



# MALAWI

April 2019

## Snapshot of the Strength of the Health Information System as a Source of HIV Data

Health information systems (HIS) are important tools in combatting the HIV epidemic, from the individual to the population level. Electronic health records contain individual patient information that helps clinicians provide high-quality care and can improve continuity of care across services and institutions. Laboratory information systems improve the submission of lab tests and the receipt of results. Logistic information systems can help forecast the need for medications and other commodities and reduce stockouts of antiretroviral drugs and other medications. Routine health information systems are used to compile this information for reports from facilities to the national level. Data use at all levels of the health system is necessary to monitor coverage of HIV interventions and progress toward targets. And finally, population-level surveys provide information on changes in behavior and HIV prevalence every few years; these data are needed to assess the impact of HIV programs over time.



### HIV IN MALAWI

- Adult HIV prevalence rate: 9.6<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence rate for women: 11.7<sup>1</sup>
- Prevalence rate for men: 7.4<sup>1</sup>
- Number of adults living with HIV: 1,000,000<sup>2</sup>
- Number of new HIV infections in 2016: 36,000<sup>2</sup>
- Number of AIDS-related deaths in 2016: 24,000<sup>2</sup>
- People living with HIV who know their status: 73%<sup>2</sup>
- People who know their status and are on antiretroviral therapy (ART): 89%<sup>2</sup>
- People on ART who have achieved viral suppression: 91%<sup>2</sup>

1 UNAIDS. (2017). AIDSinfo. <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org>

2 United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. (2018). Country Specific Information: Malawi. Retrieved from <https://www.pepfar.gov/countries/index.htm>

3 World Health Organization. (2018). Global Health Observatory: Malawi Summary Statistics. Retrieved from <http://apps.who.int/gho/data>

4 United Nations Statistics Division. (2016). 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. Retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm>

5 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). (2018) Human Development Indices and Indicators: 2018 Statistical Update. Retrieved from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2018-update>

6 International Telecommunications Union. (2017). ICT Development Index 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.itu.int/net4/ITU-D/idi/2017/index.html>

**Population**  
18,092,000+<sup>3</sup>

**Year of last census**  
2008<sup>4</sup>

**Life expectancy at birth**  
61.0/66.8 years (m/f)<sup>3,5</sup>

**Total expenditure on health**  
9.3% GDP<sup>3</sup>

**Physician density**  
0.018 per 10,000<sup>3</sup>

**Nurse & midwife density**  
0.336 per 10,000<sup>3</sup>

**Hospital bed density**  
13 per 10,000<sup>3</sup>

**Internet users**  
9.61% of the population<sup>6</sup>

This is one of 13 briefs prepared by MEASURE Evaluation (funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the United States President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) to document the strength of a country’s HIS as a source of reliable data for efforts to control the HIV epidemic.

## HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM FACTS

Indicator name	Status	Global* status	Title and details
Health strategy	yes	72%	Malawi Health Sector Strategic Plan 2017–2022
Health sector monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan	no	42%	
Health information system (HIS) policy	no	19%	<a href="#">Malawi National Health Information System Policy</a> (September 2015)
HIS strategic plan	no	33%	Malawi Health Information System Strategic Plan (2011–2016)
Core health indicators	yes	49%	Malawi National Health Indicators for HSSP II 2017–2022 (Draft)
HIS coordinating body	no	26%	
Master health facility list	no	28%	The Malawi Master Facility List (MFL)
Completed Health Metrics Network assessment	yes	56%	<a href="#">Health Information Systems Assessment Report</a>
Population census within the past 10 years	no	49%	<a href="#">2008 Census</a>
Availability of national health surveys	yes	100%	<a href="#">2015–2016 Demographic and Health Survey</a>
Completeness of vital registration (births and deaths)	no	7%	10.0% complete for deaths; 37.9% complete for live births
Electronic system for routine site-level data	yes	91%	<a href="https://www.dhis2.org/inaction">https://www.dhis2.org/inaction</a>
Health statistics office	yes	98%	<a href="http://www.nsomalawi.mw">http://www.nsomalawi.mw</a>
Annual health statistics report	no	9%	<a href="#">2014/15 Annual Review Report for the Health Sector</a>
Health statistics website with latest data available	yes	49%	<a href="http://www.health.gov.mw/index.php/reports">http://www.health.gov.mw/index.php/reports</a>
Data quality assessment aligned with health sector strategy	yes	67%	Data Quality in Malawi's Health Sector: A mixed method assessment

Indicator name	Status	Global* status	Title and details
Performance of Routine Information System Management (PRISM) assessment conducted in any region or district	yes	47%	
Percentage of facilities represented in health management information system reports is available	yes	74%	
Proportion of government offices using data to manage health programs (set and monitor targets) is available	no	40%	
Measles coverage reported to the World Health Organization (WHO)/UNICEF	yes	98%	<a href="#">WHO/UNICEF estimates of immunization coverage 2017 revision</a> ; page 7.
Data on the number of institutional deliveries available by district and published within a year	no	28%	HMIS annual bulletin, page 26
Policies, laws, and regulations mandating public and private health facilities to report indicators determined by the national HIS	yes	33%	
Standards or guidelines for routine health information system data collection, reporting, and analysis	yes	51%	HMIS Training and Reference Manual, 2003 HMIS Tools and Guidelines 2003
Procedures to verify the data quality	yes	47%	Standard operating procedures (SOPs)— draft
Routine health information system forms allow for gender disaggregation	yes	60%	
At least one national health account completed in the past 5 years	yes	35%	The Malawi National Health Accounts Report 2012/13–2014/15
Database of healthcare workers by district and main cadres updated in the past 2 years	yes	26%	
Annual data on tracer medicines and commodities in public and private health facilities available	no	21%	<a href="#">2014/15 Annual Review Report for the Health Sector</a> ; pages 45–56
eHealth strategy	yes	58%	The Malawi National eHealth Strategy 2011–2016 (published Dec 2016)
Completeness of disease surveillance reporting is available	no	28%	2016 Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response Report

\* “Global status” is the percentage of the 43 countries tracked by the [HIS Strengthening Resource Center](#) that have a positive result (yes/no) for the indicator. A positive result (yes) indicates that the indicator is available and current; a negative result (no) indicates that the indicator is unknown, not available, or not current.

According to the 2004, 2010, and 2015/16 Malawian Demographic and Health Survey reports, the proportion of reproductive-age men who were tested for HIV in the past 12 months and received the results of the test rose from 8 percent in 2004 to 31 percent in 2010 to 42 percent in 2015/16.<sup>7-9</sup> The proportion of women 15–49 years of age rose from 7 percent in 2004 to 44 percent in 2015/16 (data for women were not available in the 2010 report).<sup>7,9</sup> In addition, in 2015/2016, 80.0 percent of pregnant women attending antenatal care received counseling on HIV, an HIV test, and the results of that test.<sup>7</sup>

According to the Malawi 2015–2020 National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan, the country intends to meet the global 90–90–90 targets for control of the epidemic by 2030.<sup>10</sup> (These are that 90% of those who are HIV-positive will have been diagnosed; 90% of those diagnosed will be on ART; and 90% of those on ART will be virally suppressed.) According to the Malawi AIDS Progress Report of 2015, 67 percent of children and adults eligible for ART were receiving it. Of those known to be on treatment, 77 percent of adults and 76 percent of children remained on ART 12 months

after initiation.<sup>11</sup> The Malawi Population–Based HIV Impact Assessment of 2015–16 found that among all people living with HIV between the ages of 15–64 years, 88.6 percent (90% of women and 86% of men) were on ART. Of those, 90.8 percent (92.3% of women and 87.9% of men) were virally suppressed.<sup>12</sup>

There is a strategic HIS plan for 2011–2016 and efforts are under way to develop a follow-up plan. The Malawi National Health Information Policy, published September 2015, states this primary objective for Malawi’s HIS:

*To generate quality information (accurate, complete, timely, relevant, and reliable) and make them accessible to all intended users through standardized and harmonized tools across all programs that avoid duplication and reduce the workload on data capture by already stretched human resource at health facility level.*

The report outlines key responsibilities. It also designates the creation of a technical working group to oversee the HIS and calls for the creation of a web-based portal to store and allow easy access to aggregate health data by stakeholders.<sup>13</sup>

7 National Statistical Office/Malawi & ICF. (2017). Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015–16. Zomba, Malawi: National Statistical Office and ICF. Retrieved from <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR319/FR319.pdf>

8 National Statistical Office (NSO)/Malawi and ICF Macro. (2011). Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2010. Zomba, Malawi: NSO/Malawi and ICF Macro. Retrieved from <http://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR247/FR247.pdf>

9 National Statistical Office (NSO)/Malawi & ORC Macro. (2005). Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2004. Calverton, MD, USA: NSO/Malawi and ORC Macro. Retrieved from <https://dhsprogram.com/publications/publication-FR175-DHS-Final-Reports.cfm>

10 Malawi National AIDS Commission. (2014). National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2015–2020. Retrieved from <https://www.childrenandaids.org/sites/default/files/2017-11/Malawi-National-HIV-AIDS-Strategic-Plan-2015-2020.pdf>

11 Malawi National AIDS Commission (NAC). (2015). Malawi AIDS Response Progress Report 2015. Retrieved from [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/MWI\\_narrative\\_report\\_2015.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/country/documents/MWI_narrative_report_2015.pdf)

12 Malawi Ministry of Health. (2016). Malawi Population-Based HIV Impact Assessment: MPHIA 2015–2016, Preliminary Findings Summary Sheet. Retrieved from [http://phia.icap.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/MALAWI-Factsheet.FIN\\_.pdf](http://phia.icap.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/MALAWI-Factsheet.FIN_.pdf)

13 Ministry of Health. (2015). Malawi National Health Information System Policy. Retrieved from [https://www.healthdatacollaborative.org/fileadmin/uploads/hdc/Documents/Country\\_documents/September\\_2015\\_Malawi\\_National\\_Health\\_Information\\_System\\_Policy.pdf](https://www.healthdatacollaborative.org/fileadmin/uploads/hdc/Documents/Country_documents/September_2015_Malawi_National_Health_Information_System_Policy.pdf)