



PROPEL Health: Malawi

Project Overview

Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health is a five-year U.S. Agency for International Development-funded project with the overarching objective of improving country environments to better facilitate access to equitable and sustainable health services. The broad project strategy is centered around policy, financing, governance, and the use of evidence-based approaches.

In Malawi, the health demands of the fast-growing population place a significant burden on the country's health systems, environment, and economy. The country faces challenges sustaining family planning and reproductive health gains through domestic funding, and HIV prevalence remains high. The integration of sexual and reproductive health and rights—especially family planning—with HIV has been a goal of the government for many years,

including the implementation of strategies and policies that expand access to screening and treatment services. PROPEL Health is working with partners in the government, civil society, youth, the private sector, and other development organizations to strengthen the health system and build resilience and sustainability, focusing on capacity strengthening in the areas of family planning and reproductive health; maternal, newborn, and child health; nutrition; and HIV.

Our Work

Policy strengthening

PROPEL Health is building on existing policy partnerships and expanding collaboration with government ministries and new local organizations including youth owned/led organizations and those by or for persons with a disability. Increased integration and collaboration will lead to greater success in

implementing health policies. The project's activities include:

- Strengthening national, district, and community capacity for evidence-based planning, policy implementation, and accountability
- Supporting the government to coordinate ministries and align policies and integrate approaches for greater impact across development sectors
- Engaging communities of faith to address gaps in HIV epidemic control
- Providing mentoring and training on data analysis and policy communication to support access to family planning and to curb early and forced marriage and gender-based violence

Sustainable financing for health policy implementation

The healthcare system in Malawi is dependent on external funding. PROPEL Health will work to address the causes of inadequate resource mobilization domestically by improving technical and management capacity, and institutionalizing processes for health financing across stakeholders and local partner organizations.

Project activities include:

- Supporting the Ministry of Health to increase domestic resources for health, improve strategic purchasing to advance efficiency and quality of services, and improve equity in resource allocation and use
- Moving toward the optimization of financing for HIV
- Providing cross-cutting support to strengthen health financing systems

Improved stewardship, accountability, and transparency

PROPEL Health aims to increase the use of data to influence policymaking and improve governance, while also increasing both analytic and communication capacity in Malawi through activities that include:

- Generating evidence and increasing data use for improved health sector and social accountability
- Strengthening stewardship and accountability capacity at the national and district level for health sector priorities
- Coordinating with the government, professional associations, and the private sector to improve accountability for service quality
- Engaging youth, district radio, and civil society in policy implementation and service delivery

Contact

Suneeta Sharma, PhD
PROPEL Health, Project Director
suneeta.sharma@thepalladiumgroup.com

Sandra Mapemba
PROPEL Health, Country Director, Malawi
sandra.mapemba@thepalladiumgroup.com

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