



## Accelerating progress to end TB

8th SA

**TB**

Conference

04 - 07 June 2024

Durban ICC



Strengthening systematic screening among key and vulnerable populations by use of mobile TB services best method in finding people with Tuberculosis; a case of Malawi

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# Background and Objectives

- Malawi still has a 29% gap in TB case notification (Global TB Report, 2022) and is categorized as one of the highest TB/HIV burden countries in Africa.
- TB incidence has reduced by 57% since 2012, from 291 to 125 per 100K people in 2022.
- The COVID-19 pandemic reversed years of progress in providing essential TB services including TB (WHO Global TB Report, 2022)
- To address the above challenges, the Malawi NTLEP redesigned and strengthened active TB case-finding (ACF) strategies and interventions targeting the KVPs.
- One key ACF intervention is using Mobile Diagnostic units (MDUs) as a key strategy to find people with TB disease.

# Methodology

- ❑ **Targeted population:**
  - Health care workers
  - PLHIV & OPD clients in peripheral sites without access to TB diagnostic services
  - Prison Inmates
  - IDPs, Refugees, Urban-poor communities.
- ❑ MDUs equipped with GeneXpert, digital X-ray and CAD4TB-AI were used in this intervention.
- ❑ Symptoms and chest X-rays (CXR) were used as the screening approaches.
- ❑ Those found with one or more cardinal sign(s) of TB and /or abnormal CXR( $\geq 60$ ) underwent a GeneXpert test.
- ❑ All confirmed TB cases were linked to TB registration sites for treatment initiation.
- ❑ The impact of this ACF intervention was exclusively evaluated for the year 2023.





# Results

Target Group	Total Screened	Screening contribution	Presumptive TB cases	TB cases	Yield/100K	NNS
ART Clients	6,094	6%	743	84	1,378	73
Urban poor Communities	40,271	37%	2,574	517	1,284	78
Health care workers	2,939	3%	199	15	510	196
Internally Displaced People(IDP)	7,412	7%	410	42	567	176
OPD Clients	28,351	29%	2,605	672	2,370	42
Prison staff	67	0.10%	2	0	0	0
Prison Inmates	18,934	17%	1,344	99	523	191
Refugees	940	1%	40	9	957	104
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,008</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7,917</b>	<b>1,438</b>	<b>1,369</b>	<b>73</b>

- A total of 105,008 clients were screened for active TB
- 1,438 TB cases were notified and initiated on treatment( Yield of 1,369/100K)
- NNS on average was 73

# Conclusion

- ❑ Targeted mobile TB screening using symptoms and CXR is an effective supplementary strategy to find people with active TB.
- ❑ Malawi recommends the need to scale up the strategy for continuous improvement in TB case notification among the key and vulnerable populations.



# Acknowledgements

- Implementing partners( Right to Care, PIH)
- World Bank-SATBHSS project
- Global Fund
- Ministry of Health, Malawi
- Field staff

