COVID-19 Update
Situation Update No. 10
at 22 May 2020

1. MALAWI HIGHLIGHTS

- Malawi in a declared State of Disaster
- Court injunction against 21-day lockdown still stands
- Prevention and response measures are being implemented
- Government, UN, NGO and Partner coordination structures in place
- COVID 19 National Information Dashboard run by Ministry of Health

![Map of Malawi]

MALAWI SUMMARY
- 82 cases (51 active)
- 3 confirmed deaths
- 28 recovered
- 2 095 tests done
- 2 286 suspected
- 13 out of 28 districts affected

GLOBAL SUMMARY
- 4 962 707 cases
- 326 459 confirmed deaths
- Over 1.9 million recovered
- Cases in 216 countries and places

REGIONAL SUMMARY (Africa)
- 70 124 cases
- 1 960 confirmed deaths
- 28 432 recovered
- Cases in 47 countries

![Graphs of Malawi COVID-19 cases by sex and age]

2. COMPREHENSIVE COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

2.1 COORDINATION

Coordinated by: Ministry of Disaster Management Affairs and Public Events (MoDMAPE) and UN Resident Coordinator

- The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, co-chaired by Dr. John Phuka from the University of Malawi (College of Medicine) and the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development continues to engage in weekly meetings.
- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Clusters continue to hold weekly meetings to ensure better coordination and track progress in the COVID-19 response. Clusters have been requested to submit weekly reports to HCT meetings to track progress and provide necessary strategic oversight.
- UN Malawi, in collaboration with NGOs, are working on Terms of References and identification of COVID-19 District Focal Points to help strengthen coordination at district level.
- The UN in Malawi, led by RC/UNDP in consultation with World Bank, IMF and AfDB, is assessing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Malawi.
- A calendar of meetings, group mailing lists, a repository to store and share information and a 5W interactive dashboard providing information on all actors responding to the COVID-19 response is available and supported by the RCO and MoDMAPE

2.2 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SUB-CLUSTER

Coordinated by: Ministry of Information (MoI)

Supported by: UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, UN Women, UNHCR, Malawi Red Cross

Production of communication materials and media content
- Social media posters targeting the urban community, especially children and youth, focusing on prevention, symptoms to look out for and addressing myths associated with COVID-19 were produced by UNDP
- 1000 braille booklets explaining COVID-19 measures have been printed by the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare with the support of UNDP, but funding is lacking to print a further 9000 required
- 5500 of 9000 stickers on COVID-19 messaging in Chichewa and English, as well as videos and other education materials were produced and disseminated to church mother bodies by PAC, supported by UNDP
- A lack of monitoring systems to determine the impact of the messages
Radio, television and other media messaging

❖ Over 8 million people continued to receive messages on COVID-19 prevention through radio, television and other mass media this week
❖ 25 radio slots in different languages on Zodiak; TV Bugs (display of COVID-19 messages on TV); 2 messages each week on the business page of the Nation Newspaper; a PAC Covid-19 online Nation News article updated from Friday to Monday each week; and Streaming of COVID-19 messages on Zodiak Broadcasting Services Social Media handles (reaching about 477595 people) were secured for 30 days on Zodiak by PAC with support of UNDP
❖ A 10-episode radio series on continuity of immunization, integrated Community Case Management and the anti-natal clinic aired on two national radios (MBC and Times) and ten community radio stations, supported by UNICEF

Local community messaging

❖ So far, 72,174 people have been reached with COVID-19 social and behaviour change communication activities including community engagement sessions, community radio dialogues and edutainment by UNICEF partner SWET
❖ COVID-19 materials were disseminated to 23 traditional administration centres through Paralegals and Village Mediators (PASI) for onward dissemination to village level, with the support of UNDP.
❖ Ministry of Homeland Security registration staff at Dzaleka refugee camp were equipped with five smartphones and internet dongles by UNHCR to facilitate remote registration and processing of new arrivals
❖ SMS was used to send COVID-19 messaging to 1000 members of the Dzaleka refugee community by UNHCR and to 200,000 farmers by NASFAM and UNDP
❖ The PAC Youth and Women Volunteers are monitoring and reporting on COVID-19 response measures at the community level, supported by UNDP

Risk communication and community engagement (RCCE)

❖ RCCE activities were conducted by Government in Chitipa in response to increased number of cases in Nakonde, Zambia; also in Mzuzu and Karonga to address community resistance and denials, with considerable success.
❖ Ongoing briefings of parliamentary and local leaders, community health workers and communities by Government; this week priority focus was on Blantyre, Mchinji and Dedza
❖ Public health emergency management committees conducted review meetings in all the districts except Likoma, Rumphi and Chiradzulu with a priority focus on community engagement
❖ Daily COVID-19 updates to the public by Government continues through various channels
❖ Further to feedback from the public, Government is adjusting messaging to better address key COVID-19 prevention and treatment messaging

2.3 HEALTH CLUSTER

Coordinated by: Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO
Supported by: WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UN Women, Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS), GIZ

❖ Door to door messaging by the Malawi Red Cross Society reached a cumulative 33023 households in Mzimba, Ntcheu, Chikwawa, Dedza, Lilongwe, Zomba, Mangochi, Salima, Nkhatabata, Nsanje & Neno and simultaneously collected data of district level feedback/ rumor tracking
❖ Two isolation tents were pitched at Dedza District Hospital by the Malawi Red Cross and GIZ
❖ Standard emergency treatment units were established in Dedza district by the Malawi Red Cross and GIZ
❖ The operational guide for community health workers on COVID-19 response in Malawi is being distributed to districts councils and H5As during trainings by Government
❖ Surveillance guidelines were revised to improve contact tracing and active case finding, supported by UNICEF
❖ Eleven laboratories are now testing for COVID-19 with the addition of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital and Ellard Alumando DREAM Centre, Blantyre
❖ Training took place on sample collection, packaging, storage, transportation and data management for COVID – 19 for 320 laboratory personnel by MoH
2.4 TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS CLUSTER
Coordinated by: Ministry of Transport and Works (MTW) and WFP
Supported by: UNICEF

- The UN continues to provide logistics support to the humanitarian stakeholders on a cost recovery basis through WFP
- Modalities to distribute Personal Protective Equipment procured by Africa CDC, Project Hope and UNICEF took place between the MoH and WFP
- The Johannesburg Humanitarian hub was established following official approval by the South African government, allowing WFP and WHO to facilitate movement for humanitarian personnel and cargo in the region

2.5 WASH CLUSTER
Coordinated by: Ministry of Irrigation & Water Development and UNICEF
Supported by: WHO UNICEF, UNAIDS, UN Women, Malawi Red Cross Society

- WASH-related messaging through hand washing demonstrations at markets, communities and townships, mobile vans and community radios continued through UNICEF, Malawi Red Cross Society and other WASH partners
- Handwashing facilities were provided to 400 inmates in Chikwawa prison and 190 inmates/55 Staff at Mangochi prison, as well as to markets in Mwanza by the Malawi Red Cross Society and ECHO

2.6 PROTECTION CLUSTER
Coordinated by: Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare (MGCDSW), UNICEF
Supported by: UNFPA, UN Women, UNAIDS, IOM, ILO

- A soap production programme was initiated by the Dzaleka LuQuLuQu Club, supported by LuQuLuQu Africa and Fraternidad in the Dzaleka camp to support the 37% ultra-poor families with soap for hand washing as a preventive measure against COVID-19
- Gender and protection issues were promoted through 22 sensitization meetings, 34 handwashing campaigns and 64 doors to door activities by Malawi Red Cross Society reaching over 3705 people
- 34 Community Victim Support Units were mapped and reconstituted and members of 25 Units were fully oriented, to support victims/survivors of violence in 6 districts (Machinga, Nsanje, Dowa, Ntchisi, Mzimba and Nkhata Bay) by Save the Children with support from the Spotlight Initiative and UNICEF
- A Gender Response Plan based on the National COVID-19 Response Plan has been developed through a series of reviews conducted by the MGCDSW, Care International, Tithete Nkhanza (DfID), UNICEF and UN Women in collaboration with other national stakeholders

2.7 FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Coordinated by: Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) and WFP
Supported by: UNICEF, WFP, FAO

- The second round of survival minimum expenditure basket monitoring closed last week, and results will facilitate comparison of prices and availability of key commodities
- The first round of data collection on household-level food security monitoring conducted by GeoPoll and WFP is ongoing, collecting food security, livelihood coping strategies, and health/economic data (related to COVID-19) from some 2,500 households residing in both urban and rural areas
- Technical guidance to Government for the roll out of urban cash transfers from June 2020 was provided by UN (WFP and UNICEF) on targeting guidelines and hotspot mapping of vulnerable communities within targeted urban areas

2.8 EDUCATION CLUSTER
Coordinated by: Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST); Save the Children and UNICEF
Supported by: WFP, UNICEF

- Take home rations of Corn Soya Blend stocks in schools continue to be distributed by WFP, with distributions completed in two districts and the remaining two districts expected to be completed end of this week
- A consultation process to guide decision making on reopening of schools was initiated by MoEST supported by UNICEF, beginning with a national, local stakeholders forum held in Blantyre on 13 May 2020, which agreed that all return to school decisions will be based on science and public health expertise, prioritizing the best interests of students and teachers
- An emergency radio education programme is being developed for primary learners by MoEST to initially air on two radio stations, supported by UNICEF
- Radio modules for secondary schools on Agriculture, Biology, Chichewa, English and Mathematics are being finalized for students in Community Day Secondary Schools in hard-to-reach areas by MoEST with the support of UNICEF

2.9 NUTRITION CLUSTER
Coordinated by: Ministry of Health and UNICEF
Supported by: WFP

- A Nutrition Cluster plan, initially not included in the national preparedness and response plan, has now been incorporated with the aim of strengthening risk communication on breastfeeding recommendations, replacement feeding for infants unable to be breastfed, nutritional support for COVID-19 patients and infection prevention among children suffering from acute malnutrition.

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