



Stronger health systems. Greater health impact.



Improving Health Service Delivery in Malawi

Fact Sheet



Management Sciences for Health (MSH) has been assisting Malawi since 2003 to strengthen health care systems, increase disease prevention education, reduce maternal and childhood mortality rates, and expand access to quality HIV/AIDS services. MSH builds on previous progress against HIV/AIDS through the **District Health System Strengthening and Quality Improvement for Service Delivery in Malawi (DHSS)** project (2012–2018) by supporting the Ministry of Health (MOH) in its implementation of the National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS (2015–2020). Malawi's rapid and successful antiretroviral therapy

(ART) scale-up that started in 2004 has greatly influenced the HIV epidemic, reducing mortality, morbidity, and transmission. One out of every 20 Malawian adults is now on ART and 275,000 deaths have been averted. However, with an estimated 34,000 new infections each year, stepped-up action is needed to enable Malawi to control the epidemic.

MSH's **goal** is to support the MOH to achieve a healthy and prosperous population free of HIV/AIDS to:

- Improve the quality of, access to, and coverage of priority HIV-related health services as part of the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the national prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) of HIV program
- Improve access in prisons to screening, treatment, and prevention services for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and sexually transmitted infections

Two of the main components of DHSS are the Service Delivery and Quality Improvement (SDQI) Program and the National Evaluation of the Malawi PMTCT Program (NEMAPP). Their areas of operation are noted in the map to the right. For more details, please see opposite page.



District Health System Strengthening and Quality Improvement for Service Delivery (DHSS) Project Components and Objectives

The Service Delivery and Quality Improvement (SDQI) Program

Improve the quality of, access to, and coverage of priority HIV-related health services to help the government achieve:

- 90% of people living with HIV are identified
- 90% of those identified are started and retained on ART
- 90% of ART patients virally suppressed

National Evaluation of the Malawi PMTCT Program (NEMAPP)

Evaluate the effectiveness of the national PMTCT program and measure:

- Mother-to-child HIV transmission rates in HIV-exposed infants
- HIV-free survival in HIV-exposed infants
- Longer-term survival and virological and clinical outcomes

Strengthening HIV and TB Service Delivery in the Malawi Prison Health System

Improve access in prisons to screening, treatment, and prevention services for HIV, TB, and sexually transmitted infections with the goal to reduce by half prisoner morbidity attributed to HIV and TB by 2018.

Support for the National Strategic Plan (NSP)

Provide support for the national strategic information system, provide technical assistance to the MOH as requested, conduct evaluations and operations research on selected strategies, and develop and implement a national campaign to support the NSP.

The program also collaborates with these MSH-implemented activities:

The Promoting Uptake and Retention of Option B+ (PURE) study aims to determine if enhanced support for women and their families within facilities and/or through community outreach will result in improved retention in the continuum of PMTCT care.

The District Health Performance Improvement (DHPI) approach supports district health management teams to apply a systematic approach when developing their health plans.

An 18-month study with REACH Trust on Option B+ compares best-performing sites with below-average performing sites. The study looks at all factors, including facility size, whether public or private, urban or rural. It also examines the patients' perceptions of quality of care.

For more information:

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Our funders:

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

Our collaborators:

SDQI: Ministry of Health (MOH) Department of HIV and AIDS, district health offices and zonal health support offices, Riders for Health (R4H), the Hunger project, Word Alive Churches, *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF), Dignitas International (DI), Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Partners in Health, Support for Service Delivery and Integration, and other implementing partners working in the health sector at the district levels

NEMAPP: DI, Joint Clinical Research Center in Uganda, R4H, University of North Carolina, Blantyre Malaria Project

Prisons support: Malawi Prison Health Services, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, MSF, DI

NSP support: MOH

PURE: Canadian International Development Agency through the World Health Organization (WHO) and Lighthouse Trust

DHPI: UNICEF

REACH Trust study: WHO