



FACTSHEET: OCTOBER 2021 - JUNE 2022

OVERVIEW

The Expanding Malawi HIV/AIDS Prevention with Local Organizations Working for an Effective Epidemic Response (EMPOWER) - DREAMS Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) Services, is a five-year USAID-funded project implemented by a consortium of FHI 360 (lead) and two local organizations, Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) and Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication (Pakachere).

Malawi EMPOWER's goal is to support the Government of Malawi's commitment to epidemic control by stopping HIV transmission and preventing new HIV infections among AGYW aged 10–24 years in Zomba and Machinga districts towards achieving the UNAIDS 95-95-95 goals by 2030. The project aims to achieve sustainable impact by systematically transferring capacity to Government of Malawi, specifically the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare and Ministry of Youth and Sports, as well as to the local partners to assume responsibility for managing the HIV response.

OBJECTIVES

- Increase availability of and access to high quality, integrated Sexual Reproductive Health and HIV (SRH/HIV) services for AGYW.
- Increase utilization of integrated SRH/HIV services by AGYW.
- Improve access and adherence to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP).
- Maintain a shared database to track layering of services for DREAMS beneficiaries.
- Strengthen linkage and referrals for AGYW to and from DREAMS services implemented by other partners.

TOTAL CONTRACT BUDGET

\$15,450,309

DURATION

March 5, 2020 - March 4, 2025

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Zomba and Machinga Districts.

KEY PARTNERS

- Government of Malawi
- FHI 360 (Lead)
- Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM)
- Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication (Pakachere)

PROJECT STRATEGIES

Malawi EMPOWER works with Government of Malawi to achieve the UNAIDS 95:95:95 targets among AGYW through:

- Implementing proven interventions, promising practices, and innovative approaches with fidelity, bolstered by strong M&E and evidence, aligned with national and PEPFAR priorities and guidelines, and based on global best practices.
- Supporting PEPFAR plans to empower Local organizations and contribute to their journey to self –reliance.

Additionally, the project collaborates with partners working in the community and the Ministry of Health to strengthen linkages and referrals, and provide comprehensive SRH/HIV and Gender-based violence (GBV) service packages that include:

- Individual risk assessment and risk reduction counselling.
- Condom distribution and skills building.
- Full range of contraceptive options.
- HIV testing services (index testing, HIV self-testing).
- GBV prevention and response, including post-violence clinical and non-clinical care and support.

KEY BI-ANNUAL ACHIEVEMENTS FOR FY22 (OCTOBER 2021 – MARCH 2022)

- Reached a total of 26,599 AGYW in DREAMS clubs in Zomba and Machinga with standardized SRH/HIV and GBV services
- Provided HIV testing services to a total of 991 AGYW in DREAMS clubs in Zomba and Machinga after risk assessments, out of which 18 individuals were found HIV positive. All the 18 HIV positive AGYW were referred for ART services and linked to treatment.
- Distributed a total of 11,849 HIV self-test kits to a total of 10,010 AGYW in DREAMS clubs in Zomba and Machinga. Self-testers with a reactive (preliminary positive) result received confirmatory testing from trained providers during the outreach clinics.
- Distributed a total of 203,675 condoms to AGYW in DREAMS clubs in Zomba and Machinga districts.
- Initiated a total of 696 AGYW in DREAMS clubs in Zomba and Machinga on PrEP.
- Provided post-GBV clinical and non-clinical services to a total of 3,532 AGYW in DREAMS clubs in the two districts.
- Distributed a total of 165,565 family planning commodities to AGYW in DREAMS clubs in Zomba and Machinga.
- Reached over 6000 individuals with COVID-19 vaccination messages in the two districts out of which 4000 individuals accessed the vaccine.
- Held both virtual and face to face LIPs subaward monitoring site visits which were used as a platform for troubleshooting potential management & operational problems on implementation, compliance, and reporting.
- Successfully held the Project Advisory Group and Youth Advisory Group review meetings in Zomba aimed at reviewing project performance, receiving key stakeholder feedback, and guiding the strategic direction of the project and course corrections, as necessary.
- Continued to update the project's website (www.malawiempower.org).

