# District overview of travel time to ART facilities: Salima

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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.

### **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  $\mathbf{A}$ ) and without current ART services (labelled with  $\mathbf{F}$ ).

Total PLHIV (all ages)	18,040 (15,114–21,274)
HIV prevalence, age 15-49 years	5.6% (4.7%-6.6%)
Total patients receiving ART	22,401
Average walking time to nearest ART (minutes)	52 (49–55)
Number PLHIV > 60 minutes walking time	5,963 (4,851–7,328)
Percentage PLHIV > 60 minutes walking time	34.0% (30.8%–37.7%)

Table 1: Summary estimates for Salima, September 2020.

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	Lake Malawi National Park: 0 (0–0)	TA Maganga: 3,433 (2,564–4,563)		
15-49 Prevalence	TA Mwanza: 2.6% (1.8%–3.6%)	TA Kuluunda: 8.6% (6.0%–11.7%)		
Average Walking Time	Chipoka Urban: 11 min (11–12 min)	TA Msosa: 132 min (130–134 min)		

#### Travel time to existing ART facilities

In Salima, there are 18 ART facilities that had at least 1 patient in September 2020. The median number of ART patients per facility was 694. 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 Salima is 52 minutes (49-55 min).
- The shortest estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility is in Chipoka Urban (11 minutes (11-12 min)).
- The longest estimated average walking time to the closest ART facility is in TA Msosa (132 minutes (130-134 min)).

An estimated 34.0% (30.8%–37.7%) of PLHIV reside more than 60 minutes walking time to their nearest ART facility, compared to 36.7% of the total population. This decreases to 13.6% (10.6%–17.3%) of PLHIV and 14.4% of the total population residing more than 90 minutes walking time to their nearest ART facility. More details are provided in Table 3.

Threshold (minutes)	Population not reached	As % of total population	PLHIV not reached	As % of total estimated PLHIV
45	274,245	54.1%	9,086 (7,584–10,892)	51.9% (49.1%–54.9%)
60	185,927	36.7%	5,963 (4,851–7,328)	34.0% (30.8%–37.7%)
90	72,991	14.4%	2,391 (1,720–3,238)	13.6% (10.6%–17.3%)
120	27,408	5.4%	921 (604–1,353)	5.2% (3.7%-7.3%)

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

### Proposed facilities for new ART services

A list of 4 *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 Khombedza (1849 PLHIV (1211-2631) with walking time > 60 minutes).
- The facility that can reach the most PLHIV residing outside 60 minutes travel time is **Ndimoyo Pallia**tive Trust Clini, Salima Admarc Disp., with 764 PLHIV (551, 551-1013, 1013) 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

Salima

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	Туре	Authority	Long.	Lat.	ART
A1	Salima	Salima Town	Salima District Hosp.	District hospital	Government	34.42	-13.76	6455
A2	Salima	TA Karonga	Khombedza HC	Health centre	Government	34.38	-13.76	1491
A3	Salima	TA Kambalame	Life Line Salima HC	Health centre	NGO	34.54	-14.09	1392
A4	Salima	TA Maganga	Senga Bay Baptist Medical Clinic	District hospital	CHAM	34.60	-13.74	1070
A5	Salima	TA Kuluunda	Lifuwu HC	Health centre	Government	34.59	-13.68	886
A6	Salima	Chipoka Urban	Chipoka HC	Health centre	Government	34.52	-13.99	873
A7	Salima	TA Ndindi	Mchoka HC	Health centre	Government	34.49	-13.93	862
A8	Salima	TA Maganga	Mafco HC	Health centre	Other	34.60	-13.78	810
A9	Salima	TA Maganga	Maganga HC	Health centre	Government	34.56	-13.85	806
A10	Salima	TA Khombedza	Thavite HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.26	-13.50	583
A11	Salima	TA Mwanza	Makiyoni HC	Health centre	Government	34.20	-13.59	377
A12	Salima	TA Karonga	Chinguluwe HC Salima	Health centre	Government	34.38	-13.66	368
A13	Salima	TA Karonga	Kaphatenga HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.38	-13.76	309
A14	Salima	TA Kambalame	Ngodzi HC	Health centre	Government	34.51	-14.09	284
A15	Salima	TA Karonga	Katawa HC	Health centre	Government	34.32	-13.71	270
A16	Salima	TA Kambwiri	Chagunda HC	Health centre	Government	34.37	-13.88	252
A17	Salima	TA Khombedza	Chitala HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.27	-13.67	215
A18	Salima	TA Kambalame	Parachute Battalion Clinic	Dispensary	Other	34.54	-14.09	101
A19*	Nkhotakota	TA Mwadzama	Alinafe Community Hosp.	Rural/Community	CHAM	34.24	-13.39	897
A20*	Nkhotakota	TA Mwadzama	Mwansambo HC	Health centre	Government	34.13	-13.50	334
A21*	Nkhotakota	TA Mwadzama	Benga HC	Health centre	Government	34.27	-13.37	158
A22*	Nkhotakota	TA Mwadzama	Mtosa HC	Health centre	Government	34.27	-13.44	151
A23*	Ntchisi	TA Chikho	Mzandu HC	Health centre	Government	34.03	-13.49	130
A24*	Dowa	TA Chiwere	Mvera Army Camp	Special	Other	34.14	-13.78	481
A25*	Dowa	TA Chiwere	Mvera Mission Hosp.	Health centre	CHAM	34.13	-13.74	403
A26*	Dowa	TA Chiwere	Thonje HC	Health centre	Government	34.24	-13.72	288
A27*	Dowa	TA Chiwere	Nalunga Mafika HC	Health centre	Government	34.06	-13.64	98
A28*	Lilongwe	STA Chitekwele	Chimbalanga HC	Health centre	Government	34.12	-13.94	166
A29*	Dedza	TA Tambala	Kaphuka HC	Health centre	Government	34.31	-14.04	794
A30*	Dedza	TA Kachindamoto	Mtakataka HC	Health centre	Government	34.51	-14.23	700
A31*	Dedza	TA Kachindamoto	Nakalazi HC	Health centre	CHAM	34.55	-14.20	302
A32*	Dedza	TA Kachindamoto	Police College HC Mua	Health centre	Other	34.51	-14.23	95

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	ТА	Name	Туре	Authority	Long.	Lat.	PLHIV	95% CI
F1	Salima	Salima Town	Ndimoyo Palliative Trust Clini	Clinic	NGO	34.46	-13.78	764	(551-1013)
F2	Salima	Salima Town	BLM Salima	Special	NGO	34.44	-13.77	345	(255-452)
F3	Salima	Salima Town	Salima Aids Support Org	Special	NGO	34.44	-13.77	377	(275-495)
F4	Salima	Salima Town	Salima Admarc Disp.	Dispensary	Company	34.46	-13.79	764	(551-1013)

F5*	Dowa	TA Msakambewa	MATEKENYA	Dispensary	Government	34.05	-13.56	177	(121-251)
F6*	Dowa	TA Chiwere	Nalunga HC	Health Centre	Government	34.06	-13.64	0	(0-0)
F7*	Dowa	TA Mkukula	St. Mary's Rehabilitation Heal	Health Centre	CHAM	34.04	-13.73	227	(151-322)
F8*	Dedza	TA Tambala	Kalulu HC	Health Centre	Government	34.20	-14.00	136	(87-200)
F9*	Dedza	TA Tambala	MPOMBE	Health Post	Government	34.31	-13.99	126	(83-184)
F10*	Dedza	TA Tambala	KANYERERE	Health Post	Government	34.23	-13.97	91	(55-137)
F11*	Dedza	TA Kachindamoto	Mtakataka Police College HC	Health Centre	Other	34.51	-14.23	0	(0-0)
F12*	Dedza	TA Kachindamoto	Ntakataka Police Disp.	Health Centre	Government	34.51	-14.23	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:

- 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 from 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.