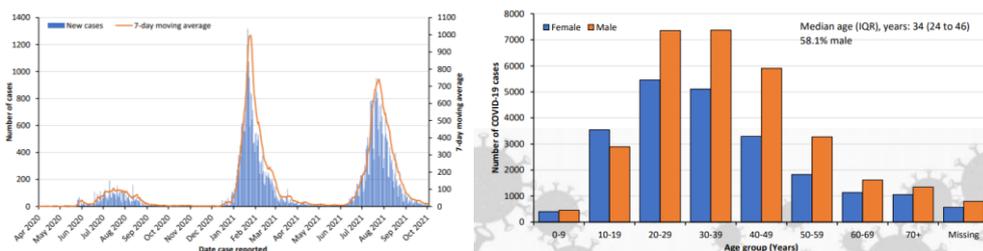




## MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ Over the past week, an average of 400 new cases per day registered
- ❖ Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023 launched
- ❖ More container labs being constructed at border entry points for health authorities
- ❖ 1,855,128 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered across Malawi.
- ❖ Currently, Malawi has about 700,000 and 400,000 doses of J&J and Pfizer vaccines
- ❖ 1.15 million people reached with social behaviour change messages on nutrition
- ❖ Vaccine Express campaign being conducted in all districts of Malawi
- ❖ Over 12,700 children and 420 parents reached with psychosocial support service



### MALAWI SUMMARY

- ❖ **81,890** cases; **15,066** active cases
- ❖ **64,147** recovered, **2,445** deaths
- ❖ **510,832** tests conducted
- ❖ **755,184** fully vaccinated
- ❖ **700,858** more got at least first dose

Source: Malawi Ministry of Health

### GLOBAL SUMMARY

- ❖ **315,345,967** cases
- ❖ **5,510,174** deaths
- ❖ **9,222,536,080** vaccine doses administered

### REGIONAL SUMMARY (Africa)

- ❖ **10,201,488** cases
- ❖ **232,770** deaths
- ❖ **9,089,637** recovered
- ❖ **91,575,657** tests done

Source: Africa CDC

## COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

### COORDINATION

Coordinated by:  
Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA)

- ❖ **Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan 2021-2023** launched. It seeks to revive Malawi's economy through various interventions costing over \$700 million.
- ❖ The revised **National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Strategy and Plan** covering the period July 2021 – June 2022 is being implemented and coordinated.
- ❖ A **calendar of meetings**, information **repository**, **5W** interactive dashboard and a financial tracking tool are available to support coordination of COVID-19 response.
- ❖ Activated clusters meet to coordinate response activities and share updates.
- ❖ Information relating to COVID-19 resource mobilization, allocation, programmatic implementation (RM and 5Ws) is updated regularly.
- ❖ **Malawi is on Level 2 of COVID-19 response since 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021.**
- ❖ **Malawi has tightened COVID-19 preventive measures.**

### HEALTH

Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) & WHO

#### SITUATION

- ❖ COVID variant Omicron has spread rapidly in Malawi in the past month, with new cases exceeding 1,200 being recorded in some days.
- ❖ Malawi has registered an average of 700 new COVID-19 cases per day in the first week of January 2022.
- ❖ With emergence of the new Omicron COVID-19 variant, MoH is intensifying surveillance and public adherence to preventive measures.

#### RESPONSE

- ❖ **MoH has increased COVID-19 antigen testing sites to 320 across the country to improve access to testing, on top of 15 molecular laboratories** which are performing real time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for COVID-19.
- ❖ **1,855,128 vaccine doses have been administered in Malawi.** 1,098,898 and 399,078 people have received the first and second doses of AstraZeneca vaccine, respectively, while 356,106 people have received a full dose of Johnson & Johnson

**1,847,917** million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered

<p><b>45</b> oxygen refills distributed to district hospitals</p> <p><b>100</b> health promotion officers were trained in proper COVID-19 Vaccine managing</p>	<p>vaccine, and 1,042 have received the first dose of Pfizer vaccine, bringing the total number of fully vaccinated people to 755,184.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Vaccination of teenagers aged 12-17 started on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan, using Pfizer vaccine.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>Over 350,000 people vaccinated since 5<sup>th</sup> November through COVID-19 Vaccination Express</b>, an innovative strategy that is taking immunization services close to people to improve vaccine access and utilization, supported by UNICEF.</li> <li>❖ <b>Currently, Malawi has about 700,000 and 400,000 doses of J&amp;J and Pfizer vaccines.</b></li> <li>❖ All districts have stocks of J &amp; J vaccines.</li> <li>❖ <b>388,000 (J&amp;J), 396,000 (AstraZeneca) and 714,000 (Pfizer) vaccine doses</b> are expected to be delivered in Malawi in the first quarter of 2022.</li> <li>❖ <b>100 health promotion officers were trained in COVID-19 vaccine management</b> in two districts. The training aimed at increasing Health Workers' knowledge and skills on COVID-19 vaccine to be able to vaccinate people in their remote and hard to reach areas where misinformation and myths are prevalent – UNICEF support.</li> <li>❖ <b>Screening of travellers at the country's points of entry is ongoing.</b> In the past weeks, 4,887 travellers were screened - UNICEF support through MRCs.</li> <li>❖ <b>45 oxygen refills distributed to district hospitals.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Needs and gaps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Vaccine hesitancy affecting the uptake of the vaccine</li> <li>❖ Relaxation on adherence to preventive measures</li> <li>❖ An increase in number of new COVID-19 cases</li> </ul>
<p> <b>INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION &amp; COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Information (Mol)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Vaccine Express campaign is engaging over 1,000 influencers</b>, including traditional and faith leaders, to increase vaccine uptake in all districts - UNICEF support.</li> <li>❖ <b>40 youth networks in 10 districts enhancing knowledge management</b> by improving feedback mechanisms using the Humanitarian Field Monitoring (HFM) Tool.</li> <li>❖ <b>1,153,711 people reached with radio messages on COVID-19 prevention</b>, use of RUTF and adoption of age specific optimal feeding practices and dietary diversity.</li> <li>❖ <b>568 care promoters and members of theatre for development groups</b> were capacitated with key information on COVID-19 prevention and improved nutrition practices – UNICEF support.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Education; Save the Children &amp; UNICEF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Protocols for students returning to educational institutions</b> were released on 4th Jan 2022 by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health.</li> <li>❖ The protocols emphasise prevention of COVID-19 infections, provide guidance on how to handle COVID-19 cases in schools, and encourage vaccinations among eligible students.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS</b></p> <p>Coordinated by: Ministry of Transport &amp; WFP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ DODMA has prepositioned 40 metric tonnes of assorted relief items at the WFP-constructed Bangula Humanitarian Staging Area (HSA) in Nsanje to support populations vulnerable to disasters.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>PROTECTION</b></p> <p>Over <b>12,700</b> children and <b>420</b> parents have been reached with MHPSS services by December.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Government has <b>introduced stricter COVID-19 testing and vaccination measures at Dzaleka Refugee Camp as a point of entry.</b> The COVID-19 isolation centre set up in the camp by WFP and UNHCR will be used for the exercise.</li> <li>❖ <b>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MPHSS) counsellors continue to reach out to COVID-19 affected persons in health facilities, on home care using the toll-free hospital line and through children's corners.</b></li> <li>❖ <b>236 additional counsellors trained in Psychosocial First Aid, Group Interpersonal Therapy and Narrative Exposure Therapy.</b> Over 12,700 children and 420 parents have been reached with MHPSS services as of end of December 2021.</li> </ul>
<p> <b>AGRICULTURE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The 39<sup>th</sup> Bulletin of the Emergency Agriculture and Food Security Surveillance System (Ema-FSS) has been released</b> by the Ministry of Agriculture, with technical support from FAO and financial support of the European Union. Key highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proportion of households relying on purchase as the main source of food was 48.2%, which is 22.4 percentage points lower than the 70.6% reported same time last year but higher than the 43.4% reported in second half of Nov 2021.</li> <li>• The proportion of households reporting suspected livestock diseases was 19.1%, which is lower than the 20.4% recorded same time last year but higher than the 17.1% recorded in the second half of Nov 2021.</li> <li>• The proportion of households involved in fishing related livelihoods activities was 3.1%, which is higher than the 2.2% reported during the same period last year and is also higher than the 2% reported in the second half of Nov 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The average price of maize per kg was MK152.99, which is lower than the MK194.45/kg recorded during the same time last year.</li> <li>• Average crop prices per kg were MK832.08 up from MK718.27 for rice, MK912.50 up from MK797.76 for groundnuts, MK576.86 up from MK482.41 for Irish potatoes compared to average prices recorded during the same time last year.</li> </ul>
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 <p><b>FOOD SECURITY</b></p> <p>Coordinated by: DoDMA &amp; WFP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>The Minimum Expenditure basket (MEB) round 43</b> was released by WFP. It is based on Round 43 data captured from 29 Nov to 3 Dec 2021. Key findings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Households' minimum survival expenditure increased in all regions except for the rural Southern Region. Between Rounds 42 and 43 of data collection, the Survival Minimum Expenditure Baskets (SMEBs) rose by 2.1 percent in the urban areas; 1.9 percent in the rural Northern Region; and 1.8 percent in the rural Central Region. The rural Southern Region registered a marginal decrease of 0.6 percent in households' expenditures. In the current round, key commodities whose prices generally increased across the regions, included beans, cooking oil and soap.</li> <li>• Maize grain price remained unchanged between the current and previous rounds; trading at an average price of MK 144 per kg as farmers continue offloading their stocks on the market to finance the purchase of farm inputs, in turn suppressing the grain prices.</li> <li>• The price of beans rose by 4.5 percent to MK 1,147 per kg from MK 1,108 in the last round. Prices of beans have been rising since April 2021, particularly due to this year's poor production of the crop.</li> <li>• Cowpea and pigeon pea prices increased by 2.5 percent and 4.9 percent, respectively. Between Round 42 and Round 43, the price of cowpeas rose from MK 630 per kg to MK 641 per kg, while pigeon pea prices moved up from MK 544 per kg to MK 577 per kg.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>The Household Food Security Bulletin Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) on the Effects of COVID-19 in Malawi Round 18</b> was released by WFP.</li> <li>❖ Key findings include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The food security situation in Malawi has remained stable between April and November, with almost all interviewed households classified as having acceptable to borderline food consumption.</li> <li>• The proportion of households who are employing the most severe consumption-based coping strategies has remained quite low from April, indicating a largely stable food security situation.</li> <li>• Physical access to markets has increased slightly.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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 <p><b>NUTRITION</b></p> <p><b>651</b> community leaders reached with key information and skills to improve nutrition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>651 local and influential community leaders were engaged through advocacy meetings</b>, empowering them with key information and skills to improve the nutrition status of their communities supported by UNICEF</li> <li>❖ <b>A total of 1,372 members from nutrition coordination committees at district, area and village levels</b> were engaged on Maternal, Infant, and Young Child Nutrition and developed actions to support community adoption of various practices and services. This includes early health seeking behaviour for prevention of malnutrition and Vitamin A supplementation and promotion of nutrient dense foods from the six food groups.</li> </ul>
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 <p><b>WASH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ No updates</li> </ul>
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**Note:** The frequency of this SitRep is reviewed regularly.