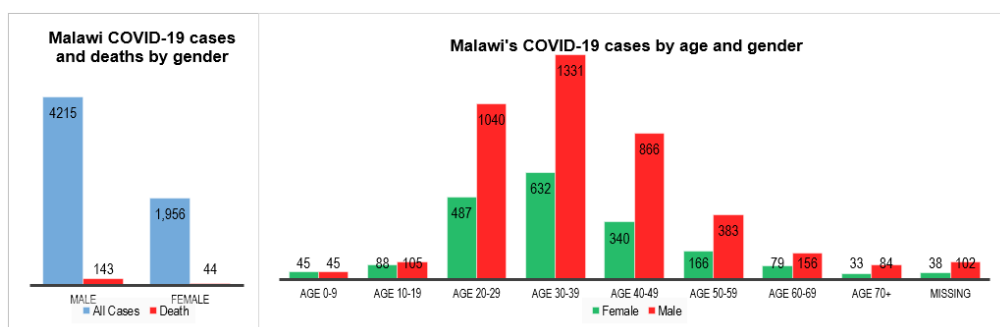


MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ COVID-19 active cases have risen from 40 to 210 in last two weeks, largely imported.
- ❖ All land borders have been closed and public gatherings of over 100 people have been banned for the next 14 days to control Covid-19 spread.
- ❖ Airports will remain open as govt says it is easier to track people arriving through the airports.
- ❖ Schools, being crucial for child development, are exempted from the restrictions.
- ❖ There are fears that Malawi could be hit by a new strain of the novel coronavirus.
- ❖ Lean Season Response cash distributions started in Zomba
- ❖ 2,310,892 people reached with COVID-19 messages
- ❖ Chileka Airport screening area has been finalized
- ❖ Distributions of the take-home support for school meals for the remainder of 2020 to be completed by this week



MALAWI SUMMARY

- ❖ 6,248 cases
- ❖ 210 active, 107 lost to follow-up
- ❖ 76 under investigation
- ❖ 5,668 recovered
- ❖ 187 deaths
- ❖ 82,849 tests done

GLOBAL SUMMARY

- ❖ 78,042,453 cases
- ❖ 1,717,579 confirmed deaths
- ❖ 44,024,832 recovered
- ❖ Cases in 216 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 \$	Reported Funding \$	% Funded	No of Donors	No of Operational Partners
212M	103.5M	48	30	49

COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

 <p>COORDINATION</p> <p>Coordinated by: DoDMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 met and held a press briefing on 22nd December to announce some of its decisions to address COVID-19 in Malawi. ❖ The INGO consortium has conducted health, WASH and DRR rapid needs assessments interventions in connection to COVID-19 preparedness and mitigation measures. ❖ A calendar of meetings; information repository; 5W interactive dashboard; financial tracking tool are available to support coordination of the COVID-19 response.
 <p>INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Information (MoI) Support from UNICEF, United Purpose, Oxfam & DCT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ About 2,310,892 people were reached with COVID-19 messages through local communication channels like radio programs, jungles and van publicities supported by MRCS. ❖ About 97821 persons were reached with RCCE activities in 16 districts supported by USAID ONSE. ❖ Over 80 journalists participated in meetings for central and southern region media houses aimed at reinforcing understanding of COVID-19 communication approaches and mobilising the media representatives to increase COVID-19 risk perception as prevention of a possible second wave – supported by UNICEF and funded by UKAid.

- ❖ A four-panel discussion on Times TV was conducted by Com and HES focusing on **maintaining the COVID-19 preventive measures** during the possible second wave, festive season and tales of COVID-19 survivors.
- ❖ Finalised development of a TV soap that **integrates COVID-19 messages and maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health** supported by UNICEF

Gaps and Needs

- ❖ Laxity in adherence to COVID 19 prevention measures



HEALTH

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

24,109 travellers screened

- ❖ **On 22nd December, the Presidential Taskforce on Covid-19 announced the closure of all borders for 14 days.** The borders would only be opened for essential services, deported Malawians and those who went out for business.
- ❖ **COVID-19 cases (active) have risen from 40 to 210 in less than two weeks.**
- ❖ The Task Force has also said that **public gatherings would be allowed for a maximum number of 100 people**, including at football matches and crossover events scheduled for December 31.
- ❖ **Schools have been exempted from the restrictions** as they are described as learning facilities which are crucial for child development.
- ❖ **The Taskforce has expressed fear that Malawi could be hit by a new strain of the novel coronavirus.**
- ❖ **Contact tracing for 15 persons and testing for 186 people** where 12 cases were identified in 6 districts was supported by USAID ONSE
- ❖ **About 20 health facility staff** were trained in the **management of patients with severe acute respiratory infection (SARI)** when a COVID-19 virus infection is suspected or confirmed supported by Save the Children
- ❖ **A total of 24,109 people were screened** at Ntcheu District Hospital entrance supported by GIZ and UNICEF.
- ❖ COVID-19 quarantine management solution (mQuarantine) continues to be available to the public and offers a platform for the Ministry of Health to interact with those in self-isolation and quarantine, and track in real-time their conditions, while adhering to infection prevention and control measures. To date, 7,533 community members have used the mQuarantine application and have received COVID-19 prevention information, with support from The UNICEF.
- ❖ **COVID-19 data modelling platform** developed by Cooper/Smith with support from UNICEF is providing real-time predictive analytics for national and district level projections and guides decision-makers at the MoH in the coordination efforts for COVID-19 response.
- ❖ **Transportation and installation of an oxygen plant at Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH)** in the Capital City, Lilongwe by government was supported by UNICEF with funding from Commonwealth and Development office (FCDO)
- ❖ Government with support from UNICEF and other partners, using the Scaling Pneumonia Response Innovations (SPRINT) model, has **developed a distribution mechanism for cylinder oxygen to optimize the capacity of this plant for the benefit of health care facilities** in the district and in surrounding districts.
- ❖ **Over 7,500 travellers were screened** at Kamuzu and Chileka International Airports as well as border points of Songwe in Karonga, Dedza, Mwanza and Chitipa.

Gaps and Needs

- ❖ There is low funding to support health promotion activities including screening at point of entry due to decreased registered cases of COVID-19.



TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

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

- ❖ **Chileka Airport screening area was finalized** with the completion of the external paving work and the procurement of several Non-Food Items.
- ❖ WFP is working with the Government to **improve the screening area at KIA Airport** by extending the big Mobile Storage Unit (MSU) and paving the remaining floor space to accommodate more passengers inside
- ❖ **The update of the Malawi Logistics Capacity Assessment page** in undergoing, with new information on storage, airport and customs, road and waterways network, among others.
- ❖ **1500 heavy duty boots as PPE for frontline health workers was procured** and will be distributed in various districts country wide, supported by UNICEF.
- ❖ UNICEF continues to coordinate the **distribution of various COVID-19 supplies** for the MoH from UNICEF, WFP and CMST warehouses. Distribution to the various district health offices and facilities is currently underway and may be finalized this week.

Gaps and Needs

 <p>WASH</p> <p>Coordinated by Ministry responsible for Irrigation and Water Development & UNICEF</p> <p>116,424 people reached with WASH supplies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 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. ❖ Over 116,424 people were reached with hand washing and sensitization in over 140 strategic points (big shops, mobile markets, churches, hospitals, fish markets Take Home Ration Distribution Points) in 16 districts supported by Red Cross Movement partners SWISS PML, UNICEF and GIZ. ❖ Detailed WASH needs and gap assessment and KAP survey was conducted to set benchmarks and understand WASH situation prior to implementation at health facility and community level supported by Save the Children and partners through the ECHO funded COVID-19 Health Project ❖ Distribution of assorted WASH materials including PPEs to support Agriculture Extension Staff in 9 Extension Planning Areas plus the office of Director of Agriculture and Extension services within Zomba district supported by Save the Children <p>Needs and Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Most WASH and IPCs supplies are consumables hence the need to allocate more funding to enable implementers reach more people
 <p>PROTECTION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, UNICEF & UN Women Support includes Oxfam</p> <p>2,310,892 people reached with messages on protection, Gender and Inclusion</p> <p>1,536 returnees were supported with PPEs and WASH amenities, nutritious</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Distribution of assorted children playing items (bristle papers, crayons, pencils, flip charts, masking tapes, footballs, netballs, glue, cutting scissors, number charts, alphabet charts. Buckets, basins, u-fresh, toilet tissues) to 40 Children Corners in 3 districts supported by Save the Children. ❖ About 1,536 returnees were supported with PPEs and WASH amenities, nutritious food for children and Psychological First Aid Mental Health and psychosocial support. Cumulatively 6494 returnees were reached with support from Save the Children. ❖ About 2,310,892 people were reached with messages on protection, Gender and Inclusion through door-to-door campaigns and strategic hand washing facilities in 12 districts supported by Red Cross Movement partners, WFP, UNICEF and GIZ ❖ Around 23,500 people in 7 districts were reached with community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) by District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs) supported by UNICEF ❖ More than 1,600 children without parental or family care, including children in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and children reintegrated from CCIs to their families, were provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements and support by DSWO, YONECO, and Nkhoma Synod. Similarly, around 850 children living or working on the street in 4 districts provided with Psychosocial Support (PSS) and necessary material support since the beginning of the response. ❖ About 500 people were reached with messages on ending child marriage through sensitization meetings done in Blantyre. In the reporting period, more than 30 child marriages were dissolved, 20 girls were withdrawn from child marriage and 22 girls who got pregnant were readmitted to schools in Blantyre district. Furthermore, UNICEF has partnered with Save the Children to promote a safe reintegration of vulnerable children from childcare institutions to homes during COVID-19 in 2 districts. <p>Needs and Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Some districts are yet to be oriented on Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) due to delayed funding.
 <p>FOOD SECURITY</p> <p>Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) & WFP</p> <p>Lean season response cash distribution started this week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) IPC Update, which took place throughout the month of November 2020, is being finalized and slated to be published prior to the Christmas season. Although not yet official, there are not likely to be significant shifts in the numbers. ❖ Lean Season Response cash distributions started in Zomba during the week and are planned to start in Machinga and Nsanje by the end of this week. ❖ WFP Household Food Security Survey Round 6 (13th Oct – 11th Nov 2020) was published with the following highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food insecurity at household level is starting to increase, as observed by a decrease in the proportion of households having acceptable food consumption in Round 6 compared to the previous five rounds. The proportion of households employing the most severe consumption-based

	<p>coping strategies and emergency livelihood coping strategies is higher compared to previous rounds, indicating that households are applying adverse coping strategies in order to maintain good food consumption and thus implying the start of the lean season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical access to markets has decreased in the current Round 6 compared to the previous rounds (Rounds 1-5), owing to economic problems faced by households to access money to procure items from the markets. Urban-based households reported having greater physical access to markets as compared to rural-based households, likely due to their high market dependency and better income opportunities.
<p> EDUCATION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST); Save the Children and UNICEF Support includes WFP & PACHI</p> <p>3,500 Braille materials distributed in learning centres</p> <p>22% of primary students have not returned to school after reopening</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distributions of the take-home support for school meals for the remainder of 2020 are planned to be completed by next week. The adaptation of the school meals programme to take-home rations is in line with Ministry of Education's guidance to partners implementing school feeding programme. Distribution of hand washing materials in 2 districts which included: 250 buckets of 35 litres, 250 cartons of soap and 250 bottles of sanitizer of 100mls supported by Save the Children's Apasteni Mwayi Atsikana Aphunzire (AMAA). A total of 232 FTRMs and 232 Mother Group members from 232 schools participated Female Teacher Role Model (FTRM) and Mother Group review meetings conducted by AMAA which aimed at identifying and following up all learners that have not returned to school. The Sustaining Children Rights through Education and Protection (SCREP) programme conducted a national level meeting with Directors for Basic Education, Gender and Social Welfare Officers; District Education Managers, District Health Officers, District Planning Directors from the targeted districts 4 districts where they discussed COVID 19 related activities to be given permission of implementation vis-à-vis the ban of teaching extra-curricular activities in school to facilitate compressed curriculum teaching. Supporting the Ministry of Education (MoE) in undertaking a survey across the country to capture the status of children's return to school, teacher preparedness, school's hygiene standard, and provision of remedial and accelerated learning programmes as per the school reopening guidelines. In the first and second weeks of December, data have been collected from 337 sample schools in 15 districts and is currently being analysed by MoE. In addition, UNICEF has partnered with Malawi Red Cross Society (MRC) to conduct third party monitoring of the status of school reopening in the country.
<p> AGRICULTURE</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) & FAO</p> <p>69 lead farmers were trained in various soil management practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 500 households (2250 individuals) received high quality hybrid maize seed and fertilizer in Phalombe in order to support 2020/2021 rain fed farming supported by Save the Children About 69 lead farmers were trained in various soil management practices in order to yield. This support by Save the Children aims at providing cushion towards the marauding impact of COVID-19 on household economic capacity.
<p> NUTRITION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) & UNICEF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No updates available.</i>

CONTACTS:

Sitrep Coordinator
Head of RCO
UN Communications
WHO

bennet.phunyanya@one.un.org
bonnel@un.org
phillip.pemba@one.un.org
chingayipee@who.int

Note: The frequency of this SitRep continues to be reviewed.