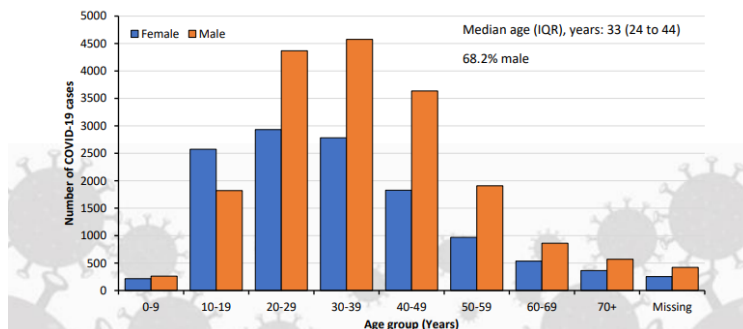


MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ 24,550 people vaccinated as of 21 March since launch of COVID-19 vaccinations on 11 March, targeting frontline workers and those most-at-risk.
- ❖ 822 new COVID-19 cases recorded in last two weeks (6-19 March) compared to 2,009 new cases in previous two weeks, showing 59% decrease.
- ❖ 8 in every 100 suspected cases tested positive in past two weeks (6-19 March).
- ❖ Learning in public schools resumed on 9 March after teachers' industrial action.
- ❖ Grievance and redress call-centre now operational, handling 67 enquiries so far.
- ❖ Over 40 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been installed during the response.



Source: PHIM

MALAWI SUMMARY

- ❖ 33,237 cases
- ❖ 3,371 active
- ❖ 28,636 recovered
- ❖ 1,096 deaths
- ❖ 212,845 tests done

GLOBAL SUMMARY

- ❖ 122,524,424 cases
- ❖ 2,703,620 confirmed deaths
- ❖ 68,067,771 recovered
- ❖ Cases in 223 territories




REGIONAL SUMMARY (Africa)




- ❖ 4,085,103 cases
- ❖ 109,444 confirmed deaths
- ❖ 3,668,066 recovered
- ❖ All 54 countries affected





EMERGENCY APPEAL FINANCIAL TRACKING OVERVIEW ([financial tracking tool](#)). This is based on an Appeal made in 2020.

Funding Required (US\$)	Reported Funding (US\$)	% Funded	No. of Donors	No. of Operational Partners
212M	110.8M	51	31	51

COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

 <p>COORDINATION</p> <p>Coordinated by: DoDMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A calendar of meetings, information repository, 5W interactive dashboard and a financial tracking tool are available to support coordination of the COVID-19 response.
 <p>INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Information (MoI)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Over 4 million people reached with COVID-19 messages using multiple channels, supported by Red Cross, WFP, ECHO, PMI SWISS and Save the Children. ❖ 283,352 people were reached with COVID-19 messages through door-to-door sensitisation in 13 districts supported by MRCS, WFP, ECHO and PMI SWISS. <p>Gaps and Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ There is need to increase use of radios to complement work of volunteers and other partners on the ground. Deliberately, intensify more use of airtime allocated.
 <p>HEALTH</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) & WHO</p> <p>890 health and other frontline workers vaccinated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ COVID-19 vaccinations launched in Malawi on 11 March and 24,550 people have been vaccinated as of 21 March. ❖ 890 health and other frontline workers were vaccinated as of 15 March. ❖ No adverse effects following immunization (AEFI) have been reported so far. ❖ 822 new COVID-19 cases recorded in last two weeks (6 to 19 March) compared to 2,009 new cases in previous two weeks (20 Feb to 5 Mar) – 59% decrease. ❖ 8 in every 100 suspected cases tested positive while 77 in every 100 confirmed cases recovered on average in the past two weeks (6-19 Mar), whereas 3 in every 100 confirmed cases have died since the beginning of the outbreak.

<p>10 oxygen concentrators handed to QECH in Blantyre</p> <p>400 health workers trained in management of COVID comorbidities and new prevention guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Despite a reduction in new cases over the past few weeks, the State of National Disaster declared on 12 January 2021 is still in place to prevent a third wave which can happen if preventive measures are not observed. ❖ 10 Oxygen concentrators were handed over to Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre through Medicines San Frontiers (MSF), supported by Save the Children. ❖ 160 health workers were trained in management of COVID-19 comorbidities to reduce COVID-19 related deaths, supported by Save the Children. ❖ 240 health workers were also trained in new guidelines of COVID 19 Infection Prevention Control, supported by Save the Children. ❖ The grievance and redress call-centre is now operational and has since recorded over 67 enquiries. The call-centre is under the COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention (CUCI), which was established with UNICEF support. The 67 enquiries came from both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries, asking about CUCI payments. The CUCI intervention was launched recently and is being implemented in Malawi's four main cities (Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba) with 63,624 beneficiaries so far receiving the transfers out of planned 199,413. <p>Gaps and Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ With the roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, an extensive risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) campaign is needed to promote vaccinations. ❖ Field workers and volunteers require support on messaging for the vaccines to help disseminate correct information in communities, including MRCS network.
<p> TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) & WFP.</p> <p>40 Mobile Storage Units installed since the onset of COVID-19 response.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Over 40 Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) have been deployed by WFP to facilitate COVID-19 screening and isolation since the start of the response. ❖ Procurement of ventilation mechanisms for MSUs to be erected at Mzuzu Central Hospital is underway. ❖ Assembly of container labs for COVID-19 screening at points of entry has started with support from WFP. ❖ 116,123 units of COVID-19 PPEs and related items were distributed in five targeted districts, supported by MRCS through ECHO project. The items included soap, sanitisers, sanitiser sprayers, basins, buckets, water tanks and water tank stands. <p>Needs and Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ With the opening of schools, there is need to replenish non-food items to meet growing demands in the districts. ❖ Only 10% of Logistics Cluster activities are funded with a gap of about \$1.6 million for critical response interventions. Without immediate support, WFP will not be able to continue supporting the national COVID-19 response.
<p> PROTECTION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, UNICEF & UN Women</p> <p>54 child-care centres assessed on reintegration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 2,454,089 people were reached protection, gender and inclusion messages to address GBV, stigma, discrimination and COVID-19 vaccine misconception issues, supported by Red Cross, WFP, UNICEF, ECHO and PMI SWISS ❖ Rapid assessment of 54 child-care institutions in two districts to check adherence of reintegration during COVID-19 was supported by Save the Children. ❖ 1,619 people (415 children and 1,204 adults) in 4 districts received community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support through District Social Welfare Officers, supported by UNICEF. <p>Needs and Gaps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Protection, gender and inclusion issues are being neglected, hence the need for more attention on this to leave no one behind.
<p> FOOD SECURITY</p> <p>Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) & WFP</p> <p>2.6 million people facing acute food insecurity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ About 2.6 million people are currently facing high levels of acute food insecurity during this lean season. Those affected include rural households with low crop production and urban households that have lost income due to COVID-19 effects. Malawi Government, WFP and development partners are collaborating to provide assistance. ❖ 978 households in five districts were reached with cash transfers amounting to MK49,724,000 (\$64,160) using crisis modifier fund following stormy rains, strong winds and flooding. This is supported by ECHO, UNICEF and government. <p>Gaps and Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Crops for most households are not ready for harvesting yet, thus a lot of people lack food in their homes. Again, some districts in the southern region experienced persistent dry spells rendering most families' food insecure. ❖ Increased number of disasters entails that there is need for more prepositioned cash and in-kind resources to reach out to the affected communities.

 <p>EDUCATION</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST); Save the Children and UNICEF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Learning in public schools resumed on 9 March after an MoU between the Ministry of Education and Teachers Union of Malawi was signed to end an industrial action over risk allowance demands by teachers. ❖ The industrial action started on 22 February; the day schools were supposed to reopen after five weeks of school closure due to a surge in COVID-19 cases in the country since early January 2021. ❖ 17 key resource persons in 6 districts were trained in school health promotion to help equip teachers and learners, and ensure COVID-19 response is part of the overall school health actions. This was supported by UNICEF.
 <p>AGRICULTURE</p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) & FAO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 20th Bulletin of Emergency Agriculture and Food Security Surveillance System (EmA-FSS) (16–28 Feb) was released by Ministry of Agriculture with technical support from FAO. The system captures real time information from 18 districts on the status of food availability/ security, performance of agricultural produce markets, prevalence of animal diseases and access to veterinary services, as well as crop production. ❖ Key highlights from the bulletin are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of households relying on food purchases as main source of food increased by 2.3% from 72.2% to 74% in the second half of February. • The southern region continues to record the highest proportion of households relying on food purchases and slightly dropped by 1.3% from 83.7% in the first half of February to 82.3%. • Nearly 14.2% of households with livestock reported suspected livestock diseases down from 16.9% in the first half of Feb, representing a 2.7% drop. • Nearly 2% of the households were involved in fishing related livelihood activities, dropping by 0.6% from 2.6% in the first half of February. • The average price of maize per kg dropped by 4.7% from MK181.94/kg in first half of February to MK173.44/kg.
 <p>WASH</p> <p>Coordinated by Ministry responsible for Irrigation and Water Development & UNICEF</p> <p>236,630 people were reached with hand washing messages and services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ WASH supplies and PPEs (masks) meant for schools were procured and handed to district health offices, supported by Save the Children. ❖ 236,630 people in 15 districts were reached with hand washing messages and services at 71 strategic points, including big shops, mobile markets, churches, hospitals, markets, schools, community gatherings and cash distribution points. This is supported by Red Cross and SWISS Phillip Morris. ❖ 1,754 assorted WASH supplies were distributed to flood affected people in Karonga through Malawi Red Cross, supported by UNICEF. They include buckets, tarpaulin sheets, chlorine bleaching powder, soap, sanitary pads and others. <p>Needs and Gaps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ There is need to allocate more resources towards WASH activities in primary schools to accommodate the high demand for hand washing. This is due to new measure of learning in shifts in the targeted schools.
 <p>NUTRITION</p>	<p>No Updates available.</p>

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Note: The frequency of this SitRep is reviewed regularly.