

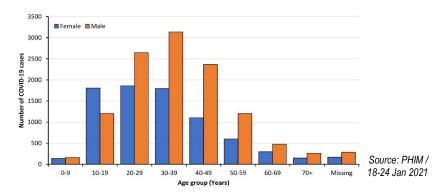
COVID-19 Update

Situation Update No. 36 at 29 January 2021



MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- Malawi declared a state of national disaster on 12 January, 2021.
- In the past seven days, Malawi has conducted over 17,000 tests which is an average of 2,500 tests per day.
- Four field hospitals established to ease congestion in treatment units.
- All land borders have been closed and public gatherings of over 100 people have been reduced to 50 people.
- Airports will remain open as government says it is easier to track people arriving through the airports.
- Schools, being crucial for child development, are exempt from the restrictions.
- 52,016 households have been supported with Lean Season Response Cash Distribution in three districts.



MALAWI SUMMARY

- 22,304 cases; 13,918 active
- 134 lost to follow-up
- 76 under investigation
- 7,249 recovered; 628 deaths
- 137,588 tests done

GLOBAL SUMMARY

- 100,200,107 cases
- 2,158,761 confirmed deaths
- * 72,864,949 recovered
- Cases in 223 countries and places

REGIONAL SUMMARY (Africa)

- 2,523,045 cases
- 59,463 confirmed deaths
- 2,116,902 recovered
- All 54 countries affected

EMERGENCY APPEAL FINANCIAL TRACKING OVERVIEW (financial tracking tool)

Funding Required (US\$) Reported Funding (US\$) % Funded No. of Donors No. of Operational Partners 212M 103.5M 48 30 49

COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



- The INGO consortium has conducted health, WASH and DRR rapid needs assessments and interventions in connection to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation measures.
- A <u>calendar of meetings</u>, information <u>repository</u>, <u>5W</u> interactive dashboard and a <u>financial tracking tool</u> are available to support coordination of the COVID-19 response.



INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

No updates available



HEALTH

Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) & WHO Support from UNICEF & Malawi Red Cross Society

- A National Vaccine Deployment Plan is now in place with legal consultation on liabilities for COVID vaccination cleared by the Office of the Attorney General. The vaccine deployment plan is well under way with support from WHO, UNICEF and partners.
- Four field hospitals were established by the government to ease the congestion currently being experienced in treatments at Central hospitals and provide adequate space which help improve quality of care to COVID-19 patients.

4 field hospitals established

Gaps and Needs

There is need to promote innovative sensitisation for people to include COVID-19 preventive measures as day-to-day behaviours.



TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

Coordinated by: Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) & WFP. Support from UNICEF

- About 100 tanks of oxygen and 100 flowmeters have been procured by the government.
- Eight Mobile Storage Units were provided as treatment units at Blantyre Youth Centre and Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre by WFP to support the Ministry of Health.
- Further, WFP has also provided five Mobile Storage Units to support: the Ministry of Education at Lilongwe Girls Secondary School in Lilongwe and UNHCR at Dzaleka Camp in Dowa to be used as isolation and treatment units.
- The Community Health Science Unit-CHSU was supported with the relocation of an 8m x 6.5m tent by WFP which is being used as a testing lab.

Gaps and Needs

Only 8% of Logistics Cluster activities are funded with a gap of approximately \$1.05m for critical response interventions (storage and transport capacity, coordination and information sharing, and stock reporting). Without immediate support, WFP will not be able to continue supporting the national COVID-19 response.



WASH

No updates available.



PROTECTION

Coordinated by:
Ministry of Gender,
Community Development
and Social Welfare, UNICEF &
UN Women

Support includes Oxfam

The assessment and verification exercise of the COVID-19 Urban Cash Interventions (CUCI) targeting slum areas in the country's four main cities was supported with a sum of MK30 million by ILO's social protection project. The estimates were that in these four cities close to 187, 718 households would need a monthly cash transfer of MK35,000 per month for four to six months for them to cope up with the economic effects of COVID-19.

Needs and Gaps

 Some districts are yet to be oriented on Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) due to delayed funding.



FOOD SECURITY

Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) & WFP

52,016 households reached with Lean season cash distribution

- Cash distributions under the rural lean season response by WFP were completed in Nsanje, Zomba and Machinga for the December Cycle reaching about 52,016 households (234,072 people). Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, WFP will be doing double distributions to cover the months of January and February and the next round is planned to start in the first week of February.
- About 12,236 households (55,062 beneficiaries) have received food support (1,223.6 mt) through the Government's in-kind lean season response. WFP is providing logistics support and technical assistance to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for the in-kind operation. Concurrently, double distributions for the in-kind response rolled out on 25th January in Blantyre to cover the months of January and February.
- 1,096 households (4,932 beneficiaries) have received cash support under the Boma COVID-19 Response during the reporting week in three districts supported by WFP. The next cycle of distributions for the Boma response in five districts is planned to start next week.
- The 18th Minimum Expenditure Bulletin (MEB) for Malawi by WFP, covering the period of 14th to 18th December 2020, was <u>published</u> on 25th January 2021. Key findings include:
 - The total value of the SMEBs for the urban areas and Rural South increased slightly, while that of the Rural North and Rural Central decreased slightly.
 - o The current national maize price average is MK 190/kg, lower than the last reporting period despite nearing the peak of the lean season.

Overall, the total SMEB remained relatively stable throughout 2020 with no major fluctuations.

Coordinated by: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST); Save the Children and UNICEF Support includes WFP & PACHI	 On 17th January 2021 President Chakwera announced that all schools would close for a period of at least 3 weeks with immediate effect. Secondary school boarders have been instructed to remain at their schools. UNESCO 03 has started working with the Ministry of Education and the Malawi Institute of Distance Education to add Life Skills Education to the radio distance education for standards 6-8. This will increase the coverage of comprehensive sexuality education during school closures and beyond and respond to the crisis of teenage pregnancies and child marriages. The development of the radio programs will start in February. Three videos were translated into Chichewa, Yao and Tumbuka targeting youth in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. The videos were made by UNESCO's regional office and are about home learning, dealing with stress and anxiety, and feeling safe after the school closures/lockdown is over. MBC will broadcast the videos on TV starting approx. in February.
AGRICULTURE	No updates available.
NUTRITION	No updates available.
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Note: The frequency of this SitRep (weekly) will be reviewed regularly.