

UNITED NATIONS MALAWI

## **COVID-19 Update**

Situation Update No. 44 at 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1 million vaccine doses administered.
- 75% of population reached with vaccine messages.
- Outreach clinics increasing COVID-19 vaccine uptake.
- 1,249,440 COVID-19 vaccine doses received via COVAX facility.
- Additional 326,400 AstraZeneca vaccine doses arriving on Sept 25.
- Less than 500 of 25,000 targeted refugees (1.84%) have been fully vaccinated.
- 1,200 oxygen cylinders dispatched to 15 districts to improve case management.
- 93% of 3,029 children were admitted with severe acute malnutrition recovered.
- Resumption of in-school school meals cleared by Ministry of Education.



## **MALAWI SUMMARY**

- 61,475 cases; 4,905 active cases
- **54,066** recovered, **2,272** deaths
- 405,182 tests conducted
- 486,133 fully vaccinated
- 286,443 more got first dose

Source: Malawi Ministry of Health

EMERGENCY APPEAL FINANCIAL TRACKING OVERVIEW (financial tracking tool).

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Source: WHO

**REGIONAL SUMMARY (Africa)** 

7.511.573 recovered

8.187.023 cases

206.895 deaths

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Funding Required (US\$)	Reported Funding (US\$)	% Funded	No. of Donors	No. of Operational Partners
421M	111.8M	26.6	33	52

**GLOBAL SUMMARY** 

230.418.451 cases

4.724.876 deaths

6.06 billion vaccines given

NB: Above figures are based on the Government of Malawi's recently published <u>National Covid-19 Preparedness</u> and <u>Response Strategy and Plan</u> (July 2021 – June 2022).

## **COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

COORDINATION Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)	<ul> <li>The revised <u>National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategy and Plan</u> covering the period July 2021 – June 2022 is being implemented and coordinated.</li> <li>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 COVID-19 response.</li> <li>Activated clusters meet to coordinate response activities and share updates.</li> <li>Information relating to COVID-19 resource mobilization, allocation, programmatic implementation (RM and 5Ws) is being updated regularly.</li> <li>The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 meets weekly, and recently revised preventive measures from <u>Level 3 to Level 2</u>, specifying measures for public gatherings, workplaces, hospitality and recreational businesses, educational institutions, and travel and transportation, in addition to general ones, as of Sept 11</li> <li>All travellers are expected to produce a valid negative PCR-based test certificate.</li> <li>Entry into Malawi is not restricted, except for those from high risk countries.</li> <li>UN Country Team revised its Contingency Plan from Phase 1 to Phase 2, reintegrating up to 50% of normal staff capacity in offices plus strict measures.</li> </ul>
	SITUATION
Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) & WHO	<ul> <li>COVID-19 infections have been declining in the past weeks, marking the end of the third wave. New daily cases have constantly fallen below 100 since Sept 1, with 18 new cases registered on Sept 22 compared to 952 new cases recorded on July 22.</li> <li>So far, 981 cases have been recorded in Sept compared to 8,147 cases in August.</li> </ul>

	RESPONSE
Supported by: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS & UN Women	<ul> <li>Over 1 million vaccine doses have been administered in Malawi. 522,160 and 243,735 people have received the first and second doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, respectively, while 236,503 people have received a full dose of Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccine, bringing the total number of fully vaccinated people to 480.238.</li> <li>Malawi received 119 040, 115 200 and 160,800 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from the UK, French and Swedish governments on 14th, 20th and 28th August, respectively, through the COVAX facility, bringing the total number of COVID-19 vaccine doses so far received through the facility to 1,249,440.</li> <li>Delivery of 225,600 and 100,800 AstraZeneca vaccine doses from German and French governments, respectively, is expected on Sept 25 under COVAX.</li> <li>Adequate stocks of COVID-19 vaccines available in all vaccination sites.</li> <li>More vaccines expected to arrive in Malawi in the coming days via COVAX.</li> <li>With overall funding of about \$4 million from Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund, under auspices of Canada, 8 UN agencies are supporting the response in (i) effective roll-out of the National Deployment Vaccination Plan; (ii) continuity of education; (iii) Protection (GBV, Child Marriage, Maternal Health).</li> <li>9 INGOs are supporting national and district health authorities to implement the National COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Plan under an NGO Coalition funded by EU/ECHO. The project is supporting the rollout of COVID-19 national vaccination campaign and runs from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022 in seven high risk districts. The INGOs involved include Save the Children, GOAL, CARE, Trácaire, United Purpose, COOPI, CRS, Concern Worldwide and Oxfam.</li> <li>34 outreach clinics for vaccinations are increasing vaccine uptake – INGOs support.</li> <li>49 vaccination outreaches to boost vaccine uptake done in 4 districts - MRCS</li> <li>COVID-19 vaccine demand creation has been intensified to increase vaccine uptake and prevent some vaccines from expir</li></ul>
INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Coordinated by: Ministry of Information (Mol)	<ul> <li>75% of population aged 10 years and above reached with vaccine messages through radio and TV – supported by UNICEF and partners.</li> <li>MoH reviewing RCCE strategy &amp; messages to boost vaccinations – UNICEF support.</li> <li>Community engagement using social accountability forums in six districts is being supported by UNICEF and Save the Children with funding from USAID.</li> <li>307 community leaders engaged to address vaccine mistrust – MRCS support</li> <li>Concluded mobile survey on perception, knowledge, attitudes, and accessibility of COVID-19 vaccines, targeting Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs). With 1,002 responses, some key results include: high confidence of HSAs in the vaccine with 83.9% of them already vaccinated. The results will help reframe communication materials, as demand generation work continues - UNICEF and VIAMO support.</li> <li>Over 11,000 people reached with mass media and community mobilization interventions for COVID-19 prevention and vaccine uptake in 10 districts, supported by UNICEF through PACHI, Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and Youth Wave.</li> </ul>
EDUCATION Coordinated by: Ministry of Education, Science & Technology; Save the Children & UNICEF	<ul> <li>995 auxiliary teachers hired to decongest schools and colleges – supported by UNICEF, Danish Red Cross, MRCS and IFRC.</li> <li>650 portable chalkboards provided for 26,000 primary learners in 302 schools – UNICEF support.</li> <li>The resumption of in-school school meals cleared by Ministry of Education and approved by the Presidential Taskforce on 9 September. District teams have started preparing for rollout of home-grown school feeding – WFP support.</li> </ul>
PROTECTION Coordinated by: Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, UNICEF, UN Women	<ul> <li>1.13 million people reached with back to school messages to keep girls and boys in school, end child marriage, prevent teen pregnancies and promote adolescent nutrition through radios – supported by UNICEF.</li> <li>Support provided to identify recipients for COVID-19 Urban Cash Intervention in 4 cities, enrolling over 199,000 households for MK35,000 monthly transfers for three months - supported by ILO, other UN agencies and partners.</li> <li>Less than 500 of 25,000 targeted refugees (1.84%) have been fully vaccinated.</li> <li>COVID-19 vaccine awareness is ongoing in the refugee camp – GOAL support.</li> </ul>
🗱 AGRICULTURE	<ul> <li>31st Bulletin of <u>Emergency Agriculture and Food Security Surveillance System</u> (EmA- FSS) released by Agriculture Ministry, supported by FAO and EU. The system</li> </ul>

Coordinated by: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) & FAO	documents real time information from 18 districts on the status of food availability/security, performance of the agricultural produce markets, prevalence of animal diseases and access to veterinary services, as well as crop production in time of COVID-19. Key highlights:
	<ul> <li>The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food at the household level was estimated at 25.2%, which is 21.0 percentage points lower than the 46.2% recorded same time last year.</li> <li>In households owning any type of livestock, the proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases was estimated at19.7%, which is slightly close to 19.8% recorded same time last year.</li> <li>The proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities was estimated at 2.4% up from 1.1% in the second half of July.</li> <li>The average price of maize per kg was MK138.98, which is 17.9% lower than the MK169.26 same time last year. However, the average maize price is higher than the MK130.23/kg in the second half of July.</li> <li>Average prices per kg for selected crops were MK710.04 up from MK658.94 for rice, MK805.98 up from MK684.79 for groundnuts, MK497.39 up from MK485.90 for lirish potatoes compared to same time last year.</li> </ul>
Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) & WFP	<ul> <li>The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis has been released. Current estimates show a total of 1.5 million people IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Of those, 84% are in rural areas.</li> <li>Preparations are now underway regarding response design in support of the Government through the Food Security Cluster co-led by Government and WFP.</li> <li>There is need to continue empowering communities to improve food security. An independent evaluation highlights how WFP activities in Malawi between 2015 to 2020 have helped communities to break the hunger cycle.</li> </ul>
TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS Coordinated by: Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) & WFP	<ul> <li>MoH supported with 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of storage space for medical PPEs, and deployment and installation of 6 small tents to Nkhata Bay District Hospital - WFP support.</li> <li>Urgently needed medical equipment for COVID-19 treatment, including oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, regulators and humidifiers were delivered to 25 hospitals across the country – WFP support.</li> <li>A second consignment of oxygen cylinders transported to 3 district hospitals by WFP.</li> <li>Eight tents were deployed and installed in health facilities across the country for COVID-19 screening, isolation and treatment - supported by WFP.</li> <li>15 tents for COVID-19 isolation or screening given to 7 DHOs – MRCS support.</li> </ul>
NUTRITION     Coordinated by: Ministry     of Health (MoH) & UNICEF	Information on commodity prices and availability from traders, and food security data from some 2,500 households across the country continues to be collected by WFP to understand how COVID-19 and its mitigation measures are impacting market access and food security. These analyses are shared with stakeholders through bi-weekly Minimum Expenditure Basket and monthly COVID-19 Household Food Security Monitoring bulletins.
	The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) has finalised the Household Survey and Market Assessment data collection and analysis with support from WFP. Preliminary findings from the MVAC Market Assessment report show that maize grain is likely to be always available in almost all markets during the lean season. However, this report will further be enriched by the Household Economy Approach to obtain additional food security indicators for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.
	<ul> <li>An approach where caregivers are provided with skills to assess the nutrition status of their own children using simple tools like MUAC tapes is being piloted with UNICEF support. During the reporting month, 118 out of 120 HSAs and 64 Care Group Promotors were trained on the approach in Mwanza.</li> <li>Treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) continued with UNICEF</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>support. A total of 3,029 children were admitted for treatment of SAM of which 93% recovered, 2.3% died, 3.4% defaulted while 1.2% did not respond to treatment and were referred for further investigations.</li> <li>About 70,500 households were reached through door-to-door visits conducted by care groups to disseminate nutrition messages on infant and young child feeding, maternal nutrition and hygiene and sanitation practices in 5 districts - WFP support.</li> </ul>
Coordinated by: Ministry responsible for Water and UNICEF	192 HSAs, staff and volunteers trained in contact tracing and provision of handwashing facilities in strategic places like markets including community awareness on hygiene promotion in 9 districts – supported by MRCS, IFRC, UNICEF, Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and Malawi Government.

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**Note:** The frequency of this SitRep is reviewed regularly.