vagabond law which previously used to arrest FSWs and MSM. The legal environment for protecting human rights continues to improve.

## **Policy questions (2016)**

**Does your country have a national plan or strategy to address gender-based violence and violence against women that includes HIV**

Yes

**Does your country have legislation on domestic violence\*?**

Yes

**What protections, if any, does your country have for key populations and people living with HIV from violence?**

General criminal laws prohibiting violence

Programmes to address intimate partner violence\*

Programmes to address workplace violence

Interventions to address torture and ill-treatment in prisons

**Does your country have policies in place requiring healthcare settings to provide timely and quality health care regardless of gender, nationality, age, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion, language, socio-economic status, HIV or other health status, or because of selling sex, using drugs, living in prison or any other grounds?**

Yes, policies exists and are consistently implemented

# Knowledge of HIV and access to sexual reproductive health services

**Ensure that 90%% of young people have the skills, knowledge and capacity to protect themselves from HIV and have access to sexual and reproductive health services by 2020, in order to reduce the number of new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women to below 100 000 per year**

## **Progress summary**

No new data collected because there was no population-based survey done in 2017

## **Policy questions (2016)**

**Does your country have education policies that guide the delivery of life skills-based HIV and sexuality education, according to international standards, in:**

### **a) Primary school**

Yes

### **b) Secondary school**

Yes

### **c) Teacher training**

Yes

# Social protection

**Ensure that 75%% of people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV benefit from HIV-sensitive social protection by 2020**

## **Progress summary**

Malawi continues to expand social cash transfer programme to vulnerable families and young people. There is a decreasing vulnerability of young people and OVCs.

## **Policy questions (2016/2017)**

Yes and it is being implemented

**a) Does it refer to HIV?**

Yes

**b) Does it recognize people living with HIV as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**c) Does it recognize key populations (sex workers, gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, transgender people, prisoners) as key beneficiaries?**

No

**d) Does it recognize adolescent girls and young women as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**e) Does it recognize people affected by HIV (children and families) as key beneficiaries?**

Yes

**f) Does it address the issue of unpaid care work in the context of HIV?**

No

**What barriers, if any, limit access to social protection programmes in your country?**

Fear of stigma and discrimination  
Laws or policies that present obstacles to access

# Community-led service delivery

## Ensure that at least 30%% of all service delivery is community-led by 2020

### Progress summary

Civil Society Organizations continue to be fully engaged at national, district and sub-district level in reviewing implementation of HIV activities.

### Policy questions (2017)

**Does your country have a national policy promoting community delivery of antiretroviral therapy?**

No

**What safeguards in laws, regulations and policies, if any, provide for the operation of CSOs/CBOs in your country?**

Registration of HIV CSOs is possible

Registration of CSOs/CBOs working with key populations is possible

HIV services can be provided by CSOs/CBOs

Services to key populations can be provided by CSOs/CBOs

**Number of condoms and lubricants distributed by NGOs in the previous year**

**a) Male condoms:**

27381892

**b) Female condoms:**

55364

**c) Lubricants:**

761535

# HIV expenditure

**Ensure that HIV investments increase to US\$ 26 billion by 2020, including a quarter for HIV prevention and 6%% for social enablers**

## **Progress summary**

Funding sources for the country appear to be decreasing. However, the country is looking for strategies to improve efficiency of delivery of HIV interventions.



# Empowerment and access to justice

**Empower people living with, at risk of and affected by HIV to know their rights and to access justice and legal services to prevent and challenge violations of human rights**

## **Progress summary**

HIV prevention and Management bill was passed by parliament. Civil society and people living with HIV are being sensitized on specific clauses of the law which will enhance protection of their rights

## **Policy questions (2016)**

**In the past two years have there been training and/or capacity building programmes for people living with HIV and key populations to educate them and raise their awareness concerning their rights (in the context of HIV) in your country?**

Yes, at scale at the national level

**Are there mechanisms in place to record and address cases of HIV-related discrimination (based on perceived HIV status and/or belonging to any key population)?**

There is a tool that the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) uses which was developed with support from UNAIDS. Cases are also reported through Malawi Network of PLHIV (MANET+) networks

**What accountability mechanisms in relation to discrimination and violations of human rights in healthcare settings does your country have, if any?**

Complaints procedure

Mechanisms of redress

Procedures or systems to protect and respect patient privacy or confidentiality

**What barriers in accessing accountability mechanisms does your country have, if any?**

Mechanisms do not function

Mechanisms are not sensitive to HIV

Awareness or knowledge of how to use such mechanisms is limited

# AIDS out of isolation

**Commit to taking AIDS out of isolation through people-centred systems to improve universal health coverage, including treatment for tuberculosis, cervical cancer and hepatitis B and C**

## **Progress summary**

TB case notification rate continues to decline. Proportion of HIV positive TB cases continues to decrease and almost all TB cases are on HIV and TB treatment. Challenge remains screening for Hepatitis and cervical cancer.

## **Policy questions (2016)**

**Is cervical cancer screening and treatment for women living with HIV recommended in:**

**a) The national strategy, policy, plan or guidelines for cancer, cervical cancer or the broader response to non-communicable diseases (NCDs)**

Yes

**b) The national strategic plan governing the AIDS response**

No

**c) National HIV-treatment guidelines**

Yes

**What coinfection policies are in place in the country for adults, adolescents and children?**

Isoniazid preventive therapy (IPT) or latent TB infection (LTBI) prophylaxis for people living with HIV

Intensified TB case finding among people living with HIV

TB infection control in HIV health-care settings

Co-trimoxazole prophylaxis