

## **MALAWI: Malawi Men Posing Obstacle in TB Fight - Experts**

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Malawi-Liverpool Wellcome Trust (MLWT) stated that Malawi men are reluctant to be tested for TB, which is greatly affecting the fight against the disease. The third phase of their research focused on getting men into TB treatment and indicated that most Malawi men hide the illness to avoid a diagnosis to protect their masculinity. This pride has left them vulnerable to TB. The World Health Organization stated that there are nine million TB deaths globally each year. MLWT researcher Moses Kumwenda presented his findings at a quarterly meeting on March 7, and declared, Fear of being tested [for] other diseases such as HIV and AIDS, as well as fear of being seen accessing medical attention in hospitals are some of the reasons why men do not go for medical diagnosis, and this is one of the challenges affecting the fight of TB in the country. The scarcity of public hospital testing equipment and staff shortages also adversely affect the provision of effective response to TB. Kumwenda has drafted a proposal for funding that would make his research recommendations a reality, including improving Malawi men's capacity in accessing formal health care and creating awareness and advocacy between health care providers and communities.

[See the topic on aegis.org](http://aegis.org)