



DAPP Malawi

Capacity Statement on HIV and TB Prevention, Care and Treatment



2023

Background of DAPP Malawi

Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Malawi is a local non-governmental organization (NGO) working in Malawi since 1995, with a vision to create communities that are self-sustainable and have an improved quality of life. Our mission is to support the Malawi Government and people by working with communities to promote health, social and economic development through implementation of projects in sectors including public health (hereunder HIV, TB, MNCH, voluntary FP, and SRH), in agriculture, education, and community development. Since 1995, DAPP Malawi has excelled in implementing large-scale, high-impact development programs with measurable outcomes through predominantly local structures. DAPP implements projects in close collaboration with national and local government authorities and alongside a wide range of trusted civil society and private sector partners. DAPP currently employs approximately 800 staff implementing 20 projects benefitting hundreds of thousands of Malawians annually in all three regions of the country. The organization currently has a total annual budget of approximately USD \$7 million and has successfully managed grants of up to USD \$10 million. DAPP Malawi operates in full compliance with local laws and guidelines governing the operations of NGOs, and employs an independent external firm (currently Grant Thornton International) to conduct its annual external audit. DAPP has had clean audit reports each year since its registration. In 2021, DAPP received certification from Société Générale de Surveillance (SGS) for good governance and compliance with international best practices

DAPP has received funding from a variety of sources, including international donor agencies and foundations.

DAPP Malawi is currently the prime implementer of the 2022-2027 US\$ 6.1M CDC-funded project Strengthening Access to High Quality and Comprehensive Services Targeting Adolescent and Young People in Malawi through Determined, Resilient, AIDS-Free Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) Program under PEPFAR, entitled Project Loto Langa (Project LoLa).

In June 2021, DAPP Malawi was awarded the \$2.9 million USAID TB LON award over 3 years to implement locally generated solutions to improve TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services in three Districts of Malawi, namely Mangochi, Machinga and Mulanje –reaching 21 health facilities and surrounding communities.

DAPP has previously implemented USAID-funded grants via the KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, Save the Children, Baylor College of Medicine Children Foundation-Malawi and MSH. Other donors include GF via Christian Aid, the Dutch Government via Sympany NL, IFAD via the Ministry of Finance, US Department of Defense via Manerela and others.

To learn more about DAPP Malawi, please visit our [website](#) and read our most recent [Annual Report](#).

Inclusive, Community-Based and Scalable Models for Health

DAPP has over 25 years of experience working closely with the GoM and civil society organizations successfully implementing comprehensive and quality HIV/AIDS interventions at scale throughout Malawi with target groups including military personnel and communities around barracks, AGYW/ABYM, sexual partners of AGYW, sex workers, parents/caregivers, opinion leaders, health care workers and various community health structures in relation to HTS, TB, malaria, WASH and nutrition.

Knowledge, Capability and Experience in Managing TB/HIV Programs

Since 2014, DAPP Malawi has implemented both integrated TB/HIV projects and TB specific active case finding projects in Blantyre, Thyolo, Mulanje, Chiradzulu, Neno, Phalombe, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi and Zomba. Funding for these projects came from various donors including Comic Relief UK through TB Alert

UK, USAID through KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation and Global Fund via WITS Health Consortium and ADPP Mozambique. The projects targeted both general and key populations in the named districts.

Examples of Key Results from TB Work:

USAID: In June 2021 DAPP Malawi was awarded the \$2.9 million USAID TB LON award to implement locally generated solutions to improve TB diagnosis, treatment, and prevention services in three Districts of Malawi, namely Mangochi, Machinga and Mulanje –reaching 21 health facilities and surrounding communities, including 1050 volunteers and 105 community sputum collection points. Sub partners in this project is KNCV and Facilitators of Community Transformation (FACT).

Recently in February 2023, DAPP has entered into a partnership agreement with FHI360 to carry out a USAID funded COVID-19/TB Bilateral Screening in Mulanje, Machinga and Mangochi districts as an integration to the USAID TB LON -2 Project

Global Fund via Christian Aid via World Vision:

With funding from Global Fund through World Vision International and Christian Aid, DAPP is since December 2021 carrying out TB Active Case Finding (ACF) activities in 10 districts in the southern region of Malawi namely: Chikwawa, Zomba, Chiradzulu, Neno, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo, Mulanje, Mwanza and Blantyre.

The Community Volunteers will screen people at the house hold and run Sputum Collection points – the community referrals will be used for people to get a TB test at the nearest health facility.

USAID via KNCV Funded Challenge TB FAST; DAPP implemented Finding TB cases Actively, Separating Safely & Treating Effectively (FAST) strategy in district hospitals of Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi and Zomba Central Hospital over 18 months from 2018 to 2019. The projects contributed to the districts key results as follows: 959 new TB cases notified (all types) in adults over 1.5 years; 99.8% treatment success rate, improved turn-around-time (TAT) of TB diagnosis from about 7 days to 24hrs.

COMIC Relief via TB Alert UK funded Integration of HIV/TB Project into community-based HIV program in Thyolo district from 2015 to 2018. Key interventions for this project included; a) Awareness on HIV and TB; b) Screening for TB at the doorstep; c) Rapid diagnostics for HIV at household level; d) Collecting and transportation of sputum samples; e) Referrals and supporting treatment initiation; f) Treatment adherence and psychosocial support; g) Contact tracing and investigations; h) Supporting clients lost to follow up to restart treatment and i) TB preventive therapy for eligible children and PLHIV. Key results included 6,708 smear sputum samples tested; 517 new TB cases notified (all types); 14,104 people received HIV testing services; 168,448 people reached with TB & TB/HIV coinfection information through door-to-door visits.

Global Fund via WITS Health Consortium and ADPP Mozambique; The TB – In Mining Sector in Southern Africa (TIMS) project objective was to increase TB case finding in the key population of miners and mining communities across 10 countries in southern Africa. In Malawi the identified new cases, increased treatment coverage and provide treatment adherence support, integrating HIV testing and services. 15,279 people screened for TB. 630 presumptive cases were identified and were referred to TB testing using microscopy. 61 new TB cases were diagnosed. 13,134 community members were reached with TB messages and screening.

Stop TB Partnership: In 2023 DAPP will be implementing a Stop TB Partnership - United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) funded project to carry out an Assessment on TB stigma to inform development of National Costed Action Plan to overcome barriers to TB services and other challenges. The stigma assessment will be done together with NTP and other local TB implementing partners.

Knowledge, Capability and Experience in Managing HIV prevention Programs

Since 2007, DAPP has implemented HIV and AIDS activities in Malawi utilizing the comprehensive Total Control of the Epidemic (TCE) approach combining tailored HTS, individual counseling for risk reduction, strengthened interpersonal networks, and community mobilization for behavior change through awareness campaigns and involvement of community leaders, CBOs, youth clubs and youth organizations, Support Groups and faith leaders. DAPP began implementing the TCE program in Malawi in 2007 with support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NAC, among others. Since that time, DAPP has continuously evolved the TCE approach through data and evidence-driven decisions made by DAPP in close coordination with the GoM, donors, and civil society organizations, improving TCE's efficiency and effectiveness and adjusting to address emerging HIV/AIDS, TB, Malaria and Nutrition challenges in Malawi.

To date, the TCE model has reached more than 1.5 million people in Malawi with HIV education and mobilization, provided over 810,000 individuals with counseling, and tested more than 500,000 people for HIV, with 54% of those tested being women. These efforts have measurably increased access to and utilization of quality HIV/AIDS products and services and demonstrably improved communication and social norms to reduce HIV risk among program beneficiaries. DAPP's TCE work has also reduced the spread of TB by raising awareness and improving access to and demand for TB and HIV testing and treatment. ¹

DAPP promotes and builds the capacity of people, communities and institutions to achieve self-sustainability and to drive their own change. DAPP works in partnership with the MoH and other government agencies to identify needs and build institutional capacity at all levels through close coordination and collaboration with government personnel, and ongoing training and mentoring. Highly trained staff and well-honed M&E systems are used to build and support QI/QA processes to strengthen HIV/AIDS systems and improve the quality and use of data for decision making and process and system improvements.

DAPP's role as a trusted implementing partner of the MoH has also translated into active involvement in the development, review and implementation of HIV/AIDS policies and strategic plans. In recent years, DAPP has participated in the development of the National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS 2020-2025, the National HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategy 2022 – 2026, and the National Strategic Plan for TB 2021-2025. DAPP also contributed to the development of the policy on HIV/AIDS S&D for DHA.

Delivery of Integrated/Comprehensive HIV-related Services for Care and Treatment

DAPP Malawi is currently the prime implementer of the 2022-2027 US\$ 6.1M CDC-funded project *Strengthening Access to High Quality and Comprehensive Services Targeting Adolescent and Young People in Malawi through Determined, Resilient, AIDS-Free Mentored and Safe (DREAMS) Program under PEPFAR*, entitled Project Loto Langa (Project LoLa). The project builds on DAPP's long history carrying out integrated and comprehensive HIV/AIDS interventions to support the scale up of DREAMS activities through implementation of a comprehensive, quality package of layered DREAMS interventions for 23,445 AGYW, sexual partners, parents and caregivers, and community members in Chiradzulu and Blantyre districts.

¹ For example, for information from PEPFAR about how DAPP's TCE model has helped Namibia move toward epidemic control, see this website: <https://na.usembassy.gov/development-aid-people-people-tce-field-officer-heroes-saving-lives/>

Supporting HIV/AIDS Program Services in Malawi's Military: DAPP is currently partnering with MDF as a sub-recipient to MANERELA+ on the 4-year DHAPP-funded project *Unlocking Social Capital of Military and Faith Communities to Support HIV/AIDS Services*.

Working in and around 2 military sites (Kamuzu Barracks, and Lilongwe Air-wing), DAPP has built the capacity of faith leaders and community members to promote behaviors that prevent HIV/AIDS and raise awareness within the community. DAPP leads workshops and trains faith leaders and community members to become involved in community-level behavioral change through prevention awareness, HIV testing access, and adherence support.

DAPP has implemented the following examples of integrated projects in HIV/AIDS and SRH for youth, men and key populations:

- On the World Bank, GIZ, and National AIDS Commission (NAC)-funded Integrated Sexual Reproductive Health Rights for AGYW Project (2013-17), DAPP Malawi provided SRHR education and services for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYM) in Blantyre, Thyolo, Chiradzulu and Mulanje Districts. DAPP targeted more than 20,000 AGYW along with 30 teachers/tutors and matrons in private secondary schools and tertiary education institutions. The projects provided correct information on HIV prevention, teenage pregnancy, and SRH to empower AGYW to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to help them reduce their risk and vulnerability to HIV and increase their uptake of SRH services. Specifically, the project provided comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) to 17,282 girls in AGYW clubs, reached 1,350 AGYW with career guidance, and trained 19 peer educators on adolescent growth and development. The project trained 114 AGYW as community-based distribution agents (CBDAs) for family and as supervisors for family planning education of youth, 59 HTC counsellors to increase HTC and PITC, and 182 local leaders on youth friendly SRH services and to address harmful cultural practices affecting youth. The project conducted 21 SRH campaigns in the community and by radio.
- On the NAC-funded Door-to-Door HTC and Vocational Skills Training for Orphan and Adolescent Girls Project (2013-14), DAPP reached more than 600,000 people in Mulanje and Blantyre Districts, improving linkages to HIV, SHR and maternal health services. DAPP conducted door-to-door outreach reaching 219,557 people with tailored information on HIV/AIDS and home-based HTC for 32,236 people, contributing 36% to The Ministry of Health's district HIV testing efforts. DAPP trained 100 female school dropouts (15-24yrs) in vocational skills of various trades including fashion design and tailoring, metalwork and welding, beauty and hairdressing, carpentry and joinery, and bricklaying. The project also distributed more than 510,000 condoms to the general population.
- On the Baylor College of Medicine Children Foundation-funded Tingathe Project (2015-16), DAPP strengthened the provision of HTC services in Mulanje and Phalombe Districts with the goal of improving access to, acceptability, and utilization of HIV testing, treatment, and linkages to care for PLHIV. This included PMTCT conducting close follow-up and referrals to early infant diagnosis (EID) of HIV exposed infants and children living with HIV. On the project, DAPP supported HTC services in 32 health facilities (20 from Mulanje and 12 from Phalombe), with 54 trained HIV Diagnostic Assistants providing HIV testing and counselling to more than 102,600 people in Mulanje and 85,800 in Phalombe. The project linked 730 HIV+ children under 15 to care and treatment, and achieved testing of 15,974 clients, as compared to 11,748 in the same period prior to project initiation.
- On the World Bank and CIDA-funded Support for Nutrition Improvement Project (2014-2017) implemented by DAPP with technical support from the Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS, DAPP-Malawi conducted community awareness and sensitization meetings to increase utilization of mobile health services in the areas of HIV/AIDS, MNCH, FP, SRH and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

(WASH). The activity reached more than 400,000 villagers in Chiradzulu and Blantyre Districts. These meetings were participatory in nature and included support to communities to prepare Community Action Plans to identify and overcome challenges in particular health areas. DAPP Malawi also conducted 100 Community Health Campaign meetings to mobilize community leaders – including more than 1,400 Group Village Heads (GVHs) and other local leaders – and local structures to promote awareness of the importance of early health seeking behaviors and utilization of health services as a means of mitigating serious health problems. DAPP Field Officers conducted door-to-door outreach, distributed IEC materials, held village meetings, and organized campaigns to mobilize over 238,433 people and communities to utilize available mobile health services.