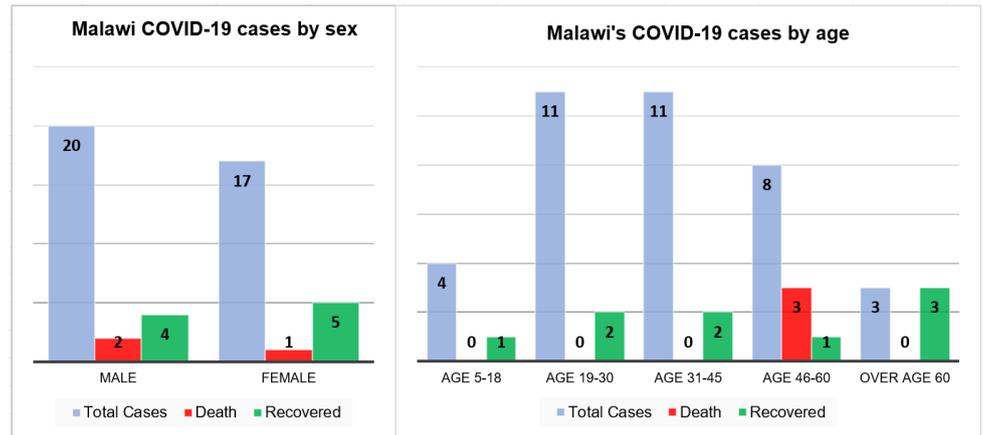


1. MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Malawi in a declared State of Disaster
- ❖ Prevention and response measures are being implemented
- ❖ Court has sustained the injunction against 21-day lockdown
- ❖ Government, UN, NGO and Partner coordination structures in place
- ❖ [COVID 19 National Information Dashboard](#) set up by Ministry of Health



MALAWI SUMMARY

- ❖ 37 cases (25 active)
- ❖ 3 confirmed deaths
- ❖ 9 recovered
- ❖ 831 tests done
- ❖ 848 suspected

GLOBAL SUMMARY

- ❖ 3 145 407 cases
- ❖ 221 823 confirmed deaths
- ❖ Cases in 214 countries and places
- ❖ Over 1 million recovered

REGIONAL SUMMARY (Africa)

- ❖ 25 704 cases in 46 countries
- ❖ 969 confirmed deaths
- ❖ 9 155 recovered

2. COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

2.1 COORDINATION

- ❖ On 28 April, the President restructured the former Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 into a **Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19** co-chaired by a Minister and a Public Health Professor, reporting directly to the President. It was announced that the Taskforce will include professionals from public and private sectors, professors and doctors from the University of Malawi, the Christian Health Association, the leader of the Opposition, the Chairperson of the Public Affairs Committee, a senior chief and CSOs.
- ❖ A **UN Task Force on COVID-19** is directing the UN response, with WHO as the technical lead and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) ensuring coordination and coherence.
- ❖ The Humanitarian Country Team is about to launch an **Emergency Appeal** to seek **US\$139 million** for 25 UN agencies and NGOs to support the Government's urgent preparedness and response efforts from May to October 2020, targeting over **6 million** people.
 - In addition to strengthening the public health response to COVID-19, the appeal also focuses on continuing life-saving primary health care, including sexual and reproductive health services and access to medical services for GBV survivors; education; food security and livelihoods support; nutrition services; WASH and support to social protection, safety net programmes. [add link]
- ❖ A calendar of meetings, group mailing lists, a repository to store and share information and a 5W interactive dashboard providing information on all actors responding to the COVID-19 response is available and supported by the RCO.

<p>2.2 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SUB-CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Information (Mol)</p> <p>Supported by: UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, UNESCO, UN Women, FAO, UNHCR</p>	<p>Production of communication materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministries of Agriculture and Health printed and distributed 15,000 WASH awareness-raising and behavior change communication materials this week in Chikwawa, Balaka, Phalombe, Mangochi, Chitipa, Karonga, Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Nkhatakota, Salima, Kasungu, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Mulanje, Neno, Zomba and Blantyre, supported by FAO and the European Union; ❖ Gender-based violence service provision points in the districts of Nsanje, Machinga, Dowa, Ntchisi, Mzimba and Nkhata Bay received information materials in English and Chichewa, supported by the Spotlight Initiative. <p>Radio and television messaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Over 8 million people received messages on COVID-19 prevention through radio stations and mass media this week. ❖ A COVID-19 awareness raising song 'Tingathe' (we can) produced by Malawian reggae artist Sangie, has been widely played on television and radio stations this week, supported by UNICEF. ❖ A ten-episode radio series integrating health messages on COVID-19 and reminding communities to continue routine health services such as immunization, integrated community case management and anti-natal clinic is under production and will air next week. ❖ Radio jingles aimed at raising awareness on preventing violence against women and girls are currently airing on seven community radio stations in Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Machinga, Nsanje, Dowa, and Ntchisi, supported by the Spotlight Initiative. <p>Local community messaging</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Community based organisations in Dzaleka Refugee Camp spoke on Yetu Community Radio highlighting the importance of reporting cases to the new community-based referral mechanisms and to adhere to the preventive measures stipulated by the Ministry of Health, supported by UNHCR.
<p>2.3 HEALTH CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO</p> <p>Supported by: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UN Women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Government has increased the number of testing facilities to five in all regions of the country, aiming to open 15 testing centres in the next one month; ❖ Isolation and treatment centres have now been opened in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu to facilitate treating patients with mild symptoms in these centres rather than in their homes, supported by Malawi Red Cross Society and UNICEF; ❖ Following an intense recruitment programme, the Government expects 2000 new healthcare workers to report for duties next week; mostly nurses and clinical officers. An additional 1,500 health surveillance assistants are under recruitment to intensify hygiene in communities; ❖ Emergency Treatment Units at Kamuzu Central Hospital and Dedza District Hospital are being refurbished and equipped with supplies, with the support of the Malawi Red Cross Society. ❖ 390 port health and immigration officials including border police from 9 districts of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Ntcheu, Dedza, Mchinji, Karonga, Chitipa, Mwanza and Mchinji were trained to strengthen port of entry surveillance, supported by UNICEF, Malawi Red Cross Society and UK Aid; ❖ Health Workers, Malawi Red Cross District Rapid Response Teams and 1084 Red Cross volunteers were trained in preparedness, prevention and control, including in Chitipa, Karonga, Mzimba, Neno, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Dedza, Salima, Nkhatakota, Mangochi, Mwanza, Chikwawa, Zomba, Nsanje, Machinga, Blantyre, and Mulanje;
<p>2.4 TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) and WFP</p> <p>Supported by: WFP and UNICEF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A national procurement tracking tool for COVID-19 supplies and equipment is in use by Government and UN agencies to support an effective supply and distribution chain; ❖ The Ministry of Health is preparing to transport additional Personal Protective Equipment to the four central hospitals and several districts, and establish ten additional Mobile Storage Units for patient isolation in Blantyre, supported by the UN Logistics Sector. ❖ Approximately 30 organisations are benefitting from logistics maps, air transport schedules and supply chain intelligence reports to inform their operational planning and decision making, supplied UN Logistics Sector.

<p>2.5 WASH CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Irrigation & Water Development and UNICEF Supported by: WHO, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UN Women, Malawi Red Cross Society</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 19,000 people were reached through communal hygiene promotion activities at key locations such as marketplaces and bus stations, supported by the Malawi Red Cross Society; ❖ 135,000 people were reached with COVID-19 awareness campaigns through mobile vans in Mzuzu townships, Mchinji District Council and surrounding villages, supported by UNICEF. ❖ Four additional latrines were completed at Mwanza border post to make a cumulative total of 24 latrines in the four Emergency Treatment Units plus one set at the border in Mwanza.
<p>2.6 PROTECTION CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MGCDSW), UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNAIDS, IOM, ILO</p>	<p>Special Groups and Protection Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Steps to ensure continued adolescent sexual and reproductive health programmes in 13 districts and GBV support services in the four Spotlight Initiative districts through distribution of protective equipment and essential supplies, supported by UNFPA and the Spotlight Initiative. ❖ Technical support for continued child protection services including social welfare, policing and protection of vulnerable children such as street children, children in institutional care, and migrant/refugee children, conducted by UNICEF. ❖ The Commissioner for Refugees, Ministry of Homeland Security, visited Dzaleka refugee camp to review COVID-19 preparedness measures established by UNHCR and camp partners and signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the construction of shelters on Katubza project site with traditional leaders ❖ A two-month remote educational programme will be conducted by Jesuit Refugee Services in Dzaleka Refugee Camp through laptop computers, internet data bundles and Airtel MiFi devices given to 15 of the best performing and six teachers to support their online study during COVID-19 school closure. ❖ Community Centres and Youth Friendly Spaces in Dzaleka Refugee Camp were provided with handwashing facilities, hand wash and chlorine as a disinfectant for cleaning purposes by Plan International Malawi, supported by UNHCR. <p>Social Protection (WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, ILO, FAO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The first round of house data collection to calculate the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), which looks at the availability and prices of food and non-food commodities, was completed by WFP on Thursday, 23 April. The information will be compiled and disseminated this week to inform decision around the COVID-19 response; ❖ On 28 April 2020, the President announced a six-month Emergency Cash Transfer Program, supported by the UN, for 172,000 households in urban and peri-urban areas estimated to reach 35% of the urban population; Link <p>Employment and Labour Force Protection (ILO, UNDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ On 27th April the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Innovation launched New COVID-19 Workplace Guidelines, developed in consultation with Employers Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM), Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU) and the ILO. Amongst others, the guidelines require hand-washing facilities, office cleaning, shift working, physical distancing, teleworking, sick leave, phone and virtual meetings, provision of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at no cost to employees.
<p>2.7 FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) and WFP Supported by: UNICEF, WFP, FAO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Data collection to map actions taken by municipalities and local governments will identify key challenges and to provide practical responses and recommendations to four city councils (Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba) on how to maintain the functionality of food systems functional, conducted by FAO

<p>2.8 EDUCATION CLUSTER</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Education, Science & Education and UNICEF</p> <p>Supported by: WFP, UNICEF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Ministry of Education is working with UN agencies to organize to distribute food rations of all current stocks already available in schools to learners that have stopped receiving their daily meal due to school closures. ❖ The Ministry of Education and Continuity of learning Task Force developed a draft roadmap for continued learning and Emergency Radio Education Programmes for primary school learners (Standard 1 - 8) beginning early May, for three subjects (English, Chichewa and Mathematics) for all grades plus science for Standard 4-8, supported by UNICEF. ❖ The Ministry of Education launched online learning for secondary school students, Form 1-4, allowing secondary school learners to access lessons through the Ministry's website (https://www.education.gov.mw/). A Memorandum of Understandings signed between the Ministry of Education and telecommunication companies (both Airtel and TNM) allow learners to connect to the website at no data cost. In his official statement, the Minister of Education recognised support from the private sector and other development partners, including UNICEF.
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