Malawi has one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, with over 9% of the population living with HIV. The country faces a major challenge in preventing a new generation from becoming infected with HIV and caring for those already living with the virus.

Malawi key statistics

- Population: 18.1 million
- Life expectancy: 63 years
- HIV prevalence: 9.2%

Sources: Population, Life expectancy, HIV prevalence

Our work in Malawi

We’ve been working in partnership with the Umunthu Foundation since 2010. Over this time they have grown into a well-respected local organisation providing HIV testing, prevention and treatment services from two local government clinics and from their own newly established clinic.
Their work provides thousands of local people at risk of HIV with access to free and vital life-saving HIV services in the heart of the local community.

Without Umunthu we wouldn’t know our HIV status and we wouldn’t have any support.

- Umunthu youth beneficiary

In 2019, Umunthu started work to support newly diagnosed HIV positive pregnant women, to ensure they receive care throughout their pregnancy and after the delivery of their babies.

14,566 people tested for HIV

6,674 young people reached with HIV/SRH services

1,235 people diagnosed with HIV & linked to treatment

Services provided include:

- HIV testing, monitoring and treatment
- services to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- youth education programmes in schools and youth clubs
- sexual health information and advice
- paralegal support for people living with HIV

Doreen’s story
“I am very grateful to everyone at the project. Thank you.”

Doreen was 30 years old and pregnant when she tested positive for HIV at the Avert-supported Umunthu clinic. She was frightened that the virus would be transmitted to her unborn baby.

With support from her counsellor, Doreen was referred for treatment to prevent her baby becoming infected. When the time came, Doreen gave birth to a healthy baby girl which she had not dreamed was possible. She is now continuing to take antiretroviral treatment.

Find out more about our impact. For more information on our work with Umunthu, please get in touch with us.

Photo credit: ©Corrie Wingate for Avert (top) and ©Avert (above). Images used on this site are for illustrative purposes only. They do not imply any health status or behaviour on the part of the people in the photo.

1. UNAIDS (2019)
2. World Bank (2018), Data Malawi
3. World Bank (2017), Data Malawi
4. UNAIDS (2019)