



In **Malawi**, we're partnering with the Ministry of Health to transform the community health system. We're addressing urgent needs in maternal and child health through a community health workforce equipped with powerful digital tools, strong training, and effective support systems.

**The need:** Essential primary care is out of reach for one in five Malawians. Across the country, 84% of people reside in rural areas, of whom almost one quarter live more than eight kilometers from a clinic or hospital. Malawi holds some of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in Africa: an area of critical need and a government-identified priority.

**Our focus:** Last Mile Health is working alongside the Ministry to improve primary care access and maternal and child health outcomes by equipping the community health workforce with tools and training to deliver quality care. This includes scaling a new digital health information system, strengthening training, and developing support systems to ensure pregnant women and newborns can access care.

## Program background

Malawi launched its current national community health worker program in 2017 in response to pressing gaps in primary care. As the program matures, the Ministry of Health's priorities are to:

- Expand the program's scope and hire more health workers,
- Improve community-level data systems to aid decision-making and enhance outbreak preparedness, and
- Strengthen training for community health workers to improve quality of care.

Our work with the Ministry began in 2019, when we jointly designed a new digital community health information system. By equipping community health workers to capture information digitally, the system supports sound clinical decision-making and streamlines data-sharing. This means patients get better care, while health leaders can better understand health trends, outbreaks, and threats from new and emerging diseases.

## By the numbers

**Our direct footprint:** Last Mile Health has worked in Malawi since 2019. To date, we've directly supported **3,623** community and frontline health workers serving a population of more than **5.5 million** people.

**3,623**  
community and  
frontline health  
workers directly  
supported to date

**National program reach:** Malawi has a population of about **20.4 million** people. Since 2017, the government has deployed approximately **15,500** community health workers nationwide, an investment that has significantly increased primary healthcare access.

**Background (continued)**

Since 2019, we've helped the Ministry implement and scale the system while developing and implementing strong, standardized training in maternal and child health. Together, digital systems and effective training equip community health workers to deliver quality primary care with an emphasis on improved outcomes for mothers and children.



Community midwife assistant Agness Alfonso completed training on community-based maternal, newborn, and child health.

“

The training enhanced my skills and boosted my confidence. With the skills I've acquired, I believe no mother or newborn should lose their life needlessly.

- **Agness Alfonso**  
Community midwife assistant

**Current activities**

**Information systems:** Malawi's new digital health information system improves patient care by helping community health workers make clinical decisions in the field. It also supports a resilient health system: health leaders can access community-level data to identify and act on emerging threats quickly, leveraging community health workers to respond to emergencies while maintaining routine services, such as maternal and child health visits.

**Training:** With the Ministry of Health, we provide standardized, quality training for community and frontline health workers. Our training orients health workers to the new digital information system, equipping them to use their devices and the platform confidently in the field. Additionally, training integrates health topics with orientation to the new platform for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Our health topic training focuses

on the Ministry-identified area of greatest need: maternal, newborn, and child health. Participants include community health workers as well as other frontline health workers who play a key role in maternal and child health, such as community midwife assistants.

**Evidence**

Since 2022, 3,159 community health workers have been trained on the digital health information system, and 2,300 are now equipped with tablets connecting them to the system. Ultimately, the system will cover all 17 training and reporting modules and will be scaled to the full community health workforce.

**13** training modules developed

**98%**

skills assessment pass rate among community health workers trained in maternal & newborn care

**Opportunity**

With our government partners, we're building systems to equip community health workers to transform maternal and child health outcomes. At this pivotal moment, we welcome new funders to partner with us in realizing a healthier future for all Malawians by investing in a community health system that can deliver lifesaving care for generations.

**FOLLOW OUR WORK:** [lastmilehealth.org](https://lastmilehealth.org) | [LinkedIn](#) | [@lastmilehealth](#)