



# Manicaland HIV/STD Prevention Project

## Epidemic Status Report 2023

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-For

**EASTERN HIGHLANDS AND ALL SURROUNDING AREAS**

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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 Village 1 to 8, Aberfoyle, Hilltop, Mabhani, Milimani and West Division. In rounds 7, 8 and 9 of the survey, the numbers of adults who participated were 1,020, 899 and 951 respectively. These numbers fluctuated due to changes in migration and changes in survey eligibility criteria.

### KEY RESULTS

- 8% men and 7% 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, a lesser proportion indicated that 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 47% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 38% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and remained constant at 38% 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 90% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') and 84% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') to 60% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased'). The proportion of these women reporting using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) increased from 1% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 6% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and to 17% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- More men had more than one sexual partner in the last month in round 8 (7.1% 'during Covid-19') than in round 7 (6.2% 'before Covid-19'). The proportion fell to 4.0% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Levels of HIV testing increased in this site during Covid-19: from 27% to 39% for men; and from 40% to 53% for women
- The proportions of people living with HIV who reported being on ART increased slightly for men and declined remarkably for women between round 8 ('during Covid-19') and round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased') – men: 97% to 100%; women: 100% to 67%

**Ages 15+years**

	MALES									FEMALES													
	Round 7			Round 8			Round 9			Round 7			Round 8			Round 9							
	July 2018-Oct 2019			Feb 2021-July 2021			July 2022-Dec 2022			July 2018-Oct 2019			Feb 2021-July 2021			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	49	539	9%	46	417	11%	▲	31	405	8%	▼	54	467	12%	64	476	13%	▲	33	455	7.3%	▼	
1.2 Age Group																							
15-19	3	129	2%	0	76	0%	▼	0	48	0%	—	1	148	1%	▲	1	69	1%	▲	0	49	0%	▼
20-24	0	116	0%	0	42	0%	—	1	58	2%	▲	1	87	1%	▲	1	63	2%	▲	1	65	2%	▼
25-34	8	102	8%	5	84	6%	▼	1	82	1%	▼	11	86	13%	▼	9	102	9%	▼	4	93	4%	▼
35-44	17	89	19%	16	94	17%	▼	6	88	7%	▼	27	94	29%	▼	25	132	19%	▼	10	126	8%	▼
45-54	19	64	30%	19	75	25%	▼	8	67	12%	▼	13	48	27%	▼	22	78	28%	▲	12	82	15%	▼
55+	2	24	8%	6	46	13%	▲	15	62	24%	▲	4	18	22%	▼	6	32	19%	▼	6	40	15%	▼
<b>1.4 Marital Status</b>																							
Single	3	205	1%	1	118	1%	▼	0	104	0%	▼	6	118	5%	▼	2	52	4%	▼	1	52	2%	▼
Married	39	327	12%	41	284	14%	▲	27	281	10%	▼	27	300	9%	▼	39	327	12%	▲	14	299	5%	▼
Divorced/separated/widowed	10	26	38%	4	15	27%	▼	4	20	20%	▼	26	85	31%	▼	23	97	24%	▼	18	104	17%	▼
In non-polygynous union	37	310	12%	40	382	10%	▼	26	271	10%	▼	26	296	9%	▼	40	378	11%	▲	14	299	5%	▼
In polygynous union	2	16	13%	2	20	10%	▼	1	10	10%	—	0	0	0%	—	1	1	100%	▲	0	0	0%	▼
<b>1.5 Education</b>																							
None/primary	13	82	16%	14	110	13%	▼	9	72	13%	▼	27	135	20%	▼	31	158	20%	▼	17	146	12%	▼
Secondary/higher	32	440	7%	31	306	10%	▲	22	333	7%	▼	27	331	8%	▼	31	554	6%	▼	15	303	5%	▼
<b>1.6 Employment Status</b>																							
Formal employment	47	414	11%	42	331	13%	▲	29	339	9%	▼	34	155	22%	▼	39	214	18%	▼	25	303	8%	▼
Informal employment	0	0	0%	1	5	20%	▲	1	8	13%	▼	4	18	22%	▼	4	21	19%	▼	0	10	0%	▼
Unemployed	1	21	5%	3	33	9%	▲	1	33	3%	▼	10	173	6%	▼	20	207	10%	▲	8	122	7%	▼
Student	3	109	3%	0	48	0%	▼	0	28	0%	—	1	75	1%	▼	1	34	3%	▼	0	20	0%	▼
<b>1.7 Number of Sexual Partners in life</b>																							
1	4	79	5%	11	126	9%	▲	1	82	1%	▼	6	214	3%	▼	13	231	6%	▲	8	263	3%	▼
2-4	22	181	12%	15	134	11%	▼	11	136	8%	▼	43	169	25%	▼	37	169	22%	▼	22	139	16%	▼
5+	23	122	19%	19	82	23%	▲	19	128	15%	▼	8	30	27%	▼	13	27	48%	▲	3	21	14%	▼
<b>2. QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS ON KNOWLEDGE, RISK PERCEPTION &amp; STIGMA</b>																							
15+ years old																							
<b>2.1 Knowledge - Factors Thought to Increase Risk</b>	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%	Said Yes	Total Asked	%		
Presence of STDs	398	551	56%	368	420	87%	▲	443	460	96%	▲	370	469	79%	▲	426	479	89%	▲	370	491	75%	▼
Condoms	43	551	8%	105	420	25%	▲	33	460	7%	▼	24	469	5%	▼	30	479	6%	▲	11	491	2%	▼
Withdrawal	7	551	1%	49	420	12%	▲	12	460	3%	▼	10	469	2%	▼	19	479	4%	▲	4	491	1%	▼
<b>2.2 Knowledge - Infant Infection</b>																							
Infants can be infected via breastfeeding	451	551	82%	300	420	71%	▼	350	460	76%	▲	368	469	83%	▼	351	479	73%	▼	340	491	69%	▼
All children of HIV+ women infected	133	551	24%	150	420	36%	▲	64	460	14%	▼	46	469	10%	▼	33	479	7%	▼	25	491	5%	▼
<b>2.3 Knowledge - HIV versus AIDS</b>																							
HIV+ person can always be identified visually	93	551	17%	168	420	40%	▲	53	460	12%	▼	87	469	19%	▼	83	479	17%	▼	85	491	17%	▼
<b>2.4 Stigma (Kusemwa)</b>																							
Willing to care for an infected relative	463	551	84%	404	420	96%	▲	408	460	89%	▼	432	469	92%	▼	466	479	97%	▲	474	491	97%	▼
Cared for a relative with AIDS	133	551	24%	191	294	65%	▲	106	284	37%	▼	113	469	24%	▼	176	366	48%	▲	155	379	41%	▼
<b>3. SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, STD SYMPTOMS &amp; TREATMENT SERVICES</b>																							
15+ years old																							
<b>3.1 Sexual Behaviour*</b>	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%		
More than one partner in last month	26	418	6.2%	25	351	7.1%	▲	13	359	4%	▼	3	415	0.7%	▼	0	430	0.0%	▼	1	431	0.2%	▲
One or more new partner(s) in the last year.	89	348	26%	127	321	40%	▲	86	334	26%	▼	44	318	14%	▼	33	296	11%	▼	48	344	14%	▲
15-19s that have started sex	10	132	8%	15	76	20%	▲	7	79	9%	▼	69	148	47%	▼	26	69	38%	▼	28	74	38%	▲
Unprotected sex with recent non regular partner**	144	161	89%	144	175	82%	▼	43	54	80%	▼	70	78	90%	▼	62	74	84%	▼	18	30	60%	▼
Can negotiate for safer sexual relations with spouse	105	352	30%	128	259	49%	▲	41	238	17%	▼	101	358	28%	▼	80	335	24%	▼	96	320	30%	▲
<b>3.2 STD Symptoms - Last 12 Months</b>																							
Genital Discharge	11	535	2%	7	372	2%	▼	9	393	2%	▲	34	485	7%	▼	32	447	7%	▲	11	445	2%	▼
Genital sore/ulcer	9	551	2%	2	372	1%	▼	2	393	1%	▼	13	469	3%	▼	11	447	2%	▼	6	445	1%	▼
<b>4. UPTAKE OF HIV SERVICES</b>																							
15+ years old																							
<b>4.1 HIV Testing</b>	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%	Said Yes	Total asked	%		
Ever tested for HIV in life	485	549	88%	398	420	95%	▲	404	460	88%	▼	432	469	92%	▼	461	478	96%	▲	455	491	93%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 3 years	387	548	71%	356	419	85%	▲	329	460	72%	▼	311	468	66%	▼	400	479	84%	▲	368	491	75%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 6 months	133	484	27%	153	396	39%	▲	153	405	38%	▼	172	432	40%	▼	241	455	53%	▲	182	455	40%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 12 months	302	484	62%	285	396	72%	▲	267	405	66%	▼	313	432	72%	▼	337	455	74%	▲	303	455	67%	▼
<b>4.2 ARV Treatment</b>																							
Receiving ART of those HIV+	22	25	88%	37	38	97%	▲	28	28	100%	▲	43	51	84%	▼	58	58	100%	▲	30	45	67%	▼
<b>4.3 HIV prevention methods</b>																							
Circumcised	166	535	31%	139	420	33%	▲	176	460	38%	▲	405	469	86%	▼	438	479	91%	▲	428	491	87%	▼
Condom Accessibility	461	551	84%	368	420	88%	▲	409	460	89%	▲	1	70	1%	▼	4	62	6%	▲	3	18	17%	▲
Currently using prep***	0	144	0%	1	144	1%	▲	3	43	7%	▲												
<b>5. CORONA VIRUS</b>																							
Risk perception				127	408	31%		69	460	15%	▼				121	441	27%		18	491	4%	▼	
Contact with covid 19 infected person				3	420	1%		48	460	10%	▲				6	479	1%		41	491	8%	▲	
Vaccine coverage				42	420	10%		420	460	91%	▲				36	479	8%		473	491	96%	▲	
Ever tested for covid				38	420	9%		150	460	33%	▲				32	479	7%		275	491	56%	▲	
Tested with a positive result				0	38	0%		11	150	7%	▲				1	32	3%		14	275	5%	▲	

▲ 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

# EHPL GRAPHS

