For additional information on the results of the 2015-16 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, please contact:

In Malawi:
Demography and Social Statistics Division
National Statistical Office,
Chimbiya Road, P.O. Box 333, Zomba, Malawi
Telephone +265-1-524-377
E-mail: enquiries@statistics.gov.mw; www.nsomalawi.mw

In USA:
The DHS Program
530 Gaither Road, Suite 500; Rockville, MD 20850 USA
Telephone: +1-301-407-6500; Fax: +1-301-407-6501
Email: info@DHSprogram.com; www.DHSprogram.com

The 2015-16 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (2015-16 MDHS) was implemented by the National Statistical Office from 19 October 2015 to 17 February 2016. The funding for the 2015-16 MDHS was provided by the government of Malawi, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Malawi National AIDS Commission (NAC), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN WOMEN, Irish Aid, and the World Bank. ICF provided technical assistance through The DHS Program, a USAID-funded project providing support and technical assistance in the implementation of population and health surveys in countries worldwide.

About the survey: The 2015-16 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) provides data for monitoring the health situation of the population in Malawi. The 2015-16 MDHS is the 5th Demographic and Health Survey conducted in the country. The survey provides reliable estimates at the national and regional levels, for urban and rural areas, and for each of the 28 districts.

Response rates and methodology: HIV prevalence data were obtained from blood samples voluntarily provided by women and men who were interviewed in the 2015-16 MDHS. Of the 8,497 women age 15-49 and 7,903 men age 15-54 eligible for testing, 93% of women and 87% of men were tested.

Interpreting HIV trends: The 2015-16 MDHS incorporates a different testing algorithm from the 2010 MDHS. This change in the HIV testing algorithm affects the ability to compare current HIV prevalence estimates with estimates from the 2010 MDHS.
HIV prevalence generally increases with age. Among women, peak HIV prevalence occurs in the 40-44 age group at 19.8%. Among men, HIV prevalence is highest among those age 45-49 (19.2%).

HIV prevalence varies by region. Among women, HIV prevalence ranges from a low of 5.6% in Northern region to 15.7% in Southern region. Among men, HIV prevalence is lowest in Central region (4.4%) and highest in Southern region (9.2%).

Employed women (11.2%) and men (7.1%) are more likely to be HIV positive than unemployed women (9.9%) and men (2.6%).

HIV prevalence is highest among women and men with no education (12.8% and 11.0%, respectively). HIV prevalence is lowest among women with more than secondary education (10.3%) and among men with secondary education (5.8%).

HIV prevalence is markedly higher among women (14.7%) and men (8.6%) from the wealthiest households than women and men in lower wealth quintiles.

Overall, 8.8% of Malawian adults age 15-49 are HIV positive. HIV prevalence is higher among women (10.8%) than among men (6.4%). Malawian women and men living in urban areas are more likely to be HIV positive than those in rural areas.