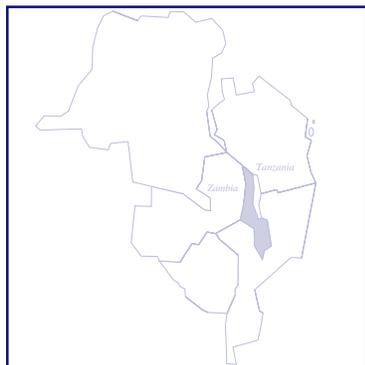


USAID Country Program Brief, October 1998

Family Planning and Health Activities in

Malawi



Population:	10.2 million (UN estimate for 1997)
Infant mortality rate:	134 deaths per 1,000 births (1992 DHS)
Adequate nutrition (wt.-for-age):	63% of children ages 12–23 months (1992 DHS)
Total fertility rate:	6.7 children per woman (1992 DHS)
Contraceptive prevalence rate:	14.4% (married women/modern methods, 1996 DHS)
Demographic and Health Surveys:	1992, 1996 (MKAPH Survey), 2000 (planned)
Social indicators survey:	1995 (UNICEF)

USAID/Malawi is pursuing a five-year program (1995–2000) with a goal to promote broad-based sustainable economic growth. This program follows a country strategic plan submitted in March 1995. Agencywide funding trends for family planning and health activities in Malawi in 1995–97 are summarized in the figure to the right. USAID/Malawi's results framework includes one strategic objective and three intermediate results (IRs) in family planning and health.

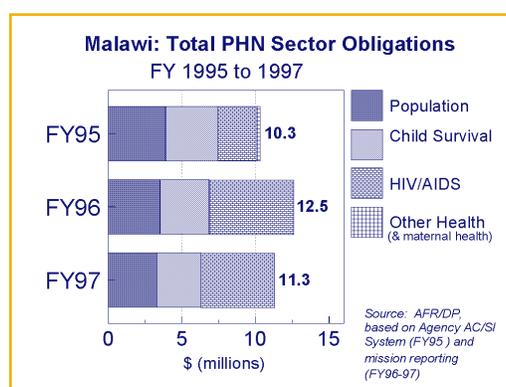
Strategic Objective 3: Increased adoption of measures that reduce fertility and risk of HIV transmission, including improved child health practices.

IR 3.1: Condoms and other health supplies are sold at retail outlets.

IR 3.2: Family planning, sexually transmitted infection (STI), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and child health services are accessible and provided to Malawi's citizens.

IR 3.2: Participation of community members in activities that improve health increases.

IR 3.4: Knowledge of family planning, HIV transmission and prevention, and child health practices improves.



Activities in Family Planning and Health

Promotion of Family Planning. USAID/Malawi is supporting information, education, and communication (IEC) activities; social marketing of contraceptives; training in clinical and management practices, and community-based distribution of contraceptives through the Support to AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) and Family Health (STAFH) project, implemented by the government of Malawi with Population Services International and several U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs). The mission is also helping to restructure the family planning logistics system and increase private sector service delivery points in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and John Snow International; assistance includes financing for renovation of facilities and provision of equipment and supplies for family planning and STI services in the public and private sectors.

Promotion of Child Survival. The mission supports efforts to improve child survival through a variety of initiatives in the public and private sectors. Community health partnerships, and five alliances between PVOs and district health offices, promote improved delivery of primary health services through provider training, promotion of breastfeeding, improvement of water supply, malaria research, and social marketing of oral rehydration therapy and impregnated bednets. Successes in improving malaria prevention and treatment, particularly with the adoption by the MOHP of sulfadoxine pyrimethamine as a first-line alternative to chloroquine, are credited with drastically reducing Malawi's case fatality rate for malaria. Ongoing research under the Applied Integrated Malaria Initiative on impregnated bednets and curtains, training of laboratory technicians, and a new Blantyre Integrated Malaria Initiative promise to further advance malaria control. USAID/Malawi continues to advocate for improved child survival policies and practices and is now promoting nationwide introduction of the integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) approach by the MOHP.

Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS/STIs. The mission supports increased distribution of condoms, AIDS education in schools, training in syndromic management of STIs, and operations research to combat HIV/AIDS and other STIs, through technical assistance from Johns Hopkins University and the AIDSCAP Project. A workplace task force established with USAID support continues to have enormous success in promoting employer-based HIV/AIDS prevention programs. The mission's condom social marketing program is now intensively targeting young men and women in urban areas. Under a partnership with the National AIDS Control Program and the World Bank, the mission will support the further strengthening of STI programs in Malawi. A new COPE initiative will support efforts to mitigate the impact of AIDS on society, including training in home-based care of AIDS patients, assistance to orphans, and promotion of income-generating activities.

Donor Coordination and Sector Reform. USAID/Malawi is collaborating with other health sector donors to minimize the burden of coordination on government staff. As co-chair of the Health and Population Donor Group, the mission has taken the lead on developing a national health and population evaluation plan that coordinates MOHP and donor input and requirements for program monitoring and evaluation. The mission is also developing a new initiative to ensure full participation by stakeholders in the national health reform process.

Global Bureau and USAID/Malawi Joint Planning Activities

AVSC International is promoting increased use of voluntary and safe contraception in Malawi.

Family Planning Logistics Management Project assists in the procurement, distribution, and management of contraceptives for family planning and HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

Initiatives in Natural Family Planning/Breastfeeding is promoting improved natural family planning through education and the development of ovulation prediction and detection kits.

MEASURE/U.S. Bureau of the Census

Quality Assurance Project promotes improvement in health service quality. Activities focus on health worker assessment, supervision, and performance with clients.

Bureau for Humanitarian Response, Office of Private & Voluntary Cooperation Child Survival Grantees as of 1998

Africare is promoting nutrition and improved treatment of diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, and malaria in Ntcheu District; Africare has established revolving funds to maintain supplies.

International Eye Foundation is addressing HIV/AIDS, nutrition, maternal and child care, family planning, and primary eye care in Chikwawa District.

Project HOPE has completed a grant focusing on HIV/AIDS, childhood illnesses, nutrition, maternal and newborn care, and family planning in Mulanje District, and has received a new grant starting in FY1998.

Save the Children Federation recently completed a grant under which it established revolving community drug funds and promoted control of childhood diseases and HIV/AIDS, nutrition, family planning, maternal and newborn care, and literacy in Mangochi District.

World Vision Relief and Development, Inc., with a grant completed in 1997, focused on nutrition, malaria, diarrheal diseases, immunization, family planning, maternal and newborn care, and HIV/AIDS in Lilongwe District.



This USAID Country Program Brief was prepared for the Human Resources Division, Office of Sustainable Development, USAID Africa Bureau (AFR/SD/HRD), by the Center for International Health Information (CIHI). Questions and comments can be directed to CIHI (info@cihi.com).