

# District overview of travel time to ART facilities: Mzimba North

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## Objectives

- Map the estimated prevalence and number of people living with HIV (PLHIV) by approximately 1 km grid cells.
- Estimate the travel time to the nearest ART facility for PLHIV in Malawi.
- Identify optimal locations for additional facilities with ART service to reach PLHIV with long travel times to existing ART facilities (>60, 90, or 120 minutes).

Interactive results are available at: [https://mrc-ide.github.io/mwi-hiv/ART\\_facilities/index.html](https://mrc-ide.github.io/mwi-hiv/ART_facilities/index.html).

## HIV prevalence and PLHIV estimates

Figure 2 illustrates estimates for spatial HIV prevalence for adults aged 15–49 years. Figure 3 shows the estimated number of PLHIV (all ages), and the locations of health facilities with ART services (labelled with **A**) and without current ART services (labelled with **F**).

Table 1: Summary estimates for Mzimba North, September 2020.

Total PLHIV (all ages)	11,207 (9,274–13,134)
HIV prevalence, age 15–49 years	5.8% (4.8%–6.7%)
Total patients receiving ART	34,981
Average walking time to nearest ART (minutes)	55 (53–57)
Number PLHIV > 60 minutes walking time	4,383 (3,590–5,287)
Percentage PLHIV > 60 minutes walking time	39.2% (36.8%–41.8%)

Table 2: Traditional authorities with the lowest and highest estimated number of PLHIV, 15-49 Prevalence, and average walking time, respectively.

	Lowest TA	Largest TA
PLHIV	Vwaza Marsh Reserve: 2 (1–3)	TA Mtwalo: 8,003 (6,526–9,646)
15-49 Prevalence	TA Mpherembe: 5.1% (3.9%–6.5%)	Vwaza Marsh Reserve: 6.3% (4.3%–9.2%)
Average Walking Time	TA Jaravikuba Munthali: 32 min (29–36 min)	Vwaza Marsh Reserve: 115 min (100–133 min)

## Travel time to existing ART facilities

In Mzimba North, there are 20 ART facilities that had at least 1 patient in September 2020. The median number of ART patients per facility was 265. The list of *active ART facilities* is in Table 4. Private not-for-profit facilities have been excluded from the analysis. Figure 4 shows the modelled travel times to the nearest active ART facility. The average walking time to the nearest facility for residents in each traditional authority are in (Figure 5).

- The estimated average walking time for PLHIV to the closest ART facility across Mzimba North is 55 minutes (53-57 min).
- The shortest estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility is in TA Jaravikuba Munthali (32 minutes (29-36 min)).
- The longest estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility is in Vwaza Marsh Reserve (115 minutes (100-133 min)).

An estimated 39.2% (36.8%–41.8%) of PLHIV reside more than 60 minutes walking time to their nearest ART facility, compared to 40.3% of the total population. This decreases to 16.3% (14.3%–18.6%) of PLHIV and 17.0% of the total population residing more than 90 minutes walking time to their nearest ART facility. More details are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Estimated PLHIV and population not reached at different thresholds

Threshold (minutes)	Population not reached	As % of total population	PLHIV not reached	As % of total estimated PLHIV
45	160,598	56.3%	6,140 (5,089–7,360)	54.9% (52.6%–57.5%)
60	114,870	40.3%	4,383 (3,590–5,287)	39.2% (36.8%–41.8%)
90	48,459	17.0%	1,826 (1,435–2,269)	16.3% (14.3%–18.6%)
120	17,404	6.1%	653 (511–818)	5.8% (5.0%–6.8%)

## Proposed facilities for new ART services

A list of 11 *non-ART facilities* were considered to identify existing health facility locations for expanding ART services, listed in Table 5. Figure 6 shows the number of PLHIV in grid cells where the estimated travel time is longer than 60 minutes and candidate new ART facilities.

- The TA with the largest number of PLHIV residing more than 60 minutes from their closest ART facility is TA Mtwalo (3228 PLHIV (2609-3922) with walking time > 60 minutes).
- The facility that can reach the most PLHIV residing outside 60 minutes travel time is **MADISE I**, with 275 PLHIV (163-428) reached.

## Limitations

There are several important limitations to this analysis:

- Travel time surfaces and catchments may not optimally reflect typical routine travel or movement patterns, for example for work or other activities.
- Results do not represent uncertainty in the 1km gridded maps of PLHIV arising from uncertainty about the gridded populations.
- There are discrepancies in the gridded HIV prevalence estimates from the Bayesian geostatistical model and the Naomi estimates for some districts which should be further reviewed, especially neighbouring urban and rural districts.
- Geographic locations of some health facilities are discrepant between multiple data sources and need to be confirmed.
- The physical infrastructure and suitability of candidate health facilities for supporting an ART service is unknown.
- Optimisation analysis for locations for new facilities has not considered overcrowding, wait times, or other barriers to access at existing facilities. It could be more optimal to expand services in some geographically dense locations to address barriers to access.

## Summary figures and maps

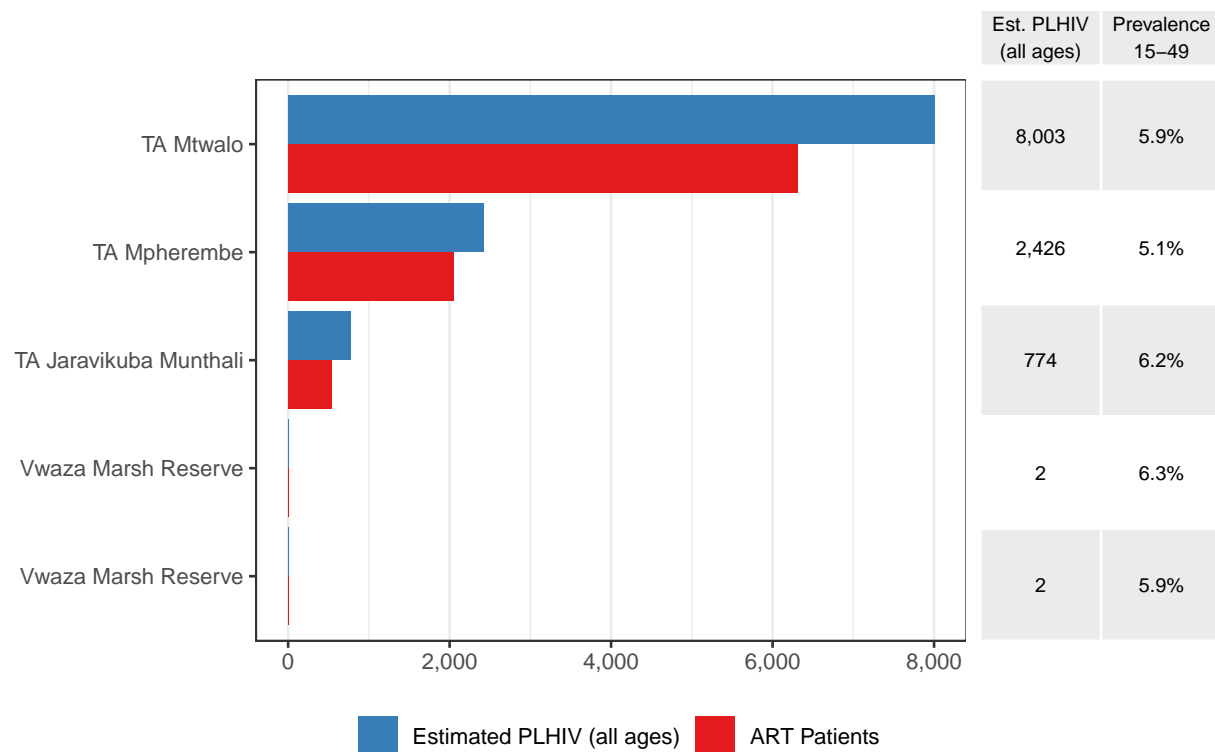


Figure 1: Number registered ART clients within each TA and estimated number of PLHIV within the TA. The right table indicates the estimated 15–49 HIV prevalence.

## HIV prevalence in ages 15-49

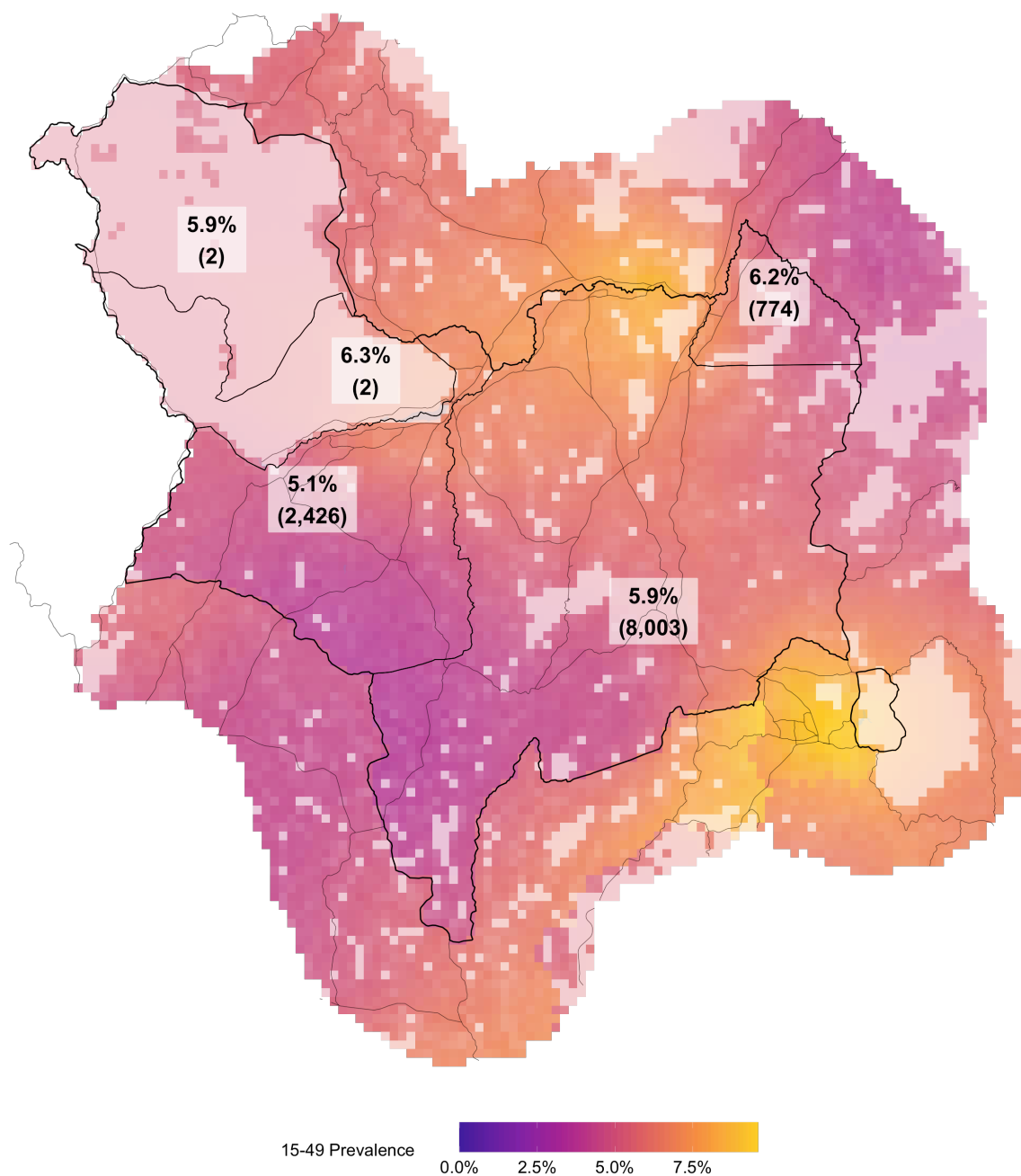


Figure 2: Estimated spatial HIV prevalence. Percentages correspond to TA level 15-49 HIV prevalence and numbers in brackets indicate the estimated number of PLHIV overall.

## Estimated number of PLHIV at 1km square

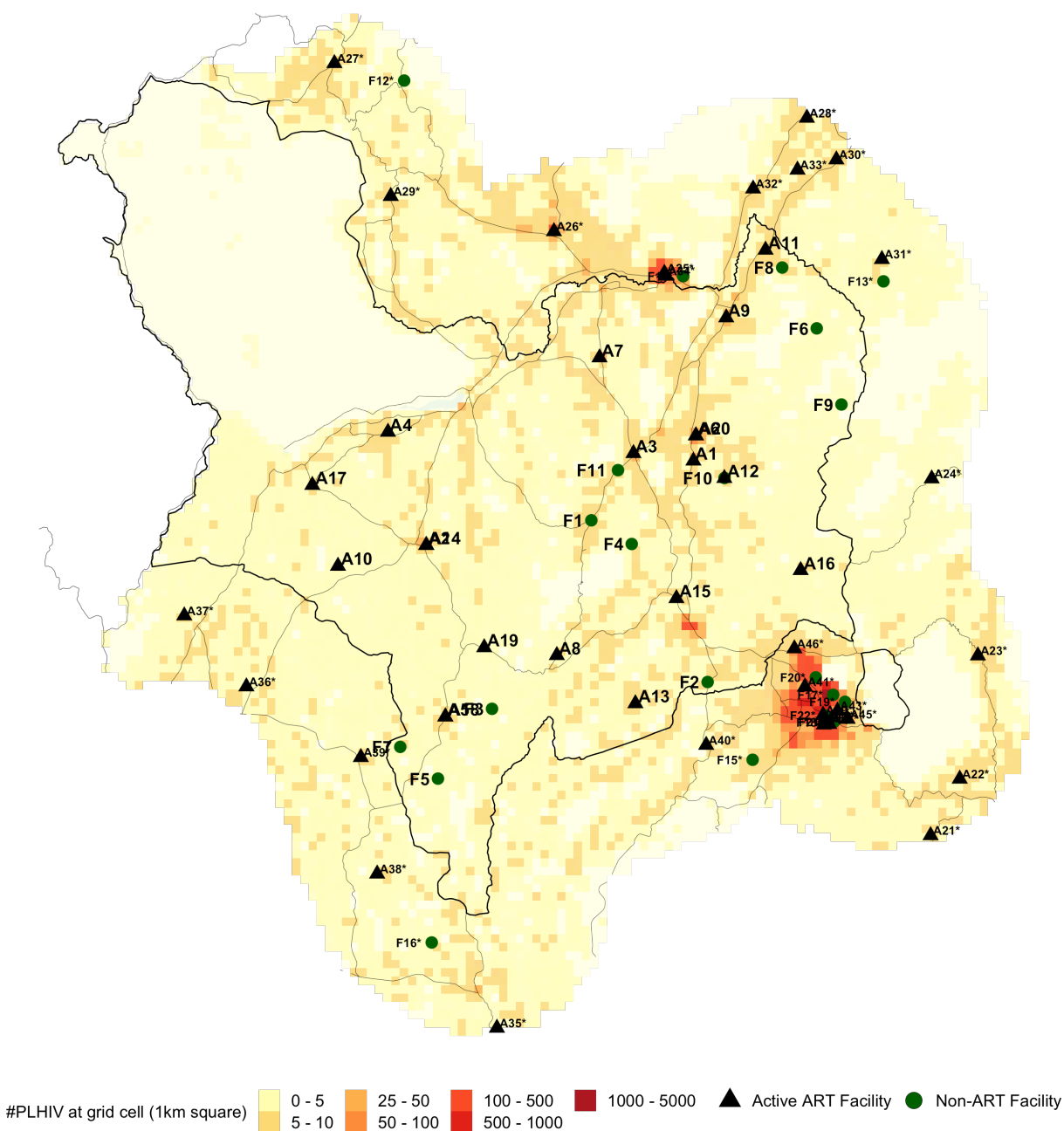


Figure 3: Estimated number of PLHIV on a 1km square.

Table 4: List of active ART facilities that had at least 1 registered ART patient in September 2020. The column "ART" indicates how many ART patients are registered at the ART facility. Facilities outside the district boundaries that may be accessible to residents within the district are marked with "\*".

ID	District	TA	Name	Type	Authority	Long.	Lat.	ART
A1	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Ekwendeni Mission Hosp.	District hospital	CHAM	33.88	-11.20	2816
A2	Mzimba North	TA Mpherembe	Mpherembe HC	Health centre	Government	33.61	-11.29	813
A3	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Engucwini HP	Health post	Government	33.82	-11.20	630
A4	Mzimba North	TA Mpherembe	Thunduwike HC	Health centre	Government	33.58	-11.18	593
A5	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Kafukule HC	Health centre	Government	33.63	-11.46	528
A6	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Enukweni HC	Health centre	Government	33.89	-11.18	424
A7	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Kamwe HC	Health centre	Government	33.79	-11.10	406
A8	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Mtwalo HC	Health centre	Government	33.75	-11.40	286
A9	Mzimba North	TA Jaravikuba Munthali	Bwengu HC	Health centre	Government	33.92	-11.06	278
A10	Mzimba North	TA Mpherembe	Kabwafu HC	Health centre	Government	33.53	-11.31	266
A11	Mzimba North	TA Jaravikuba Munthali	Luzi HC	Health centre	Government	33.96	-11.00	264
A12	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Khuyukuyu HC	Health centre	Government	33.91	-11.22	238
A13	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Emsizini HC	Health centre	Private	33.82	-11.44	222
A14	Mzimba North	TA Mpherembe	Manolo HC	Health centre	Government	33.61	-11.29	211
A15	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Kaweche HC	Health centre	Government	33.87	-11.34	199
A16	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Choma HC	Health centre	Government	33.99	-11.31	171
A17	Mzimba North	TA Mpherembe	Malidadi HC	Health centre	Government	33.50	-11.23	166
A18	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Njuyu HC	Health centre	Government	33.63	-11.46	145
A19	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Luvwere HC	Health centre	Government	33.67	-11.39	139
A20	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Enukweni Mission HC	Health centre	CHAM	33.89	-11.18	102
A21*	Nkhatabay	TA Timbiri	Chisala HC	Health centre	Government	34.12	-11.57	310
A22*	Nkhatabay	TA Timbiri	Luwazi HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.15	-11.52	197
A23*	Nkhatabay	STA Nyaluwanga	Chikwina HC	Health centre	Government	34.17	-11.40	159
A24*	Nkhatabay	TA M'bwana	Bula HC	Health centre	Government	34.12	-11.22	80
A25*	Rumphi	Rumphi Boma	Rumphi District Hosp.	District hospital	Government	33.85	-11.02	2914
A26*	Rumphi	TA Chikulamayembe	Bolero Rural Hosp.	Rural/Community	Government	33.74	-10.98	1486
A27*	Rumphi	TA Katumbi	Katsekera HC	Health centre	Government	33.52	-10.81	1048
A28*	Rumphi	TA Mwachenga	Mhuju Rural Hosp.	Rural/Community	Government	34.00	-10.87	622
A29*	Rumphi	TA Chikulamayembe	Mwazisi HC	Health centre	Government	33.58	-10.94	420
A30*	Rumphi	TA Mwankhunikira	Mzokoto HC	Health centre	Government	34.03	-10.91	327
A31*	Rumphi	TA Mwankhunikira	Mphompha HC	Health centre	Government	34.07	-11.01	201
A32*	Rumphi	STA Chisovya	Ng'onga HC	Health centre	Government	33.94	-10.94	174
A33*	Rumphi	TA Mwankhunikira	Nthenje Disp.	Dispensary	CHAM	33.99	-10.92	129
A34*	Rumphi	Rumphi Boma	BLM Rumphi	Special	NGO	33.86	-11.02	54
A35*	Mzimba South	TA Kapingo Sibande	Lunjika HC	Health centre	CHAM	33.69	-11.76	399
A36*	Mzimba South	TA Chindi	Mzambazi Community Hosp.	Rural/Community	CHAM	33.43	-11.43	389
A37*	Mzimba South	TA Chindi	Mbalachanda HC	Health centre	Government	33.37	-11.36	338
A38*	Mzimba South	TA Chindi	Mzalongwe HC	Health centre	Government	33.57	-11.61	273
A39*	Mzimba South	TA Chindi	Mtende HC	Health centre	Government	33.55	-11.50	187
A40*	Mzimba South	TA Kapingo Sibande	Matuli HC	Health centre	Government	33.90	-11.49	103
A41*	Mzuzu City	Luwanga Ward	Mzuzu Central Hosp.	Central hospital	Government	34.00	-11.43	5402
A42*	Mzuzu City	Masasa Ward	Mzuzu HC	Health centre	Government	34.01	-11.46	3877
A43*	Mzuzu City	Katawa Ward	St John's Mission Hosp.	District hospital	CHAM	34.03	-11.45	2781
A44*	Mzuzu City	Masasa Ward	MACRO Mzuzu	Special	NGO	34.01	-11.47	2729

A45*	Mzuzu City	Jombo - Kaning'ina Ward	Moyale Barracks HC	Special	Other	34.04	-11.46	672
A46*	Mzuzu City	Nkhorongo - Lupaso Ward	Nkhorongo HC	Health centre	CHAM	33.98	-11.39	425
A47*	Mzuzu City	Masasa Ward	Mzuzu Central Prison	Special	Other	34.02	-11.46	179
A48*	Mzuzu City	Masasa Ward	FPAM Clinic Mzuzu	Health centre	NGO	34.02	-11.46	125
A49*	Mzuzu City	Jombo - Kaning'ina Ward	St John of God Clinic	Special	CHAM	34.01	-11.46	84

Table 5: List of non-ART facilities considered in the analysis. The column "PLHIV" indicates the number of PLHIV that currently need more than 60 minutes to walk to the closest ART facility but less than 60 minutes to the listed health facility in the table. Facilities outside the district boundaries that may be accessible to residents within the district are marked with "\*\*".

ID	District	TA	Name	Type	Authority	Long.	Lat.	PLHIV	95% CI
F1	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	MADISE I	Health Post	Government	33.78	-11.26	275	(163-428)
F2	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Ekwaiweni Disp.	Dispensary	Government	33.90	-11.42	206	(143-281)
F3	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	KAPANGAMAWE	Health Post	Government	33.68	-11.45	90	(56-133)
F4	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	CHILUKWA	Health Post	CHAM	33.82	-11.29	164	(104-246)
F5	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	GOWOKA	Health Post	Government	33.63	-11.52	81	(52-124)
F6	Mzimba North	TA Jaravikuba Munthali	KATOPE	Health Post	Government	34.01	-11.07	75	(48-112)
F7	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	ST ANNE'S	Health Post	Government	33.59	-11.49	42	(28-60)
F8	Mzimba North	TA Jaravikuba Munthali	CHOLOLO	Health Post	Government	33.97	-11.01	35	(22-53)
F9	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	KAMANDA	Health Post	Government	34.03	-11.15	22	(12-36)
F10	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	Nkhuyukuyu HC	Health Centre	Government	33.91	-11.22	20	(13-29)
F11	Mzimba North	TA Mtwalo	CHAGOMA	Health Post	Government	33.81	-11.21	65	(38-101)
F12*	Rumphi	Nyika National Park	THAZIMA	Health Post	Government	33.59	-10.83	151	(95-230)
F13*	Rumphi	TA Mwanikhunikira	PHUNO	Health Post	Government	34.07	-11.03	10	(6-15)
F14*	Rumphi	Rumphi Boma	St Patricks HC	Health Centre	CHAM	33.87	-11.02	0	(0-0)
F15*	Mzimba South	TA Kampingo Sibande	Lusangazi Disp.	Dispensary	Government	33.94	-11.50	304	(206-415)
F16*	Mzimba South	TA Kampingo Sibande	MPHOFWA	Health Post	Government	33.62	-11.68	210	(137-304)
F17*	Mzuzu City	Zolozolo East Ward	Zolozolo HP	Health Post	Government	34.02	-11.44	6	(4-8)
F18*	Mzuzu City	Masasa Ward	Escom, Mzuzu	Clinic	Government	34.02	-11.46	0	(0-0)
F19*	Mzuzu City	Katawa Ward	Mary Mount Clinic	Clinic	CHAM	34.04	-11.44	6	(4-8)
F20*	Mzuzu City	Luwinga Ward	Mzuzu Sobo Clinic	Clinic	Company	34.01	-11.42	0	(0-0)
F21*	Mzuzu City	Jombo - Kaning'ina Ward	Mzuzu Police Clinic	Special	Other	34.02	-11.46	0	(0-0)
F22*	Mzuzu City	Jombo - Kaning'ina Ward	BLM Mzuzu	Special	NGO	34.02	-11.46	0	(0-0)



## Travel Times to Closest ART Facilities

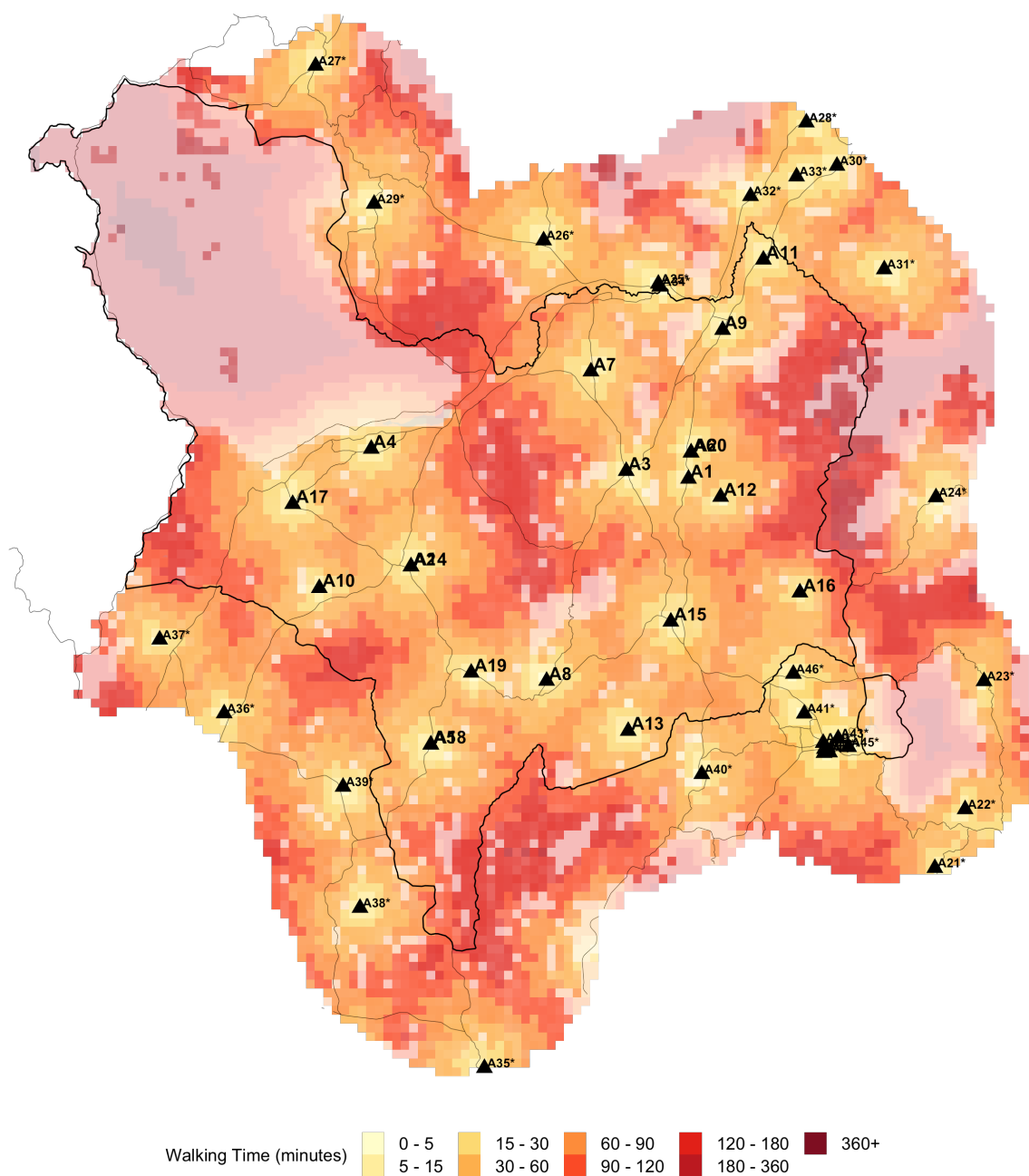


Figure 4: Estimated travel times to the closest ART facility. Travel times were calculated using data on road infrastructure, types of terrain and land elevation.

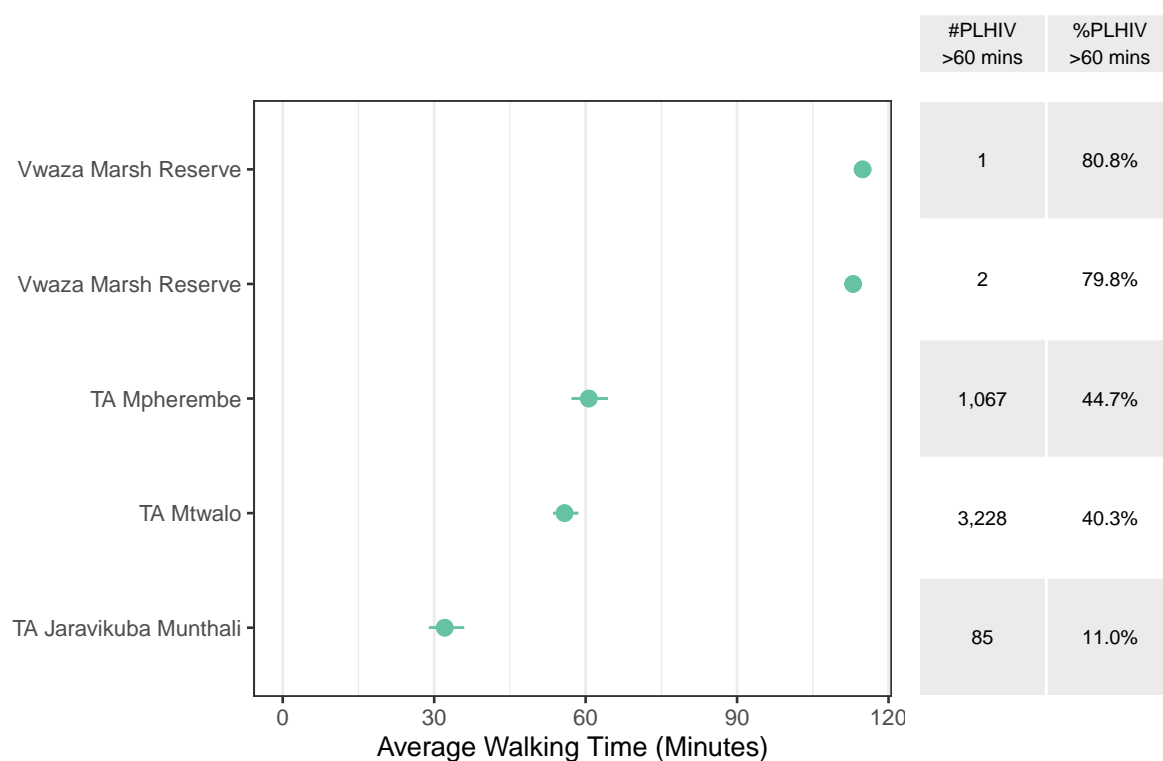


Figure 5: Estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility, weighted by the estimated number of PLHIV within the traditional authority. The right table indicates estimated number and proportion of PLHIV that need more than 60 minutes to travel to the closest ART facility, respectively.

## Areas outside 60 minutes travel

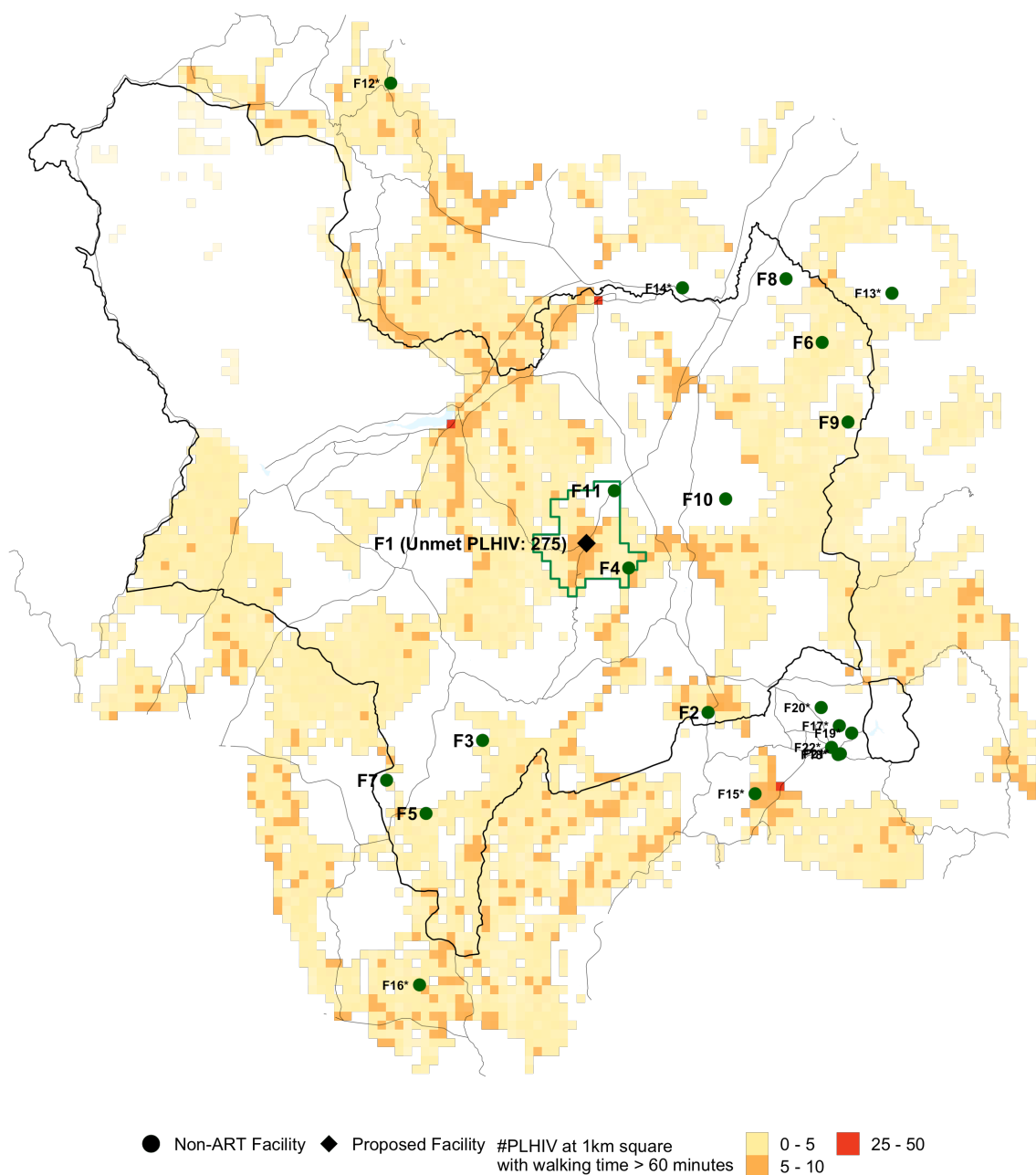


Figure 6: Proposed facility locations. Areas where the walking time to the closest ART facility is <60 minutes have been removed. Green lines indicate the 60-minutes catchment area of the proposed facility.

## Appendix (Methods Summary)

The analysis involved several steps:

1. **Creating a map of spatial prevalence by approximately 1km grid cells.** We used cluster-level survey data from the 2015/16 MDHS and MPHIA household surveys and HIV prevalence amongst ANC clients from routine health facility data to obtain a gridded PLHIV prevalence map (1km grid cells).
2. **Calculate the estimated number of PLHIV in each 1km grid cell.**
  - Modelled estimates of total population by 1km grid cell were sourced from the WorldPop project (<https://www.worldpop.org/geodata/summary?id=49698>). Gridded populations are constrained to only grid cells containing built settlements based on satellite imagery.
  - Gridded populations were adjusted to match traditional authority (TA) population data from the 2018 household census, projected forward to 2020 based on district population projections.
  - Gridded HIV prevalence (step 1) was multiplied by population for estimates of the distribution of PLHIV by 1km grid cell.
  - The gridded PLHIV in each district were scaled to align to total PLHIV in each district from the 2020 Naomi model estimates.
3. **Calculate walking travel time for PLHIV to existing ART services.** We used data on land cover terrain type (Global Land Cover 2000), roads (OpenStreetMap), elevation (GMTED2010), and water bodies (NASA Shuttle Radar Topography Mission) to model walking time from each grid cell to 757 public or not-for-profit health facilities providing ART services using the AccessMod software. Walking speed was assumed to be 6-7km/h on roads and 2-3 km/h on non-road surfaces.
4. **Analyse the number and locations of PLHIV residing greater than 60, 90, or 120 minutes walking time from existing ART facilities.** Grid cells were classified by the travel time to the nearest public or not-for-profit ART facility using the travel time model. Maps were filtered for PLHIV residing greater than 60, 90, or 120 minutes, thresholds of interest defined based on discussions with the Department of HIV and AIDS (DHA).
5. **Identify optimal locations to reach the most PLHIV who currently reside greater than 60 or 90 minutes from ART services.** An optimisation algorithm was implemented to systematically select the best facilities and locations where ART service delivery can be introduced to reach the most PLHIV residing outside travel time thresholds.

The list of 757 active facilities currently providing ART services was sourced from DHA-MIS database. Facilities that were private-for-profit were excluded from the analysis of travel time catchments. Health facilities which do not currently provide an ART service, which are candidate locations for expanding ART services, were sourced from facilities visited during the 2018/19 Service Availability and Readiness Assessment (SARA). Candidate facilities included existing health posts which are not staffed full time.