



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



# Bridging Health Systems: The *INTER-LINKED & Not Too Late* Projects



# Dream in Malawi

## Patients Assisted

81,405 Total patients supported since programme inception in Malawi

## HIV-Free Births

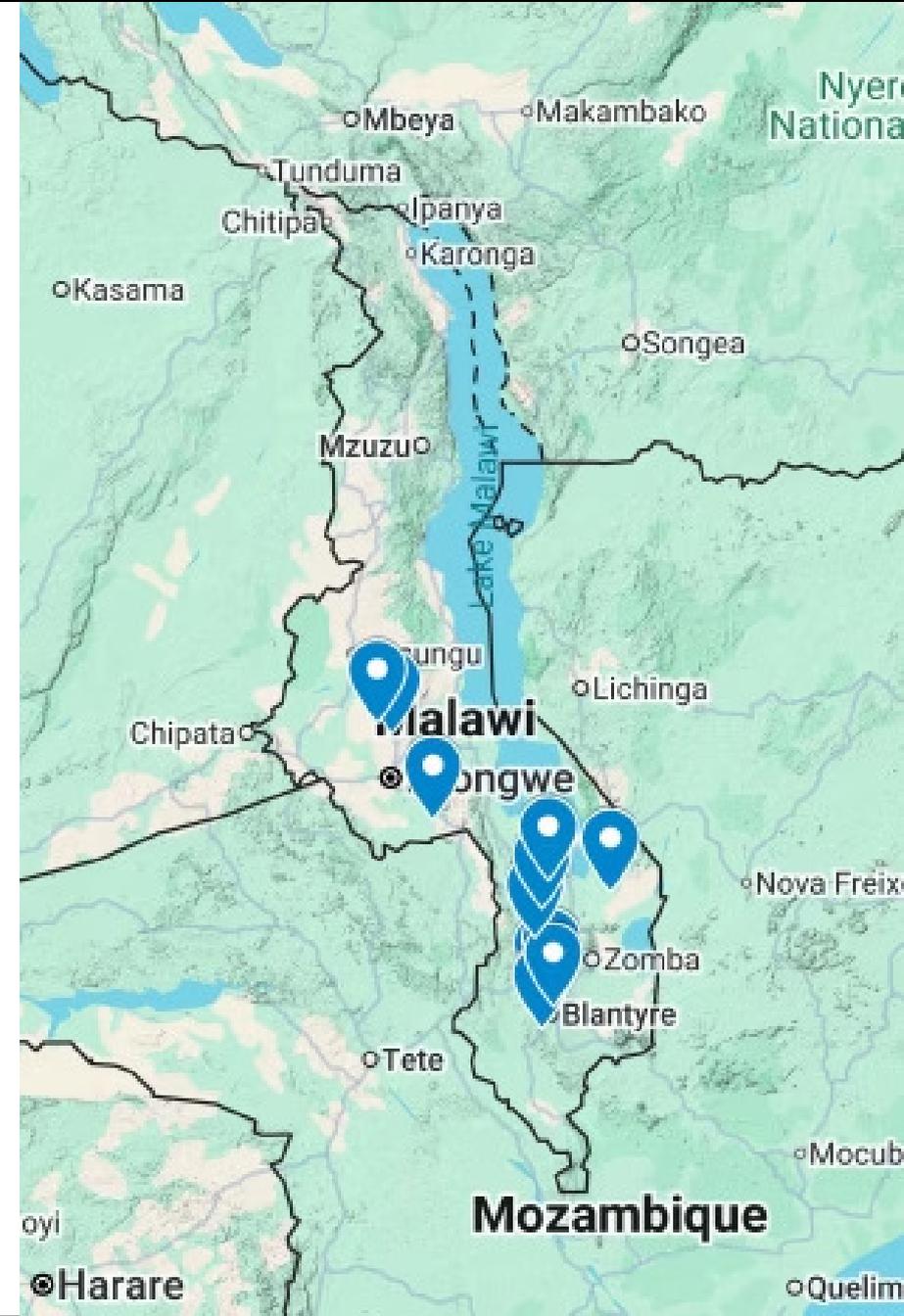
7,837 Children born without HIV through our prevention efforts

## Lab Tests

1.1M+ Combined laboratory samples processed across three facilities

## Cancer Screenings

13,692 Women screened through HPV DNA and VIA testing methods



# Our Partnership Network

## Community of Sant'Egidio

DREAM programme implementation and community engagement

## Kamuzu University of Health Sciences

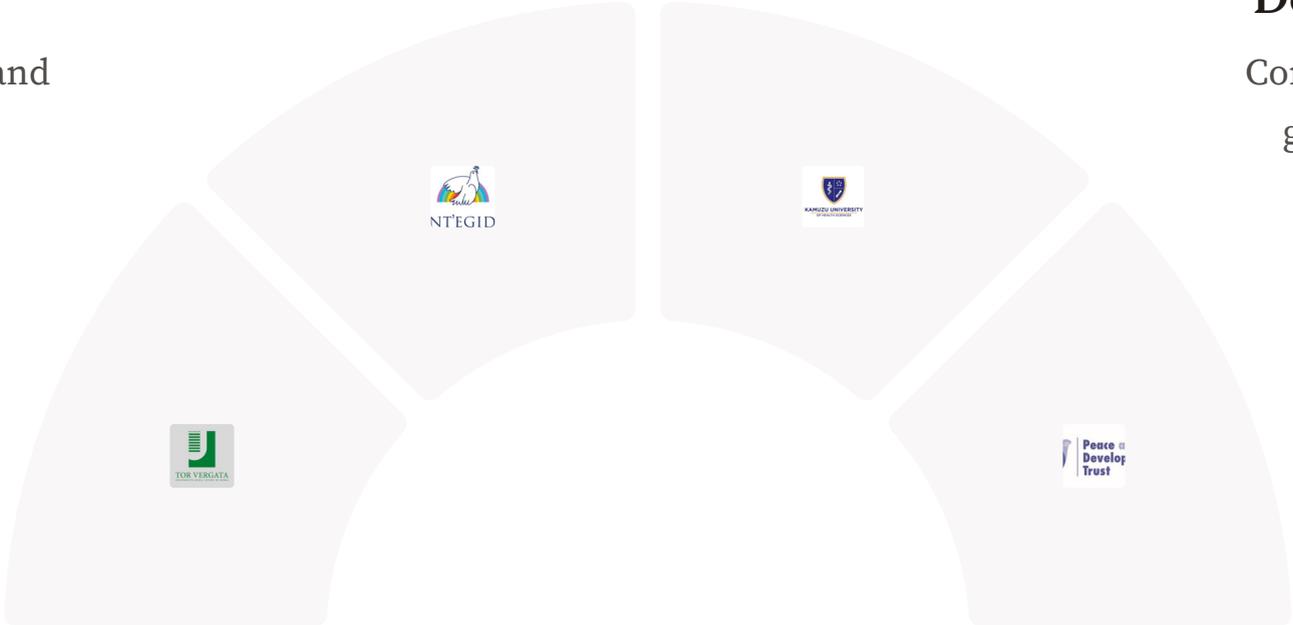
Local academic expertise and research capabilities

## University of Rome Tor Vergata

Global health expertise and academic leadership

## Peace and Development Trust

Community knowledge and grassroots connections



# *INTER-LINKED*: Objectives



## **Integrated Healthcare Services**

Specific focus on

- HIV,
- co-morbidities such as TB,
- NCDs, and
- women's cancers



## **Access to Diagnostic Services**

- HIV,
- related conditions,
- cervical cancer

The project targets **six districts** (Balaka, Blantyre, Dedza, Dowa, Machinga, Mangochi) over **three years**.

# *INTER-LINKED: Key Activities*



**15.000 Patients Served**

free clinical services for --

- HIV,
- tuberculosis,
- hypertension,
- diabetes,
- epilepsy



**9.000 Women Screened**

HPV PCR testing for cervical cancer prevention



**12.000 Adolescent Girls Vaccinated**

through HPV vaccination campaigns



**140 Health Workers**

in comprehensive training programme



**Laboratory Capacity**

Strengthening molecular biology labs to support national diagnostics with technology and training



**Community Education**

**6,000** people reached through community and school-based awareness campaigns



# *Not Too Late: Objectives*



## **Women's Access to Health Prevention and Care Services**

Specific focus on HIV/TB prevention, diagnosis, care, and treatment adherence



## **Rapid Identification population at risk of Late Diagnosis**

Epidemiological research on late HIV diagnosis for rapid identification and prompt intervention

The project targets the **two districts** of **Balaka and Blantyre** over the three years.

# *Not Too Late: Key Activities*

## **Coordination with District Health Officers and community (health) leaders**

Strengthening multi-level health governance to support research activities and community outreach programs

## **Community Outreach on HIV/TB testing, prevention, and awareness**

Organization of 24 medical camps in key locations where young people commonly congregate addressing stigma and sexual health knowledge gaps

## ***90 Youth Days* on health, awareness, prevention, and retention in care for young people living with HIV**

Dedicated days will be introduced focusing exclusively on health, awareness, prevention, and retention in care for young people living with HIV in 3 health units in Balaka and Blantyre

## **Professional Training on HIV, TB, and youth peer-counselling**

Capacity building for 60 healthcare providers and 20 young peer counsellors

## **Strengthened Referrals**

Enhanced systems to prevent loss to follow-up among HIV-positive youth

## **Operational Research**

Training on research methodology and implementation of an epidemiological research on late HIV diagnosis for rapid identification and prompt intervention



# Research and Evidence Generation

## Operational Research

Defining the population at risk of late HIV and co-infections diagnosis and treatment

Measuring effectiveness of youth engagement campaigns

Assessing integration models for HIV and NCDs services

## Knowledge Translation

Contributing to national guidelines and policies

Sharing findings through academic publications

Presenting results at national and international forums

## Capacity Building

Training Malawian researchers in (disaggregated) data collection and monitoring methodology

Establishing collaborative research teams

Supporting Malawian-led scientific inquiry

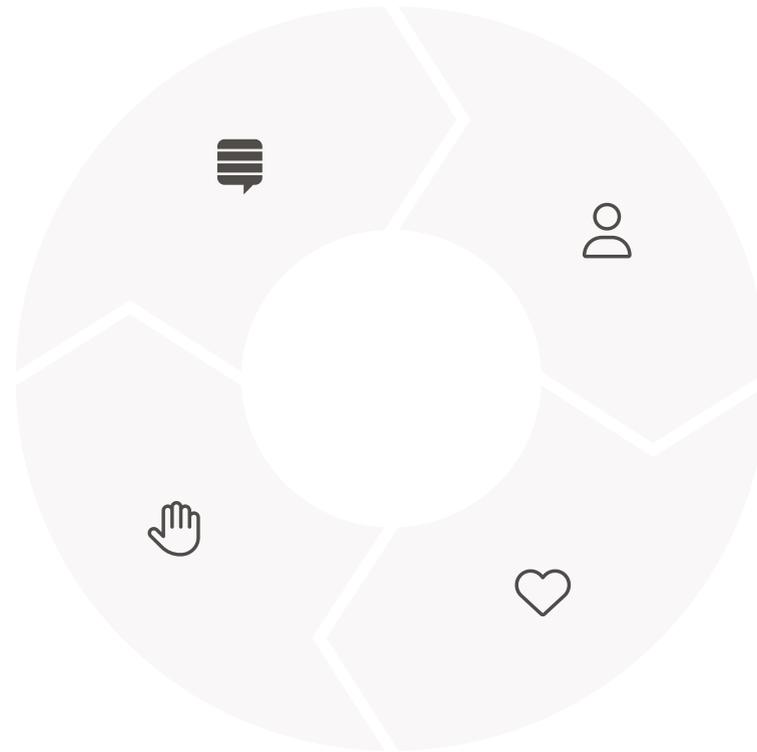
# Knowledge Exchange: A Two-Way Street

## Bilateral Learning

Knowledge flows from Italy to Malawi  
and from Malawi to Italy

## Inclusive Approach

Programmes adapted to reach  
marginalized populations



## Professional Expertise

Malawian healthcare workers have  
developed significant specialized  
knowledge

## Patient Wisdom

Communities teach us about social  
determinants and practical barriers



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# Thank you for your attention

