

# District overview of travel time to ART facilities: Neno

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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 Neno, September 2020.

Total PLHIV (all ages)	8,573 (7,142–10,208)
HIV prevalence, age 15–49 years	9.0% (7.5%–10.7%)
Total patients receiving ART	24,343
Average walking time to nearest ART (minutes)	48 (46–50)
Number PLHIV > 60 minutes walking time	2,891 (2,409–3,427)
Percentage PLHIV > 60 minutes walking time	34.4% (32.0%–36.7%)

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	Neno Boma: 112 (80–154)	TA Dambe: 3,099 (2,360–4,052)
15-49 Prevalence	TA Dambe: 7.0% (5.3%–9.1%)	TA Symon Likongwe: 13.0% (10.2%–16.3%)
Average Walking Time	Neno Boma: 4 min (4–4 min)	TA Mlauli: 58 min (54–62 min)

## Travel time to existing ART facilities

In Neno, there are 15 ART facilities that had at least 1 patient in September 2020. The median number of ART patients per facility was 424. 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 Neno is 48 minutes (46-50 min).
- The shortest estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility is in Neno Boma (4 minutes (4-4 min)).
- The longest estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility is in TA Mlauli (58 minutes (54-62 min)).

An estimated 34.4% (32.0%–36.7%) of PLHIV reside more than 60 minutes walking time to their nearest ART facility, compared to 34.1% of the total population. This decreases to 8.2% (7.2%–9.3%) of PLHIV and 9.4% 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	73,579	51.0%	4,287 (3,580–5,058)	51.1% (48.5%–53.4%)
60	49,165	34.1%	2,891 (2,409–3,427)	34.4% (32.0%–36.7%)
90	13,588	9.4%	686 (557–838)	8.2% (7.2%–9.3%)
120	4,425	3.1%	204 (147–271)	2.4% (1.8%–3.2%)

## Proposed facilities for new ART services

A list of 2 *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 Symon Likongwe (1010 PLHIV (781-1261) with walking time > 60 minutes).
- The facility that can reach the most PLHIV residing outside 60 minutes travel time is **Zalewa DAPP VCT Station**, with 821 PLHIV (588-1082) 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

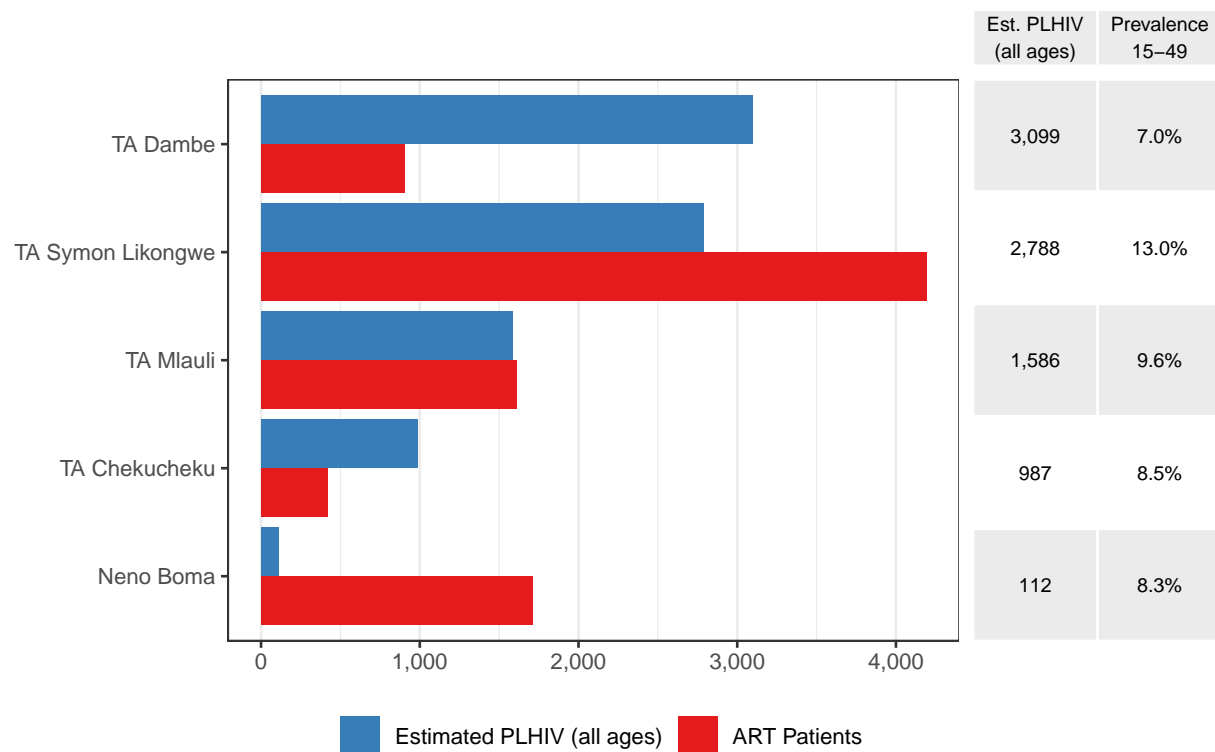


Figure 1: Number registered ART clients within each TA and estimated number of PLHIV within the TA. The right table indicates the estimated 15-49 HIV prevalence.

## HIV prevalence in ages 15-49

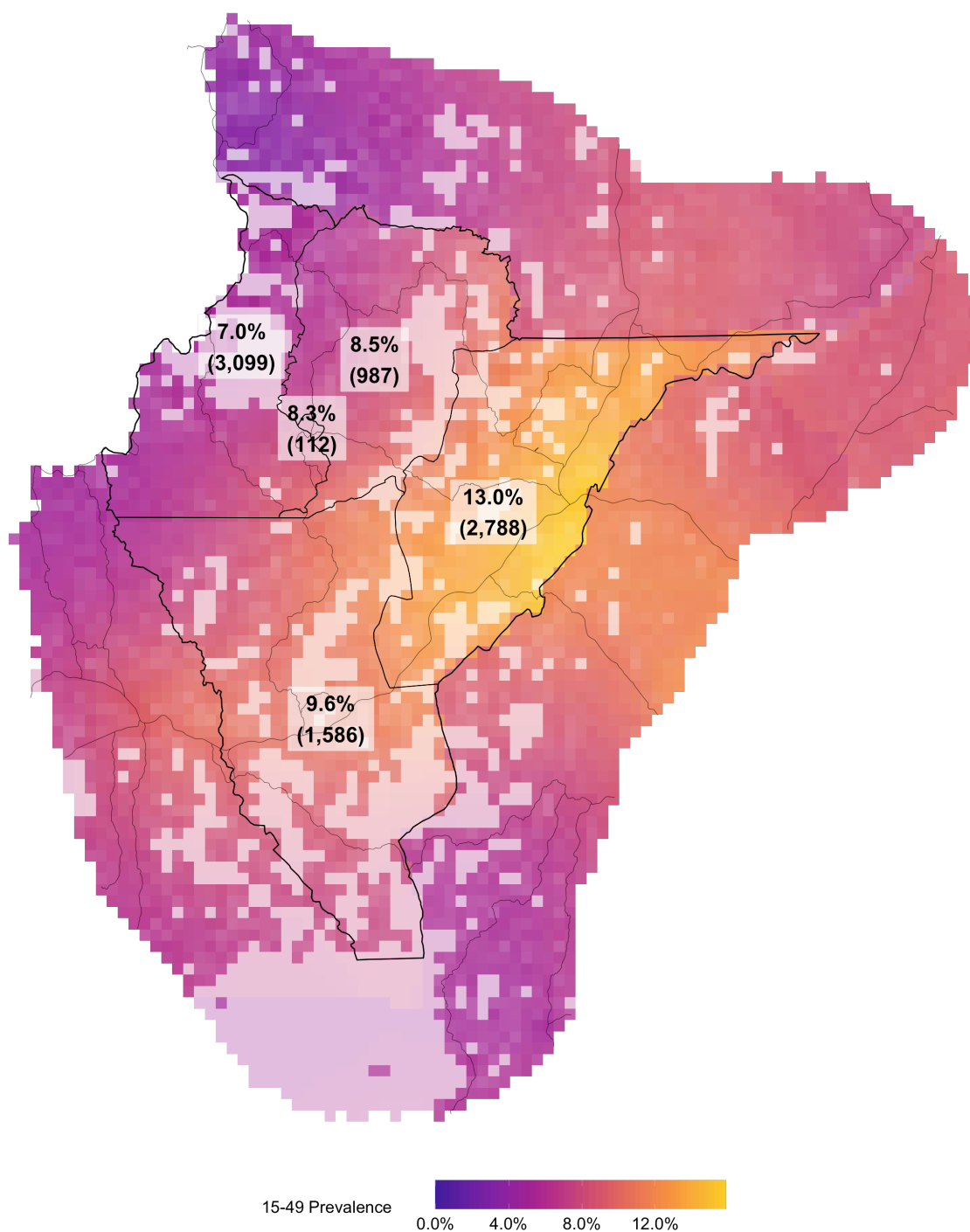


Figure 2: Estimated spatial HIV prevalence. Percentages correspond to TA level 15-49 HIV prevalence and numbers in brackets indicate the estimated number of PLHIV overall.

## Estimated number of PLHIV at 1km square

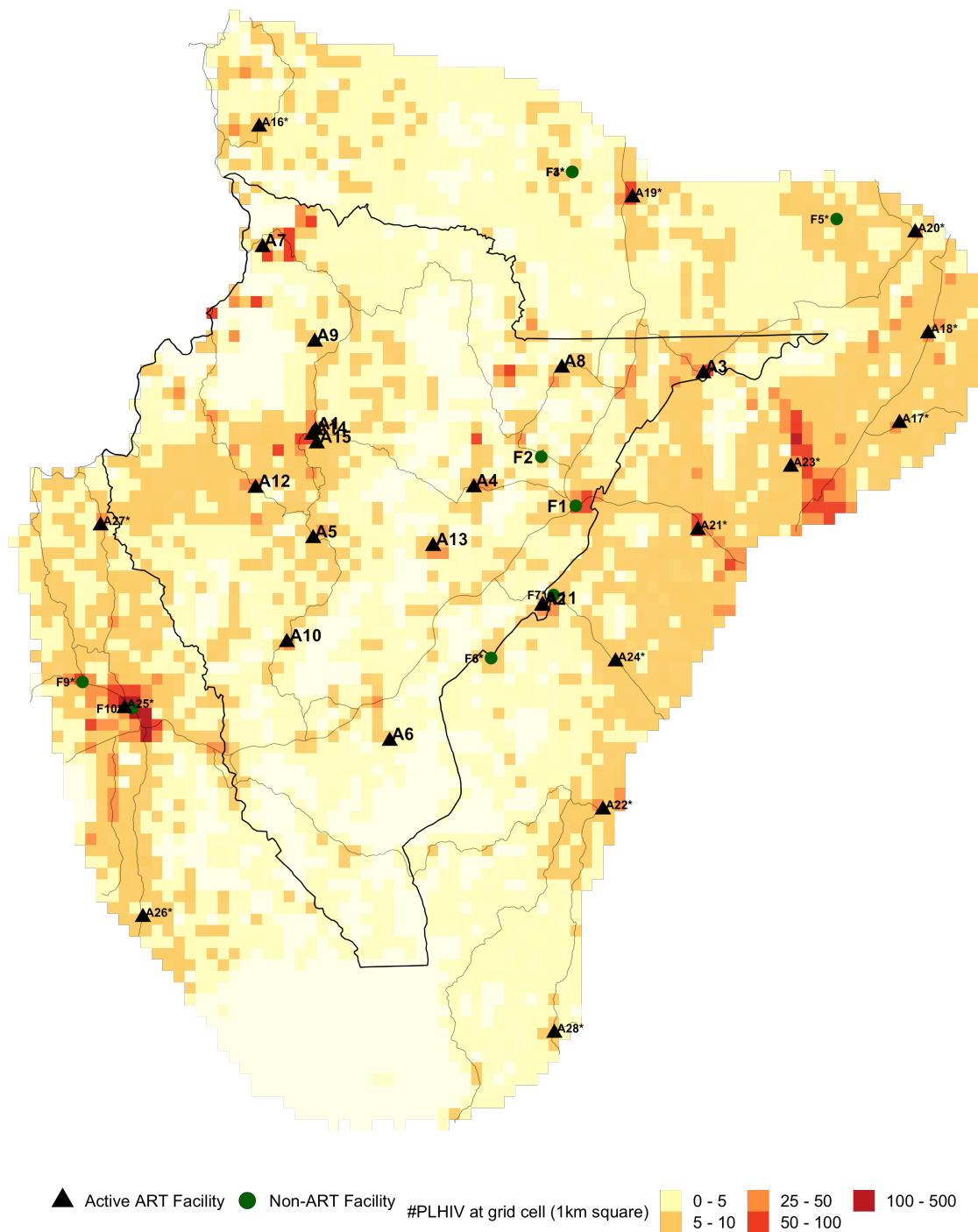


Figure 3: Estimated number of PLHIV on a 1km square.

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	Neno	Neno Boma	Neno District Hosp.	Rural/Community	Government	34.65	-15.40	1708
A2	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Zalewa PIH	Special	NGO	34.83	-15.52	1554
A3	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Matope HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.95	-15.35	893
A4	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Lisungwi Community Hosp.	Health centre	Government	34.77	-15.44	852
A5	Neno	TA Mlauli	Ligowe HC	Health centre	Government	34.65	-15.47	702
A6	Neno	TA Mlauli	Chifunga HC	Health centre	Government	34.71	-15.62	606
A7	Neno	TA Dambe	Msambe HC	Health centre	Government	34.61	-15.26	488
A8	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Midzamba HC	Health centre	Government	34.84	-15.35	424
A9	Neno	TA Chekucheku	Matandani HC	Health centre	Government	34.65	-15.33	412
A10	Neno	TA Mlauli	Magareta HC	Health centre	Government	34.63	-15.55	299
A11	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Nkula HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.83	-15.52	292
A12	Neno	TA Dambe	Neno Parish HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.61	-15.44	269
A13	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Luwani HC	Health centre	Government	34.74	-15.48	176
A14	Neno	TA Dambe	Dambe HC	Health centre	Government	34.65	-15.40	144
A15	Neno	TA Chekucheku	FPAM Clinic Neno	Health centre	NGO	34.65	-15.40	10
A16*	Ntcheu	TA Mpando	Tsangano HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.61	-15.17	350
A17*	Zomba	TA Mlumbe	Chipini HC	Health centre	CHAM	35.10	-15.39	1667
A18*	Zomba	TA Mlumbe	Chilipa HC Zomba	Health centre	CHAM	35.12	-15.32	665
A19*	Balaka	STA Phalula	Phalula HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.89	-15.23	1516
A20*	Balaka	TA Nkaya	Phimbi HC	Health centre	Government	35.11	-15.25	807
A21*	Blantyre	TA Chigaru	Mdeka HC	Health centre	Government	34.94	-15.47	1588
A22*	Blantyre	TA Kunthembwe	Chikowa HC	Health centre	Government	34.87	-15.67	1078
A23*	Blantyre	TA Chigaru	Lundu HC	Health centre	Government	35.01	-15.42	1057
A24*	Blantyre	TA Kuntaja	Dziwe HC	Health centre	Government	34.88	-15.56	733
A25*	Mwanza	Mwanza Boma	Mwanza District Hosp.	District hospital	Government	34.51	-15.60	4782
A26*	Mwanza	TA Kanduku	Tulongkhondo HC	Health centre	Government	34.52	-15.75	523
A27*	Mwanza	TA Kanduku	Kunenekude HC	Health centre	Government	34.49	-15.46	512
A28*	Chikwawa	TA Kasisi	Chavala HC	Health centre	Government	34.83	-15.83	236

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	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Zalewa DAPP VCT Station	Clinic	NGO	34.85	-15.45	821	(588-1082)
F2	Neno	TA Symon Likongwe	Mota-Engil Clinic - Mkwinda Ca	Clinic	Company	34.82	-15.41	628	(448-827)
F3*	Ntcheu	STA Tsikulamowa	Machereza HP	Health Post	Government	34.85	-15.21	161	(102-233)
F4*	Ntcheu	STA Tsikulamowa	Matchereza HP	Health Post	Government	34.85	-15.21	161	(102-233)
F5*	Balaka	TA Nkaya	NJERENJE	Health Post	Government	35.05	-15.24	248	(176-334)
F6*	Blantyre	TA Kunthembwe	TEDZANI	Dispensary	Company	34.79	-15.56	107	(77-142)
F7*	Blantyre	TA Kuntaja	Blantyre Water Board - Walker'	Clinic	Company	34.83	-15.51	38	(28-51)

F8*	Blantyre	TA Kunthembwe	TEDZANI	Dispensary	Company	34.79	-15.56	107	(77-142)
F9*	Mwanza	TA Nthache	Muyendebwino Wellness Centre	Clinic	NGO	34.48	-15.58	450	(307-621)
F10*	Mwanza	Mwanza Boma	BLM Mwanza	Special	NGO	34.52	-15.60	323	(243-417)



## Travel Times to Closest ART Facilities

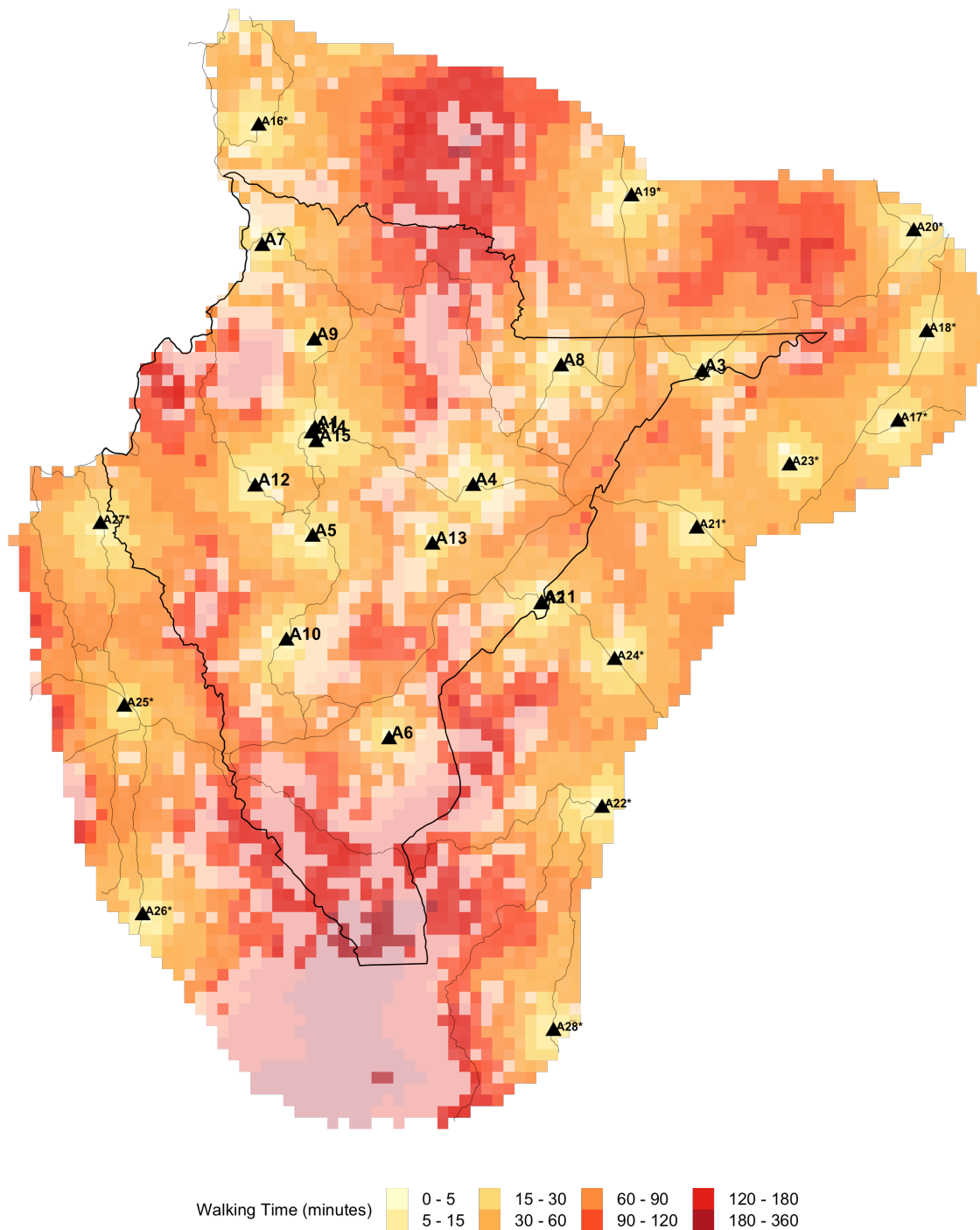


Figure 4: Estimated travel times to the closest ART facility. Travel times were calculated using data on road infrastructure, types of terrain and land elevation.

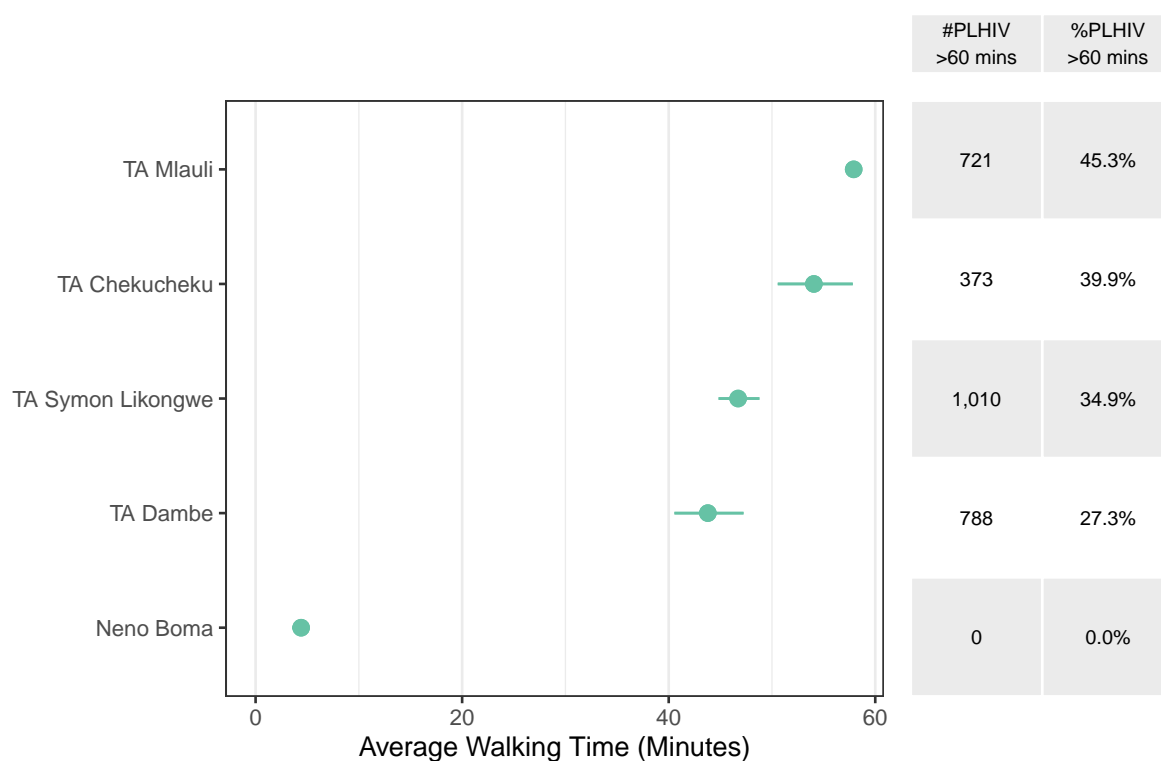


Figure 5: Estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility, weighted by the estimated number of PLHIV within the traditional authority. The right table indicates estimated number and proportion of PLHIV that need more than 60 minutes to travel to the closest ART facility, respectively.

## Areas outside 60 minutes travel

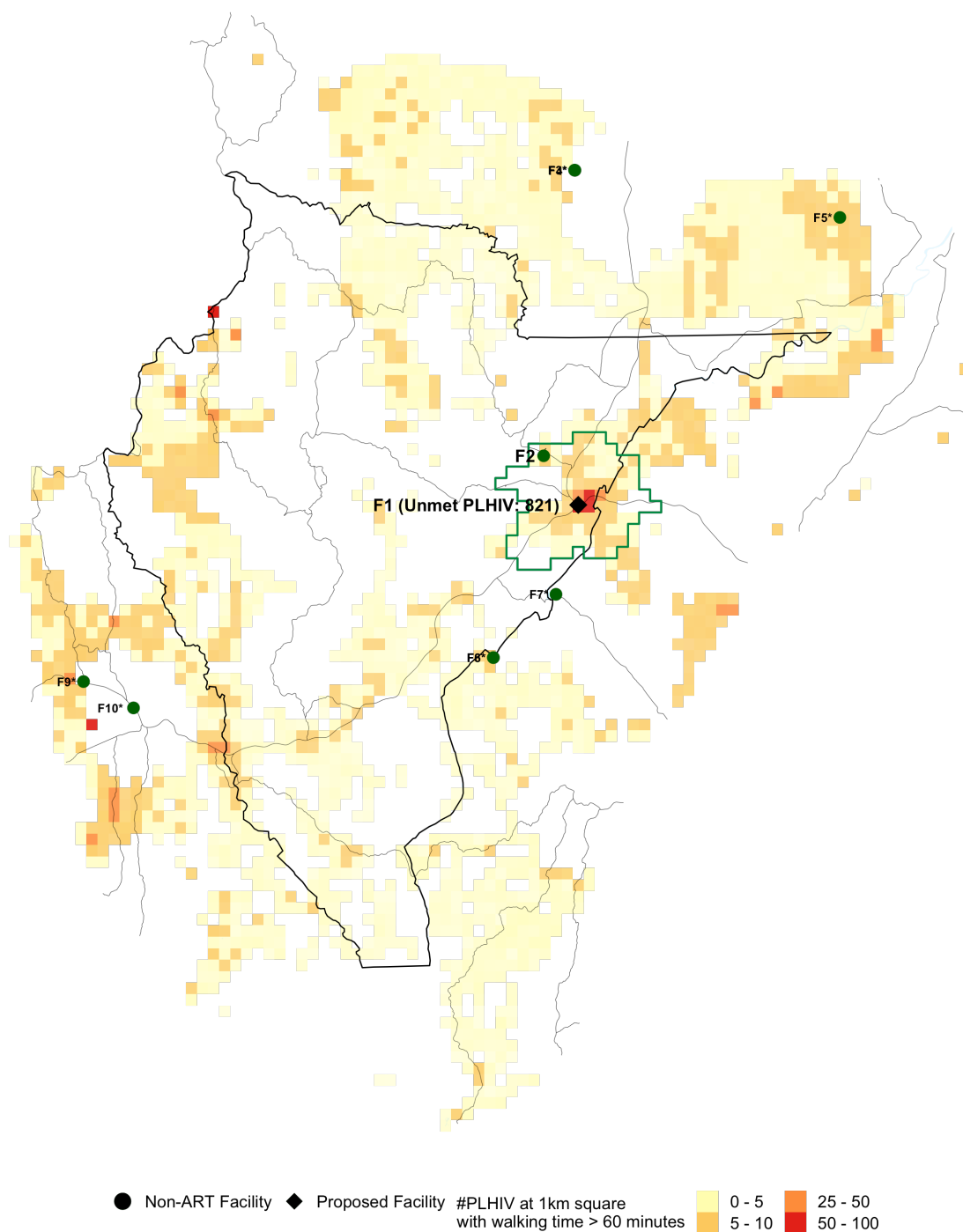


Figure 6: Proposed facility locations. Areas where the walking time to the closest ART facility is <60 minutes have been removed. Green lines indicate the 60-minutes catchment area of the proposed facility.

## 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.