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**MALAWI**

**Annual  
Report  
2019**

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**Cover photo caption:** Jaqueline and her son outside their home in Chikwawa districts.

**Cover photo:** © UNICEF/2019/Chagara

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# **UNICEF Malawi**

## Annual Report 2019





A girl smiling at a Children's Corner in Mzimba district.

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# Foreword



Malawi confirmed its first COVID-19 cases in April. We know that the costs of the pandemic for children and young people are immediate and, if unaddressed, may persist throughout their lives. Therefore, since the beginning, UNICEF has been at the forefront supporting the Government of Malawi to strengthen its COVID -19 national preparedness and response activities in the country. UNICEF is also working closely with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, WHO, UN Agencies, and other development partners to ensure critical actions in communities across Malawi with risk communication, providing hand washing supplies, hygiene and medical kits to health facilities and monitoring the impact of the outbreak to support continuity of care, education, protection and social services. While at the same time trying to ensure continuity of essential services for children.

It is against this background that we are releasing our Annual Report 2019 as we work with our partners to protect the most vulnerable children from the impacts of the pandemic and to reimagine a country fit for children, post COVID-19.

Last year, Malawi's children faced many challenges. Cyclone Idai struck the country, driving around 90,000 people into evacuation sites as the government declared a state of emergency in more than half the country's districts. Poverty remains widespread, affecting 56 per cent of the rural population. More than 1 million people, most in the country's south, remain food insecure and require humanitarian assistance during the annual lean season.

To address these and other challenges in 2019, UNICEF continued its work with the Government of Malawi (GoM) within the framework of the new Country Programme (CP) 2019-2023. The CP was rated as "exemplary" during an internal review process, and in 2019 UNICEF Malawi embraced more agile ways of working, adjusting our operational structure and using an integrated and cross-sectoral collaboration, to achieve better results for children.

In 2019, UNICEF was able to mobilise US\$ 53 million, 19 per cent of the required CP needs, to deliver programmatic services with a focus on leaving no child behind. UNICEF's achievements were also possible because of strategic partnerships and our partners' generous support. Teaming up with relevant partners help us deliver results for children and young people at a scale that otherwise would not be possible.

The government's strong commitment toward advancing child rights and the conducive operational environment was illustrated on the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child when President Peter Mutharika announced a series of commitments to accelerate action to advance the rights of children across the country. If fully implemented, these commitments will be transformative for girls and boys in Malawi.

This report details UNICEF response to the development, humanitarian and emergency situation experienced in 2019 by millions of children in Malawi. UNICEF is proud of what it managed to achieve in often difficult circumstances. From the passage of the National Children's Commission Act, a significant milestone towards advancing child rights, to providing assistance to approximately 1 million people after the cyclone, UNICEF worked to ensure children grow up in safe, inclusive and resilient communities.

Rudolf Schwenk  
UNICEF Malawi Country Representative



## UNICEF and its partners are on the ground to respond to COVID-19 in Malawi



Encouraging COVID-19 preventive measures like handwashing with soap.

© UNICEF/2020/Sukali



Distance learning through radio programmes.

© UNICEF/2020/Sukali



WASH facilities in Emergency Treatment Units.

© UNICEF/2020/Chagara



Working with traditional leaders in communities.

© UNICEF/2020/Chiefskawinga



Supporting front line health workers.

© UNICEF/2020/Tambo







# Executive Summary

UNICEF met the challenge of Cyclone Idai by providing assistance to more than

**1 million people**

half of them children

## **The year 2019 challenged UNICEF Malawi as Cyclone Idai made landfall.**

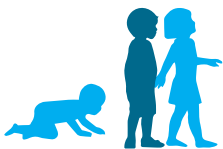
Severe flooding drove around 90,000 people into evacuation sites. UNICEF met the challenge providing assistance to more than 1 million people, half of them children. UNICEF also reached 308,538 people in 79 evacuation sites and hard-to-reach villages with a range of health care interventions and safe drinking water. Despite the cyclone, UNICEF continued to respond to Malawi's immense humanitarian and development needs, particularly in the impoverished south, with critical interventions covering health, education, nutrition, child protection and WASH.

While almost 2 million people remained food-insecure in 2019, admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition decreased by 14 per cent over the same time period in 2018. UNICEF also worked with the government, communities and families to strengthen a shared commitment to child and adolescents' rights.

Under the new Country Programme (CP) 2019-2023, UNICEF worked with partners to deliver on its strategic lifecycle approach to delivering quality services for children across the "three pillars" of humanitarian intervention: early childhood, school-aged children and child-friendly, inclusive, resilient communities. This pillar-approach is designed to ensure programming makes the greatest impact during the key windows of opportunity of a child's life. To support young children in their first 1,000 days, the early childhood pillar focuses on the importance of responsive parenting as UNICEF worked with the Government of Malawi (GoM) and other partners to scale up work on maternal, newborn and child health. Under the pillar dedicated to school-aged children, UNICEF works to improve learning outcomes, especially in literacy and numeracy, with a focus on girls and adolescents. Under the pillar covering child-friendly communities, UNICEF works to empower communities to practice positive social behaviours and become more resilient to climate change and economic shocks.

UNICEF's strategic approach, effective emergency response and ability to constructively engage with other UN agencies and partners, set 2019 apart as an example of how the divide between humanitarian assistance and long-term development goals can be overcome. In the case of Cyclone Idai, UNICEF had assessed the havoc wreaked within three days. After the provision of an integrated minimum service package, UNICEF used innovative technology, including drone surveillance, satellite imaging and epidemiological modelling, to go beyond a traditional response to a robust prediction methodology which identified hotspots and vulnerable groups, then targeted with WASH interventions. Consequently, no widespread disease outbreaks occurred while sporadic cases of cholera, bloody diarrhea, and typhoid were quickly investigated and contained. In total, only 25 cases of cholera, including one death, were recorded.

The “three pillars” approach is designed to ensure **programming makes the greatest impact** during the key windows of opportunity of a child’s life.



**1** Early childhood



**2** School-aged childhood



**3** Child-friendly, inclusive, resilient communities

## Situation of Children in Malawi

The Demographic Health Survey put the maternal mortality ratio at 439 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. The under-5 mortality rate, infant mortality and neonatal mortality rates were estimated at 63, 42 and 27 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively. Approximately 1 million people in Malawi live with HIV, disproportionately affecting women (more than 59 per cent) while new HIV infections impact twice as many young women aged 15–24 years than young men.

The stunting rate in Malawi is 37 per cent of children under 5 as a result of poor nutrition practices. Some 2.4 million children, 41 per cent of the total school-age children, were out of school in 2018 due to socio-cultural reasons. Malawi’s 2019 Traditional Practices Survey highlighted the prevalence of child marriage with 9 per cent of girls married before turning 15 and 42 per cent before 18. Marriage below 15 is widespread in the south where children are forced to take part in initiation rituals – some of which can be harmful. According to the Joint Monitoring Programme (UNICEF, WHO 2019) access to basic water services is at 69 per cent and to basic sanitation services at 26 per cent.



**Photo:** Jacqueline Davison, 21, breastfeeds her one year old baby Humphreys, at Romani village in Chikwawa district, June 7, 2019.



# Results for Children



In 2019, UNICEF Malawi continued to support concrete outcomes for children by advocating for an improved legislative framework, providing technical support to the Government of Malawi (GoM) and building capacity in the critical sectors of health, nutrition, education, child protection and WASH. In addition, UNICEF worked with communities and families to strengthen a shared commitment to child and adolescents' rights. In doing so, UNICEF continued to forge strong partnerships with communities, the private sector and development partners, while also seeking innovative ways to do business and deliver programmes.



© UNICEF/2019/Gumulira

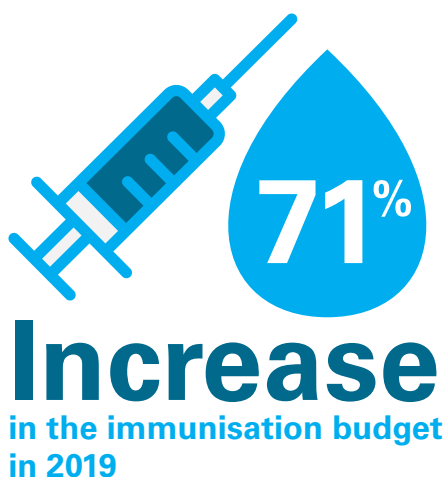
**Photo:** A child taking vitamin A supplements at a health centre in Phalombe district.

## Health

All children have the right to survive and thrive.

However, children in Malawi face significant challenges to live past infancy and develop to their full potential. UNICEF recognises that primary health care – integrated programmes and interventions delivered within strong community systems – is the most sustainable path to ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all.





**83%**

of the targeted  
280,862 girls  
received a  
vaccine which  
**combats**  
cervical cancer



More than **12,650 births** were delivered in target health facilities



**91%** were attended  
by UNICEF supported  
skilled birth attendants



## Support to paediatric HIV services

contributed to  
greater coverage  
and treatment

- **In 2019, advocacy efforts to secure sustainable vaccine financing led to a 71 per cent increase in the immunisation budget.**

At the same time, the GoM introduced the human papillomavirus vaccination, targeting girls aged 9 through adolescence. UNICEF helped roll out the vaccine, which combats cervical cancer, immunizing 83 per cent of the targeted 280,862 girls. Technical support was provided to strengthen vaccine procurement and cold chain supply management. Cold chain equipment was installed in 106 health facilities. Solar system improvements for cold rooms are present in health facilities in all 28 districts.

- **Through advocacy, maternal and newborn health, more than 12,650 births were delivered in target health facilities, 91 per cent being attended by UNICEF supported skilled birth attendants.**
- **Some 98 per cent of pregnant women who attended an antenatal clinic and received an HIV test knew their HIV status with those found positive immediately started on treatment.** Support to paediatric HIV services contributed to greater coverage and treatment. Evidence collection identified gaps in services dedicated to the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and contributed to policy and programme adjustments. Approximately 76 per cent of HIV-exposed infants in all 28 districts were tested within the WHO recommended two months of birth, representing an increase from 61 per cent over the previous year.



© UNICEF/2020/Banda

**Photo:** 18 months old Elia, not only gets breastfed by his mother, Sabina Mwale, but he has also been introduced to complimentary foods. His father, Simion feeds him orange sweet potato porridge which contains four food groups: orange sweet potato, groundnut flour, milk, egg and some vegetable oil.

## Nutrition

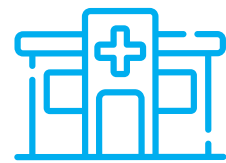
In 2019, UNICEF Malawi focused on providing nutritious diets and preventing malnutrition.

With support from the European Union (EU) and Germany, and in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF expanded nutrition programmes to 17 districts and contributed to improving the quality of children's diets by promoting the adoption of optimal nutrition practices and behaviours.



# 30,000 children

aged 6 months to 5 years admitted to health facilities with severe acute malnutrition



were treated and discharged with

## 93% cure rates

Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) activities helped improve the quality of complementary feeding efforts for some **254,000 children aged 6 months to 2 years**



## Vitamin A

distributions boosted the immunity of

## 1.6 million children

- **Some 30,000 children aged 6 months to 5 years admitted to health facilities with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) were treated and discharged with 93 per cent cure rates.** UNICEF partnered with USAID, UNICEF Switzerland and local civil society organisations to support the facilities.
- **Engaging local authorities and working to comprehensively map the nutrition programme Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) helped ensure households in remote areas were reached with quality nutrition services.** The fact that district councils had additional capacity to implement SUN activities helped improve the quality of complementary feeding efforts for some 254,000 children aged 6 months to 2 years.
- **Community-based acute malnutrition services, supported by UNICEF, were delivered from 728 health facilities across Malawi.** Meanwhile, 1,039 community health professionals were trained on nutrition treatment. Vitamin A distributions boosted the immunity of 1.6 million children.



© UNICEF/2019/Saka

Photo: Living Schools: Mary and Chisomo study after class.

## Education

The Education Sector in Malawi had significant positive developments in 2019:

This includes increased financing, implementation of secondary school tuition waiver and recruitment of additional teachers. UNICEF Malawi co-led the Education Sector Joint Fund which contributed close to US\$20 million to the sector. At the same time, evidence generated by UNICEF supported projects, guided the development of policies and programmes at both the national and district level.



## More than 16,000 children and adolescents

have achieved basic literacy and numeracy skills and 300 obtained vocational skills during the year, through the Functional Literacy Programme and Continuous Basic Education (CBE) programme.

## Over 77,000 children benefited

from UNICEF's financial and human resources to the **emergency response following the onset of Cyclone Idai**



## Over 300,000 adolescents particularly girls

have received services in protection, water, sanitation, HIV prevention messages and adolescent nutrition services using school as the delivery platform

## More than 11,000 girls

received UNICEF supported bursaries and scholarships through National Girls Trust Fund for continuing their secondary education



- **UNICEF Malawi was instrumental in the implementation of the Adolescent Girls and Young Women programme in collaboration with key development partners.** Through Functional Literacy Programme and Continuous Basic Education (CBE) programme a total of 16,091 children and adolescents have achieved basic literacy and numeracy skills and 300 obtained vocational skills during the year. In addition, a total of 11,107 girls received UNICEF supported bursaries and scholarships through National Girls Trust Fund for continuing their secondary education.
- **UNICEF Malawi has contributed significantly to improving safe learning environment** and over 300,000 adolescents particularly girls have received services in protection, water, sanitation, HIV prevention messages and adolescent nutrition services using school as the delivery platform. To improve teaching and learning process, the Continuous Professional Development Framework was launched, with accompanying modules to provide structured systematic mechanism for in-service training for teachers.
- **Additionally, UNICEF contributed significant financial and human resources to the emergency response** following the onset of Cyclone Idai, benefitting 77,565 children.





© UNICEF/2019/Ndayizeye

**Photo:** Children at Nankwali primary school enjoying their first taste of easily accessible safe water from the solar powered water plants.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF Malawi support to the WASH sector articulated over three main programmatic streams:

**i)** Climate Resilient WASH with the implementation of innovative and cost-effective solar water powered water supply systems for communities, schools and health facilities (also included in the 2019 emergency response); **ii)** Market based solutions to improve access to basic sanitation services, and **iii)** Innovative partnerships with development banks (European Investment Bank) aiming at defining new financing mechanisms for urban sanitation.



**94,000**  
people received  
clean water

as part of the WASH  
emergency response to  
Cyclone Idai

About

**100,000**

people got access to basic  
WASH services in 2019



**304**

additional communities  
were certified as open  
defecation-free



**+ 59,300**

displaced people gained access to  
sanitation through the construction  
of emergency sanitation facilities



**More than  
674,000**

disaster-affected  
people were reached  
with educational  
messaging on WASH

- About 100,000 people got access to basic WASH services in 2019.
- The WASH emergency response to Cyclone Idai transitioned to recovery, providing clean water to 94,000 people.
- Some 304 additional communities were certified as open defecation-free, and 59,300 displaced people gained access to sanitation through the construction of emergency sanitation facilities. To enhance hygiene and sanitation practices, 674,820 disaster-affected people were reached with educational messaging.





© UNICEF/2017/Chikondi

**Photo:** Three year old Lumbani is captured playing with his foster father, 42 year old Luwo Malunga, at their home in Sigerege in the southern city of Blantyre.

## Child Protection

In 2019, strengthened child protection mechanisms, including capacity building within the police, and social welfare sector,

resulted in additional reporting on violence against children, with more than 37,000 new cases of violence against girls, boys and women reported in 2019.





## Over 204,000 flood-affected people

aged 10 and above were reached with messages designed to reinforce positive behaviours about being safe from violence.



One Stop Centres, for survivors of violence, were supported in seven districts, including Lilongwe

## providing essential services to more than 1,200 victims

106,000 emergency-affected children accessed Children's Corners to receive access to psychosocial support, socialisation and learning



More than 7,000 people affected by gender-based violence were provided support by police victim support units, district welfare offices and other support services

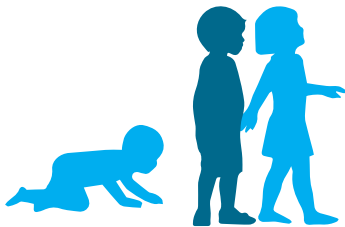


- **In partnership with the EU, UNICEF Malawi launched the Spotlight Initiative, an international programme that aims to end discrimination and violence against women and girls.** One Stop Centres, for survivors of violence, were supported in seven districts, including Lilongwe, providing essential services to more than 1,200 victims.
- **In 2019, UNICEF helped develop a child-centred management plan addressing protection risks to children during emergencies.** Some 106,000 emergency-affected children accessed Children's Corners to receive access to psychosocial support, socialisation and learning. Another 7,084 people affected by gender-based violence were provided support by police victim support units, district welfare offices and other support services.
- **UNICEF Malawi reached over 204,000 flood-affected people aged 10 and above with messages designed to reinforce positive behaviours about being safe from violence.** Some 98 per cent of the people living in flood displacement camps were reached with at least one messaging campaign delivered through posters, leaflets, drama, music, counselling, health talks and radio.



## PROGRAMME PILLARS

# Pillar 1: Early Childhood



**To make sure every child in Malawi is given the best chance to survive and thrive, UNICEF takes a comprehensive approach to supporting young children in their first 1,000 days of life.**

The early childhood pillar focuses on the importance of responsive and positive parenting to ensure that children, through age 5, receive the best possible care in a nurturing and protective family environment. In 2019, UNICEF worked with the GoM and other partners to scale up work on maternal, newborn and child health, nutrition promotion, immunisation, prevention and treatment of HIV, and cognitive stimulation through early childhood development (ECD).

UNICEF is committed to combating malnutrition and stunting in Malawi through high-impact nutrition interventions. In 2019, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health, USAID, UNICEF Switzerland and local NGOs, to save the lives of more than 30,000 children aged 6 months to 5 years who were admitted for the treatment of severe acute malnutrition, representing a 93 per cent cure rate. At the same time, 1.6 million children received vitamin A supplementation to improve their immunity against disease. UNICEF worked to curb preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths by scaling up essential maternal and newborn care services, sustaining immunisation programmes, and supporting health services dedicated to fighting conditions such as diarrhea and malaria. During the response to Cyclone Idai, more than 46,000 children under 5 were vaccinated against measles. At the same time, more than 12,000 births took place in UNICEF-supported health facilities with a skilled health worker representing 91 per cent of the births.

Preventing new HIV infections and improving access to testing are fundamental to UNICEF's approach to the virus. In 2019 in Malawi, some 76 per cent of HIV-exposed infants were tested within two months of birth against an annual target of 71 per cent. At the same time, 98 per cent of pregnant women who attended an antenatal clinic and got an HIV test were told their HIV status with those found to be positive immediately started on treatment. In Malawi, new cases of infection still occur at birth, during breastfeeding and in adolescence.

In 2019, UNICEF supported government efforts to increase the rate of birth registration, which is about 20 per cent for children under 5. Birth registration is a permanent and official record of a child's existence, giving legal recognition of the child's identity. UNICEF provided technical and financial support to the National Registration Bureau to strengthen collaboration with the Ministry of Health as 90 per cent of births take place in health facilities. UNICEF also helped train health staff on the birth registration process. UNICEF has supported a nationwide scale-up of ECD programming. In the earliest years of life, especially from pregnancy to age 3, babies need to be well nourished, protected and stimulated to ensure healthy brain development. By talking and playing with babies, millions of neural connections are formed in their brains, better preparing them for adult life. In 2019, UNICEF's support led to 48 per cent of children under the age of 5 – almost 2 million – being reached with ECD services.



## Three Major Achievements



- **30,000 children aged 6 months to 5 years were saved** from severe acute malnutrition.
- **46,000 children under 5 were vaccinated against measles** during the cyclone response.
- **98 per cent of pregnant women who attended an antenatal clinic and got an HIV test** with those who tested positive started on treatment immediately.



Photo: Mother kisses her daughter during a nutritional health seminar in Chikwawa.

© UNICEF/2019

# EVERY DAY IS A CHILD HEALTH DAY

Published on January 7, 2019

**Story by:** Rebecca Phwitiko



**Photo:** Children at Mangumba Village in Zomba wait to receive their vitamins from Neverson.

It is mid-morning in Mangumba village in Zomba, Southern Malawi, and Neverson Nazombe's day is off to a good start. An hour before, he set up a health clinic under a tree and asked mothers from the surrounding houses to join him with their children, under the age of five. About 20 women came.

First, Neverson, a community health worker, spoke to them about the critical and preventive services that he and other health workers across the country were providing. He then proceeded to hand out a range of treatments- vitamin A, albendazole, vaccines and malnutrition screening.

Done with this group of 20, Neverson moved on to the other side of the village. He does a few house calls before meeting another group of 20 or so mothers and their children in a central location close to a borehole.

Neverson has been a community health worker for 12 years, providing primary health care to children under the age of five in this community. This week, known as Child Health Days, he has an important task: to reach all children under five in his area with a package of preventive medicines.

These include vitamin A supplements to boost immunity and prevent blindness, de-worming tablets to treat intestinal worms and prevent anemia, routine immunizations, and monitoring for malnutrition.

Child Health Days is a Government of Malawi campaign that UNICEF and partners such as USAID support. It brings critical, life-saving services to children in remote areas. During the Child Health Day campaign last June, health workers across the country reached 2.1 million children.

"For me, every day must be a Child Health Day. It is important for us to provide preventive services and messages to parents and their children because we know that this saves lives," says Neverson.

Mangumba village is a long way from a health facility and the need here is great. Emily Peter, 33, lives at one of the houses Nazombe called by today. Her one-year-old son Chimwwe got his shots without having to go to the hospital. Emily says the fact that a health worker is providing critical services right in the village makes a big difference for families. "It's better when the health workers come to us. It saves us transport costs to get to the hospital," she says.





Nankhali Primary School in Lilongwe, Malawi, during the celebrations of the official handover of newly constructed school blocks. Nankhali Primary School is part of the UNICEF Living School project.



# Pillar 2: School-Aged Children



**Every child in Malawi has the right to go to school and learn, regardless of who they are, where they live or how much money their family has.**

It is essential that school-aged children, especially early adolescents aged 10-14, receive quality schooling and practical skills for life. The school-aged children pillar focuses on creating safe, friendly learning environments, with qualified and motivated teachers, where children are free from exploitation, harmful practices and violence, and benefit from associated social services. With a special focus on girls and adolescents, UNICEF is working to improve learning outcomes, especially in literacy and numeracy, while also fostering student activism and participation in school and community affairs, covering issues such as environmental protection and climate change.

In Malawi in 2019, UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance as the education system continued to make progress toward achieving key learning outcomes. Opportunities for Malawian children to participate in and complete education improved significantly during the year through strengthened coordination, adequate financing, partnership building, influencing legislative frameworks and effective employment and training of teachers. UNICEF Malawi is the chair of Local Education Group (LEG) and co-lead of Education Development Partners Group (EDPG), as well as coordinating agency for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to effectively leverage the partnership and lead national efforts to improve the planning and implementation of Education Sector Investment Plan, and enhance the learning outcomes for all children.

The results are as follows:

- The percentage of students who completed primary school increased to 58 per cent, up from 52 per cent over the previous year.
- The pupil teacher ratio decreased from 63 to 67 against a target of 60 following an increase in government funding for hiring teachers.
- Primary school enrollment increased to 5,298,324 in 2019 up from 5,187,634 in 2018, while net enrollment improved to 91 per cent from 90 per cent over the previous year.
- The percentage of children repeating a year dropped to 23 per cent in 2019, down from 25 per cent, the previous year.
- The number of primary schools now in operation in Malawi rose by 165 schools or almost 3 per cent, going from 6,194 schools in 2018 to 6,359 in 2019.

UNICEF Malawi was also instrumental in supporting the implementation of the Adolescent Girls and Young Women programme by mobilising key development partners, including USAID, DFID, UNAIDS, ActionAid, Engender Health and Grassroots Soccer. In 2019 efforts were made to equip out-of-school children with foundational skills. Through the Functional Literacy Programme (FLP) and the CBE programme, 16,091 children and adolescents achieved basic literacy and numeracy skills while another 300 obtained vocational skills. The FLP was institutionalised with full ownership of the government while the first national functional literacy curriculum was developed.

But not all outcomes were positive. Despite ambitious goals for secondary education, implementation remains weak. Malawi needs to enroll an additional 1.1 million students per year to achieve secondary education for all by 2030. Tuition and boarding fees, school uniforms, transportation and meal costs remain barriers, especially for poor families.

## Three Major Achievements



- **Over 300,000 adolescents, particularly girls,** have benefited from protection, water, sanitation, HIV prevention messages and adolescent nutrition services using the school as the delivery platform in 2019.



- **More than 16,000 vulnerable out-of-school children and adolescents** were equipped with basic literacy and numeracy skills, and 300 vulnerable out-of-school adolescent girls were equipped with vocational and entrepreneurial skills.



- **Over 77,000 children were supported to continue their education** despite the emergency situation, following the onset of Cyclone Idai.







# SHAKIRA IS DELIGHTED WITH THE NEW DESKS IN HER SCHOOL

Published on May 15, 2019

**Story by:** Lulutani Tembo



**Photo:** Shakira smiles with her friends in the new classroom.

Whistles, bustles, singing, and dancing. This was the atmosphere at Nankhali Primary School on 29th March 2019 when learners saw a truck loaded with desks arriving at the school. The primary school is located in rural Lilongwe. An area where many households struggle to make ends meet. The school only had five classrooms for a population of nearly 2,000 students. The classrooms were run down, with many learners sitting on the floor during lessons, with about 750 children having lessons outside.

Shakira Kazembe, a 15-year-old standard seven student at the school was part of the group of learners who ran to the trucks that delivered the desks on that joyous day in March. "The day the desks were brought to the school, all the children were excited. The moment they saw the truck driving in, they all ran to the truck and helped carry the desks to the classrooms. There was so much joy, and everybody was thrilled for the new face of Nankhali," Shakira reveals.

Shakira is the first born in a family of three children. Her mother sells samosas for a living at a nearby market. The family lives an hour walk away from the school. "I usually leave the house at 6 am for school, and I arrive there at 7. My mother is a single mother and struggles to

buy my school materials, such as notebooks and school uniform. My father left for South Africa when I was very young, I was only 6 months old. He has never helped me with any of my school needs," Shakira explains.

In the face of the challenges at home, Shakira works hard in school. For the past three terms, she has finished in the top 3 of her class. This is also despite having learned in harsh conditions, outside, under a tree with no desk.

"Before we received desks, it was difficult for us girls to participate in class. We were shy to stand up in class to ask questions. Learning outside was also distracting. We would look at people walking by instead of focusing on learning," Shakira describes.

## Support from UNICEF

Nankhali Primary School has 1,752 children. There were previously five classrooms at the school, but thanks to UNICEF Germany, the school now has an additional six classrooms. A library, an administration block and toilet blocks for girls, boys and teachers were also constructed at the school. Money to build the new school blocks was raised from a TV special hosted by football star Mats

Hummels on German TV. UNICEF has also supported the school with 2,800 story books and 2,300 textbooks. In complementing the efforts to bring quality education in a conducive learning environment, the KIND Fund provided 240 desks to Nankhali Primary School in late March. MSNBC's Lawrence O'Donnell created the ground-breaking Kids in Need of Desks (K.I.N.D.) Fund with UNICEF in 2010 to support education in Malawi. Since then, the programme has provided desks to over 900,000 learners across Malawi, contributing to 10 per cent of the desks in the country. It has raised over US\$21 million for desks and girls' scholarships thanks to MSNBC TV station and viewers of 'The Last Word with Lawrence O'Donnell.'

### A better learning experience

The new classrooms and desks have entirely changed the learning experience for female students like Shakira. "Now our classrooms look smart with the desks, and we're able to write better in class, compared to before when we would put our exercise books on our laps," she explains. "Learning outside was difficult when it was rainy and windy. Every time it rained, we were told to go home. It was a big obstacle to our learning. Now we no longer experience this since we are now in classrooms. When it rains, we're able to proceed with our work normally."

The school has also received an influx of new learners since receiving the desks. Shakira explains that her class got three new learners who transferred to her school after they heard about the developments at Nankhali. Deputy Headteacher, Mr. Gwedere also explains that close to 100 children have come to the school since the desks were delivered to Nankhali.

"Prior to receiving the desks, many children would transfer to other schools by the time they were in standard 5 to move to schools with desks. Since receiving the desks, we have had no children transferring out to other schools," Mr. Gwedere explains. "Absenteeism has also reduced, now we have had children attending class more. Teaching has become easier for the teachers too. It is easier for them to attend to learners who need assistance because they're sitting in organized rows that make them easily reachable."

Mr. Gwedere believes that the desks can help improve the learner's performance too. "The learning environment is better for both teachers and students. This can influence students' performance and encourage more involvement in class. The children are happy and motivated," he says.

The school also previously had very few toilets. Children would go to the bushes to relieve themselves. As a result, some would get ill, since it was unhygienic. The recent construction of new toilets has eliminated these problems.

In the meantime, the new face of Nankhali Primary School is a big step towards making it an ideal child-friendly school. Children like Shakira no longer need to worry about learning outside, on the dusty ground with rocks. "I like the design of the desks because they have a chair attached. Learning is so much better, and I told my mom about it too. Now everybody in our area is admiring our school," Shakira utters. "When I grow up, I want to be a nurse, I know that I am in charge of my future. I always tell myself to work hard in school, so I can have a bright future."



Photo: Junior students cheer for their new desks and classrooms.







# Pillar 3: Child-Friendly Communities



**Girls and boys deserve the best chance to lead safe, productive and fulfilling lives by growing up in resilient, inclusive and child-friendly communities.**

In 2019, UNICEF Malawi worked to empower communities to practice positive social behaviours and become resilient to climate change and economic shocks, while providing support to overcome barriers and vulnerabilities that negatively impact children. To help strengthen the child-friendly communities pillar, UNICEF's 2019 interventions supported systems that provide children an equitable chance in life focusing on the provision of a package of comprehensive health, WASH, education and child protection services.

For example, UNICEF helped build the resilience of households, communities and institutions by providing support for water resource management, sanitation and hygiene. UNICEF implemented innovative models of cost-effective resilient WASH services with a focus on green technologies and introduced solar-powered water networks reducing the burden on women and girls who traditionally walk great distances to fetch water. In 2019, the GoM with technical and financial support from UNICEF Malawi finalised the development of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy introducing important paradigm shifts to address sector priorities, including sanitation marketing, while also recognising the importance of scaling up menstrual hygiene.

UNICEF's 2019 interventions also focused on strengthening decentralised social services and help build capacity among front-line sector workers to deliver and sustain integrated, quality services. For example, UNICEF led efforts to strengthen national and district-level systems on child protection and supported the national government's assessment on district implementation plans to support vulnerable children. A Super Dad's Campaign was launched reaching more than four million people with key messages on responsive and positive male parenting, and more than 400,000 families were trained on positive parenting practices. An increase in child protection action saw improved reporting on violence against children, with over 37,000 new cases of violence against girls (18,810), boys (13,237) and women (5,364) reported in 2019. This is key to break the silence that surrounds violence against children and women and ensure they receive the services they need.

During the year, UNICEF produced robust evidence on the size, composition, equity and efficiency of public spending in sectors and programmes benefiting children. The evidence was incorporated into budget briefs which were used to engage the Ministry of Finance, social sector ministries and local authorities, and advocate for increased budget allocations for children. For example, successful advocacy led to the 61 per cent increase in the government's contribution towards the national Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP). Through improved targeting of beneficiaries, the SCTP grew in 2019 to cover 294,000 beneficiary households, up from 276,000 in 2018. The number of children in households receiving cash assistance also increased from 431,700 to 622,323. Evidence generated by evaluations has demonstrated that the social cash transfers are used positively by families to improve household food security and improve educational outcomes.

UNICEF implemented innovative models of cost-effective resilient WASH services with a focus on

## green technologies

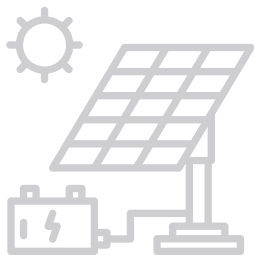


Photo: Masuku Primary School, Chiponde in Mangochi.

## Communication for Development (C4D)

**In 2019, UNICEF reached more than 200,000 affected people with integrated messaging to reinforce positive behaviour around WASH, health, child protection and gender.** The messaging was delivered through various approaches including radio listening groups, health talks, drama performances and talks given in cyclone displacement camps. A rapid assessment in July that surveyed 309 people living in camps showed that 98 per cent of the people were reached with at least one C4D intervention. C4D strategies were focusing on connecting humanitarian efforts to development, consultation with flood survivors and their surroundings during the respond and recovery phases, and in close collaboration with government and civil society institutions, including the Ministry of Information, the National Social Mobilisation Committee, United Purpose, Story Workshop Education Trust and the Centre for Development Communication. The findings on combining humanitarian and development efforts have informed a new community engagement strategy for 2020 focused on strengthening local systems and integrating C4D interventions to build resilient communities.

## Local Governance and Decentralization

**In 2019, UNICEF reached out to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to collaboratively improve performance of local authorities.** The major work was on rolling out of programme-based budgeting to local authorities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of budget utilization. The Ministry and National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC) reached out to all local governments with the aim of improving social service delivery. Local Governance collaborated with social policy to provide technical support to NLGFC to convene a fiscal decentralization conference. The conference managed to develop an action plan on how to improve public finance management within the local government system. The conference brought together all the major stakeholders in the public finance sector. The conference resolution has informed the Ministries of Finance, Local Government, Gender and Health on key areas that need to be reviewed and improved including fiscal transfer formulas.



## Three Major Achievements

- **294,000 households benefited** from the cash transfer programme, up from 276,000 in 2018.
- **About 100,000 people** gained access to basic water and sanitation services.
- **37,000 new cases** of violence against girls (18,810), boys (13,237) and women (5,364) were reported.



Photo: Alina sitting outside her home with her sons. In her hand is her ATM card and cash transfer passbook.

© UNICEF/2019/MovingMinds



# LEARN FIRST AND MARRIAGE LATER

Published on November 14, 2019

**Story by:** Shorai Nyambalo-Ng'ambi



**Photo:** Jausa with the mom and newborn she just delivered.

Soft-spoken Jausa Silika, 38, is someone every ambitious girl child looks up to in Mkata Village, Traditional Authority Chowe in Mangochi. Trained in community nursing and midwife, she helps mothers deliver 70 babies in a month at Malombe Health Centre, located 41 kilometres East of Mangochi Town.

"I was employed to be a midwife at the Malombe Health Centre in 2014 and I am proud of what I have done so far. I never imagined I would reach where I am," says Jausa, reminiscing the path she has trodden to reach where she is now.

"I just had the burning passion to do school, partly because of what my uncle told me about the importance of attending school," says the mother of two. The first girl child from Malombe community to become a midwife and work in the same area, Jausa has so far worked in two health centres of Malombe and Katuli in the same district since graduating from college.

Her success has spread like bush fire with more organizations asking her to perform roles at their community events as a role model to girl children who are dropping out of school to get married.

Her new role as a midwife in the area has made most girls in the area hope for the better, provided they remain focused on education and avoid early marriages.

Although Jausa bathes in this glory of success and limelight, she has fought many battles all the way to becoming a midwife.

"I was cheated in marriage. I discovered my husband

had other two wives which made it very difficult to stay and I decided to leave and continue with education," says Jausa, a 13th born in a family of 15 children who aspires to be a fully registered Nurse and Midwife Technician by the Nurses and Midwife's Council of Malawi.

Jausa's trouble started when she was staying with her uncle in Blantyre while attending school at a privately owned Islamic secondary school. Sooner than she arrived, the cousin from South Africa also arrived at the same place to start living with them. A relationship developed between them and unfortunately, Jausa got pregnant. When the uncle got wind of the story, he sent her back home in Mangochi where she gave birth to her first child-Yusuf Twabi in 2000 at the age of 17. Consequently, she had to drop out of school.

However, life became so unbearable in the village that she went back to her uncle to start anew, thanks to the support she received from her aunt.

"My uncle refused to send me to school because he felt I didn't like school and proposed that I do business instead. It was his wife, my aunt, who convinced him that I go back to school where I re-started in Form 2 just to catch up with the rest of the students," she said.

Finally, in 2006 Jausa passed her Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) at Msalura Community Day Secondary School.

"When I came back to Mangochi, I was a star because with MSCE in hand, people could not believe it was the same girl. I worked as a volunteer and would go round with several organizations as a role model, and would do volunteer work at Namasu Primary school where I got my primary education," she says. But life threw here a curveball again when she married someone she didn't know was polygamous and later abandoned the marriage as soon as she gave birth to her second child.

"Learn first and marriage later. For those who already got pregnant while in school, don't lose hope but continue until you achieve what you want just like I did," she advises young girls.

Looking back in the past 20 years when the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action came into force, Jausa says a lot of positive development have taken

place with girls now being allowed to return to school after dropping out due to pregnancy.

Besides, chiefs are collaborating well with religious bodies in the area, with communities and schools raising awareness about the importance of girls' education as well as stopping girls from early marriage.

"Whenever there is a community meeting, I make sure to encourage girls to remain in school. There are also village rules which run against early marriages and whoever marries off girl children, they are punished heavily. This has helped curb the number of early marriages and allowing girls to remain in school," says Traditional Authority Leader Chowe.

### UNICEF's work on ending child marriage

Child marriage is a serious problem in Malawi. The 2017 constitutional amendment raising the age of marriage to 18, for both boys and girls, was a significant milestone. However, many cases of child marriage persist. About 42 per cent of girls are married before the age of 18, and 9 per cent before the age of 15.

The main drivers of child marriage are poverty, cultural and religious traditions, and peer pressure. UNICEF is working with the Government of Malawi to protect girls and boys from sexual violence including child marriage and other harmful practices.

An important aim of UNICEF's Country Programme is increased knowledge and understanding among communities of harm associated with child marriage. UNICEF works to abolish practices and behaviour harmful to children, while ensuring they have access to child protection services, good health and education.

### Partnerships with community leaders break social norms that enable child marriages.

"We are partnering with traditional and religious leaders to break social norms that enable child marriages," says UNICEF Malawi's Chief of Child Protection Afroz Kaviani Johnson. "Social and cultural beliefs relating to sexuality, child marriage and the position of girls in society, contribute to the normalization of violence against children and gender-based violence" she added.



Photo: Jausa helping a mom who just gave birth. After being rescued from marriage she's now a nurse.

© UNICEF/2019/Nyam-balo







# Humanitarian Action

Around

90,000  
people

were displaced  
by the flood

In March 2019, Malawi experienced severe flooding in its southern reaches following heavy rains caused by tropical Cyclone Idai. Almost 1 million people were impacted by the floods with 60 deaths recorded and more than 600 people injured. Around 90,000 people were displaced, taking shelter in 174 camps, as the GoM declared a state of disaster in 15 of Malawi's 28 districts. The government and development partners responded rapidly to the disaster, implementing rescue and relief operations that saved many lives and mobilised resources to meet the immediate needs of the affected population.

UNICEF undertook the following emergency interventions:

- **Some 308,538 people in 79 displacement sites and hard-to-reach villages were reached with lifesaving health services** including primary care consultations, maternal and newborn care, family planning, immunisation and follow-up visits to treat chronic illnesses through UNICEF-supported mobile clinics.
- During the cyclone recovery phase, **UNICEF supported the provision of safe water in displacement sites, surrounding communities, schools, health facilities and childcare centres reaching 191,977 people.**

While almost 2 million people in Malawi were considered food-insecure in 2019, admissions of children with severe acute malnutrition between January and November decreased by 14 per cent to 35,759 compared to the same period in 2018. The decrease was achieved as UNICEF ensured good coverage of quality services across marginalised and flood-affected communities.

In 2019, Malawi remained at risk from people carrying Ebola virus as a large influx of immigrants coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo made their way to South Africa. A contingent of Malawian soldiers was also stationed in DRC and regularly returned to Malawi. Some 26 cases of cholera and one death were recorded in 2019. None of the cholera cases occurred in the displacement camps. UNICEF supported training of health workers in cholera case management and undertook health promotion and awareness-raising activities.

In response to the 2019 Malawi humanitarian funding appeal of US\$15.29 million, UNICEF received US\$10.3 million representing 68 per cent of the funds required. In addition, UNICEF reallocated about US\$1 million from other funding pools to respond rapidly to Cyclone Idai-related floods and kick-start emergency interventions.



## Three Major Achievements

- **About US\$10 million received by UNICEF** for its humanitarian funding appeal.
- **Over 310,000 children reached** with humanitarian assistance by UNICEF.
- **More than 300,000 flood-affected people** in 79 displacement sites and hard-to-reach villages were reached with health care.



Photo: A UNICEF tent at bangula camp.





# IN MALAWI, BRINGING RELIEF WHERE HOMES AND CROPS HAVE BEEN WASHED AWAY

Published on March 20, 2019

**Author:** Rebecca Phwitiko



**Photo:** Jausa with the mom and newborn she just delivered.

The timing could hardly have been worse. Just a few weeks before Malawi's staple maize crop was due to be harvested, heavy rains swept through the southern part of the country, taking with them the yet-to-be-collected grain, thousands of houses and cutting off access to some areas; dozens were killed.

"I came here with a bucket, two plates and the clothes I am wearing," says Eneless Bernard, a mother of five. Eneless didn't have much before the floods hit on the weekend of 9-10 March. Now, the few things she did possess are gone.

Her story is a familiar one for the almost 95,000 families, including an estimated 460,000 children, who lacked basic supplies like food, water and access to toilets as of 19 March. Access to vulnerable communities has been limited by the flooding, but UNICEF has been working with partners to help children and their families live as comfortably as possible while they are in temporary shelter, including by supplying mobile latrines, providing disinfectant kits and distributing insecticide treated bed nets and recreational supplies for children.

"UNICEF's priority is to help children and families who have lost their homes and are living in evacuation centres or with other families in their communities," UNICEF Malawi Representative Johannes Wedenig says. "We had emergency supplies pre-positioned in areas of Malawi that are regularly affected by natural disasters, which

has allowed us to move quickly to meet people's immediate needs."

## Brutal rain, brutal sun

It's early afternoon in this southern district of Chikwawa, where the heat is as brutal as the rain that has forced Eneless and thousands of others out of flooded villages. Some of the women are gathered together chatting, occasionally getting up to tend to nearby pots of beans lined up and cooking on 20 or so small fires outside a classroom at Chagambatuka primary school. The school, which has become a makeshift camp for displaced villagers, has been their home for about a week.

The number of people staying there has fluctuated, but the chairperson, elected by the villagers, estimates there are around 2,100 people currently in the camp. A few families have moved out to stay with relatives. In the afternoon, most of the men head off to try to find work, while the older men stay with the women and children. Some families are trying to rebuild their destroyed houses in areas where the water has receded.

The school usually has 14 latrines to cater for its 756 students, who now have to share their facilities with the displaced villagers staying there.

"We take turns cleaning the toilets, but there are too many of us using them," Eneless says. "Yesterday some people from the district hospital came to clean the toilets with chlorine. I hope they come again."

Chlorine, portable latrines, soap and buckets are just some of the critical emergency supplies that UNICEF is bringing to camps and communities to assist those displaced by flooding that has affected not just Malawi, but neighbouring Mozambique, where initial government figures estimated some 600,000 people were affected, of which 260,000 were children.

Since early March, flooding caused by the Tropical Cyclone Idai weather system has affected more than one million people and had caused at least 145 deaths as of 17 March.

### A roof over their heads – and little else

In Nsanje, another district at the southern tip of Malawi, the stories of are similar. Displaced families are camping in schools, churches and any other buildings that are open to the public – and still standing. Some 50 kilometres from the district centre, about 4,700 people are seeking shelter in a large market shed, with just a roof for to protect them from the elements, six latrines, and no water on location.

Bangula Admarc camp manager Isaac Falakeza says they have no water at the camp and had no latrines for the first few days. By the fourth day, they had six latrines, but this was nowhere near sufficient to meet the needs of the around 4,700 people staying there.

“I was happy to be rescued and brought here after our house collapsed in the middle of the night,” says 14-year-old Funny. “We waited hours in our wet clothes for help to arrive. But now I want to go home.” She points to the place she sleeps. She says it’s crowded and that there are too many mosquitos.

The reality for Funny and many others, though, is that she is unlikely to be able to return home anytime soon.

Around 2,000 children are staying at Bangula Admarc camp, which is conveniently located near a primary school. Given additional resources, the school can absorb some of the children, but most displaced children have yet to return to school. UNICEF has trained and deployed volunteer teachers, and is dispatching tents to be used as temporary classrooms, as well as school kits which include chalkboards, notebooks, pen and pencils.

For many in the region, the worst of the rains and floods is over, for now, at least. But children like Funny face weeks or even months of further disruption to their lives and education. With support from UNICEF and others, hopefully they will be able to get back to normal as soon as possible.



Photo: Mobile latrines and other supplies being offloaded in Chikwawa.







# Innovation



## 18 innovation initiatives

focusing on technologies for development, geo-spatial data, human-centered design, and youth social entrepreneurship



Photo: The drone takes off from the Kasungu air strip.

Innovation at UNICEF is a key strategy used by the country office to solve problems with new ideas that ultimately improve the lives of children. It is about matching today's challenges with tomorrow's solutions.

In 2019, UNICEF Malawi designed, piloted or scaled up innovative products and methodologies to address bottlenecks, fast track results and make emergency and development work more effective and efficient. In total, 18 innovation initiatives – focusing on technologies for development, geo-spatial data, human-centered design, and youth social entrepreneurship – were incubated or implemented. Four tools demonstrated small-scale success and are transitioning to scale, and one solution has been sustainably scaled with UNICEF support.

One platform is the 4P2C Data Intelligence Node<sup>1</sup>, which leverages drone-acquired data, satellite imagery, ground truthing, artificial intelligence and partnerships to turn data into actionable and accessible intelligence for decision-making and problem-solving. In the past, UNICEF collected data to assess and react to circumstance. Today the agency uses data, not only to monitor response in real-time, but also aims to predict and pre-empt humanitarian crisis and other future challenges that benefit children and families. In April, UNICEF Malawi partnered with Brazilian scientists<sup>2</sup> to collect and test water samples along the Shire River, and modelled a possible worst-case scenario radius of disease spread should there be an outbreak. In December, UNICEF partnered with Arm<sup>3</sup>, a multinational technology firm, to host a data science competition to build a machine learning model that helps predict the location and extent of floods in southern Malawi.

Another example is “Design Thinking,” which uses a hands-on, human-centered approach to create more relevant, scalable and sustainable solutions. In October, five coaches were certified in “Design Thinking” techniques. The coaches led workshops to develop a proposal on health system strengthening, support a strategy on adolescents and early childhood development, and strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration. Additionally, UNICEF in collaboration with UNDP Accelerator Lab ran a hackathon that engaged young people in Lilongwe tackle waste management in the city.

In 2019 mobile-based tracking and digital management systems were rolled out nationally. For instance, the Child Protection Information Management system was revamped and migrated to the RapidPro platform and, following a pilot phase, was scaled up nationally and is being used by the police, the National Child Justice Forum, and the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare.

1 <https://malawi.4p2c.org/portal/home/index.html>

2 <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/press-releases/brazilian-scientists-unicef-use-technology-predict-disease-outbreaks-after-floods>

3 <https://zindi.africa/competitions/2030-vision-flood-prediction-in-malawi>

## Drones Assist Development

**UNICEF has led the use of unmanned aerial systems in Malawi, helping to improve development and humanitarian interventions.** Some of these different drone applications include flood mapping, cholera risk assessment, pick-up of medical samples and delivery of medical commodities. The corridors, approved by the government, allow drones to travel 400 metres high, beyond the line of sight, in a large designated area. UNICEF is working with partners to use drones for emergency response as Malawi is often impacted by extreme weather events and flooding. Drones have proved useful given the limited network of roads and lack of light aircraft, which can impede search-and-rescue efforts and humanitarian assessment missions.

## Three Major Achievements



**Photo:** Tautvydas Juskauskas, UNICEF Malawi's Drone Specialist with civil aviation officials.

- In response to the devastation of Cyclone Idai, **UNICEF Malawi conducted a real-time assessment** via the emergency flood mapping<sup>4</sup> using ground data collection, GIS and drones.
- **Ten drone “corridor”<sup>5</sup> tests** were conducted by private sector and academic partners to trial their technologies on medical delivery, flood and environmental monitoring, and identification of mosquito breeding sites.
- **200 Malawian students, government officials, entrepreneurs, and technologists** were trained on drone mapping, imagery processing, and social entrepreneurship.

<sup>4</sup> <https://malawi.4p2c.org/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bb5820e275ab4d44ab2f9c4bec9f2b1e>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/stories/humanitarian-drone-corridor-launched-malawi>





# UTILIZING DRONES TO DELIVER HEALTH SUPPLIES IN REMOTE AREAS

Published on June 19, 2019

**Story by:** Lauren Davitt



**Photo:** Elizabeth Pemba with the lifesaving drone cargo near the Lifupa health center.

The empty airfield, while devoid of planes, feels full of life and excitement. The breeze keeps a tattered orange wind sock moving. And in the distance, the sounds of young people playing at a nearby school fills the air, reminding everyone why we're here.

The UNICEF Humanitarian Drone Corridor in Kasungu has been an innovation testing ground since it opened in 2016, in conjunction with the Government of Malawi. Companies, universities and other partners can use the air strip to test drone projects that can one day be used to support humanitarian work and help save lives.

On this bright June day, something new is about to start; the longest drone test flights in Malawi are about to begin. And while these are final tests – a dress rehearsal of sorts – the implication of their success is extremely important for the future of humanitarian drones here in Malawi, and across the region. After thorough pre-flight safety checks, the specially-designed drone buzzes to life with a whir that commands everyone's attention.

After slowly gaining altitude, it takes off, making a wide, graceful turn before it flies out of sight. Its destination is the Lifupa health center, around 55 km away (37 km in a straight line). By car, the dirt roads make it a bumpy 1 hour 30-minute drive through local villages.

The drone takes around 20-25 minutes to cover the distance, depending on winds. It gently lands in a football pitch adjacent to the health center, where community health worker Elizabeth Pemba is waiting. With support from the local pilots, she

opens the cargo container on the bottom of the drone and sees how medicine and vaccines will be insulated and stored when drone flights start regular service.

Elizabeth tells us how much drones can help her community, where she's worked for 18 years. The remote location and high prevalence of malaria makes it hard to keep her neighbors healthy. Being able to receive medicine and send samples quickly to the nearby hospital will make all the difference in ensuring that children and families get the care they need.

Ensuring proper care is all part of the plan, according to Scott Dubin, drones project lead for USAID's Global Health Supply Chain-Procurement and Supply Management project (GHSC-PSM) project, implemented by Chemonics International and partners. As part of the Supply Chain team, Scott and his colleagues have been working to scale-up drone technology to make it easier for healthcare workers like Elizabeth to support their communities. The flight tests are only the first step in USAID's project in Malawi, which will use drones to bring lifesaving deliveries to remote locations and collect laboratory samples for two-way deliveries. The goal – as Scott explains – is to have drones be a regular conduit for health facilities, starting with HIV samples and treatment, and expanding from there.

"There is ample room for creative solutions in treating HIV in Malawi," explains Judith Sherman, HIV lead for UNICEF Malawi and originator of the UNICEF drone programme. "The combination of high HIV rates and challenging infrastructure make drones an ideal tool to support our program work. UNICEF has been working with the government since 2015 to integrate drones into the health system, and we're excited to see that HIV diagnosis and treatment, particularly for children, will soon be easier."

And, as Scott explains, "The drone corridor made all the difference." UNICEF's investment and partnership in drones for humanitarian response laid the groundwork for USAID's project and has made Malawi a hotbed for innovation and data work, enabling organizations to come in and scale-up their pilot projects.

"UNICEF's Humanitarian Drone Corridor has evolved from an experimentation area and testing ground, to

a gateway for implementation of large-scale projects around the country, explains Tautvydas Juskauskas, UNICEF Malawi's Drone Specialist. "The Department of Civil Aviation, UNICEF and partners are using the corridor extensively to ensure providers are technically, operationally and logistically ready to conduct flights in Malawi. In all of our work at the corridor, we want it to be practical and replicate real-life applications, like delivery of medical supplies or a mapping mission to identify flood-prone areas or mosquito breeding sites."

Back in Lifupa, after just a few minutes on the ground – enough time to offload and re-load cargo and confirm safety protocols – the drone buzzes to life again. Children playing football nearby stop to watch before it takes off again. It heads back to the Kasungu airstrip to complete the longest bi-directional cargo flights in Malawi to date, around 76km total.

The success of these flights has gotten accolades from Malawi's Department of Civil Aviation, a key

partner in the ongoing drone work. The next step is to bring regular drone flights to some of the hardest to reach places in the country, specifically, between Nkhata Bay on the mainland and remote Likoma Island in the middle of Lake Malawi. Cargo drone deliveries will not only benefit citizens of Likoma in accessing more regular health care and supplies, it will also begin new chapter of drone work, that aims to benefit local engineers are well.

While the possibilities for drones as a means to support health and life in Malawi are endless, today, the team is focused on their success in Lifupa and the power of partnership that made it happen. UNICEF has been focused on finding the most innovative and creative solutions to save and protect children for over 70 years. Drone testing and ongoing implementation is a powerful testament to that lifesaving legacy.



**Photo:** The group assembled to view the bi-directional drone flights.





# Advocacy and Communication

170 positive stories

including 24 international stories appeared in media highlighting the situation of Malawi's children



In 2019, UNICEF raised awareness about challenges affecting Malawi's women and children, supporting meaningful action that contributed to achieving the country programme's goals. Through committed advocacy and communication efforts, UNICEF harnessed the power of traditional media, social media, key influencers and community messaging platforms to promote its interventions.

A total of 170 positive stories, including 24 international stories, appeared in the media highlighting the situation of Malawi's children and UNICEF's achievements. Voice of America, a United States-run international broadcaster<sup>6</sup>, carried a story in the wake of Cyclone Idai about UNICEF Malawi setting up mobile health clinics for children.

Some 9 million local people – half of Malawi's population – were reached with key messaging, delivered through traditional and online channels. A new website was launched in late 2018, providing an improved experience for online users, and acting as a knowledge centre for partners and others interested in rights-based activities for children. UNICEF Malawi increased its social media following to 36,000 (14,000 Facebook, 20,000 Twitter and 2,000 Instagram) exceeding the target of 33,000 for the year.

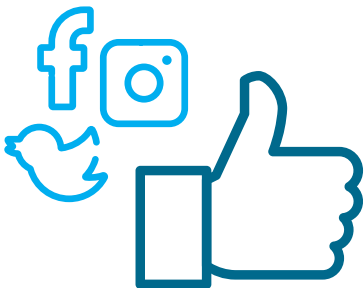
The country office produced a series of radio and television spots to support programming. The campaign, Keeping Children in School and Ending Child Marriages, reached more than 6 million people. At the same time, the Child Health Days campaign reached some 2.5 million people, the CRC@30 event (30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) reached about 80,000 people and the Super Dad's campaign reached about 30,000. UNICEF Malawi also trained 200 children and adolescents in basic journalism skills. As a result, 29 child-led radio programmes aired on five national and community radio stations reaching more than 2 million people. The participants produced a newsletter disseminated to 1,500 school students in two districts. Some 770 journalism students were trained in child rights reporting, increasing media coverage of the issues.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/africa/long-road-recovery-children-after-cyclone-idai>

## U-Report

**In 2019 U-Report, an innovative social messaging tool and data collection system developed by UNICEF to improve citizen engagement, inform leaders, and foster positive change, continued to empower young people and their communities.** Since its launch in 2018, U-Report has registered over 180,000 users. During the cyclone and floods, U-Report was used to disseminate lifesaving, educational information, reaching some 60,000 users in flood-affected areas. Messages included details on how to stay safe in flood conditions, and where people could get help, along with a referral number if they needed more information. U-Report, a joint initiative launched by UNICEF and the government, is free on local telecommunication services namely Airtel and TNM, and is used to conduct regular opinion polls sent by SMS.

## Three Major Achievements



- **170 positive media stories** on UNICEF Malawi appeared in the media
- **36,000 social media followers** represented a major increase.
- **770 journalism students were trained** in child rights reporting.





# U-REPORT MALAWI: PROVING DECISIVE IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Published on June 11, 2019

**Story by:** Steve M'bayeni



**Photo:** Elizabeth Pemba with the lifesaving drone cargo near the Lifupa health center.

For a country that is chronically hit by dry spells and food scarcity, the sight of rainfall brings immense joy. Rain is a sign of abundance and food security.

Too much rainfall, on the other hand, is a recipe for concern. Flooding can wash away crops, destroy houses and property and be a threat to humans and livestock.

In March 2019, following Cyclone Idai – which also hit neighboring Zimbabwe and Mozambique – southern Malawi received very heavy, flooding rains. Thousands of people in more than 14 districts were affected, with losses of life, livestock homes and crops. It was estimated that around 900,000 people were affected, 677 were injured, and 69 lost their lives.

## Disseminating Lifesaving Information

In the aftermath of a disaster, time is of the essence. UNICEF together with other UN agencies and the Government of Malawi, through Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) worked quickly to provide support to those impacted. Beyond addressing immediate needs including shelter and health support, those impacted need information on how to stay safe and healthy. This is where U-Report came in.

U-Report is a social messaging tool that empowers young people to have their voices heard and speak out on issues that matter to them. In Malawi, phones and text messaging are the second most popular means of communication, after radio. UNICEF and partners can utilize the results from the polls

U-Reporters answer to better tailor programs to support youth. Since launching in 2018, U-Report Malawi has more than 164,000 registered users, 60,000 of which come from the flood-affected districts.

During flood response, U-Report was used to disseminate lifesaving, educational information, targeted to those who had been affected. Messages included details on how to stay safe in flooding conditions, and – most importantly – where they could get help, along with a referral number if they needed more information.

Showing that messages were done in conjunction with the government made them prioritized and told U-Reporters they were official messages. The introductory text message read:

“Hi U-Reporter, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) is sharing the following information for people affected by floods in southern Malawi.”

Subsequent messages advised U-Reporters to observe flood early warning signs and move to higher ground if needed:

“When you see flood early warning signs such as long rainfall and rising water levels in lakes & rivers, move to higher grounds or other safer places immediately.”

“Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. Walk where the water is not moving and use a stick to check the depth.”

Messages also addressed dangerous side effects of heavy rains and flooding – notably, cholera outbreaks. When cases of cholera were confirmed in certain districts, U-Reporters received messages to help them take action and protect their health:

“Hi U-Reporter, cholera has been confirmed in Nsanje district. People living in evacuation camps are especially at risk. Would you like to find out more?”

“Cholera is a disease that causes severe watery diarrhea and can be caught from contaminated water and food. Cholera can also be transmitted through

person-to-person and make sure to take great care when treating someone with cholera.” Read one of the messages informing people about cholera.

### Needs assessment for a better response

Real-time data can be an important asset for emergency response efforts, to locate resources and supplies where they are most needed. During the recent flooding, U-Report was able to help provide this information. Information was collected from U-Reporters to assess the needs of people affected by the flood, to determine if they were living in temporary shelters or if they were still at home. Out of the 17,151 U-Reporters who responded, 10,458 said they had been affected by the floods.

Drawing on all areas of UNICEF’s work, 15 questions were developed to assess needs, including education, health, water and sanitation, nutrition, child protection and more.

Questions like “What do you need the most assistance with right now?” were asked to U-Reporters to highlight what they needed, so responses could be identified.

Respondents cited food as their most urgent need. When determining needs for health care, 79 per cent said had access to health care services where they were staying. 45 per cent noted they got services from a nearby health facility, 17 per cent from mobile clinics and 16 per cent from a health surveillance assistant.

51 per cent of U-Reporters had no medical problems resulting from the floods while 19 per cent indicated malaria, 16 per cent had diarrhoea and an additional 16 per cent suffered injuries during the floods. Collectively, the data was beneficial in identifying areas that needed prioritization in the emergency response efforts.

### Early warning system

As heavy rains continued, DoDMA feared that the Chagwa dam could burst, threatening severe damage in the surrounding Zomba area. To serve as a vital early warning mechanism, messages were sent to the 7,011 U-Reporters in Zomba, alerting them to the ongoing situation and urging them to be on high-alert.

“DoDMA is warning that Chagwa Dam is weakening and may flood areas in and around Zomba City and Mulunguzi River.”

“Please be on high alert if you live here & plan your evacuation route.”

“Please monitor local radio for further updates from DoDMA.”

With things worsening off due to the flooding, U-Report has been a critical tool linking the affected communities and humanitarian aid organizations such as UNICEF. U-Report will continue to be used in the post-floods recovery activities to give back useful information to the government, UNICEF and other UN agencies for a proper response.



**Photo:** A child journalist in the radio studio at Capital FM radio station in Blantyre on World Children’s Day. The child journalist is a beneficiary of UNICEF’s youth media programme.



Photo: Health supplies arrival at Bollore Warehouse in Lilongwe.

## Delivering on Child Rights

**US\$ 14  
million**

worth of goods  
and services  
procured in 2019



Supplies are essential to the delivery of rights to children. To support child survival and development programmes across Malawi, UNICEF-procured supplies are critical in providing for children's health, education and protection.

In 2019, UNICEF Malawi procured more than US\$ 14 million worth of goods and services, representing 96 per cent of the needs estimated at the beginning of the year. The goods procured were also instrumental in responding to Cyclone Idai, which hit Malawi in March 2019, and was described as the "worst natural disaster to hit southern Africa in nearly two decades". Goods worth about US\$ 11 million were received and 90 per cent of them were distributed to partners, either from UNICEF warehouses or directly from the port of entry. Approximately US\$ 1 million of goods remained in warehouses at the end of the year, while 99 per cent of supplies did not remain in storage for more than one year. Goods-in-transit did not exceed 100 days.

However, UNICEF's supply pipeline encountered challenges in 2019. Issues with securing funding, delayed delivery of some products and services and managing contracts proved difficult, particularly for construction projects. Also, visibility of the in-country pipeline was challenging, and local production capacity was limited.



Challenges were addressed by introducing new initiatives such as regularly reviewing supply plans and contract guidelines, procuring goods from overseas and participating in a joint UN supply market survey, which resulted in increased supply base and enhanced collaboration amongst agencies. As part of a UNICEF global initiative, the electronic CRC platform (e-CRC) was rolled out in 2019. Its introduction will result in automation of record keeping, enhanced document security, increasing visibility and improved accountability. The newly introduced electronic tendering solution (In-Tend) is expected to result in more efficient solicitation processes and analysis of submissions. UNICEF worked with the government on supply chain improvement initiatives involving policy, advocacy, strategic participation in technical working groups, supported the forecasting and quantification of essential health commodities and vaccines, supported procurement services of essential health commodities for regular programmatic and emergencies programming, and also immunization financing.

## Three Major Achievements

- **More than US\$ 14 million worth** of goods and services were procured in 2019.
- **About US\$ 10 million worth** of goods were dispatched and distributed to beneficiaries in 2019.
- **99 per cent of supplies were distributed** to beneficiaries within 12 months of storage age.



Photo: UNICEF gives Children's Corner kits to flood victims.

© UNICEF/2019/Gumulira

# EBOLA PREVENTION IN MALAWI

Published on December 23, 2019

**Story by:** Lulutani Tembo



**Photo:** Clinician Moses Chilongo and Nurse Mallious showing some of the supplies that were donated by UK Aid.

At the northern tip of the country, and off the shores of lake Malawi, lies Karonga district. One of Malawi's largest border posts, Songwe border, is in this district. Every year, thousands of travelers, traders, refugees and migrants trickle into the country through this border – making it an area prone to health epidemics. In 2018, when Ebola broke out in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, the Karonga District Health Office (DHO) was put on alert.

“We knew we had to prepare well for Ebola,” explains Lewis Tukula, an environmental health officer at Karonga DHO. “We had to ensure people coming through the borders are properly screened, including those going to the refugee camp in Karonga. We had to prepare where to contain people with suspected cases, build the capacity of our health workers staff and do follow up of the patients. Unfortunately, we didn't have the resources to train necessary personnel and get supplies to manage Ebola, if there is an outbreak in the district.” To their delight, the UK Aid stepped in to fund the purchase of Ebola supplies and training of health workers in border district across Malawi.

“You cannot treat Ebola without resources. When we heard that the UK Aid was going to pump required resources, everyone was relieved because it put off the pressure we were under,” Lewis says. “We received some supplies, such as personal protective equipment, coveralls, goggles, face mask, beds, gumboots, aprons, face shields, medicines including IV Fluids, antibiotics, injection materials, syringes and a number of other consumable supplies.”

## Training the health workers

In Karonga, about 172 health workers were trained. This included clinicians, nurses' doctors and health surveillance assistants who work in the villages and Songwe Boarder. Some media personnel from community radios were also part of this training as they play a critical role in sensitization and awareness through radio programmes.

Moses Chilongo, clinician and one of the trainees, recalls being excited when he heard he was selected for the training. He was eager to gain more knowledge on the disease. The 32-year-old clinician had already done his own research reading on Ebola

and wanted to learn more about how it comes about, and how people including health workers can protect themselves.

“We were taught about the symptoms that people show when they contract Ebola. We learned how to manage patients with Ebola, and how to protect ourselves from the disease as health workers,” describes Moses. “The supplies donated by the UK Aid have also been helpful. We now have protective gear, glucometers, a blood pressure machine, and an infrared thermometer.”

### The Ebola scare in the district

Moses and his fellow health workers in the rapid response team found themselves dealing with an Ebola scare in the district a few weeks after they were trained. They were told by the Director of health and social services at Karonga DHO that there is a suspected case of Ebola in Kaporo Health Center near the Songwe border. The patient had been sick for some time. However, when he started showing symptoms similar to Ebola, such as bleeding in the mouth, nose and eyes, the clinician at Kaporo Health Center called the rapid response team for help. “The patient did have symptoms similar to Ebola. We decided not to take any chance and manage him as an Ebola suspect. We knew it could also have been

a bleeding disorder called disseminated intravascular coagulation. He was moved from Kaporo Health Centre to the Ebola treatment centre at Karonga district hospital. Upon arrival, we made sure to follow all the protocols that we were taught during our Ebola preparedness training such as Ebola infection prevention,” explains Moses. “Samples were done on the patient and were sent to South Africa for analysis. The results were negative. The patient did not have Ebola.”

### Support from UK Aid and UNICEF

Through UNICEF, the UK Aid provided the Government of Malawi £478,000 for Ebola preparedness, prevention work, and supplies. The funding has helped to equip health workers with essential skills to deal with Ebola cases, and provided hospitals with medical equipment and drugs for Ebola prevention.

“There is no Ebola in Malawi. However, it is important to ensure that health centres and their workers are prepared for the unlikely event in case a suspected case comes to Malawi after visiting the DRC outbreak areas,” says Tedla Damte, UNICEF Malawi Chief of Health. “The supplies will help to detect such stray cases and respond immediately.”



Photo: Moses Chilongo showing the confirmed cases area in the Ebola treatment room at Karonga District Hospital.



# Delivering as One

UNICEF worked closely with the Resident Coordinator Office, other UN agencies and the Government of Malawi (GoM) to jointly implement programming in 2019. The UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) brings UN organisations together to deliver one strategy that draws on the full range of UN expertise. Under Joint Annual Work Plans (JAWPs), which are aligned with the UNSDCF, UN agencies in Malawi worked together on seven joint programmes with combined resources of about US\$ 185 million, to be dispersed between 2019 and 2023.

The joint programmes being implemented are:



**Joint Resilience Programme (PROSPER):** FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, the GoM and a consortium of NGOs have been implementing the programme in four districts: Chikwawa, Phalombe, Mangochi and Balaka. The US\$ 75 million programme is supported by DFID and aims to strengthen the resilience of more than 1 million vulnerable people against climate-induced shocks from drought and floods by promoting the use of Malawi's social protection systems.



**AFIKEPO:** FAO and UNICEF have been working closely with the Department of Agriculture Extension Services to implement an agriculture project focused on nutrition. The US\$ 43.5 million, four-year project, funded by the European Union, is being implemented in 10 districts and aims to improve the quality of diets for several groups: children under five years old, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls.



**Spotlight Initiative (SI):** UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA are implementing SI, a global, joint programme aimed at responding to all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on addressing sexual gender-based violence, harmful practices and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Initially for two years, the US\$ 20 million programme is supported by the EU and is being implemented in six districts.



Norwegian Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs

**Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE):** UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and UN Women are implementing JPGE, a programme in 169 schools aimed at improving access, quality and relevance of education for girls. The two-year, US\$ 21.7 million programme, supported by Norway, addresses barriers to girls' education including poor nutrition, inadequate protection against violence, harmful traditional practices and the violation of reproductive rights.



**2Gether4SRHR:** 2Gether4SRHR is a UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNAIDS joint programme aimed at increasing access to services that support sexual and reproductive health and rights, and HIV and gender-based violence (GBV) services. The US\$4 million, four-year programme, supported by Sweden, also promotes the integration of services that aim to reduce HIV infections and is being implemented in three districts.



**Poverty Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals:** The joint programme among UNDP, UN Environment, FAO and UN Women, aims to leverage agricultural production and gender equality to help build resilience against shocks to food security through the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources. The US\$2.4, four-year programme, supported by the EU, Austria and others, is being implemented in 11 districts.



**United Nations Partnership on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD):** UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP are supporting the implementation of the US\$0.4 million joint initiative on advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in Malawi. The three-year programme aims to empower disabled persons to be agents of change and demand their rights. The programme is financed by the UNPRPD.



# ABUSED, BUT NOT BROKEN: SURVIVING SEXUAL VIOLENCE WITH HELP FROM THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

Published on February 17, 2019

**Author:** Sellina Kainja



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**Photo:** Back to school. Spotlight beneficiaries during a group discussion.

A good Samaritan in the name of a family friend one day showed up at Chikondi Phiri's (not her real name) house. The man promised to look after Chikondi and cater for her school needs including tuition and other school necessities.

He said he saw potential in her and felt that the only way to rescue Chikondi from the jaws of poverty that had ravaged her family was to assist in any small way he could. Her parents were over the moon and with that, they gladly accepted the offer. In no time, Chikondi, third born child from a family of five, moved from their home village to stay with the Samaritan in the same district.

## Surviving sexual violence

One day, the once good Samaritan who Chikondi's parents trusted to take care of their daughter, turned into a villain. He raped Chikondi.

"He tried to force himself on me several times but I fought back. But one day he raped me. I got pregnant and reported the matter to the local police station. He got arrested but was released after only a week. There was nothing my mother could do because we didn't know where else to take this matter to," she explains.



Despite this ordeal, Chikondi's spirits were never broken. She was determined to go back to school and turn things around for herself, her child and her community. But there was a challenge, her family could not manage to raise school fees for her.

Chikondi's father had cut off all support to the family because he is no longer in talking terms with her mother. Her mother's banana fritters could not sustain the five children and support their education. Her uncle tried to help, but only managed to pay for her first term.

After noticing her absence from school, her teachers followed up to find out why she was not attending classes. They told her about the Spotlight Initiative scholarships for girls.

"When I heard about Spotlight scholarships, I did not hesitate. I asked my mother to come and meet the headmaster to know more. I am very happy that I got this scholarship and I am back in school," she says.

Chikondi wants to become a nurse because of her good grades in science subjects. She explains that she decided to go back to school because she knew that education is the only solution to the problems that she is facing. "With education, I can stand on my own feet and give my child and family a better life," says Chikondi.

### First days back at school

Chikondi's first days back in class were difficult. Fellow students mocked her and called her all types of names because she has a child. Regardless of this, Chikondi held her head high and promised herself that she was not going to give in to the name calling. She was focused on working hard in class.

"I am very thankful for Spotlight Initiative because they have lessened my burden in terms school necessities. I encourage fellow girls to pick up themselves and go back to school because education is a solution to many problems. Do not give up on your dreams. With the Spotlight scholarship, I can already see my dream of becoming a nurse come true. I have no intention to drop out of school," she said.

Chikondi also has a message for parents who push for their daughters to get married early.

"Girls belong to the classroom not in marriage. No one should look down on girls. They are equal to boys and you never know which of children will look after you. It could be the girl child," she describes. "They could also be lucky like me to get a scholarship like the one I have."

At Chikondi's school 17 girls are beneficiaries of the initiative. The schools headteacher, Mr. Abel Neba applauded the European Union (EU) and the United Nations for the initiative which he says will go a long way easing some of the challenges many students face.

He however, asked if the initiative could cater for more boarding facilities as many students walk long distances. "If the students stay at school, it will help them focus on their education and school work. It will also take them away from toxic communities that may have a bad influence on the girls," Mr. Neba explains.

### Support from the European Union and the United Nations

The Spotlight Initiative is a United Nations Joint Programme with UNICEF, UN Women, UNFPA and UNDP with funding from the EU. In partnership with the Malawi Government, the programme seeks to eliminate violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful practices.

Within the Spotlight Initiative, scholarships are provided to girls who have been rescued from early marriages, early pregnancies, gender-based violence and underprivileged children who are willing to go back to school. Currently the project targets six districts of Dowa, Nkhatabay, Mchinji, Chikwawa, Ntchisi and Nsanje.

"Through the Spotlight Initiative we hope to address the harmful social norms and practices that drive and normalize violence against women and girls. We are also removing financial barriers to education, giving girls like Chikondi an opportunity to stay and excel in school. says UNICEF Malawi Chief of Education and Adolescents, Kimanzi Muthengi. "If they are well educated, this offers tremendous hope to breaking the cycle of poverty especially for women."

# Partnerships

Building strategic partnerships is a critical component of UNICEF Malawi's work. UNICEF continues to collaborate closely with the government, development partners, businesses, civil society organizations, and children and young people in Malawi.

UNICEF Malawi maintained strong relationships with development partners in 2019 and was able to mobilise about US\$ 50 million, 74 per cent of the required country programme needs, to deliver quality services for children in 2019. These figures include UNICEF core resources, and funds mobilised from donors.



**37 new  
partner  
agreements**

**signed during  
this year**

Key partners in 2019 included the Government of China, DFID, Education Cannot Wait, The European Union, Irish Aid, Norway, United State Agency for Development (USAID), UNOCHA and UNICEF National Committees. A grant from the Chinese Development Cooperation represented the first engagement with the Chinese Government for UNICEF Malawi.

UNICEF Malawi worked closely with partners to raise US\$ 10 million in response to Cyclone Idai. Almost 1 million people were impacted by the cyclone and related floods with around 90,000 people taking shelter in 174 camps. The government and development partners responded rapidly to the disaster, implementing rescue and relief operations that saved many lives and mobilised resources to meet the immediate needs of the affected population. In 2019, UNICEF Malawi continued to strengthen its work by engaging with and supporting over 80 implementing partners throughout 2019. UNICEF Malawi's most important partnership was and is with the Government of Malawi. In 2019, UNICEF continued to forge strong partnerships with members of Malawi's parliament, key ministries and government departments at national, district and local levels. UNICEF advocated for the passage of the National Children's Commission Act. It marked a significant milestone towards advancing children's rights in Malawi and established a National Children's Commission to facilitate multi-sectoral coordination. On the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Malawi's President Peter Mutharika renewed the country's commitment to the convention.

UNICEF also partnered with a wide range of civil society organisations, including national and international non-governmental organisations, community and faith-based organisations, and academia, across a broad range of child related issues, with 37 new partnership agreements signed during the year.

More than US\$ 16 million was transferred to implementing partners in 2019, including both government and civil society partners.

UNICEF trained 64 implementing partners on financial management, ethics, fraud prevention and detection, risk management, and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.



UNICEF continues to foster meaningful

partnerships with mobile network operators

to increase the reach of emergency and development messages

In partnership with the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), UNICEF Malawi contributed to the strengthening of Malawi's national cold chain supply by implementing the Cold Chain Equipment Optimisation Platform and leveraging US\$ 21.6 million for procurement of services, supplies and equipment. Cold chain equipment was installed in 106 health facilities while solar system improvements for cold rooms are present in health facilities in all 28 districts.

In 2019, UNICEF and the telecommunications company Telekom Networks Malawi PLC (TNM), joined hands to launch the Internet of Good Things (IoGT) in Malawi. Every TNM user was given access to the free web resource covering topics such as maternal health and hygiene, as well as emergency information about cholera, drought or flooding. By connecting to IoGT, users have been able to access localised, updated, quality content from their mobile devices. UNICEF continues to foster meaningful partnerships with mobile network operators to increase the reach of emergency and development messages.

## Three Major Achievements

- **US\$ 50 million was mobilised** by UNICEF and partners to deliver humanitarian and emergency interventions in 2019.
- **US\$ 10 million was raised** by UNICEF and partners to respond to Cyclone Idai.
- **US\$ 16.6m was transferred** to implementing partners, including government and civil society partners.





## Major donors

The major development partners in 2019 were:



In addition to funds received, UNICEF Malawi also received support and visits from its National Committees:



AUSTRALIA  
DENMARK  
FINLAND  
GERMANY

HONG KONG  
IRELAND  
SWEDEN  
SWITZERLAND

SCOTLAND  
UK  
USA



# Acknowledgments

UNICEF's work is funded entirely through the voluntary support of millions of people around the world and our partners in government, civil society and the private sector. Voluntary contributions enable UNICEF to deliver on its mandate to protect children's rights, to help meet their basic needs, and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

**We want to thank all our partners as their generous support have enabled us to respond quickly to the humanitarian and development needs of children in Malawi in 2019.**

A special acknowledgment goes out to BMZ, the Government of China, DFID, EU, Irish Aid, the Government of Japan, KFW, the Government of Korea, the Royal Norwegian Embassy, and USAID for helping UNICEF continue to give children the education, clean water, health care, protection — and childhoods they deserve.

**UNICEF also appreciates and acknowledges the role of, NGO partners, international organizations and sister UN agencies,** whose partnerships have been critical in our support to the Government of Malawi and achieving together key results for children and women in Malawi.





An under-five child, is having mgaiwa nsima, pumpkin leaves, beans fortified with iron and zinc, usipa, banana fruit and beetroot juice for lunch. Having nutritionally rich meals like this, means Sampson (4 years old) will grow and develop to his full potential.

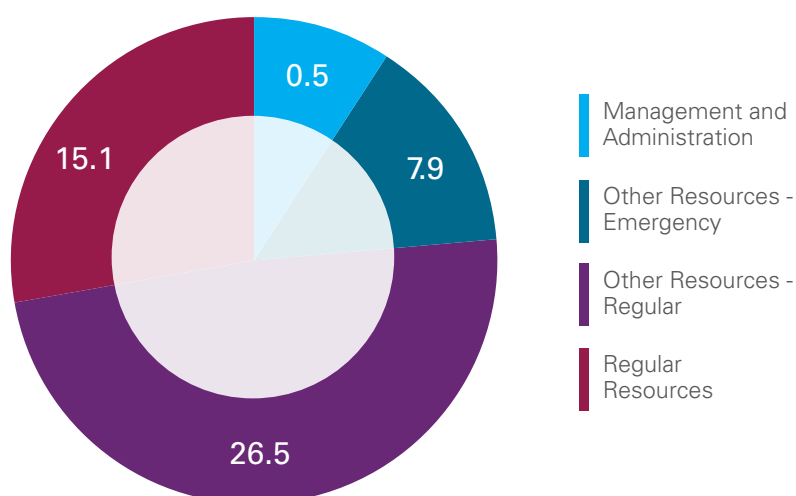


# Budget Overview

In 2019, UNICEF Malawi allocated and utilized a total of about US\$ 50 million from various development partners to achieve the planned results for children in Malawi.

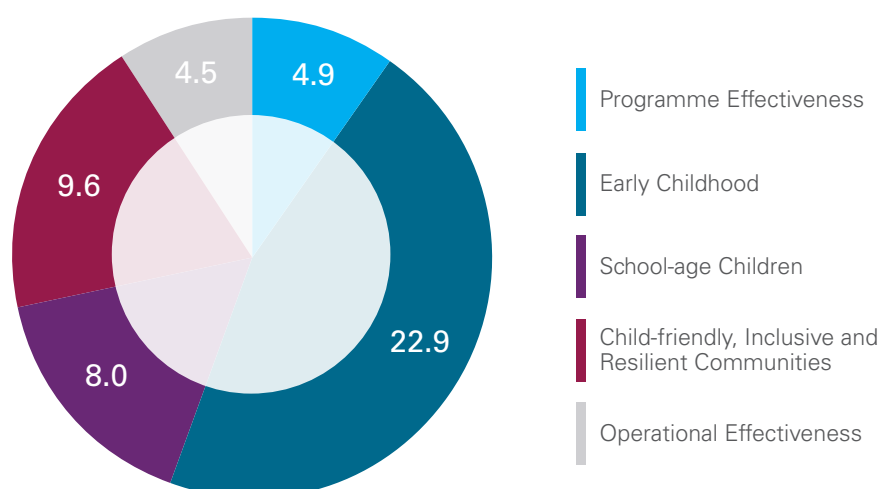
Most of the funds allocated and utilized were funded by various development partners through Other Resources Regular (ORR) funding type, representing 53 per cent of the total funds.

**Figure 1:**  
Allocation and Utilization by funding type (in US\$ million)



**Figure 2:**  
Utilization by pillar/Outcome (in US\$ million)

The utilization per various programmatic goals:





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for every child

**For every child**

Whoever she is.

Wherever he lives.

Every child deserves a childhood.

A future.

A fair chance.

That's why UNICEF is there.

For each and every child.

Working day in and day out.

In more than 190 countries and territories.

Reaching the hardest to reach.

The furthest from help.

The most excluded.

It's why we stay to the end.

And never give up.





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