

Malawi

About HIV & AIDS in Malawi

- Over a half (52%) of Malawi's population of 12 million people live below the poverty line (IHS 2005).
- Malawi's per capita income is \$160 (WDI 2004)
- HIV and AIDS prevalence among adults, 15-49 years (12%)
- Global ranking of Malawi in HIV and AIDS- 8th highest
- 930,000 HIV infected ((2005 estimates)
- Approximately 1.1 million orphans, half of which estimated to be due to HIV & AIDS.
- Approximately 84,000 new orphans every year
- Life expectancy 39.7 years (HDI 2003)
- Annual deaths due to HIV and AIDS - 86,592 (2005 estimates)
- About 70,000 people of estimated 196,000 people needing AIDS treatment have ever started ART. 7% of these are children

Key Messages

- HIV& Aids is the biggest threat to Malawi's development. Comprehensive knowledge about the disease is low. Transmission is mainly through heterosexual contact. Awareness high but comprehensive knowledge and personalization of risk low.
- Policy framework for HIV& Aids is good but implementation capacity although improving is still fragile and need to be strengthened.
- Gender inequalities make women more at risk than men to HIV infection. Programming needs to address this more
- A co-ordinated response, prevention, HIV testing and counseling, increased access to ART and reducing stigma and victimization are crucial to bringing the disease under control

The Challenge

- National Aids Commission (NAC) co-ordinates Malawi's national response to HIV & Aids. NAC has made good progress on this but does not have the mandate to oblige all stakeholders in the area of HIV and AIDS to comply and report to the one authority. It is envisaged that the proposed Act of Parliament will clarify NAC's mandate in this area. Moreover, not all donors providing project funding for HIV & Aids are as yet as aligned to government strategies as they should be; this is especially the case with those partners providing their funding and technical assistance outside of government.
- Capacity remains a major challenge for Malawi in its fight against HIV & AIDS. This has improved and funds are increasingly able to be absorbed. However the quality of the response needs to be improved as much as the quantity, especially as the response is decentralised. This is an issue that NAC is aware of and plans to address.
- New HIV infections estimated at 90,000 per year remain a big challenge and will also affect the ability to increase sufficient access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy. The Malawi government submitted an application to the Global Fund to boost its HIV prevention efforts but was unsuccessful.

DFID: Supporting Malawi's response to HIV & AIDS

Support to the National AIDS Commission

DFID is giving £4.5 million (2003 – 2008) to Malawi's National AIDS Commission (NAC), the national co-ordinating body for the HIV & AIDS response. Funds are used for grants for national and local community partners to help people

protect themselves from HIV, and support orphans and those living with HIV. Along with the World Bank, Norway and Canada, DFID provides flexible funding that NAC can prioritise in response to changing national needs.

Support to the Health Sector

- DFID is the largest donor in the sector. DFID has committed £100 million to support Malawi's health sector over a period of six years (2005/06 to 2010/11). Out of this, £45 million is allocated for an Essential Health Package which includes the prevention & management of HIV and AIDS, HIV Testing & Counselling, access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy and other services essential for an effective HIV response.

Support through other DFID Programmes

- DFID Malawi also finances HIV and AIDS activities under other programme areas such as food security and education. DFID is funding Action Aid to conduct a Behaviour Change programme for primary school teachers in Malawi (£680,000 over 2005-2008) and supports the education sector to sensitise students on HIV and AIDS through the curriculum. DFID's support for food security and social protection for the very poorest also benefits many living with or affected by HIV and AIDS.
- DFID's Malawi Access to Safety, Security and Justice Programme (MASSAJ) is financing prison health services and ensuring access for prisoners to HIV Testing & Counselling. It also supports HIV prevention programmes for the police and prison services.
- Globally, the UK has committed £359 million to support the Geneva-based Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria which provides grants to help countries like Malawi respond to the impact of the three diseases.

Policy dialogue

- DFID has been a key player in helping improve high level co-ordination of the HIV & AIDS response including the establishment of a pool funding mechanism, more aligned support by other development partners to help implement the national response and the establishment of a Partnership Forum to advise government. DFID Chairs the HIV and AIDS Development Partners Group and is a member of the Global Fund Country Co-ordination Mechanism where it promoted a review and helped make it more accountable, democratic and transparent. Collectively these initiatives have strengthened the leadership and accountability of the National response. DFID has also worked to ensure that HIV and AIDS issues are properly addressed in the new Malawi Growth and Development Strategy.
- DFID is also a member of the National Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Steering Committee and has helped stimulate more action to implement the OVC National Plan of Action. DFID also engages with other more ad-hoc but strategic committees such as the HIV & AIDS Monitoring & Evaluation Task Force to ensure a more effective response.

Working with others

A total of US\$ 724 million has been committed by both donors and the Government to financing the National HIV & AIDS Action Framework up to 2009 as follows: Government 27%, United Nations including World Bank 22%, Global Fund 37%, and bilateral donors 14%. The HIV & AIDS Pool Funding Partners will provide \$72 million (2003 - 2008) directly to the National Aids Commission, including \$7.2 million from DFID. The Global Fund, which DFID contributes to, has committed a total US\$ 262 million to 2009. DFID has also funded technical advisory positions in UNAIDS and the World Bank.

What results are we achieving?

- HIV infection levels have stabilised at 12 percent and in some areas there has been a shallow decline
- Number of people tested for HIV more than doubled last year alone to 440,000
- Number of HIV & Aids infected ever started on ART increased from 4,000 (2003) to nearly 70,000 in September 2006.
- Over 1000 organisations have received funds to implement the HIV & AIDS response, most at the grassroots

- Over 350,000 received material support in the form of food, clothes and uniforms, about a third of those in need. NAC itself funded support to over 285,000; Over 200,000 OVCs received nutritional care, 36,000 received financial support and 64,000 received other forms of care and support.
- Over 350,000 orphans reached in 2005 with material support such as clothes, food, school uniforms, about a
- A good national policy environment, sufficient funds (for the moment, more needed for prevention)
- Simplified funding mechanisms in place (pooled funds for HIV and AIDS and health)
- Significant progress with implementing the Three Ones response to HIV&AIDS (One National Authority, One National Strategy and One Monitoring & Evaluation framework for HIV&AIDS)
- An orphans and Vulnerable children's policy & Plan of Action has been developed, one of the first countries to do so.
- By December 2005 there were 239 approved HIV Testing & Counselling sites, compared to 11 in 2004
- By May 2006 119 sites were offering Prevention from Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) out of a potential 617 sites