

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

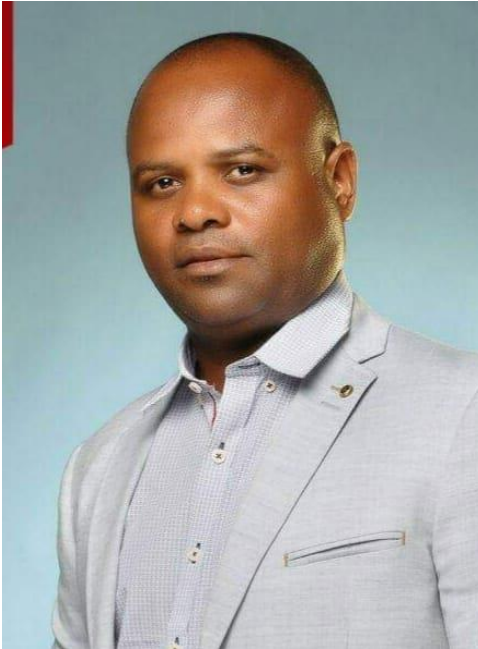
2021

PAKACHERE IHDC | info@pakachere.org



ABOUT PAKACHERE

Pakachere Institute for Health and Development Communication (PIHDC) is a Malawian health and development non-governmental organization (NGO). It was established in 2008 in Blantyre to improve the health of Malawians including Key Populations (KP), Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) and other priority populations by focusing on their health and social development including HIV prevention, care and treatment, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and Gender-based Violence (GBV) among others. Pakachere delivers its mandate using Social and Behavior Change Communication and direct HIV service delivery through 12 Drop-in-Centres (DICs), mobile outreach clinics and Ministry of Health (MoH) referral facilities. The organization works in a total of nine districts in Malawi.



A NOTE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

It is a pleasure to present to you Pakachere IHDC's 2021 annual report. The report shows the significant contribution that we are making towards ending AIDS in Malawi, specifically among key and vulnerable populations. As you are reading through the report, be aware that it also represents the tremendous growth trajectory that that Pakachere IHDC as a local NGO has gone through. The report marks 7 years of progressive implementation of comprehensive HIV, SRHR, and SGBV interventions among key and vulnerable populations, and successful 2 years of Pakachere receiving direct funding from USAID.

Our contribution towards reducing rates of HIV transmission among key and vulnerable populations (FSW and AGYW) has been possible because of our effective coordination and partnerships with the Ministry of Health, FHI360, APA, One Community and Blantyre Prevention Strategy just to mention a few. Our work could not have been possible without all our partners especially the Ministry of Health which has been very supportive of our efforts and growth path.

This report provides yet again the tremendous progress and an impact that our projects have had in the year 2021. In the year, we expanded our reach and enabled more FSW to access HIV testing and prevention services, be enrolled on treatment and ensure that their viral load is suppressed to prevent transmission of new infection. More KPs, especially FSW accessed integrated HIV/SRHR and SGBV services that are friendly and free of stigma. We strengthened provision of person-centered services to ensure that more KPs access services that meets their needs. More AGYW from Thyolo, Zomba and Machinga accessed HIV prevention and SRHR services. Health care workers from the mentioned districts were trained on provision of friendly and free of stigma services. To sum it, we contributed towards the prevention of new HIV infections and improved the quality of life of the many FSW living with HIV whose viral load is suppressed and are living and sustaining health lifestyles.

2021 saw our capacity as a local NGO getting stronger, with the organization getting more confident as a direct recipient of USAID funding. Our collaboration with FHI360 continued through the technical support. We experienced a very smooth, successful, and sustainable transition and have gained more experience as a direct recipient of PEPFAR funding.

Our success could not have been possible if it was not for the dedicated and passionate young team of public health professionals that Pakachere is building. Their willingness to learn and grow with the organization demonstrates the highest level of commitment and sacrifice to see AIDS ending by 2030. It is the desire of the organization to sustain this team of young energetic Malawians and grow them into assets that Malawi will cherish and utilize in different aspects.

Our work represents an example of locally led solutions to the HIV epidemic which if properly natured will provide the much needed lasting and sustainable solution to the HIV pandemic. Pakachere IHDC remains committed to this story of success and impact.

I wish you all the best as you take some time to have a quick look at our story of success as a local NGO. Do not hesitate to contact us should you want to ask questions or learn more about our work.

Simon Sikwese

Executive Director



WHERE WE WORK

Pakachere has a geographical footprint of eleven districts in Malawi. Its work overlaps in some of the districts. HIV response among female sex workers covers a total of eight districts of which 4 are PEPFAR supported (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mangochi and Mzimba) and another 4 are Global Fund supported districts (Nkhota-kota, Nkhata-Bay, Mulanje and Thyolo). Our HIV response among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) is implemented across three districts. Two are PEPFAR funded (Zomba and Machinga) and one is a Global Fund district (Thyolo). We are also implementing advocacy interventions among young people in Chikwawa and Blantyre districts.

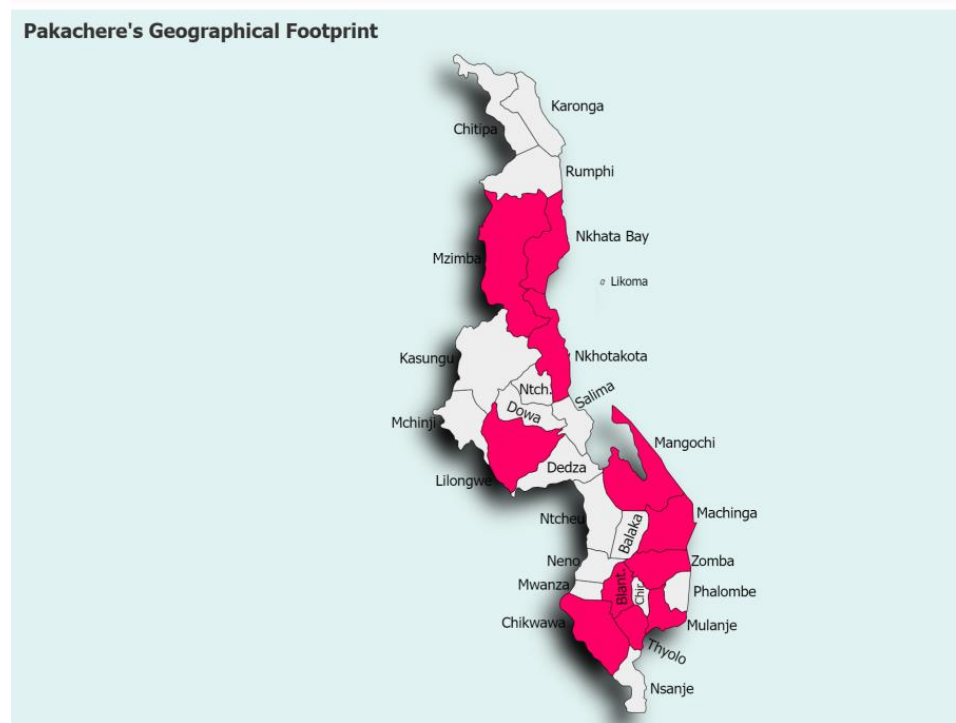


Figure 1
*pink color represent where Pakachere's interventions are.

POPULATIONS THAT WE WORK WITH

In 2021, Pakachere IHDC implemented interventions in line with its strategic mission of empowering Malawians, **particularly the vulnerable**, to choose and sustain healthy behaviors, through service delivery, evidence-based health and development communication, community mobilization, advocacy and networking. We worked with the following populations:

Adolescent Girls and Young Women (10-24 Years): We reached a total of 70,588 adolescent girls and young women across our three implementation districts of Zomba, Machinga and Thyolo. Of the total AGYW reached, 21,044 were reached through the PEPFAR funded EMPOWER project in Zomba and Machinga and 49,544 AGYW were reached in Thyolo through support from Global Fund through World Vision-Malawi.



Figure 2: AGYW grouped according to their age group (15 -19 years) for education session at Nazitimbe under Mayaka Health Center

Female Sex Workers: Through our intervention delivered to FSWs through peer education and clinical service delivery, we worked in a total of eight districts reaching 20,897 FSWs in hotspots and venues where sex work occurs. Of the total number of FSWs, 16,764 were reached through PEPFAR support and 4133 were reached through the Global Fund support.

Other Populations: Our interventions also target other populations including sexual partners of FSWs and AGYW, biological children through index testing and youth in general through our reproductive health advocacy intervention.

Partnering for Impact: Protecting Children of Sex Workers

“I do not make enough money to rent a house outside the hotspot that I work at. Staying with my child at the hotspot was the only way. I really had not thought about what this would mean to my child as at that moment survival was the only thing on my mind”

Kate, Female Sex Worker, Blantyre

Kate* is one of the sex workers in Blantyre that Local Endeavors for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment (LEAP) in partnership with PEPFAR OVC Partner in the district, Ana Patsogolo (APA), targeted in 2021 with interventions to promote child safety and health services for at-risk women and their children. LEAP delivers comprehensive HIV services to FSWs, AGYW and their sexual partners in Blantyre district. In 2020, a study implemented by FHI 360 and Pakachere IHDC revealed that there are some FSWs who live with young children in their rooms at hotspots which has the potential of causing harm to the children’s lives. Efforts were put in place through the project’s Peer Educators and Peer Navigators to conduct sessions with sex workers to discourage them from having minors and children in hotspots. These efforts did not bear much results.

“We would tell them not to have children in hotspots from a social perspective. We would explain that hotspots are not safe for children. But I think they would just look at us as Pakachere... the people who take care of us. They would actually tell us that they cannot afford any other option. But we never stopped...”

Triza Mnenula, Drop in Centre Manager, Bangwe DIC

A data audit conducted revealed that this practice among sex workers of having children in hotspots was common in many locations including Kachere, Chigumula, Candy, Machinjiri and Bangwe. In 2021, a partnership between Pakachere IHDC (LEAP) and YONECO (APA) provided an opportunity to address this practice. Through the partnership, Pakachere mobilized sex workers and their children and linked them to APA for OVC services. A critical activity in this partnership were parenting skills sessions that targeted sex workers and provided an opportunity to address safety and security issues for their children.

As part of the partnership, Pakachere mobilized over 500 FSWs with children within the Bangwe DIC catchment location in March 2021. Using a screening tool, APA screened for age, HIV status, if they had children, ages for their children, household level income, school status and place of residence. Household level income was assessed in order to assess children’s vulnerability and social needs. Children were enlisted as part of this process. A series of activities were then implemented post enrolment at different intervals. Activities included parenting skills sessions that were delivered by APA including importance of ART adherence, Viral load, PrEP, Child Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of Parents (legal perspective). Another session addressed the

need for FSWs progress with their lives and their children without inflicting physical and psychological harm on their children. Emphasis was also made on finance savings to ensure a better life for themselves and their children. As part of economic empowerment activities, Village Savings & Loans (VSLs) were introduced and a group was set up.

Following the different sessions that were conducted and continuous mentorship that was now being conducted by LEAP Peer Cadres, 5 hotspots have experienced a complete withdrawal of children and minors. These hotspots are all located within Bangwe DIC catchment locations and they are Candy, Mtendezi rest house(Kachere), Hillside(Chigumula), Bangwe inn and mudzi motel hotspots. 12 FSWs have started small businesses through the VSL to support themselves financially. Some have resorted to weekly money savings and banking which previously was a challenge.

“ Our collaboration with APA as an OVC partner has really helped our girls to understand things from the legal perspective. The sessions were rich and helpful. We hope we will continue to have children protected one session at a time”

Sinya Kondowe, Outreach Worker, Bangwe

Pakachere IHDC will continue to partner and collaborate with YONECO in Blantyre and MACRO in Mangochi to continue to link children of sex workers to OVC services. The organization plans to enhance the family centered approach to programming and this will only be possible through collaboration that works



EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN FOR AN HIV/AIDS FREE FUTURE

EMPOWER

Pakachere IHDC in partnership with FHI 360 is implementing Expanding Malawi HIV/AIDS Prevention with Local Organizations Working for an Effective Epidemic control (EMPOWER) Activity. EMPOWER is a five-year (March 5, 2020, to March 4, 2025) Cooperative Agreement between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Family Health International (FHI 360). The project is implemented by a consortium of FHI 360 (Prime Recipient) and two local Subrecipients, Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) and Pakachere. The project delivers clinical HIV and Sexual and Reproductive Health services among AGYW in Machinga and Zomba as part of the DREAMS intervention. The project aims to contribute to epidemic control by stopping transmission and preventing new HIV infections, particularly among AGYW (10–24 years old). The project is designed to achieve lasting impact by systematically transferring capacity to GOM and Local Partners (LP) to assume responsibility for managing the HIV response.



RESULT AREAS

- Increased availability of and access to high quality, integrated SRH/HIV services for AGYW
- Increased utilization of integrated SRH/HIV services by AGYW
- Improved access and adherence to PrEP by AGYW who meet national criteria for PrEP
- Maintain a shared database to track layering of services for DREAMS beneficiaries
- Strengthened linkage and referrals for AGYW to and from DREAMS services implemented by other partners



Figure 3: Nurse Provider having an Education Session with the AGYW on Cervical Cancer Screening.

ACHIEVEMENT & HIGHLIGHTS

- **PrEP Services:** In 2021, EMPOWER supported the implementation and delivery of PrEP services to AGYW. Twenty-two health care workers were trained in PrEP delivery, five facilities were supported for PrEP delivery site accreditation by MoH and PrEP services were expanded from 5 facilities in Q2 to 14 facilities in Q4 (Zomba and Machinga)



SUMMARY RESULTS

- **21,044** AGYW reached with HIV Prevention package
- **5720** accessed HIV testing services and were linked to prevention/treatment
- **3989** HIV self test kits were distributed
- **2,402** were supported with post GBV services
- **85** AGYW were initiated on PrEP

- **HIV Testing Services:** EMPOWER delivered HIV testing services to AGYW and conducted Know your status campaign which aimed to expand HIV testing services to all AGYW enrolled in DREAMS clubs. A daily performance tracker was used to assess performance progress and self-assessment.
- **Community ownership:** EMPOWER delivered services through community structures. 22 YCBDAs were trained in message dissemination on SRH/HIV and GBV and 6 DREAMS Ambassadors in SRH/HIV/GBV and PrEP messaging. These cadres supported demand creation and referrals for services. Chiefs, local and faith leaders were also engaged to promote AGYW service provision
- **Demand Creation Activities:** EMPOWER implemented demand creation activities including community special events (Debates, Q&A sessions to counter misinformation), health Talks on COVID 19 Vaccination in DREAMS clubs and communities and PrEP motivational talks during Outreach Clinics and giving information/linkage during community meetings with partners and opinion leaders

EMPOWER ACHIEVEMENT FY21

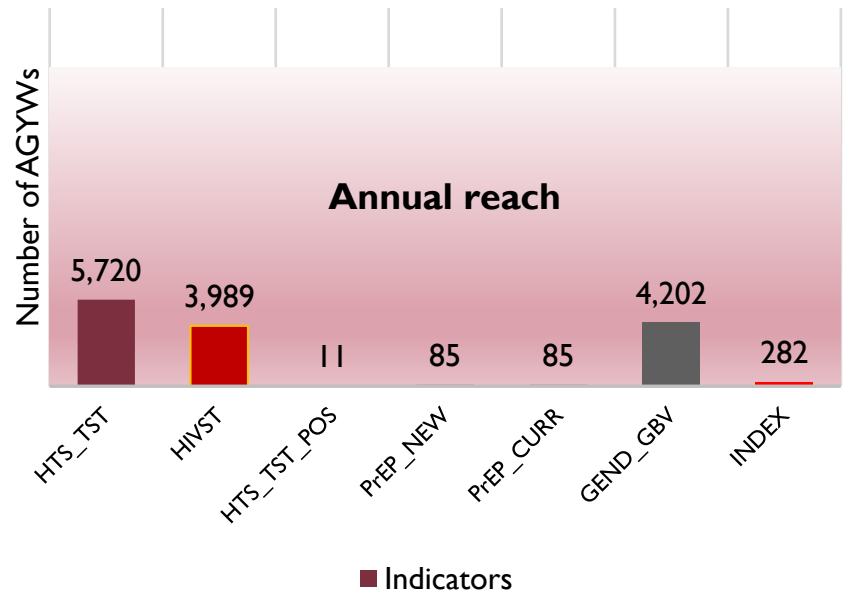


Figure 4: Summary performance on key indicators for EMPOWER for 2021

EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN FOR AN HIV/AIDS FREE FUTURE

HIV PREVENTION AMONG ADOLESCENT GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN IN THYOLO

In 2021, Pakachere implemented the 3-year Global Fund (2021 – 2023) AGYW Project through World Vision Malawi (WV-M) as a Principal Recipient (PR). The project aims to reduce new HIV infections among Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW). Through this project, 49,327 AGYW were supported with information on HIV, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Life skills through their interactions with peer educators and in school matrons/patrons. About 4,390 AGYW (580 in school and 3,810 out of school) accessed clinical services including HIV testing (3,710), Family planning (638) and others.

To achieve these results the following activities were implemented; Establishment and Orientation of Rapid Response Teams on GBV, Orientation of 516 in-school matrons and patrons, Orientation of 75 Community Based Organizations, Training of 36 additional Peer Educators, AGYW Technical Working Group Meeting, Interface meetings on issues affecting AGYW, Training of 40 Youth Friendly Health Services master trainers, school health days, social asset building sessions, Outreach clinics and monthly data collection and mentorship sessions.



Figure 5: Health talk session during a school health day (Photo by Blessings Kasache)

Two (2) Technical Working Group Meetings for AGYW were conducted, 1 in August and another in November. During the meetings participants shared reports of various AGYW interventions they are carrying out in the district. Training of Youth Friendly Health Services Master trainers

took place between end August and early September. A total of 40 health care providers, drawn from various health facilities in Thyolo District, were trained. 24 social asset building sessions were conducted during which in school AGYW, aged 10 years and above, were engaged on various issues affecting them. 92 outreach clinics were conducted across the 10 TAs and 3,130 AGYW were tested for HIV. 84 monthly data collection and mentorship sessions were conducted during the reporting period. A total of 18 school health days sessions were conducted. During the 12 sessions, 580 in-school AGYW were tested for HIV.

SUMMARY PERFORMANCE

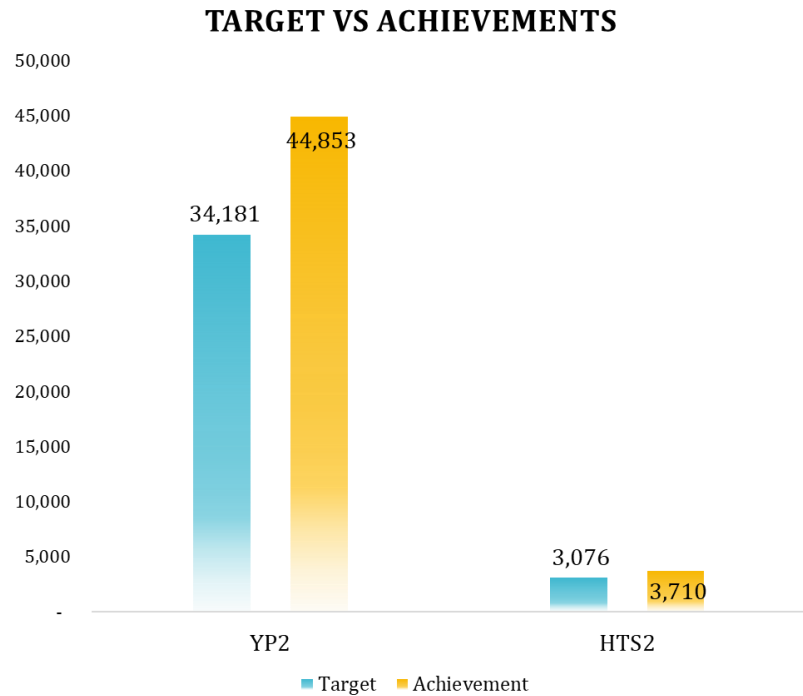


Figure 6: Reach and HIV Test Data for AGYW in Thyolo

LOCAL CAPACITIES IN DELIVERING HIV RESPONSE AMONG FSWS

Pakachere continues to lead as a local partner in the implementation of comprehensive HIV services among FSWs and their sexual partners through the Local Endeavors for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Activity (LEAP) Activity. LEAP is a 5-year key population intervention being implemented with support from The President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project aims to improve the quality of life of Female Sex Workers (FSW) and Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), especially those living with HIV and their social and sexual networks by promoting access to and uptake of high-quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services through evidence-based biomedical, behavioral and structural interventions. Implemented in four districts of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzimba and Mangochi, LEAP is delivered through three service delivery models namely Drop-in-Centers(DICs), Mobile Outreach Clinics and Referral to public facilities.

L
E
A
P

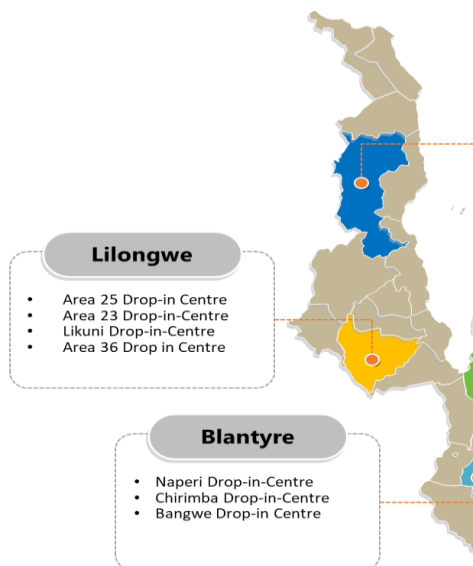


Figure 7: Operational districts for LEAP Activity

HIGHLIGHTS

Service Packages

In 2021, LEAP provided comprehensive package of HIV prevention, care and treatment services to FSWs and their sexual partners through 12 drop-in centers (DICs), outreach clinics and referrals to public health facilities. FSWs and sexual contacts were reached with HIV testing and ART services, STI screening and management, family planning (FP) services, cervical cancer screening services and referrals, TB screening and referral, pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) initiations and refills and post gender-based violence (GBV) service.

Peer Education and Navigation

In 2021 PEs and PNs were professionalized to ensure delivery of quality services to their peers. Eighty-nine (89) PEs and fifty – nine (59) PNs supported LEAP interventions and ensured KP friendly services at community level.

PrEP Implementation Scale Up

A major gain in 2021 in LEAP was the successful roll out of PrEP from 3 Blantyre based DICs to all the 12 DICs across the LEAP districts. Prior to PrEP roll out, LEAP had trained a total 74 HCWs (50 from MoH referral facilities) in Mangochi, Mzimba and Lilongwe districts as well as conducting PrEP site assessments to ensure quality PrEP services. In Q4FY21, an additional 81 HCWs (25 from Blantyre, 19 from Mzimba and 37 from Lilongwe) were trained by FHI 360 EpiC Project on PrEP provision and guidelines thereby enhancing capacity in MoH facilities within the districts for PrEP services. LEAP conducted PrEP demand creation acceleration activities in hotspots to increase uptake of PrEP services. LEAP also participated in the PrEP Guidelines

and Communication Strategy Launch and mounted a pavilion displaying PrEP IEC Materials in September 2021 in Lilongwe.



Figure 8: Pakachere Pavilion and PrEP Communication strategy launch in Lilongwe

ART Delivery through Drop-in-Centers

In 2021, Ministry of Health assessed DICs as independent ART sites to improve efficiencies in management and follow up of clients on ART. DICs were certified as ART sites.

Strengthening DREAMS intervention

LEAP worked to strengthen the implementation of DREAMS intervention in Blantyre district. Three DREAMS Ambassadors were recruited and trained to support the delivery of DREAMS Tool Kit and social asset building. Fifteen (15) Club Facilitators were recruited and trained through a 5-day training on delivery of DREAMS tool kit. 15 Go-Girl Clubs were active at the end of 2021.

91% Linkage to HIV Testing
26% Case finding rate
99% Linkage to ART treatment

No	Indicator	Annual Targets	Q1	Q2	Q3
1	KP_PREV	15,468	6,414	4,110	2,4
2	HTS_TST	2,629	3,286	2,560	1,1
3	HTS_TST_POS	2,498	552	533	5:
4	TX_NEW	2,352	551	527	5:
5	TX_CURR	2,354	2,192	2,887	2,5
6	TX_PVLS	1,353	163	579	4:
7	HTS_SELF	10,357	1,375	2,159	4,7
8	PREP_NEW	2,952	63	98	7:
9	PREP_CURR	3,386	126	224	9:
10	GEND_GBV	954	183	108	1:

Figure 9: Summary LEAP performance for 2021

Summary Performance

Global Fund

LOCAL CAPACITIES IN DELIVERING HIV RESPONSE AMONG FSWs



Figure 10: Peer Educators Meeting

Pakachere IHDC with support from Global Fund through World Vision (the principal recipient) and Christian AID (the sub-recipient) implemented a 'Global Fund Female Sex Workers Project' which is an HIV prevention project among key populations. The project was implemented in Mulanje, Thyolo, Nkhota-kota and Nkhata-bay.

The project sought to reduce new HIV infections among female sex workers hence contributing to the elimination of HIV transmission by 2030 and reducing HIV related morbidity and mortality among female sex workers. In the four districts, Pakachere worked with 29 peer educators (PE), 19 peer navigators (PN) and 8 outreach workers (ORW) in 165 hotspots. Project activities were implemented with support from Ministry of Health through District Hospitals, Police and Paralegal Advisory Services Institute (PASI)

Key Achievements & Highlights

- 2,188 FSWs were reached with the program defined package; 832 in Mulanje, 360 in Thyolo, 505 in Nkhatabay and 500 in Nkhotakota
- PEs distributed 149,634 male condoms, 3,312 female condoms and 87,763 lubes
- 811 FSWs accessed clinical services: 184 in Thyolo, 299 in Nkhotakota and 328 in Nkhatabay
- Out of the 811 FSWs, 486 reported that they were already on ART, 280 FSWs reported to had tested negative during their previous HTS while 45 said that they were not aware of their HIV status.
- 271 FSWs were tested and 21 tested positive
- 792 FSWs were screened for STIs out of which 330 infections were recorded as follows representing 42% STI case detection rate
- 726 FSW were screened for TB out of which 28 were presumptive. Sputum for the 28 was collected for lab tests
- 307 FSW received family planning methods



ADVOCACY

Reproductive Health Advocacy for Youth

Demand services at all cost!

Alinafe* and Bahati*¹, found themselves among the 13,000 girls that got pregnant and 40,000 married before their 18th birthdays during the emergency school closure in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic in Malawi. These two represent the lives of adolescent girls in Nkhota-kota and Chikhwawa which were among the hardest hit districts in the country. Pakachere IHDC with financial support from PAI, designed the Reproductive Health Advocacy Project (RHAP). The aim of the project is increasing youth access to sexual reproductive health services and youth involvement in provision of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH). Once the youth get involved and have access to reproductive health services, this can help in drastically reducing the teen pregnancies and early marriages.

This project is targeting two T/As in Chikhawa which are T/A Maseya and T/A Kasisi and in three T/As in Nkhota-kota which are T/A Malengachanzi, T/A Mwadzama and T/A Mwansambo . By the end of 2021, the project had trained 28 youth advocates in advocacy for SRH service with expectations that they will cascade their knowledge to their peers.

Over time, the project has made significant advocacy gains. Some of the achievements that were registered by the project in 2021 include increased number of youth accessing family planning commodities. For instance, youth in Masewe which is 13 kilometers away from Alinafe Health center, a CHAM facility, in Nkhota-kota started accessing services nearby. These youth have also established a vibrant group that is motivating their colleagues residing further away from them to start accessing services.



Figure 11: Youth in Chikhwawa conducting an advocacy session

The other achievement is that health facilities have started recognizing the need for youth involvement and allocating them space to meet and access services at designated days. The government health facility in Mpmatha in Nkhota-kota and Berue in Chikhwawa are some facilities that have scaled up their activities. The CHAM facility at Mkaika in Nkhota-kota has extended its space for the youth to meet and is also a condom collection center for the youth. This is a remarkable achievement for the youth.

The third achievement is that channels of communication where youth can directly report their concerns to the District Youth Friendly Health services coordinator are now open. In both Nkhoko-kota and Chikhwawa, the youth were provided contacts on how they can report shortage of supplies and their concerns with health service providers. However, Nkhota-kota has gone a step further. The youth created a WhatsApp group where various stakeholders including the district health office representative and District Youth Officer are present. This forum serves to inform youths on what they are doing and also the youth are able to channel out their concerns and be assisted promptly.

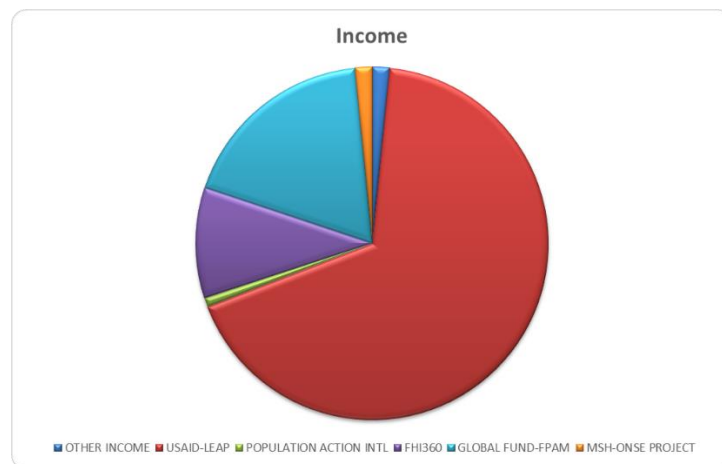
¹ Not Real names



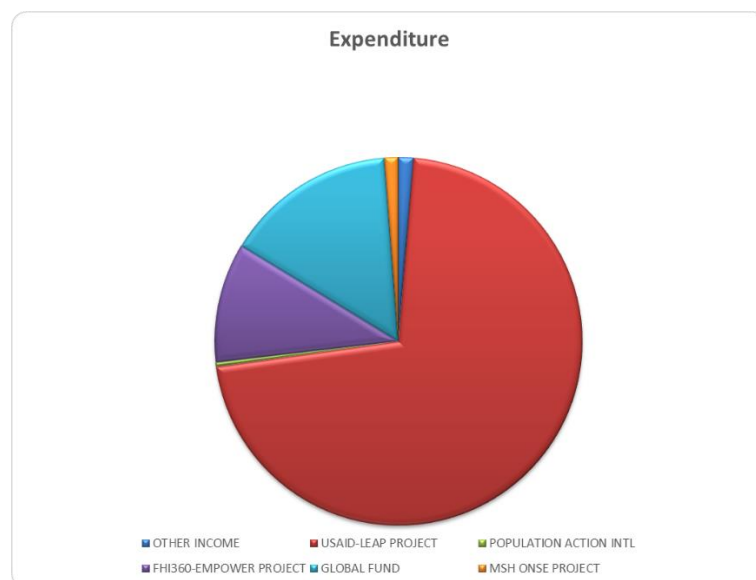
Figure 12: Youth in Nkhota-kota, Mpamatha receiving their Family planning supplies

FINANCE SUMMARY

INCOME	AMOUNT
OTHER INCOME	33,260,004
USAID-LEAP	1,424,873,857
POPULATION ACTION INTL	17,106,353
FHI360	214,087,096
GLOBAL FUND-FPAM	385,913,487
MSH-ONSE PROJECT	33,179,889
TOTAL INCOME	2,108,420,686.11



EXPENDITURE	
OTHER INCOME	25,731,570
USAID-LEAP PROJECT	1,400,850,272
POPULATION ACTION INTL	7,356,320
FHI360-EMPOWER PROJECT	205,888,623
GLOBAL FUND	296,028,689
MSH ONSE PROJECT	24,038,740
DEFERRED REVENUE	148,526,471.86
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,108,420,686.11





FUNDERS

Pakachere's work would not be possible without the generous support of our funders and partners. We appreciate their contribution and value their continued trust.

The President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief
(PEPFAR)
United States Agency for International Development
(USAID)
FHI 360
World Vision-Malawi
Christian AID
PAI

PARTNERS

Ministry of Health
Nation AIDS Commission
Ministry of Youth
Blantyre Prevention Strategy
Ana Patsogolo



CONNECT WITH US!

Pakachere Institute of Health & Development
Communication,
Delamere House,
4th Floor, South wing,
Victoria Avenue
P.O. Box 30248
Chichiri, Blantyre 3.

Tel: +265 (1) 831 661

Email: info@pakachere.org

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ihdcPakachere>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PakachereIHDC>

Website: www.pakachere.org