



# **MALAWI**

**Statement delivered by  
Her Excellency Madame Callista Mutharika  
the First Lady of the Republic of Malawi**

**SUSTAINING THE NATIONAL  
HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE --  
What have the sources received  
and contributed achieved?**

**UN HIV and AIDS High Level Meeting  
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*Check against delivery*

## **MR PRESIDENT**

### **YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATES AND HEADS OF MISSION**

I would like to congratulate you, the United Nations Secretary General and UNAIDS Executive Director for convening the high level special session and adopting various resolutions that relate to HIV and AIDS. I have titled my speech "*SUSTAINING THE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS RESPONSE*", because it is time to applaud the successes and resolutely commit ourselves to eliminate new infections.

I am happy to report that Malawi is winning the HIV and AIDS battle as evidenced by the decline in new HIV infections to 70,000 from 110,000. HIV and AIDS has been included in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy and translated in the national HIV and AIDS Policy and the National Action Framework. The success has also been due to:

- The highest political will, commitment, championing and leadership where His Excellency Ngwazi Professor Bingu wa Mutharika President of the Republic of Malawi is the Minister Responsible for Nutrition, HIV and AIDS. In line with this I am the Coordinator of Safe Motherhood, Nutrition, HIV and AIDS including PMTCT.
- My appointment has facilitated the linkage between the services and a Callista Mutharika Safe Motherhood Foundation was launched. I am advocating aggressively on zero vertical transmission of HIV; promoting infant and young child feeding; signed the call to action for Scaling Up Nutrition and the 1,000 days movement in order to reduce stunting.
- A secretariat in the OPC headed by a PS has been established to spearhead the production of the HIV and AIDS policy, provide strategic direction, guidance, oversight, high level advocacy, monitoring and evaluation and facilitating the establishment of implementation structures currently in 10 key Ministries
- Allocation of 2% Other Recurrent Transaction (ORT) budget amounting to US\$41.2 million.

- Development and adoption of 86 Workplace Policies strategies in all the 3 sectors of the economy namely Public, Private and Civil Society.
- Successfully integrated nutrition into the ART Programme.

## **MR PRESIDENT**

The US\$300 million which Malawi has raised over the recent years, has contributed to the following successes and outcomes:

- New HIV infections have declined from 110,000 to 70,000;
- HIV prevalence has declined to 10% from 16%.
- 80% of clients ever started on ART are still alive and continuing with treatment;
- 63% of clients in need of ART have been reached;
- 87% HIV /TB co-infection clients on ART are cured;
- New HIV infections have declined by 25% in young people and Malawi is one of the nine countries globally, which has achieved this.
- Abstinence has increased from 39 to 48% in young people.
- Condom use has increased from 47 to 60% among males and 30 to 40 percent among females.
- Stigma and discrimination has declined and there is greater involvement of people living with HIV in the national response.
- HIV testing sites have increased to 735 from 146 sites and over 5 million Malawians have been tested and know their sero-status.
- ART sites have increased from 9 to 426 sites that also offer Post Exposure Service and over 350,000 people are on ART.
- Mortality due to AIDS has reduced to 5 from 11 %.
- The vertical transmission of HIV from mother to child has declined from 23.1% to 12.8%. Under research conditions it has gone down to 1.5%. Early Infant Diagnosis is offered in 192 facilities and 41% of the exposed children received ARV prophylaxis.
- 100% of new HIV positive pregnant women attending antenatal clinics receive a complete dose of ARV prophylaxis
- Health systems are being strengthened with 2,800 health workers and 5,300 front line health workers trained and retained.

- Infrastructures such as laboratories were constructed and renovated while CD4 count machines and molecular biology equipment were procured.
- Over 4.5 million young people have received life skills education.
- Over 35,000 households with orphans and vulnerable children received social support.
- Over 240,000 have benefitted from direct cash transfer, 150,000 from agriculture input subsidy, 100,000 MADEF loans and 500,000 nutrition supports.

## **MR PRESIDENT**

**The successes are not without challenges, key among them being:**

- Inadequate finance, human and material resources;
- Inadequate capacity to track and follow up clients on ART to ensure adherence; and
- Low community and male participation in the national response.

**To address the challenges, the Government has:**

- Reviewed and finalized the new HIV and AIDS Policy whilst development of a new HIV and AIDS strategy, as well as its resource mobilization strategy is underway;
- Advanced its efforts towards local production of ARVs and other pharmaceutical products; and,
- Continued to implement the health system human resource capacity strengthening strategy

**In conclusion,** Malawi's HIV and AIDS response is mature and calls for sustainable programming. The Government of Malawi remains committed to champion the national response within the holistic approach and is appealing to the Global community, bilateral, multilateral and civil society partners to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to HIV and AIDS in order to achieve the **“Three Zeros”**.