
Foreword

The onset of HIV and AIDS has created extraordinary challenges for the public health, social, political and economic sectors of developing countries, of which Malawi is no exception. The epidemic is undermining development gains, changing the nature of development itself in ways that are not yet fully understood, while at the same time exhausting national capacities in an attempt to meet these challenges.

The Malawi Human Development Report 2005 is intended to contribute to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, and to the definition and realization of Malawi's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Underlying the report is the assumption that unless HIV and AIDS is placed at the center of national planning processes, Malawi's chances of stimulating economic growth, reducing poverty and promoting human development are dramatically reduced.

The report analyses current human development conditions in Malawi in light of HIV and AIDS. Assessing a nation's level of human development represents an attempt to measure the standard of living and well-being of its people—effectively their ability to lead lives that are economically produc-

tive, personally fulfilling and that benefit community and the nation as a whole.

The text argues for a reassessment of, and new parameters for, the national response to the epidemic. It identifies the challenges that lie ahead and that must be overcome if the MDGs are to be achieved and more specifically if the people of Malawi are to enjoy greater opportunities, contribute to the development of the entire nation, and offer a better life and brighter future for generations to come. It calls for the localization of the MDGs, starting with a needs assessment of what it will take for Malawi to achieve the Malawi development goals being elaborated in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy.

The report itself was prepared by a team of Malawian consultants in collaboration with the National Statistics Office and the National AIDS Commission, with support from UN agencies represented in Malawi, as well as UNDP's Southern Africa Capacity Initiative Programme in Johannesburg, South Africa. UNDP Malawi is delighted to publish this important "home-grown" contribution with the hope of encouraging vital national debate.

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Acronyms

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ANC	Antenatal Clinic
ART	Anti-Retroviral Therapy
BCAAM	Business Coalition Against AIDS in Malawi
CBCC	Community Based Childcare Centre
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDA	Community Development Assistant
CHBC	Community Home-Based Care
CPEP	Community Population and Education Project
DA	District Assembly
DACC	District AIDS Committee
DHRMD	Department of Human Resource Management Development
DHS	Demographic Health Survey
DOT	Directly Observed TB Treatment
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GESP	Gender Equality Support Project
EU	European Union
FBO	Faith Based Organisation
FHI	Family Health International
FMA	Financial Management Agency
GoM	Government of Malawi
HBC	Home Based Care
HIPC	Highly Indebted Poor Countries
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MACRO	Malawi AIDS Counselling and Resource Organisation
MANASO	Malawi Network for AIDS Service Organisations
MANET+	Malawi Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
MBCA	Malawi Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS
MBTS	Malawi Blood Transfusion Service
MEPD	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
MGCS	Ministry of Gender and Community Services

MLVT	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training
MTCT	Mother-to-Child-Transmission
MTP	Medium Term Plans
NAC	National AIDS Commission
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NAF	National Action Framework on HIV/AIDS
NAPHAM	National Association of People living with HIV/AIDS in Malawi
NEC	National Economic Council
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NSF	National Strategic Framework
NSO	National Statistics Office
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
SSR	Sentinel Surveillance Report
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
TB	Tuberculosis
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNAIDS	United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
VCT	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas
WHO	World Health Organisation

Overview

Development can be described as the outcome of action stemming from a dynamic and integrated relationship between individuals (combined to form households), firms (combined to form industries) and government, all working in a cohesive and mutually beneficial manner. The efficiency and effectiveness of each component is interdependent. If the capacity of any component is eroded by HIV and AIDS, it affects the capacity of the “group relationship” as a whole. When individuals therefore are infected by HIV and AIDS, all components of the relationship suffer.

Since 1991, Malawi has ranked amongst the bottom 20 countries worldwide on the Human Development Index; the result of poverty compounded and exacerbated by HIV and AIDS. Still, the nation’s HIV prevalence rate has stabilized at close to 14% – signifying a degree of progress in meeting the sixth Millennium Development Goal of combating HIV and AIDS, Malaria, Tuberculosis and other major diseases. The

is marginal, there remains reason for optimism. For example, the infection level amongst young women (15 – 24 years) attending antenatal clinics (ANC) in Lilongwe has declined from 26% in 1996 to 16% in 2003. And for all ANC attendees in Lilongwe, the infection has reduced from 26% in 1998 to 17% in 2003. The Central region has also consistently registered the lowest rates, although the prevalence in Blantyre, Mzuzu and several semi-urban areas still remain high, between 20% – 35%.

The national response undertaken during the middle years (1998 – 2000) and the delayed outcomes from earlier interventions have apparently aided in initiating this trend reversal. During this period, government and UNDP collaborated in planning and coordinating a nationwide community mobilization, capacity building and strategic planning effort to support communities, institutions and organizations in developing the ability to discuss, more openly, issues about HIV and AIDS,

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