

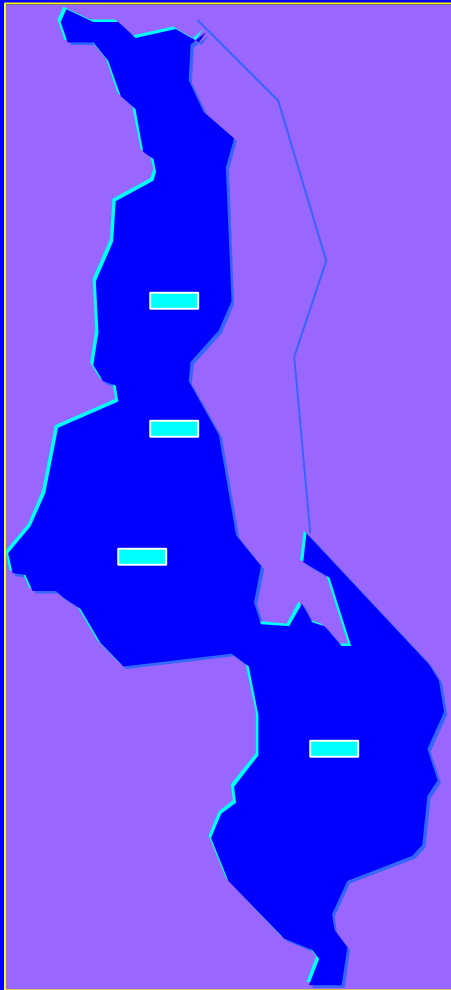
**HUMAN RIGHTS BASED INTERVENTIONS ARE  
CRUCIAL TO CHANGE OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS  
REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTH**

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*“Reaching Men to Improve Reproductive Health for All”*

# COUNTRY AND PROJECT PROFILE



Malawi: Southern part of Africa.

Population: 10 million +.

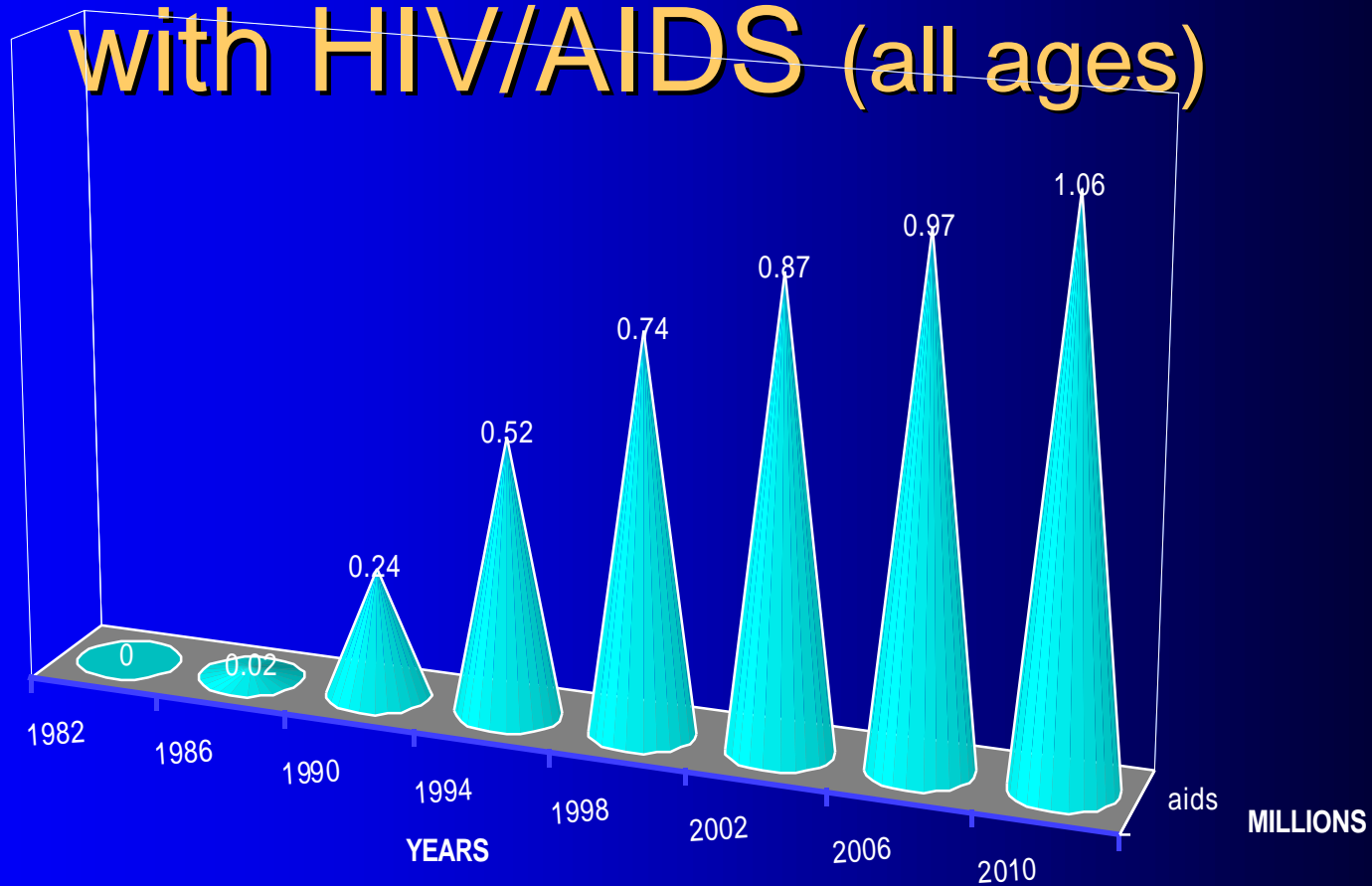
8 out of every 10 Malawians live in rural areas.

6 out of 10 Malawians earn less than 60 Malawi Kwacha (less than a Dollar) a day.

## COUNTRY PROFILE: Implications on Health

- One doctor for every 40,000 to 50,000 adults.
- One in every five children fail to reach their fifth birth day.
- Six in a thousand mothers die in childbirth.

# People Living with HIV/AIDS (all ages)



	1982	1986	1990	1994	1998	2002	2006	2010
aids	0	0.02	0.24	0.52	0.74	0.87	0.97	1.06

# PREVALENCE OF HIV/AIDS (Cont'd)

- One in five women with the virus develops the disease before they are 25.
- One in every twelve men develop AIDS at the same age.
- More women, ( ~420,000) than men (~340,000) are reported living with the virus.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The National Association For People Living With HIV/AIDS In Malawi is a secular non-governmental organization that was founded in 1993. The aim was to deal with stigma and discrimination in the country.

## TARGET POPULATION

- NAPHAM recruits people who are HIV reactive to become its members.

Over 2000 registered members.

- More males report for testing than women.  
**Few men seek support.**
- Over 80% of NAPHAM members are women.

# FUNDING SOURCES

*USAID*, through Save the Children (US)  
Umoyo Network.

- First year of funding = 48,000 US\$
- Second year = 99,000 US\$
- Third year = 199,000 US\$

# PROBLEMS

- It is difficult for men in Malawi to admit that they need help.
- Men with HIV receive less support and fall ill faster than women with the virus..
- With the coming of HIV/AIDS, **male dominance** has devastating effects.
- Men's desire to have total control on sexual and reproductive health can **conflict with the rights** of their partners; a deeper need to have a more equal relationship in protection against infections and pregnancy.

# A potential solution

- Men are regarded as the heads of families (a Malawian perspective) and can play a very important role in making sure that their families enjoy sexual and reproductive rights.
- Despite the fact that men play a dominant role at family level, the role is not being positively utilized.
- Instead of taking advantage of the cultural atmosphere prevailing in the country and start participating fully, the men folk tend to seat back and watch as women take forefront roles.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide care and support to members and clients.
- To provide Psychosocial support to People Living With HIV/AIDS.
- To build Capacity of NAPHAM.
- To Intensify HIV/AIDS activities on behavior change.

# INTERVENTION APPROACH TO ACHIEVE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

People living with HIV/AIDS and those affected belong to a category of vulnerable groups in need of protection. This is so because of the **stigmatization** and **discrimination** that is associated with the epidemic.

# ISSUES DISCOVERED

Men feel **ashamed** to register as members.

Married women are **being divorced** because of disclosing their status.

Over 50% of the women members were being forced by their husbands to have unprotected sex

There are less than 10 registered male yutohs who are HIV positive in the organization

# ACTIONS

- (a) Intensive campaigns by members to tackle issues of stigma and discrimination.
- (b) The members in all the branches were trained and continue to be oriented in Human Rights Based Approaches in HIV/AIDS programming..
- (c) Female members are being encouraged to understand their sexual rights

# OTHER ACTIVITIES

- NAPHAM youth drama groups reach fellow youths (peers) so as to encourage the infected to come forward and open up.
- Condom use and promotion has been widely intensified.
- Special outreach programs continue to take place in order to reach men and boys in different community settings.

# INDICATORS TO MEASURE ACHIEVEMENTS and MONITORING ACTIVITIES

- Baseline surveys
- Supervisory visits
- Capacity Building
- Team building sessions.

## RESULTS

**Changes and results noted over a period of six months:**

- a) Over 100% increase in male registration.
- (b) Better understanding by members of reproductive and sexual rights.
- (c) More husbands joined their spouses at NAPHAM.
- (d ) Higher condoms use.

# RESULTS (Con't)

- (e) Decrease in wife battering and abuse
- (f) Gender roles perceived more positively.
- (g) Some male youths have come out in the open and registered with NAPHAM.

# STAKEHOLDERS

- National AIDS Commission, MACRO,  
U.N.community, World Bank,  
Malawi Network Of AIDS Service Organizations.

- All Community Based organizations in the country:

Malawi Network of people living with HIV/AIDS In Malawi (MANET+)

- USAID Through save The Children –Umoyo Network, Strategies For Action (Action Aid), VSO,American Peace corps, Board of Trustees, Directors, District and City Assemblies.

# ROLE PLAYED BY STAKEHOLDERS

- Provision of financial and technical support.
- Capacity Building
- Networking and Coordination.
- Advocacy
- Governance.
- Provision of human resources.

# OBSTACLES

- Stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Strong cultural belief that portray men as being superior to women.
- Lack of adequate teaching aids to reach the community with information.

# ADDRESSING CONSTRAINTS

The constraints are being sorted out as follows:

- Comprehensive outreach sensitization activities/campaigns to tackle stigma and discrimination.
- Community sensitization and orientation on gender equity and equality.

# OPPORTUNITIES

- Strong political will and leadership to fight the epidemic.
- International community's will to assist the country financially.
- Strong community structures.

# LESSONS LEARNT/Conclusion .

- Negative aspects of masculinity need to change.
- Negative aspects of our culture need modification.
- Women need to be empowered.
- Political, community and religious leaders should recognize the role of men in the epidemic.

# THE END

