



# Manicaland HIV/STD Prevention Project

## Epidemic Status Report 2023

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**WATSOMBA 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 Watsomba north & south, Chidawanyika, Marira, Mukoyi, Mvere, Vhumbunu, Matenganyika and Tsonzo. In rounds 7, 8 and 9 of the survey, the numbers of adults who participated were 1,700, 1,503 and 1,557 respectively. These numbers fluctuated due to changes in migration and changes in survey eligibility criteria.

### KEY RESULTS

- 7% men and 9% 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.
- More people in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased') than in round 8 ('during Covid-19') said they had *ever* been in contact with someone who had Covid-19. In round 9, there was an increase in men who said they were at risk of getting infected themselves in the future (40% vs 23%) but a decrease for women (17% vs 52%)
- The proportion of young women (aged 15-19yrs) who reported having started sex fell from 25% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 14% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and increased again slightly to 21% 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 91% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') and round 8 ('during Covid-19') to 61% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased'). The proportion of these women reporting using pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) increased from 0% in round 7 ('before Covid-19') to 13% in round 8 ('during Covid-19') and to 24% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Fewer men had more than one sexual partner in the last month in round 8 (3.1% 'during Covid-19') than in round 7 (7.6% 'before Covid-19'). The proportion increased again to 6% in round 9 ('as Covid-19 eased')
- Levels of HIV testing did not very change much during Covid-19
- The proportions of people living with HIV who reported being on ART remained high during Covid-19

**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>																						
<b>1.1 All Participants</b>	43	671	6%	39	570	7%	▲	38	564	7%	▼	96	985	10%	97	929	10%	▲	70	811	8.6%	▼
<b>1.2 Age Group</b>																						
15-19	2	201	1%	2	131	2%	▲	0	90	0%	▼	4	276	1%	4	154	3%	▲	3	96	3%	▲
20-24	5	130	4%	2	65	3%	▼	0	70	0%	▼	4	142	3%	4	78	5%	▲	0	82	0%	▼
25-34	7	103	7%	3	84	4%	▼	0	90	0%	▼	16	159	10%	12	185	6%	▼	3	131	2%	▼
35-44	7	69	10%	8	98	8%	▼	7	108	6%	▼	33	134	25%	21	152	14%	▼	15	144	10%	▼
45-54	11	45	24%	10	56	18%	▼	14	85	16%	▼	34	112	30%	38	125	30%	▲	29	130	22%	▼
55+	8	85	9%	14	136	10%	▲	17	121	14%	▲	8	198	5%	18	235	8%	▲	20	228	9%	▲
<b>1.4 Marital Status</b>																						
Single	9	328	3%	5	205	2%	▼	1	158	1%	▼	10	290	3%	5	169	3%	▼	2	109	2%	▼
Married	29	318	9%	30	333	9%	▼	34	359	9%	▲	50	574	9%	44	510	9%	▼	35	457	8%	▼
Divorced/separated/widowed	7	33	21%	4	202	2%	▼	3	47	6%	▲	45	208	22%	48	250	19%	▼	33	245	13%	▼
In non-polygynous union	29	305	10%	33	526	6%	▼	33	346	10%	▲	49	569	9%	49	679	7%	▼	35	456	8%	▲
In polygynous union	0	11	0%	2	12	17%	▲	1	13	8%	▼	0	1	0%	0	0	0%	—	0	1	0%	—
<b>1.5 Education</b>																						
None/primary	10	80	13%	8	155	5%	▼	9	85	11%	▲	25	262	10%	43	405	11%	▲	23	237	10%	▼
Secondary/higher	30	544	6%	31	415	7%	▲	29	478	6%	▼	71	746	10%	53	522	10%	▲	47	571	8%	▼
<b>1.6 Employment Status</b>																						
Formal employment	3	60	5%	10	133	8%	▲	13	158	8%	▲	4	42	10%	13	140	9%	▼	26	327	8%	▼
Informal employment	8	83	10%	12	111	11%	▲	11	126	9%	▼	20	131	15%	30	250	12%	▼	17	163	10%	▼
Unemployed	24	277	9%	16	221	7%	▼	14	222	6%	▼	69	606	11%	52	416	12%	▲	30	308	10%	▼
Student	4	172	2%	1	105	1%	▼	0	58	0%	▼	2	201	1%	2	121	2%	▲	1	58	2%	▲
<b>1.7 Number of Sexual Partners in life</b>																						
1	5	121	4%	3	110	3%	▼	4	106	4%	▲	40	541	7%	43	591	7%	▼	37	553	7%	▼
2-4	14	168	8%	14	141	10%	▲	18	193	9%	▼	48	244	20%	40	161	25%	▲	26	154	17%	▼
5+	16	135	12%	20	171	12%	▼	16	177	9%	▼	15	43	35%	10	16	63%	▲	6	21	29%	▼
<b>2. QUESTIONS &amp; ANSWERS ON KNOWLEDGE, RISK PERCEPTION &amp; STIGMA</b>																						
	15+ years old									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	399	688	58%	424	570	74%	▲	594	651	91%	▲	802	1,012	79%	769	933	82%	▲	812	906	90%	▲
Condoms	36	688	5%	52	570	9%	▲	24	651	4%	▼	63	1,012	6%	52	933	6%	▼	55	906	6%	▲
Witchcraft	17	688	2%	32	570	6%	▲	16	651	2%	▼	9	1,012	1%	20	933	2%	▲	20	906	2%	▲
<b>2.2 Knowledge - Infant Infection</b>																						
Infants can be infected via breastfeeding	471	688	68%	462	570	81%	▲	554	651	85%	▲	838	1,012	83%	766	933	82%	▼	744	906	82%	▲
All children of HIV+ women infected	143	688	21%	58	570	10%	▼	104	651	16%	▲	104	1,012	10%	63	933	7%	▼	88	906	10%	▲
<b>2.3 Knowledge - HIV versus AIDS</b>																						
HIV+ person can always be identified visually	189	688	27%	85	570	15%	▼	174	651	27%	▲	196	1,012	19%	179	933	19%	▼	217	906	24%	▲
<b>2.4 Stigma (Kusemwa)</b>																						
Willing to care for an infected relative	630	688	92%	538	570	94%	▲	624	651	96%	▲	971	1,012	96%	903	933	97%	▲	875	906	97%	▼
Cared for a relative with AIDS	151	688	22%	147	357	41%	▲	200	469	43%	▲	382	1,012	38%	385	772	50%	▲	444	766	58%	▲
<b>3. SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR, STD SYMPTOMS &amp; TREATMENT SERVICES</b>																						
	15+ years old									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	36	472	7.6%	13	423	3.1%	▼	30	511	6%	▲	2	842	0.2%	1	773	0.1%	▼	6	774	0.8%	▲
One or more new partner(s) in the last year	139	337	41%	60	370	16%	▼	86	467	18%	▲	125	525	24%	72	523	14%	▼	164	513	32%	▲
15-19s that have started sex	30	201	15%	16	131	12%	▼	28	141	20%	▲	71	283	25%	22	154	14%	▼	30	144	21%	▲
Unprotected sex with recent non regular partner**	156	198	79%	134	157	85%	▲	10	33	30%	▲	154	170	91%	39	43	91%	▲	17	28	61%	▼
Can negotiate for safer sexual relations with spouse	143	349	41%	70	231	30%	▼	99	291	34%	▲	204	596	34%	147	436	34%	▼	105	422	25%	▼
<b>3.2 STD Symptoms - Last 12 Months</b>																						
Genital Discharge	14	650	2%	2	434	0%	▼	9	511	2%	▲	59	1,050	6%	19	696	3%	▼	26	647	4%	▲
Genital sore/ulcer	1	688	0%	1	434	0%	▲	1	511	0%	▼	16	1,012	2%	9	696	1%	▼	13	647	2%	▲
<b>4. UPTAKE OF HIV SERVICES</b>																						
	15+ years old									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	518	687	75%	520	570	91%	▲	564	651	87%	▼	798	1,010	79%	836	931	90%	▲	811	906	90%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 3 years	392	687	57%	436	570	76%	▲	443	651	68%	▼	619	1,007	61%	728	931	78%	▲	626	906	69%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 6 months	149	506	29%	139	518	27%	▼	185	564	33%	▲	331	767	43%	302	826	37%	▼	253	811	31%	▼
Tested for HIV in the last 12 months	302	506	60%	325	518	63%	▲	356	564	63%	▲	489	767	64%	508	826	62%	▼	439	811	54%	▼
<b>4.2 ARV Treatment</b>																						
Receiving ART of those HIV+	24	25	96%	28	31	90%	▼	35	36	97%	▲	61	71	86%	76	82	93%	▲	69	75	92%	▼
<b>4.3 HIV Prevention Method</b>																						
Circumcised	159	650	24%	160	570	28%	▲	184	651	28%	▲	691	1,012	68%	796	933	85%	▲	784	906	87%	▲
Condom Accessibility	533	688	77%	538	570	94%	▲	610	651	94%	▼	0	154	0%	5	39	13%	▲	4	17	24%	▲
Currently using prep***	0	156	0%	0	134	0%	—	2	83	2%	▲											
<b>5. CORONA VIRUS</b>																						
Risk perception				128	568	23%		258	651	40%	▲				464	891	52%		152	906	17%	▼
Contact with covid 19 infected person				3	570	1%		47	651	7%	▲				16	933	2%		98	906	11%	▲
Vaccine coverage				70	570	12%		554	651	85%	▲				114	933	12%		815	906	90%	▲
Ever tested for covid				29	570	5%		206	651	32%	▲				67	933	7%		379	906	42%	▲
Tested with a positive result				0	29	0%		7	206	3%	▲				2	67	3%		19	379	5%	▲

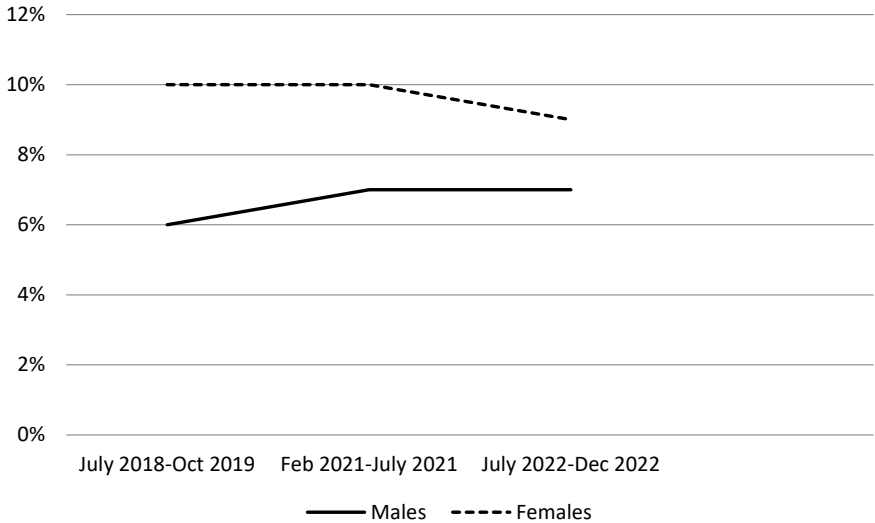
▲ Marks an increase from previous round | ▼ Marks a decrease from previous round | — Marks no change between rounds

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

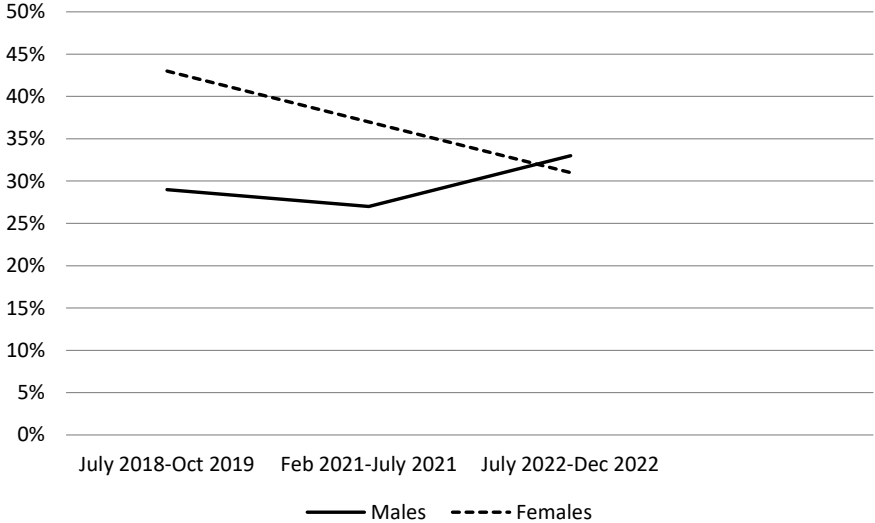
\*\*\* Denominator consist of respondents who ever had sex with recent non regular partner

# WATSOMBA GRAPHS

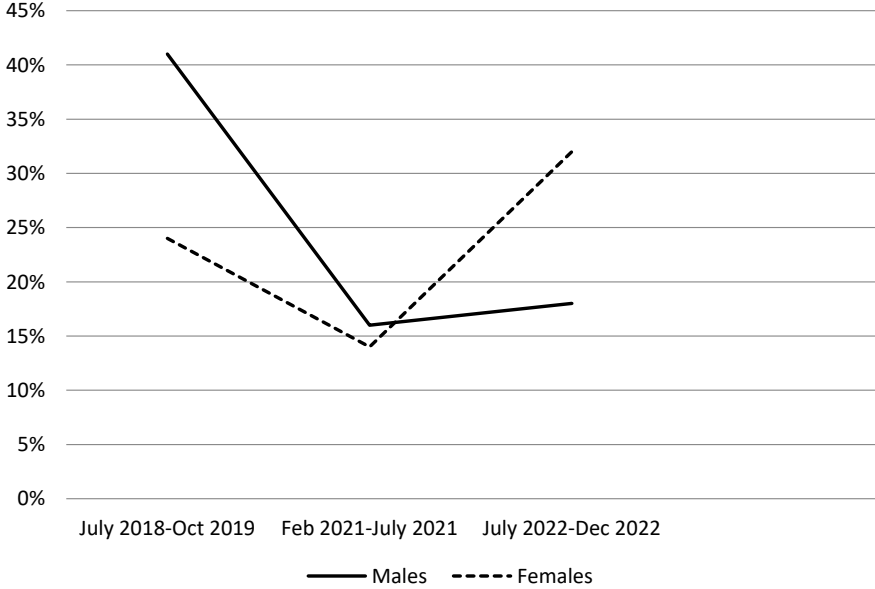
## HIV Prevalence



## Tested for HIV in the last 6 months



## One or more new partners in the last year



## Patterns in Covid 19

