



# HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / MALAWI

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.

The Health Policy Project (HPP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), contributes to improved health through strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of health systems.

To learn more, visit HPP at: [www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)

## Overview

In Malawi, rapid population growth poses challenges to health and development—placing pressure on the country's natural resources and health, education, and social services. More than one in four women still have an unmet need for family planning (FP). Recognizing these challenges, the government of Malawi has committed to expanding access to family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) services, and raising the contraceptive prevalence rate to 60 percent by 2020.

HIV and gender-based violence (GBV) also undermine health and well-being in Malawi: one in every 10 adults is living with HIV, and nearly one-third of married women experience intimate partner violence.

The Health Policy Project (HPP) in Malawi builds local capacity to address population, gender, and development issues through a multisectoral approach—supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and other national development goals.

The project

- Supports evidence-based decision making
- Builds partners' capacity to generate and use data in policy analysis and planning
- Strengthens leadership and governance for population, health, and gender programs
- Builds partners' advocacy capacity
- Enhances multisectoral coordination

## Policy

Focusing on evidence-based decision making, HPP/Malawi supports the government to develop, analyze, and disseminate population and development, health, and gender policies and strategies. Key contributions include

- Assisting the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Welfare in drafting an institutional policy and strategic plan
- Training local partners to implement user-friendly software and computer models—such as RAPID and ImpactNow—to explore policy options and set priorities
- Supporting district-level advocacy initiatives
- Conducting costing and modeling analyses to guide the scale-up of the national voluntary male medical circumcision program



Photo by: Health Policy Project/Elizabeth T. Robinson

Mr. Jollam Banda, Deputy Director, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, addresses the national Technical Working Group for Population Advocacy and Communication during a 2013 meeting of population and development stakeholders.



Photo by: Health Policy Project/Elizabeth T. Robinson

A woman in a settlement area in Lilongwe that was reached by an HPP-supported “Population Weekend” activity led by religious leaders nationwide.

## Capacity Development

HPP/Malawi strengthens the capacity of government and other local partners by

- Training collaborating partners and government staff on policy analysis and modeling tools
- Supporting organizational development to enhance the government’s ability to plan and coordinate its programming
- Providing technical assistance on knowledge management and communications

## Advocacy

HPP/Malawi builds the advocacy capacity of local partners, including the Family Planning Association of Malawi (FPAM) and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MEPD)—enabling them to mobilize financial and political support to improve access to high-quality FP/RH services. The project

- Supports stakeholders’ national and district-level FP advocacy efforts
- Works with parliamentarians to advocate for increased FP funding—which contributed to the inclusion of a dedicated FP line item in the 2013–2014 national budget
- Engages religious and traditional leaders on FP/RH issues and builds their capacity to discuss these issues with their communities

## Governance

HPP/Malawi strengthens the leadership, strategic planning, and financing capacity of government ministries through technical assistance, training, and facilitation. Key contributions include

- Helping establish and providing ongoing support for the national Technical Working Group on Population and Development
- Assisting in drafting and monitoring the implementation of the National Advocacy and Communication Strategy for Population 2012–2016
- Partnering with MEPD and FPAM to strengthen the capacity of district executive councils to address population and development

## How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest in receiving project assistance should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

### USAID

Linda Cahaelen, ScD  
AOR, USAID/Washington  
lcahaelen@usaid.gov  
Tel: +1 (202) 712-4138

### Futures Group

Suneeta Sharma, PhD  
Director, Health Policy Project  
ssharma@futuresgroup.com  
Tel: +1 (202) 775-9680

### HPP/Malawi

Olive Mtema, MPH  
Senior Policy & Advocacy Advisor  
omtema@futuresgroup.com  
Tel: +(265) 88 410 180

## Contact Us

Health Policy Project  
One Thomas Circle NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20005  
[www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)  
[policyinfo@futuresgroup.com](mailto:policyinfo@futuresgroup.com)

The Health Policy Project is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-10-00067, beginning September 30, 2010. The project’s HIV activities are supported by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). It is implemented by Futures Group, in collaboration with CEDPA (part of Plan International USA), Futures Institute, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office (PPD ARO), Population Reference Bureau (PRB), RTI International, and the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA).

The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development.