

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Public Health Program Implementation: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)-Malawi office opened in November 2001 and works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to build their health system capacity and implement high-impact HIV programs, including HIV testing and counseling (HTC), prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT), antiretroviral therapy (ART), and voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC).

Building Workforce Capacity: CDC works with the MOH, Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) and College of Medicine (COM) (training institutions) to address health care workforce shortages by investing in pre- and in-service training through support of student bursaries, revision of pre-service training curricula, improvement of training colleges infrastructure, and mentoring of teaching staff. CDC has also helped establish residency programs for Obstetrics and Family Medicine and is collaborating with MOH to implement the Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP).

Strengthening Laboratory Systems: CDC supports the MOH in establishing and sustaining a four-tiered approach (Central, District, Facility and Community) to strengthen laboratory capacity through an international accreditation process. National diagnostics standards and guidelines have also been developed to ensure the quality of laboratory test results throughout the country. CDC supports the national sample transportation system to enable testing for viral load, early infant diagnosis, and tuberculosis.

Strengthening Surveillance and Health Information Systems: CDC continues to provide technical assistance to help build the country's capacity to collect and analyze data for improved program decision-making. CDC provides technical and financial support to monitor transmission and emergence of HIV drug resistant strains and to monitor the impact of HIV interventions on prevalence and incidence.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Test and Start: CDC provided technical assistance to the MOH to update National Guidelines to include Test and Start, and to set in place a set of revisions to the training curriculum and funded training, and to provide support to monitoring the rollout. By the beginning of 2017, all priority sites were offering Test and Start.

Completed First Population-based HIV Impact Assessment: Data collection for the Malawi Population-based HIV Impact Assessment was completed in 2016, and preliminary data presented in 2017 demonstrate progress towards the 90-90-90 goals in Malawi and to put forward the strides the national HIV program has made in responding to the HIV epidemic. Data have been used to better characterize the epidemic in Malawi, including informing program planning and supporting national HIV estimates.

Improved HIV Prevention through Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision: CDC continues to play a critical role in supporting scale-up of the VMMC program in Malawi. CDC supports VMMC in Lilongwe district with 2017 program data showing an achievement of 30,136 and a cumulative achievement of 105,513 VMMC procedures since the program started in 2012.

Strengthened Health Systems: CDC has supported the establishment of Malawi's first obstetrics residency program. In 2017, 20 resident physicians were enrolled in this program. To strengthen HIV testing services at the facility level, CDC supported the hiring of 733 HIV diagnostic assistants across 207 facilities. CDC also launched a Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) in Malawi, which consists of a three month in-service training for health professionals who provide surveillance and monitoring services to the MOH and Ministry of Agriculture. Trainees 'learn by doing' with 75% of time spent in the field conducting data quality audits and assisting in disease surveillance and outbreak investigation. 15 trainees graduated from FETP Frontline in 2017. A total of 38 trainees have graduated since the start of the program in 2016.

Electronic Medical Records: CDC supports Baobab Health Trust in the expansion of Electronic Medical Records Systems. By the end of 2017, the National ART module was implemented in 120 health facilities through CDC assistance. CDC also supports the MOH National Quarterly Monitoring and Evaluation System and the national Laboratory Information Management System.

Key Country Leadership

President:
Arthur Peter Mutharika

Minister of Health:
Atupele Muluzi

U.S. Ambassador:
Virginia E. Palmer

PEPFAR Coordinator:
Emily Hughes

CDC/DGHT Director:
Andrew Auld

Country Quick Facts

Per Capita GNI:
\$320 (2016)

Population:
18.09 million (2016)

Under 5 Mortality:
55 / 1,000 live births (2016)

Life Expectancy:
63 years (2016)

Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic

Estimated HIV Prevalence (Ages 15-49): 9.2% (2016)

Estimated AIDS Deaths (Age ≥15): 20,000 (2016)

Estimated Orphans Due to AIDS: 670,000 (2016)

Reported Number Receiving Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) (Age ≥15): 626,000 (2016)

Global Tuberculosis (TB) Epidemic

Estimated TB Incidence: 159 / 100,000 (2016)

TB patients with known HIV-status who are HIV-positive: 53% (2016)

TB Treatment Success Rate: 81% (2015)

Country Staff: 34

Locally Employed Staff: 24
Direct Hires: 8
Fellows & Contactors: 2



MALAWI

