



# Manicaland HIV/STD Prevention Project

## Epidemic Status Report 2023

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**ALL SITES COVERED BY THE SURVEY**

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### INTRODUCTION

Round 7 was carried out from July 2018 to October 2019, round 8 was carried out from February 2021 to July 2021 (i.e. during the worst of the Covid-19 pandemic), and round 9 was carried out from July 2022 to December 2022 (i.e. as Covid-19 became less severe due to vaccinations and emergence of less deadly variants of the virus). This report compares the main results on local patterns of HIV infection, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), knowledge and awareness of HIV, and sexual and health-seeking behaviour between the 3 rounds. In rounds 8 and 9, extra questions were added about the Covid 19 virus. For these two rounds, HIV prevalence estimates are based on self-reports for new survey participants and for those who were uninfected in the last round in which they participated.

### AREAS COVERED

The survey covered the following areas: Eastern Highlands, Selbourne, Nyanga, Watsomba, Nyazura, Bonda, Sakubva and Hobhouse. In rounds 7, 8 and 9, the numbers of adults who participated were 9,803, 8,497 and 9,637 respectively. These numbers fluctuated due to migration and changes in survey eligibility criteria.

### KEY RESULTS

- 8% men and 10% women were infected with HIV in round 9 (July-December 2022)
- In all three rounds of the survey, HIV prevalence has been higher in men and women who report having had larger numbers of sexual partners in their lifetime
- Big increases were found between round 8 ('during Covid-19') and round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased') in the proportions of men and women who reported having had a Covid-19 test, having tested and received a positive result, and having been vaccinated against Covid-19
- Whilst more people in round 9 than in round 8 said they had *ever* been in contact with someone who had Covid-19, fewer people said they were at risk of getting infected themselves in the future
- The proportion of young women (aged 15-19yrs) who reported having started sex fell from 30% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 21% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and increased again slightly to 24% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Amongst women with a recent non-regular partner, the proportion reporting unprotected sex with this partner fell from 82% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') to 66% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased'); the proportion of these women reporting using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) increased from 3% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 13% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and 44% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Fewer men had more than one sexual partner in the last month in round 8 (4.2% 'during Covid-19') than in round 7 (5.5% 'before Covid-19'). The proportion remained at 4.0% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- The proportion of men reporting STD symptoms in the last 12 months fell from round 7 ('before Covid-19') to round 8 ('during Covid-19') and increased slightly in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Levels of HIV testing did not change very much during Covid-19
- The proportions of people living with HIV who reported being on ART fell slightly between round 8 ('during Covid-19') and round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased') – men: 100% to 96%; women: 100% to 93%

All Sites - ages 15+

	MALES									FEMALES												
	Round 7 July 2018-Oct 2019			Round 8 Feb 2021-July 2021			Round 9 July 2022-Dec 2022			Round 7 July 2018-Oct 2019			Round 8 Feb 2021-July 2021			Round 9 July 2022-Dec 2022						
	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%	HIV+ people	Total	%				
<b>1. HIV PREVALENCE</b>																						
1.1 All Participants	301	4,102	7%	308	3,576	9%	▲	280	3,553	8%	▼	539	5,237	10%	630	4,872	13%	▲	510	4,943	10.3%	▼
<b>1.2 Age Group</b>																						
15-19	25	1,234	2%	7	721	1%	▼	6	484	1%	▲	42	1,548	3%	18	751	2%	▼	10	472	2%	▼
20-24	12	823	1%	9	456	2%	▲	8	458	2%	▼	33	910	4%	25	587	4%	▲	13	676	2%	▼
25-34	49	661	7%	33	662	5%	▼	18	732	2%	▼	120	978	12%	94	1,052	9%	▼	62	1,078	6%	▼
35-44	72	485	15%	83	688	12%	▼	52	725	7%	▼	179	808	22%	200	1,003	20%	▼	152	1,093	14%	▼
45-54	86	328	26%	101	477	21%	▼	94	538	17%	▼	134	507	26%	199	685	29%	▲	167	773	22%	▼
55+	41	349	12%	75	570	13%	▲	102	616	17%	▲	53	700	8%	94	793	12%	▲	106	851	12%	▲
<b>1.3 Marital Status</b>																						
Single	48	1,946	2%	22	1,234	2%	▼	20	1,016	2%	▲	70	1,558	4%	40	896	4%	▼	19	631	3%	▼
Married	223	2,040	11%	259	2,180	12%	▲	237	2,337	10%	▼	288	3,121	9%	313	2,829	11%	▲	255	3,040	8%	▼
Divorced/separated/widowed	45	194	23%	27	162	17%	▼	23	200	12%	▼	236	1,035	23%	277	1,145	24%	▲	236	1,272	19%	▼
In non-polygamous union	220	1,955	11%	271	3,341	8%	▼	229	2,271	10%	▲	285	3,097	9%	350	3,719	9%	▲	254	3,035	8%	▼
In polygamous union	8	78	10%	10	73	14%	▲	8	66	12%	▼	1	3	33%	3	8	38%	▲	1	5	20%	▼
<b>1.5 Education</b>																						
None/primary	55	520	11%	80	871	9%	▼	61	482	13%	▲	163	1,291	13%	251	1,696	15%	▲	165	1,227	13%	▼
Secondary/higher	221	3,311	7%	226	2,697	8%	▲	219	3,068	7%	▼	380	4,062	9%	371	3,151	12%	▲	341	3,696	9%	▼
<b>1.6 Employment Status</b>																						
Formal employment	103	1,091	9%	149	1,354	11%	▲	161	1,818	9%	▼	83	513	16%	157	938	17%	▲	178	1,635	11%	▼
Informal employment	49	550	9%	62	528	12%	▲	46	566	8%	▼	81	649	12%	135	927	15%	▲	126	860	15%	▲
Unemployed	88	1,044	8%	95	1,141	8%	▼	75	828	9%	▲	328	2,917	11%	325	2,447	13%	▲	211	2,295	9%	▼
Student	19	1,015	2%	2	553	0%	▼	3	91	3%	▲	25	1,025	2%	13	560	2%	▼	5	313	2%	▼
<b>1.7 Number of Sexual Partners in life</b>																						
1	30	634	5%	35	694	5%	▲	27	737	4%	▼	178	2,698	7%	235	2,744	9%	▲	190	3,034	6%	▼
2-4	98	1,103	9%	110	1,064	10%	▲	101	1,180	9%	▼	300	1,453	21%	288	1,156	25%	▲	235	1,244	19%	▼
5+	146	890	16%	154	986	16%	▼	144	1,047	14%	▼	82	264	31%	89	204	44%	▲	79	219	36%	▲
<b>2. QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS ON KNOWLEDGE, RISK PERCEPTION &amp; STIGMA</b>																						
<b>2.1 Knowledge - Factors Thought to Increase Risk</b>																						
Presence of STDs	2,651	4,299	62%	2,874	3,588	80%	▲	3,535	4,171	85%	▲	4,601	5,504	84%	4,267	4,908	87%	▲	4,832	5,466	88%	▲
Condoms	366	4,299	9%	531	3,588	15%	▲	367	4,171	9%	▼	321	5,504	6%	295	4,098	7%	▲	303	5,466	6%	▼
Witchcraft	143	4,299	3%	245	3,588	7%	▲	187	4,171	4%	▼	152	5,504	3%	120	4,908	2%	▼	136	5,466	2%	▲
<b>2.2 Knowledge - Infant infection</b>																						
Infants can be infected via breastfeeding	3,392	4,299	79%	2,819	3,588	79%	▼	3,575	4,171	86%	▲	4,716	5,504	86%	4,035	4,908	82%	▼	4,400	5,466	80%	▼
All children of HIV+ women infected	812	4,299	19%	651	3,588	18%	▼	702	4,171	17%	▼	516	5,504	9%	421	4,908	9%	▼	308	5,466	6%	▼
<b>2.3 Knowledge - HIV versus AIDS</b>																						
HIV+ person can always be identified visually	885	4,299	21%	705	3,588	20%	▼	830	4,171	20%	▲	927	5,504	17%	871	4,908	18%	▲	815	5,466	15%	▼
<b>2.4 Stigma (Kusemwa)</b>																						
Willing to care for an infected relative	3,840	4,299	89%	3,448	3,588	96%	▲	3,827	4,171	92%	▼	5,198	5,504	94%	4,766	4,908	97%	▲	5,308	5,466	97%	▲
Cared for a relative with AIDS	1,010	4,299	23%	1,085	2,471	44%	▲	1,165	2,674	44%	▼	1,753	5,504	32%	1,851	3,882	48%	▲	2,245	4,420	51%	▲
<b>3. SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, STD SYMPTOMS &amp; TREATMENT SERVICES</b>																						
<b>3.1 Sexual Behaviour*</b>																						
More than one partner in last month	164	2,981	5.5%	117	2,770	4.2%	▼	134	3,184	4%	▼	54	4,612	1.2%	43	4,158	1.0%	▼	50	4,682	1.1%	▲
One or more new partner(s) in the last year	711	2,233	32%	770	2,528	30%	▼	794	2,741	29%	▼	594	3,149	19%	716	2,967	24%	▲	656	3,570	18%	▼
15-19s that have started sex	135	1,264	11%	95	721	13%	▲	90	822	11%	▼	476	1,589	30%	155	753	21%	▼	194	795	24%	▲
Unprotected sex with recent non regular partner**	953	1,164	82%	755	924	82%	▼	495	611	81%	▼	672	777	86%	365	443	82%	▼	156	238	66%	▼
Can negotiate for safer sexual relations with spouse	904	2,371	38%	659	1,900	35%	▼	610	2,084	29%	▼	1,049	3,522	30%	862	2,784	31%	▲	868	3,100	28%	▼
<b>3.2 STD Symptoms - Last 12 Months</b>																						
Genital Discharge	106	4,073	3%	10	3,015	0%	▼	34	3,466	1%	▲	306	5,729	5%	172	4,103	4%	▼	146	4,501	3%	▼
Genital sore/ulcer	24	4,299	1%	8	3,015	0%	▼	24	3,466	1%	▲	124	5,504	2%	76	4,103	2%	▼	90	4,501	2%	▲
<b>4. UPTAKE OF HIV SERVICES</b>																						
<b>4.1 HIV Testing</b>																						
Ever tested for HIV in life	3,263	4,296	76%	3,210	3,589	89%	▲	3,553	4,171	85%	▼	4,531	5,494	82%	4,496	4,900	92%	▲	4,943	5,466	90%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 3 years	2,443	4,291	57%	2,588	3,584	72%	▲	2,728	4,171	65%	▼	3,290	5,487	60%	3,818	4,895	78%	▲	3,904	5,466	71%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 6 months	972	3,286	30%	971	3,176	31%	▲	1,113	3,553	31%	▲	1,872	4,510	42%	1,762	4,443	40%	▼	1,819	4,943	37%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 12 months	1,919	3,286	58%	1,922	3,176	61%	▲	2,017	3,553	57%	▼	3,041	4,510	67%	2,859	4,443	64%	▼	3,063	4,943	62%	▼
<b>4.2 ARV Treatment</b>																						
Receiving ART of those HIV+	163	190	86%	240	241	100%	▲	238	247	96%	▼	388	464	84%	535	535	100%	▲	499	536	93%	▼
<b>4.3 HIV prevention methods</b>																						
Circumcised	1,053	4,073	26%	980	3,589	27%	▲	1,162	4,171	28%	▲	3,954	5,503	72%	4,230	4,906	86%	▲	4,799	5,466	88%	▲
Condom Accessibility	3,441	4,299	80%	3,214	3,589	90%	▲	3,720	4,171	89%	▼	18	672	3%	48	365	13%	▲	69	156	44%	▲
Currently using prep***	0	953	0%	2	755	0%	▲	15	495	3%	▲											
<b>5. CORONA VIRUS</b>																						
Risk perception				1,323	3,463	38%		1,247	4,171	30%	▼				1,923	4,691	41%		1,392	5,466	25%	▼
Contact with covid 19 infected person				56	3,588	2%		405	4,171	10%	▲				136	4,908	3%		727	5,466	13%	▲
Vaccine coverage				384	3,588	11%		3,458	4,171	83%	▲				590	4,908	12%		4,973	5,466	91%	▲
Ever tested for covid				321	3,588	9%		1,115	4,171	27%	▲				516	4,906	11%		2,630	5,466	48%	▲
Tested with a positive result				8	321	2%		73	1,115	7%	▲				21	516	4%		218	2,630	8%	▲

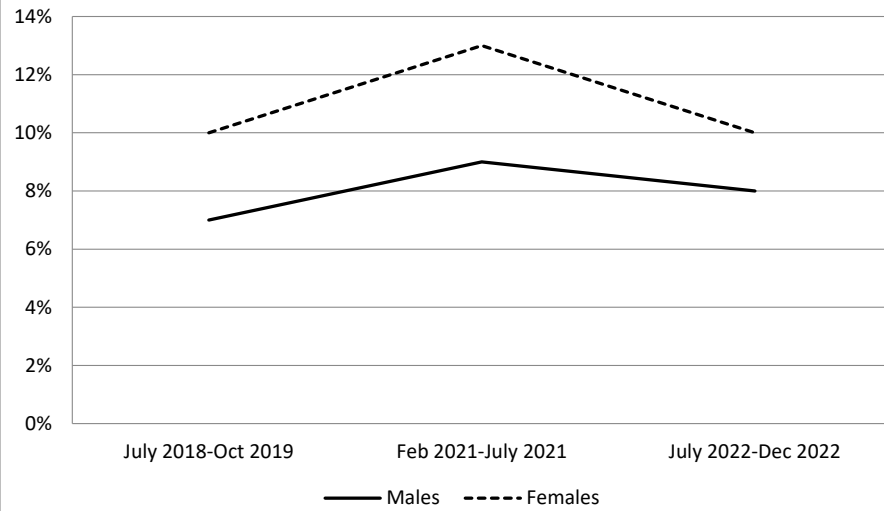
▲ Marks an increase from previous round | ▼ Marks a decrease from previous round | ▬ Marks no change between rounds

\*\* Respondents who reported not having started sex yet were excluded here. \*\*\* Respondents with no non regular partners were excluded

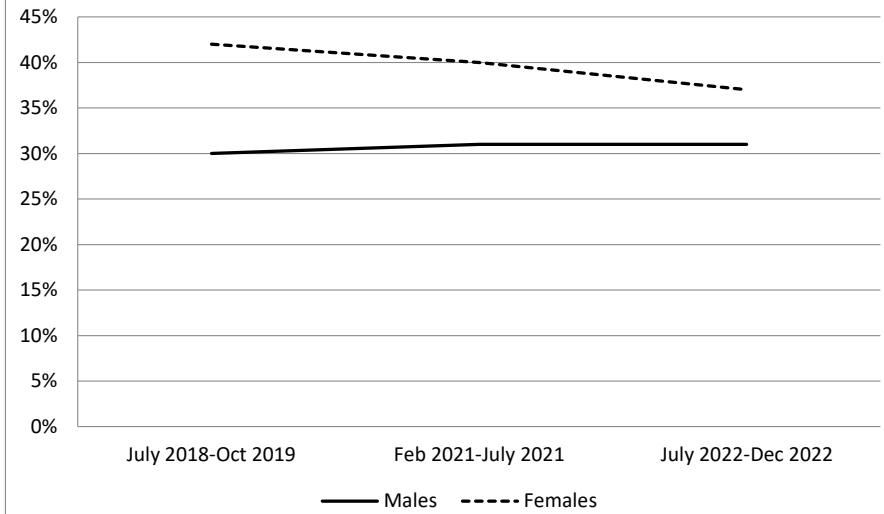
\*\*\* Denominator consist of respondents who ever had sex with recent non regular partner

## OVERALL GRAPHS

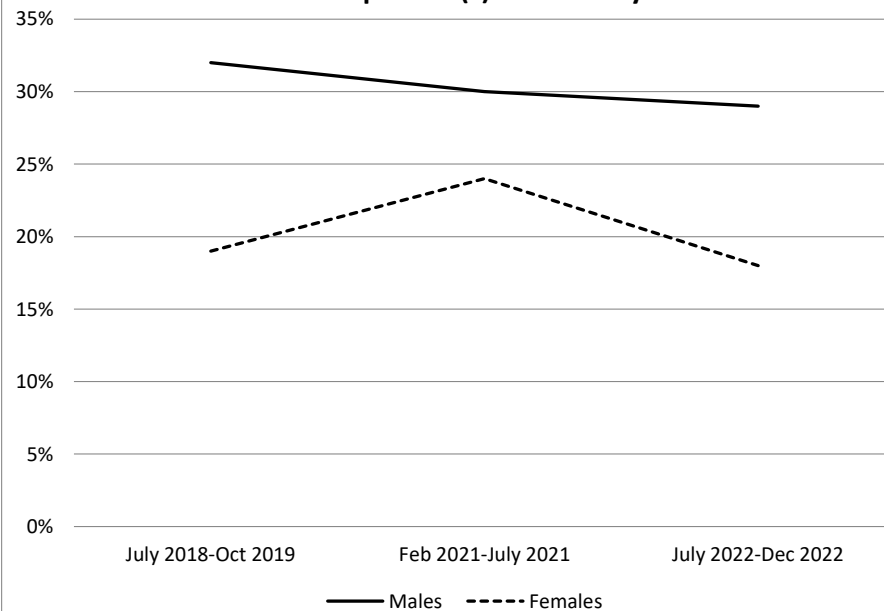
### HIV Prevalence



### Tested for HIV in the last 6 months



### One or more new partner(s) in the last year



### Patterns in Covid 19

