



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

THE MALAWI PROGRAM

Working with Women, Children, and Families to End Pediatric AIDS

EGPAF IN MALAWI

Over one million people are currently living with HIV in Malawi. The Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF) began collaborating with local partners in 2001 to initiate one of Malawi's first programs to provide prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission (PMTCT) services. Today, mother-to-child HIV transmission is virtually eliminated in Malawi with a final transmission rate of less than 2%.

Currently, EGPAF-Malawi supports provision of comprehensive adult, adolescent, and pediatric HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in 179 facilities, providing technical assistance support to Malawian Ministry of Health (MOH), community- and faith-based organization health teams. EGPAF conducts operations research and advocacy for national and local policies, guidelines, and resources to end pediatric HIV and AIDS in Malawi. EGPAF also support the National Electronic Health Systems for HIV.

KEY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Currently EGPAF-Malawi:



Over 800,000 individuals tested for HIV per year



Provides ART to over **270,000 individuals**, including **nearly 14,000 children**



has provided PMTCT services to **14,000 women in this year, to date**

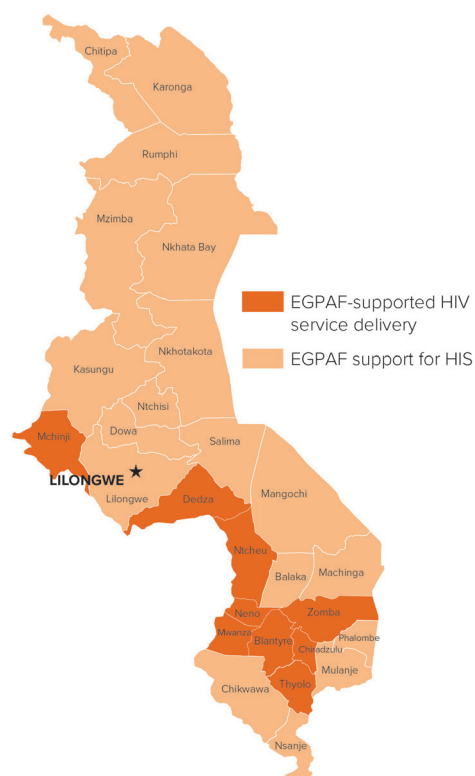


Has given over **21,000 HIV-exposed infants** their first virologic test within their first 12 months of life in this year alone

COUNTRY PROFILE*

Population	18,622,100
Number of people living with HIV	1,100,000
Adult (15-49 years of age) HIV prevalence rate	8.7%
Women aged 15 years of age and older living with HIV	600,000
Children (0-14 years of age) living with HIV	65,000
Mother-to-child transmission rate at breastfeeding cessation	5.9%
Deaths due to AIDS in 2019	13,000
Number of new HIV infections in 2019	33,000
Pregnant women living with HIV with treatment access to prevent transmission of HIV to their children	95%

EGPAF-MALAWI PROGRAM GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE



* Sources: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS, HIV and AIDS estimates (2020) and World Bank, Malawi population projection (2020), Malawi Population Based HIV Impact Assessment (2020).

** Data as of January 2020

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Achieving HIV Epidemic Control through Scaling-up Quality Testing, Care and Treatment in Malawi, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), (2017-2022)

EGPAF, in close collaboration with Malawi's MOH, is implementing this five-year project under the CDC with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The project is implemented in 179 facilities across nine districts. It aims to deliver HIV care and treatment and TB services in-line with Malawi's National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan for 2015-2020 and 2020-2025 and PEPFAR's 2017-2020 Strategy for Accelerating HIV/AIDS Epidemic Control.

Catalyzing Pediatric Tuberculosis Innovations (CaP-TB) Project, Unitaid (2017-2021)

CaP-TB is a four-year project, funded and supported by Unitaid, which aims to reduce pediatric TB morbidity and mortality in 10 countries, including Malawi. The project is implemented in 40 high-TB burden health facilities in seven districts. In collaboration with the National TB Program, EGPAF will identify innovations for diagnostics, treatment, and service delivery models to tackle pediatric TB case finding, prevention, care, and treatment services. Through CaP-TB, EGPAF is also collaborating with Facilitators of Community Transformation (FACT) for community-led advocacy and demand creation for pediatric TB screening, diagnosis, and care.

Improving Quality of Care and Health Impact Through Innovative Systems and Technologies in Malawi (Health Information Systems (HIS), CDC (2020-2025)

EGPAF's HIS project is a five-year program, funded and supported by CDC aimed at improving quality of care through innovative systems and technologies in Malawi. In collaboration with Malawi Government and CDC, EGPAF is working to ensure clinics providing HIV services are adequately supported to manage patient care and provide data to inform program planning and implementation. EGPAF has modernized 206 point-of-care (POC) systems and 520 back-entry stations to support the PEPFAR and Department of HIV/AIDS (DHA) program with service delivery using digital technology that enables reporting requirements for systematic surveillance. The HIS Lab team works to modernize the national Lab Information Management Systems to improve sample tracking, diagnostic equipment integration and results management to improve HIV patient care. The HIS team also supports the National Registration Bureau (NRB) to ensure birth and death registration systems are accessible and effective across the country including in clinics and district registration offices. EGPAF supports management and maintenance of the DHA's Central Data Repository which will serve as a centralized data hub for HIV program and patient data. In order to support the various systems, EGPAF has established a help desk to rapidly identify and resolve issues to ensure availability of EMRS while also ensuring appropriate investments for power, infrastructure, local area network and wide area networks that are the backbone for the electronic HIS.

AHD Award Phase 2: Costing of Cryptococcal Screening and Treatment for National Implementation in Malawi, CDC Foundation (2020-2021)

Under this project, EGPAF will complement the foundation of AHD services by implementing intensified community-based adherence

support for advanced HIV patients; facilitating capacity building of service providers; promoting a hub and spoke network for lab sample and patient referrals; conducting operational research and evaluation to inform best practices for routine implementation; and analyzing cost effectiveness of the intervention program in southern Malawi in five districts.

Quality Improvement Collaborative: Retention, Suppression and Advanced Disease in Malawi, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2020-2022)

This two-year project, will accomplish four key project objectives with the overall goal of reducing mortality caused by AHD. Over the next two years, and in collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Malawi MOH, EGPAF will: strengthen national coordination and implementation of services for AHD by supporting the Department of HIV with AHD job aids, SOPs, and M&E tools; support implementation in selected facilities across Malawi; employ quality improvement (QI) mechanisms to support national scale up and fidelity to screen, diagnose and treat AHD; generate evidence to measure the impact of implementation of AHD package of care; and ensure dissemination and translation to policy and practice.

Red Carpet Project (RCP): Bringing Evidence to Scale, ViiV (2020-2021)

Supported by the ViiV Positive Action Fund, EGPAF is implementing an evidence-based, innovative adolescent and youth-tailored intervention under RCP. The project aims to improve outcomes of adolescents and youth living with HIV (AYLHIV) by improving linkage and to care and retention to treatment for newly diagnosed AYLHIV via community and health facility platforms. The RCP is being piloted in four sites in Blantyre, Malawi and includes an evaluation of the program's effectiveness with specific focus on early retention in care among AYLHIV.

COVID-19 Support to MOH, CDC (2020-2022)

Under the guidance of CDC and in collaboration with the Malawi Ministry of Health (MOH), in order to strengthen surveillance, EGPAF developed and initiated a nationally representative telephonic syndromic surveillance to identify emerging hotspots of influenza-like illnesses (ILIs) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) illnesses and strengthen linkage to care) for clients living with HIV. EGPAF was also tasked to expand and integrate the COVID-19 national Lab Information Systems in 50 sites to ensure real-time monitoring of transport, analysis and results-return of COVID-19 samples between the clinics and the labs. EGPAF will also design, develop and pilot an ILI and SARI monitoring system by modernizing the existing MOH electronic reporting systems to improve real-time access and use of IDSR data to respond to COVID-19 outbreaks and any future disease outbreaks in select high-volume clinics in Blantyre and Zomba. EGPAF also supported the 179 clinics with supplies to ensure improved infection prevention and control.

RESEARCH

EGPAF-Malawi supports implementation science evaluation which have focused on drug transitions, drug resistance, advanced HIV, viral load testing and coverage. Findings provide important information to improve service delivery. Some of the active studies include:

Evaluation of Outcomes Achieved through Integrated HIV/AIDS and TB Prevention, Care, and Treatment Programs in Malawi (2020-2023):

This program and patient outcome evaluation utilize secondary analysis of routinely collected, program and clinical data for current EGPAF-supported districts for clinical care: Dedza, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Mchinji, Mwanza, Neno, Ntcheu, Thyolo and Zomba and to answer questions of key strategic interest. The evaluations allow us to assess the results, quality, and coverage of project activities and associated factors, as well as to link patient outcomes to patient characteristics and program inputs in HIV, TB and cervical cancer data in EGPAF supported sites. The overall goal of the protocol is to use existing data to promote evidence-based decision-making and to inform and support national policy and facilitate uptake of international recommendations and best practices. Under this protocol – current evaluations include the DTG transition in Malawi and viral load coverage and outcomes.

Syndromic Surveillance Survey of COVID-19 in Malawi (2020-2022)

The purpose of this study is to survey recent and current experience of influenza-like illnesses/COVID-like illnesses (ILI/ CLI) symptoms, occurrence of households' deaths, access to routine health services, and knowledge related to COVID-19 amongst adults aged 18 and above for both people living with HIV (PLHIV) and the general population. This syndromic surveillance system will assist public health leaders in their decision-making on the guidance, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in Malawi.

Cervical Cancer Study: Evaluating feasibility and acceptability of using nucleic acid testing and Cepheid Xpert (Hologic Aptima) for human papilloma virus testing among women in Malawi, CDC (2021)

This project evaluation will use a mixed method design to assess the use of Human Papilloma Virus Nucleic acid Amplification Test HPV NAT for cervical cancer screening as part of NAT integrated testing in two outpatient health facilities in Malawi. We will determine key outcomes along the cascade of care for women from the initial point when women are offered cervical cancer screening with HPV NAT to treatment for women with pre-cancerous lesions. Results from this study, will be useful, amongst clinicians and policy working with large cohorts of HIV/ART positive participants.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Advanced HIV Disease Diagnosis and Treatment Cascade in Malawi and Tanzania, CDC Foundation (2019-2022)

EGPAF is conducting an intensive M&E study focused on Advanced HIV Disease (AHD) care models in Tanzania and Malawi. The main objectives of the study are to understand the cascade of clinical care provided to patients presenting with AHD as well as to survey the availability of new AHD diagnostic and treatment products in both countries. The evaluation has a pre- and post-intervention design, looking specifically at care given to patients six months before and after trainings conducted by EGPAF at health facilities and the introduction of AHD products in-country.

Evaluation of advanced HIV disease differentiated care model in Malawi: a mixed methods non-randomized cluster study, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (2020-2022)

The evaluation is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as part of the QI collaborative project. The main objective of this evaluation will be to evaluate the effectiveness of the QI intervention to improve the AHD differentiated care model in selected sites in Malawi. The primary evaluation outcome variable will be the proportion of PLHIV with advanced disease are alive and retained in care services and intervention at 6, 12 and 18 months after initiation on advanced HIV disease.

ADVOCACY

EGPAF-Malawi participates in numerous national technical working groups focused on PMTCT, HIV care and treatment, TB, human resources for health, sexual and reproductive health, program monitoring and evaluation, and quality assurance. EGPAF continually promotes solutions to reduce the pediatric treatment gaps.

Facilitators of Community Transformation (FACT) (2020-2021)

EGPAF-Malawi works with Facilitators of Community Transformation (FACT), a local CBO, in Strengthening Civil Society and the Parliamentary TB Caucus response towards effective national TB policy development, implementation, and oversight, which is necessary for the reduction of TB among children in Malawi.

The Organization of African First Ladies (OFLA)

The Organization of African First Ladies (OFLA) aims to increase the capacity of First Ladies and other women leaders to advocate for effective solutions to respond to the ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic. EGPAF supports OFLA initiatives in Malawi that focus on HIV.

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