

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2025



R4H Malawi

www.r4hmw.org

VOICES FROM OUR COURIERS



Hope Msiska, Medical Sample Transport Courier for Mzimba North

I have worked with R4H for over five years, transporting medical samples and results between health facilities and district laboratories.

I visit 4 to 5 health facilities daily, reaching up to 28 facilities each week. Some days are long, especially when I travel to Monoro Health Center, the farthest facility I serve, which is 117 kilometers one way from the district hospital.

Some of the challenges the job presents include: navigating rough roads during the rainy season, dealing with tire punctures, and fuel scarcity, which is a nationwide issue.

I am proud knowing that my work helps communities access timely diagnosis and treatment. Hope Msiska arriving at Mapale Health Center for medical sample collection

My name is Precious Makono, and I have worked with R4H for ten years. Every day, I transport medical samples from health facilities such as Chitekesa, Mwanga, Mpasu, Holy Family, and Sukasanje, even in difficult weather and on rough roads.

One of my longest routes is to Nambazo Health Centre, which is 40 km one way. On a typical day, I transport between 50 and 250 samples. The work is demanding but fulfilling. Despite the long distances and challenging conditions, I remain committed, knowing that my efforts help ensure ART clients receive timely diagnosis and treatment.



Precious Makono, Medical Sample Transport Courier for Phalombe

Strengthening Diagnostic Systems: Progress and Challenges in Medical Sample Transportation



Lucy Chiyenda, R4H Country Director, presenting on the progress and challenges of the Medical Sample Transport Program at the PEPFAR-supported Partners Meeting

R4H participated in the PEPFAR-supported Implementing Partners Meeting that was held at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) on November 26, 2025, aimed at reorienting partners to the U.S. government branding guidelines and to share experiences in the national HIV response.

The Country Director, Lucy Chiyenda, provided an update on the medical sample transport program by R4H through a presentation of the organization's achievements and challenges, and she also emphasized the significance of the transportation in strengthening the Ministry of Health's (MoH) capacity in fighting against HIV. Christopher Itimu, the Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Manager, and the Programs Manager, Angellina Mwase, provided R4H's input on the strategic rollout of R4H's initiatives and shared more about the impact assessment of R4H's programs, as well as accountability in R4H's operations. Senior ICT officer, Zwelithini Golowa, highlighted more about the technological advancements that had been made in terms of R4H's mission. The session on branding and communications guidelines was particularly informative for Mervis Nyirenda in her role as the Communications Officer. The new guidelines will enable her to enhance R4H's visibility and ensure compliance with U.S. government standards.

This meeting was not only a chance to learn from other partners and share best practices but also align with the U.S. government's expectations and ensure a continued and stronger contribution by R4H in the national HIV responses.

From Capacity Building to Sustainability: C4S Program Close Out



C4S team and R4H staff during the Capacity for Sustainability (C4S) Program close-out session

Background

Through the CDC-funded Capacity for Sustainability initiative, R4H underwent a sustainability journey from November 2023 to December 2025. Deloitte and Baylor Uganda were consulted to support R4H in strengthening its organizational sustainability and long-term planning.

These consultants worked closely with R4H management and staff throughout the program.

Key Strategic Outputs

The program focused on strengthening R4H through the following key areas:

- **Strategic Planning:** Deloitte and Baylor supported R4H in developing a comprehensive Strategic Plan, which provides a clear direction and aligned organizational priorities.
- **Resource Mobilization:** A Resource Mobilization Strategy was developed to diversify funding sources, resulting in successful grant acquisition and new partnerships.
- **Communications Strategy:** R4H introduced a Communications Strategy to improve visibility, document impact stories, and strengthen credibility with donors and stakeholders.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** A stakeholder feedback mechanism was established to ensure programs remained responsive to community, client, and partner needs.

Outcomes

- Strengthened organizational systems and planning processes.
- Visibility and stakeholder improvement.
- Organizational movement from uncertainty to increased stability and operational confidence.

ACHIEVEMENTS

October – December 2025



Medical samples transported to laboratories for testing: 187,671



Medical results returned to health facilities: 131,862



Health facilities served: 793

HIGHLIGHTS

- Successfully transported medical samples across all 29 districts of Malawi.
- Ensured timely delivery of test results back to health facilities, improving patient care.
- Overcame challenges including long-distance travel, rough terrain, and fuel scarcity to maintain uninterrupted service.

DRIVING SCHOOL UPDATE

OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2025



November 2025

Japan Tobacco International (JTI)

Refresher trainings for 117 staff members

November 2025

AIDS Health Foundation (AHF)

3 trainees for Highway Code 2

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