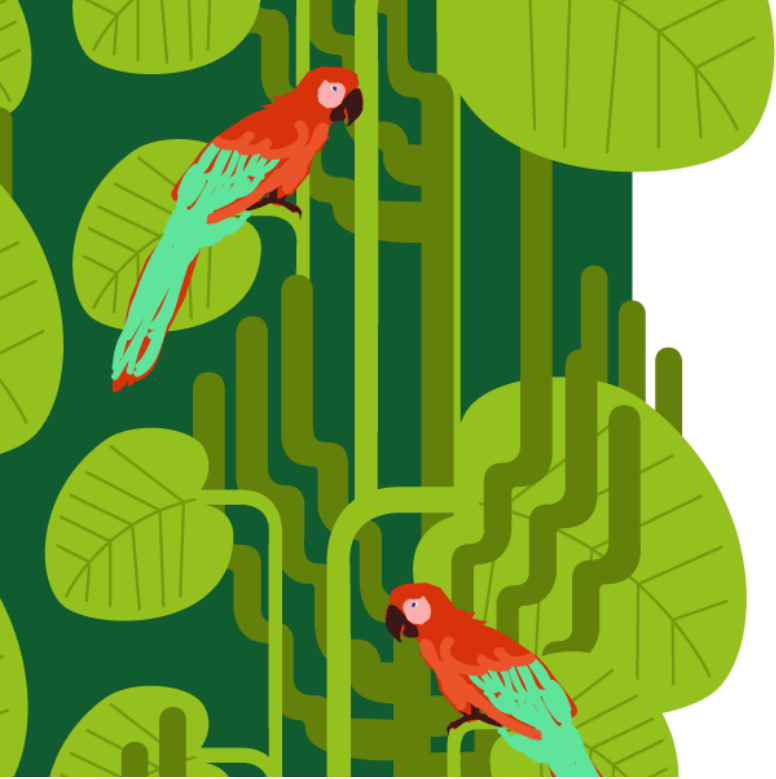




Using TIER-Plus to support HIV programme prioritization in Malawi



 **AIDS 2026**

Stephen Macheso, Ministry of Health, Malawi
Prioritization under pressure: Rethinking HIV service delivery with TIER-Plus

26–31 July • Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

aids2026.org



Malawi context

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HIV programme and funding

- Malawi has achieved epidemic control
- Programme largely donor-funded (approx. 82%), now facing abrupt funding shifts
- Increasing pressure for sustainable, efficient investments, while protecting hard-won gains

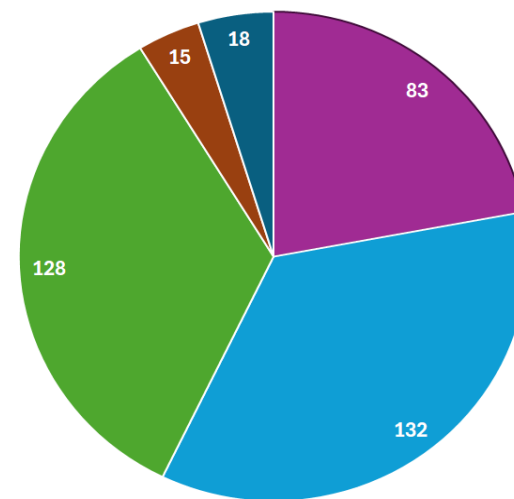
Planning and prioritization challenges

- Declining resources amid competing priorities
- Balancing impact, equity and affordability
- Variable quality of routine programme data

Why TIER-Plus?

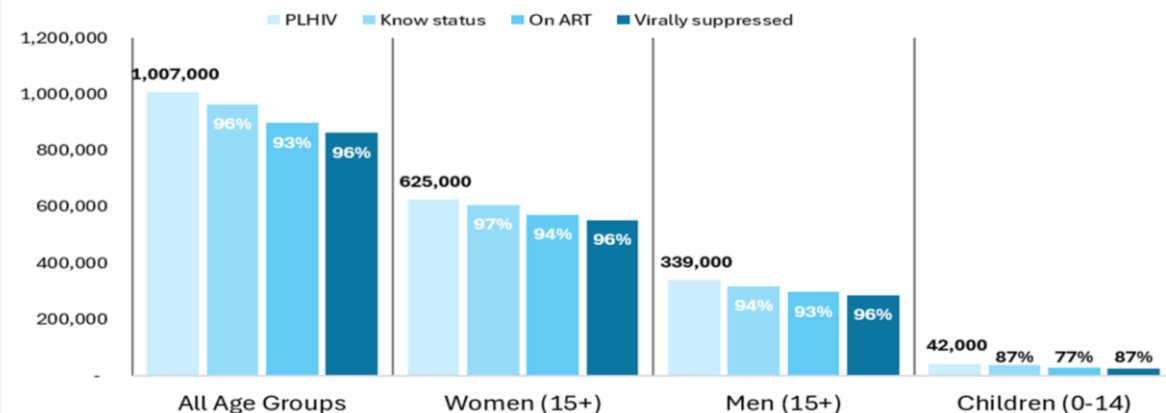
- Support evidence-informed prioritization
- Compare investment scenarios and trade-offs
- Inform sustainable programme planning

Major Funding contributions (USD M)



■ Govt of Malawi ■ Global Fund ■ United States ■ Other multilaterals ■ Other govt/bil/int foundations

Spectrum Treatment Cascade (Dec.2025)





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Prioritization efforts to date

Malawi uses multiple evidence sources

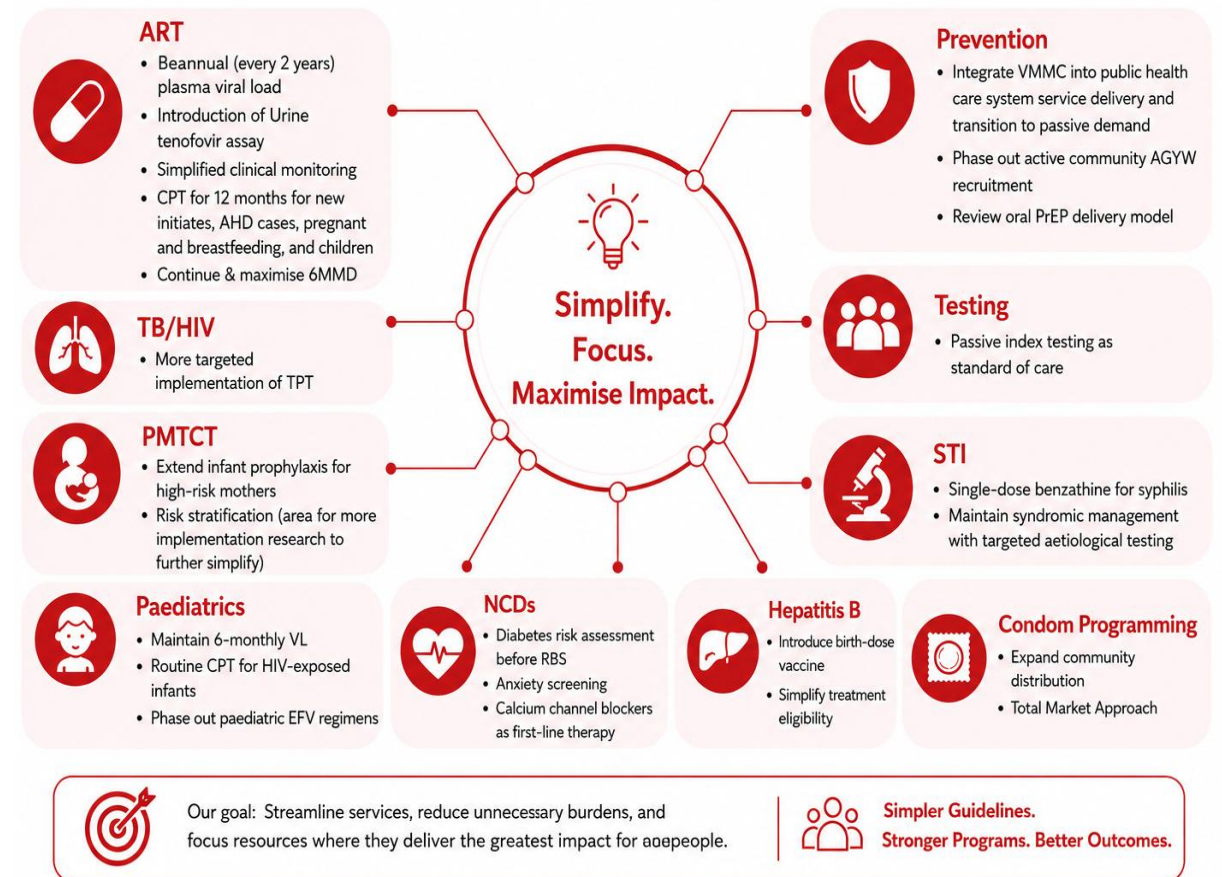
- HIV Estimates (Spectrum, Naomi, Goals)
- Routine programme data (DHAMIS, DHIS2, LMIS, and other programme systems)
- Costing and investment analyses
- National Strategic Plan priorities
- Technical Working Groups and stakeholder consultations
- Donor and implementation partner planning processes

Prioritization questions

- How can HIV interventions be optimized to deliver the greatest health impact within a constrained budget?
- Which populations and geographical areas should be prioritized?
- How do we maximize impact while maintaining equity?
- What are the expected trade-offs of different investment choices?

Simplification & Optimisation Opportunities

Key areas under consideration for the next HIV guideline update





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Experience using TIER-Plus

Generally

- Intuitive, user-friendly and scenario-driven, usable without specialist modellers
- Facilitates transparent, evidence-informed discussions
- Compares intervention scenarios and trade-offs rather than solving for an optimum

Features

- Clear visualization of epidemiological and cost outcomes
- Supports stakeholder engagement and decision-making

Challenges

- Limited flexibility for some country-specific interventions (e.g., CAB-LA)
- Impact of interventions on critical programme outcomes are limited to a single year vs multi-year planning for programs
- Some programme assumptions do not fully reflect national implementation (e.g., HIV-exposed infant risk stratification, AHD data)

Outputs

- Relevant and practical for programme planning
- Quality depends on completeness and quality of input data



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Opportunities and limitations

Supporting future planning

- Compare prioritization scenarios and resource trade-offs
- Strengthen transparent, evidence-informed decision-making
- Facilitate stakeholder dialogue and consensus

Data and feasibility

- Requires high-quality, complete routine programme data
- Flexibility to accommodate country-specific policies and interventions

Potential role

- National Strategic Plan (NSP) development
- Donor transition and sustainability planning
- Resource allocation and programme optimization

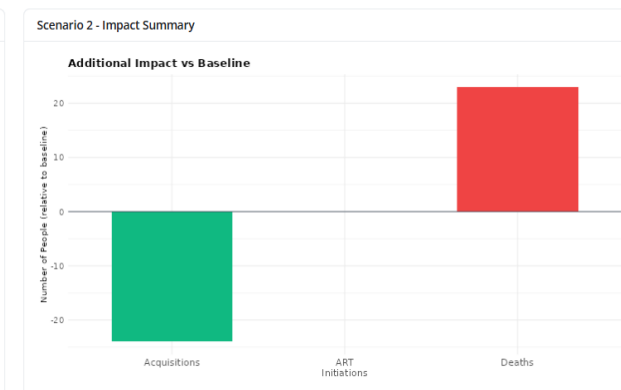
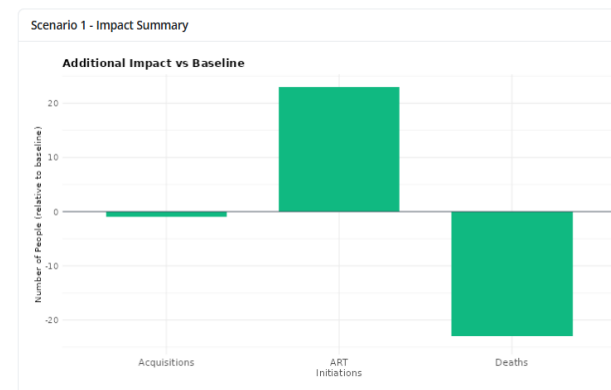
User Guide	Baseline Coverage	Scenarios	Results Comparison
Change in ART Initiations:			+23 (+0.0%)
Change in Acquisitions:			-1 (-0.0%)
Change in Deaths:			-23 (-0.2%)
Change in Suppressed:			+18 (+0.0%)

Cost Analysis

Baseline	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
Intervention Costs:	\$68,792,541	\$68,953,054 (+\$160,513)
ART Provision:	\$83,004,252	\$83,006,594 (+\$2,342)
Total Program Cost:	\$151,796,793	\$151,959,648

User Guide	Baseline Coverage	Scenarios	Results Comparison
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Key Outcomes Summary





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Next steps

- Continue collaborating with IAS to refine and validate TIER-Plus
- Explore integration into national planning and prioritization processes
- Strengthen routine data systems and estimates to improve model inputs

Suggested improvements

- Greater flexibility for country-specific interventions and policies (e.g., CAB-LA, PMTCT risk stratification)
- Sub-national analyses and customizable scenarios
- Strengthen transparency by documenting assumptions and presenting confidence intervals CIs.

Key messages

- This is a promising decision-support tool that can strengthen transparent, evidence-informed HIV programme prioritization in a simplified manner
- Continued country engagement will be essential to maximize its relevance and impact