



MALAWI

Partners in Health/APZU – Empowering HIV adolescents through healthcare and skills



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In Malawi, the lack of adolescent-friendly health services and social stigma deter HIV positive adolescents from accessing vocational education and the labour market.

The project ASPIRE, supported by Julius Baer Foundation and implemented by Partners in Health's local organisation APZU, provides adequate medical antiretroviral treatment and educates these vulnerable adolescents in their HIV Teen Clubs in the district of Neno with the goal of improving their economic opportunities.

Through the funds of the Foundation, ASPIRE is redesigning its curriculum in close collaboration with various government ministries. Besides addressing medical care, healthy lifestyles and stigma, it will include sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) with special emphasis on sexual and gender-based violence, as well as career guidance and life skills, such as financial and computer literacy and other forms of vocational training.

Rather than surrendering to the wealth and health gap, Neno's youth will now be equipped to participate in the workforce.

Quick facts

- Malawi, Neno
- Project support: 2022–2026
- Grant amount: CHF 300,000 per year
- The project is co-funded by Leopold Bachmann Stiftung
- Collaboration between ASPIRE and various government ministries to elaborate on and implement a comprehensive curriculum across the HIV Teen Clubs.
- Goal: Equipping vulnerable 10- to 19-year-olds with medical care and the skills and network to realise their potential.

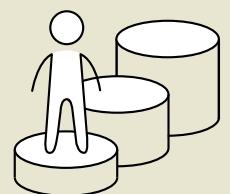
From stigmatised and isolated ...

Burdened by poverty, stigma and a lack of education, HIV-positive adolescents adhere less to medications, becoming trapped in a spiral of vulnerability, hindering upward social mobility.



... to empowered and involved.

Adolescents are empowered through proper medical care, mental coaching, education and access to networks and job opportunities, allowing them to build, better lives and stronger societies.





Teen Club participants Dambe, Neno

“Today I am alive and I live a healthy life till now, because of the consistency of drugs and advice provided to us at Teen Club.”

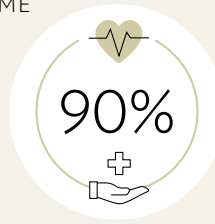
Bertha, 14 years old,
Neno Boma, Neno district

OUTPUT



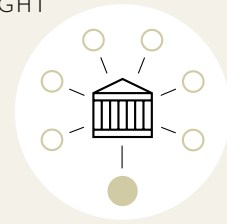
The redesigned **Teen Clubs curriculum** is enrolled in all **fourteen health facilities** in Neno, to ensure quality medical provision, mental coaching and vocational and networking activities.

OUTCOME



By 2025 the project aims to reach a **90% retention rate for teenagers in care**, improving their physical health and securing the basic conditions to realise their potential.

HIGHLIGHT



Malawi Ministries of Health, Labour, Youth Development, Gender, Agriculture and of Education all **contributed to the new curriculum** and will be engaged in upscaling the intervention into further districts.

A medical, educational and social cure for inequalities

- Malawi has one of the highest HIV infection rates worldwide (8.8%).
- Assisting HIV-positive adolescents over a long time, APZU has observed that the youth’s challenges go beyond physical health.
- Their psycho-physical condition and the lack of financial resources lead to meagre school participation.
- Due to HIV stigmatisation, their adherence to medication stays low, hindering them from realising their full potential, participating in the labour market and gaining social mobility.
- As a result, the wealth divide in the area is deepened, making wealth inequality one of the drivers of the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The economic burden of HIV rests upon vulnerable communities for generations.
- In collaboration with the Julius Baer Foundation, APZU aims for a holistic approach to break the vicious cycle between HIV and wealth inequality.
- The redesigned curriculum will mentor the adolescents more comprehensively, empowering them through healthcare, skill training and networking.

About

Partners in Health/APZU

Wealth inequality resulting in health inequality was the key reason for Partners in Health’s (PIH) foundation in 1987. PIH’s mission is to bring the benefits of modern medical science to those most in need, bridging the health access gap between the wealthy and the poor. Abwenzi Pa Za Umoyo (APZU) is the Malawian sister organisation of the global PIH.



More information about Partners in Health/APZU and their project in Malawi: pih.org/country/malawi



Watch the Partners in Health video

Do you feel inspired by the Partners in Health/APZU project and would like to support it?

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us! foundation@juliusbaer.com



Learn more about our mission and our projects on the Wealth Inequality Initiative platform.

Julius Baer Foundation

Established in 1965 by Walter J. Bär (1895–1970), the Julius Baer Foundation has a long history of supporting diverse philanthropic initiatives. Today, our focus is on reducing wealth inequality by convening leading thinkers and actors on the topic and supporting projects worldwide that foster collaboration between individuals, groups and organisations across the wealth spectrum to create a world of equal opportunities.

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