



A passenger presents his passport to a health worker at Chile's airport in Blantyre © UNICEF Malawi/2020/Eldson Chagara

MALAWI

COVID-19

Situation Report



Reporting Period: 08 - 21 October 2020

Situation in Numbers as of 20 October 2020

5,861 confirmed cases
4,757 recoveries
182 deaths
58,225 tested samples
922 active cases

Source: 2020/10/20 Malawi COVID-19 Situation report, Public Health

Highlights

- A slight increase in new COVID-19 cases has been observed over the last two weeks from 18 to 35 and 39. Although it is too early to draw any conclusions, the more than double rise in new cases must be monitored closely. One additional death has been recorded during the two-week period.
- Schools at all levels of education in Malawi opened fully on 12 October. As part of efforts to decongest schools and maintain social distancing, UNICEF distributed 25 classroom-sized tents to seven schools in Blantyre and Lilongwe benefitting 50,329 learners. UNICEF through the Education cluster is exploring alternative ways of decongesting classrooms and exercising preventative measures at school.
- UNICEF supported the government to develop an issues paper and a road map on teenage pregnancy and child marriage to disseminate the findings from the government-led assessment. This action follows findings from a Malawi government-led COVID-19 rapid assessment on teenage pregnancies and child marriages which shows a 11 per cent increase in teenage pregnancies in the period of March to July 2020 compared to the same period in 2019.

Weekly COVID-19 cases in Malawi: April 2 - October, 18 2020



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Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee continues to meet to review COVID-19 related recommendations from the cluster system.
- Clusters continue to hold meetings for better response coordination. Information relating to COVID-19 resource mobilization, allocation, programmatic implementation is being regularly updated.
- UNICEF is the co-lead agency for the Education, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Protection Clusters, while also playing a key role in the Health Cluster.
- UNICEF participates in Humanitarian Country Team and the Inter-Cluster Coordination meetings which provide a platform for cross-sectoral coordination. The meetings are now taking place once every fortnight.

Malawi COVID-19 Supply Chain

- On behalf of the World Bank, Health Sector Joint Fund (HSJF), and GAVI, UNICEF is supporting the procurement of more than 8 million USD worth of supplies. These supplies include infection prevention and control (IPC) supplies, personal protection equipment (PPE), medical consumables, test kits, screening supplies and Intensive Care Unit (ICU) equipment (oxygen concentrators, ventilators). The PPEs, IPC supplies, and screening materials including infra-red thermometers have arrived in country while the ICU equipment are in transit. In the past two weeks PPEs, IPCs and screening materials supplies were distributed to more than 20 districts.
- During the reporting period, UNICEF has distributed 500 face shields, 300 gloves of various sizes, 100 surgical masks, 2,000 tablets of 175g soap and 60 500ml-bottles of hand sanitizer valued at \$9,141 to Nsanje and Phalombe DHOs for Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) campaign. This will ensure that the OCV campaign is undertaken in an environment where the risk of human-to-human transmission is minimized and individuals taking part in the exercise are protected from exposure to COVID-19
- UNICEF also distributed five clinical infra-red handheld thermometers to Ministry of Health Epidemiology Unit for screening of returnees at Mwanza border.
- Additionally, UNICEF distributed 1,000 bottles of 400ml sanitizers with pump and 100 boxes of gloves valued at \$4,800 to Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Public health response to reduce coronavirus transmission and mortality

As returnees from South African continue to arrive in the country, UNICEF is carrying on with support with screening at points of entry; Kamuzu International Airport and Mwanza, Songwe (Karonga) and Chitipa border points. More than 1200 were tested in the past two weeks, and only one tested positive for COVID-19.

UNICEF continues to support the dissemination of WASH related messages through different approaches namely community radios, hand washing demonstrations at markets, communities and townships, mobile van messaging, information education and communication materials and newspapers). During the reporting fortnight, UNICEF through United Purpose reached out to 50,932 people with mobile van promotions and another 19,300 people through demonstrations on proper handwashing. Through all the different approaches being used to disseminate WASH related messages (community radios, hand washing demonstrations at markets, communities and townships, mobile van messaging,

information education and communication materials and newspapers), cumulatively 4,324,000 million have been reached.

UNICEF also continues to support of infection prevention and control enhancements in schools, health facilities, markets, and other public spaces as well as provide critical hygiene items. During the reporting period, UNICEF partner United Purpose provided emergency WASH support to 981 Malawian returnees at Mwanza border crossing with water trucking. UNICEF also provided reusable sanitary pads to 243 returnee women and adolescent girls. In addition, 120 secondary school girls in Chitipa were provided with reusable sanitary pads.

Strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

Since the last report, about 10,000 more people, including 267 people with disabilities, have been reached with COVID-19 messages through door to door, mobile van and community drama sessions and social media. This brings the total number of people so far reached to about 1.24 million. A total for 5,785 COVID-19 related radio and TV spots have been broadcast through the partnership with Malawi Institute of Journalism.

Continuity of health, education, nutrition and protection services

On 12 October, schools at all levels of education in Malawi opened fully, following the phased re-opening approach developed by Ministry of Education. As part of efforts to decongest schools and maintain social distancing, UNICEF distributed 25 classroom-sized tents to seven schools in Blantyre and Lilongwe benefitting 50,329 learners. UNICEF through the Education cluster is exploring alternative ways of decongesting classrooms and exercising preventative measures at school.

Given the disruption to schools, sexuality education, health and other services, UNICEF through its partners has been supporting the provision of information and support to adolescents and young people. UNICEF has continued to engage parents and local communities to ensure boys and girls return to and remain in school. About 10,101 (2,118 girls, 2,854 boys, 2,844 women, 2,172 men, 84 community and 29 government officers) have been reached with education related messages including on gender equality and adolescent nutrition. UNICEF is also working on ensuring minimal disruption to essential health services to adolescents and young people including access to iron-folic acid (IFA) supplementation. With UNICEF support, IFA distribution in schools has resumed after the disruption due to school closures. A total of 3,244 girls have received IFA supplementation within the reporting period.

UNICEF also continued to support dissemination of nutrition related messages on COVID-19 through community radios and house to house visits. In collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), over 6 million people have to date been reached with key nutrition messages on nutrition in the context of COVID-19 in the 18 UNICEF focus districts. UNICEF in collaboration with MRCS distributed buckets and basins to two villages in Mangochi district in a clean village campaign during which 609 families (more than 2,700 people) were visited and reached with COVID-19 messages. In addition, 612 care group cluster leaders and promoters and 171 local leaders were reached with COVID messages in Mzimba district during the reporting period increasing the number of care group cluster leaders reached so far with COVID-19 prevention messages to about 75,000.

A Malawi government-led COVID-19 rapid assessment on teenage pregnancies and child marriages, indicates that the country has recorded 13,000 cases of child marriages and over 40, 000 cases of teen pregnancies during the COVID-19 period (from March to July 2020), which is an 11 per cent increase in teenage pregnancies compared to the same period in 2019. The assessment indicates that the key drivers of child marriages and teenage pregnancies are rooted in the dominant culture, compounded by religious beliefs, lack of economic and social alternatives for young people, and desire to establish a family. There is an urgent need to invest in both prevention of the risks of early pregnancy and child marriage and provision of support to those that have experienced teenage pregnancy and child marriage. Data collection was a challenge during the exercise due to limited dissemination and operationalization of the child protection information management system at district level.

As co-lead of Protection Cluster, UNICEF supported the government to develop an issue paper and a road map on teenage pregnancy and child marriage aimed at disseminating the findings from the government-led assessment and to promote support to the affected girls including investment in prevention. The issue paper was adopted at the Presidential COVID-19 Task force. The Government intends to commit some funding to the proposed activities after the Ministry responsible submits a detailed budget which includes contributions from the Protection and Social Support cluster members.

Support to strengthening of reporting and referral mechanisms for child protection as well as cases of violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse and negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage is ongoing. So far UNICEF has assisted more than 4,400 callers to the national child helpline and gender-based violence (GBV) crisis line to receive psychological first aid. Of the 4,400 callers, 204 received support during the period of 1 to 14 October. Cases reported through the calls included 162 related GBV and child protection calls including 48 child marriage cases, 37 defilement cases, and 30 emotional abuse cases. As per the existing procedure, the cases were referred to relevant service providers including police, social welfare, judiciary, health, and other partners. Awareness raising through SMS continues, focusing on psychosocial support for children by parents and caregivers, as well as on how to report violence cases through the helpline.

Additionally, UNICEF is providing financial and technical support to facilitate the follow up and provision of the necessary assistance to vulnerable people, including children living or working on the streets, children without parental or family care by District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs). To date, over 600 children without parental or family care, including children in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and children reintegrated from CCIs to their families, have been provided with appropriate alternative care arrangements and support by DSWOs and UNICEF's partner, YONECO. Similarly, around 750 children living or working on the streets children in Blantyre, Machinga, Dedza, and Zomba districts have been provided with Psychosocial Support (PSS) and necessary material support since the beginning of the response, including eight children supported during the reporting period in Blantyre district.

Over 19,900 people in six districts (Blantyre, Machinga, Dowa, Mchinji, Zomba, Mulanje) have been reached with community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) by District Social Welfare Offices (DSWOs). During the period (1-14 October), over 1,100 people, including around 770 children, were provided with this support in Blantyre district.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

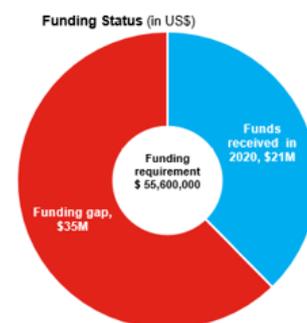
A UNICEF Malawi op ed was published in the two daily papers- [Times](#) and Nation- on Global Handwashing Day.

A [story](#) on how young people at Chilwa Reformatory Centre are benefitting from a new solar water powered system installed by UNICEF was published. The new water system has had a considerable impact providing access to improved hygiene, particularly amid the current COVID-19 pandemic.

UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of Youth and the National Youth Council of Malawi to send out a poll on the review of the National Youth Policy through the U-Report platform to solicit views from young people on the process. This collaboration enabled the Ministry of Youth to get the views of thousands of young people at a time when large physical gatherings are not possible due to COVID-19 preventive measures. Results of the poll can be accessed [here](#) .

Funding Overview and Partnerships

UNICEF needs an estimated US\$ 55,600,000 to respond effectively to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and children to complement the government efforts in Malawi. The proposed geographical coverage aims at targeting high risk as well as vulnerable districts from the North, Central and Southern parts of the country through a balanced approach seeking to leave no one behind. The proposed integrated programme approach will ensure comprehensive and holistic coverage of child needs, especially of the most vulnerable.



To date, UNICEF has received US\$ 20,976,214 contributions from public and private donors. However, a funding gap of 75 per cent remains. Specific funding requirements, resources available so far and the current funding gaps per sector are displayed in Annex B.

Next SitRep: 4 November 2020

UNICEF Malawi COVID-19 website page: <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/coronavirus-disease--19>

Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

Sector	Target	Total results as of 20 Oct. 2020
Health		
Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)	400	600
Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases	400	719
Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPEs	2,500	2,260
Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential new-born care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities.	500,000	168,499
WASH		
Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services	5000	6,909
C4D		

Number of people reached with COVID-19 messages on prevention and access to services	8,000,000	8,000,000
Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions	300,000	1,239,635
Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	5,000	3,634
Nutrition		
Number of caregivers to children aged 0-23 months reached with messages aiming to promote breastfeeding in the context of COVID-19 through national communication campaigns	500,000	313,284
Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)"	8,000	11,058
Child Protection		
Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support	21,000*	22,999
Number of children without parental or family care provided with alternative care arrangements	350**	555
Education		
Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning	2,139,311	1,423,396
Social Protection		
Number of households benefitting from new or additional social assistance measures provided by governments to respond to COVID-19 with UNICEF support	457,000	0

*Target increased from 1,500 to 21,000

** Target has been revised from 30 to 350

Annex B: Malawi COVID-19 funding status by sector as of 20 Oct. 2020

Appeal Sector	Funding Requirements	Funds received against the appeal	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health	\$30,600,000	\$9,337,367	\$21,262,633	69%
WASH	\$8,600,000	\$736,793	\$7,863,207	91%
C4D	\$1,000,000	\$632,054	\$367,946	37%
Education	\$3,200,000	\$ 6,484,529*	\$0	0%
Social Protection	\$7,200,000	\$0	\$7,200,000	100%
Nutrition	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$4,000,000	100%
Child Protection	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	100%
TOTAL US\$:	\$55,600,000	\$ 17,190,743	\$41,693,786	75%

* The actual amount received from by the education sector is \$10,270,000. Of the total amount, 6,484,529 is what is earmarked for use in 2020 while the rest will be utilised in 2021; hence the revision to reflect only the funding available in 2020

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