

MALAWI CHOLERA FLASH Update 03



UNICEF delivered lifesaving supplies worth MWK 300 million to support the Government of Malawi with its response to cholera outbreak | UNICEF Malawi 2023

16 January 2023 (updates of 9 to 15 January 2023)

Highlights

- As of 15 January, 24,884 cholera cases and 825 deaths have been registered in Malawi. There were 3,860 cases and 121 deaths in the previous week.
- Some 8,709 children's cases are reported, with 123 deaths till now, 1,348 cases and 14 deaths in reporting week.
- The cumulative case fatality rate stands at 3.32 per cent.
- UNICEF has delivered lifesaving health, WASH and Nutrition supplies worth USD 470,300 to the Government of Malawi for the ongoing cholera outbreak response, including Acute Watery Diarrhea kits, medicines and cannulas, among others.
- UNICEF also distributed WASH Non-Food Items for infection prevention and control to 89 schools and 74 Cholera Treatment Units.

Situation in Numbers (Cumulative)

- 18 million people at risk of contracting cholera including 9.18 million children
- 24,884 Cases
- 8,709 Children Cases
- 825 Deaths
- 3.32% Case Fatality Rate
- 29 Districts Affected

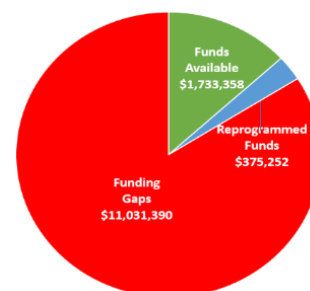
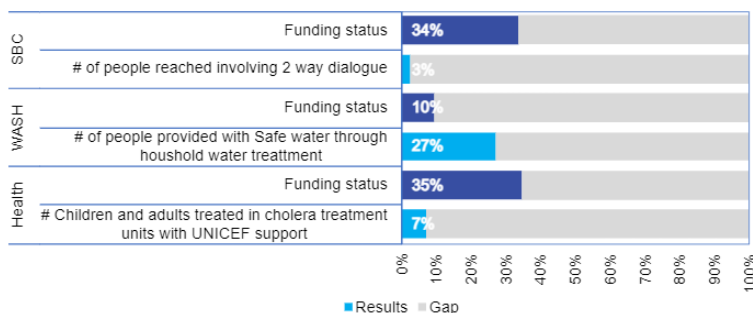
Source: Ministry of Health's press statement on Cholera update as of 15 January 2023

Funding Overview and Partnerships

The funding status remains the same, as reflected in last week's update. UNICEF requires **US\$ 14.14 million** to sustain lifesaving services for women and children in Malawi. To date, UNICEF has **US\$ 2,108,610¹ (15 per cent)** available for the response as per the details below.

- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (ECHO): US\$ 538,031
- Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF): US\$ 695,327
- UNICEF Global Humanitarian Response Fund (GHTRF): US\$ 500,000
- UNICEF regular programme resources: US\$ 375,252.

Summary of UNICEF Results and Funding



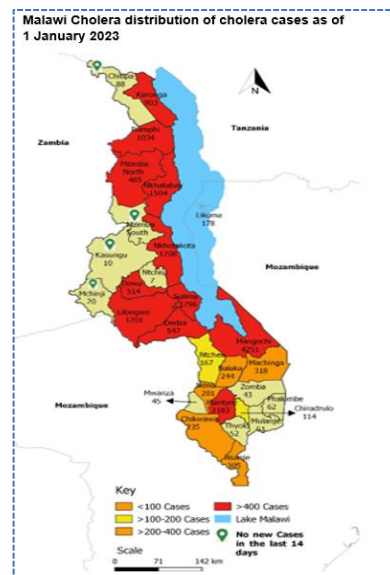
¹ Funding status is different from 1st Flash update as the EPF loan was included in the 1st update that is removed now.

Due to the rapidly deteriorating cholera situation across the country and cases escalating significantly, UNICEF Malawi required an Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) loan (USD 2 million) to bridge the funding needs for the response while in anticipation of other resources to be mobilized. UNICEF has also allocated flexible Global Humanitarian Thematic Funding (GHTF) to support the response (\$500,000).

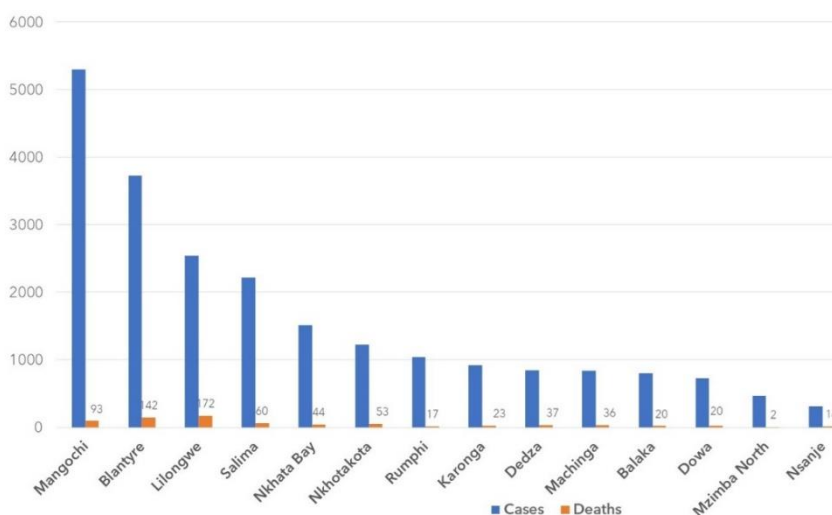
UNICEF still has a funding gap of **85² per cent**, with an urgent need for funding towards safe water supply and sanitation, health services, and access to essential services and psychosocial support for children.

Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs

As of January 15, 2023, a total of 24,884 cases of cholera and 824³ deaths have been registered in Malawi. In the reporting week, 27 districts reported 3,860 new cases with 121 deaths (case fatality rate 2.9 per cent). The cases in the reporting week increased by 30 per cent, whereas there was a 1.8 per cent decrease in deaths compared to the previous week. The table below provides the cases and deaths in the high-burden districts.



Cholera Cases and Deaths in Malawi



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

WASH

UNICEF has supported the rollout of the CATI approach in four districts (Mangochi, Nkhatabay, Rumphi, and Blantyre), among the ten most affected districts. This includes training of District Rapid Response Team (DRRT) members and Facilities Rapid Response Team (FRRT) members. The rapid response teams deliver an integrated and harmonized package of interventions in cholera-affected households and at-risk populations across the four districts to reduce local transmission. Altogether, 74 cholera treatment centres received WASH supplies; 850 kg of chlorine (34 tons of 25kgs), 2120 buckets, and 1,110 tablets of soap for infection prevention and control.

Eighty-nine schools in Lilongwe and Blantyre with an enrolment of 200,000 pupils received WASH Non-Food Items (NFIs), including soap, buckets for washing, and chlorine for infection prevention and control.

Two Hundred and Fifty-six thousand households (256,000 people) from 32 communities of six districts received WASH NFIs and key hygiene messages. The supplies included 64 drums of chlorine of 25 kg each,

² The Funding gap changed as the response plan and targets are being revised.

³ Ministry of Health's press statement on Cholera update as of 15 January 2023.

700 water quality test kits, buckets of 20 and 60 litres with taps and lids, soap, water treatment chemicals, and chlorine in 12 districts, namely; Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mangochi, Nkhatabay, Dowa, Machinga, Thyolo, Chiradzulu, Karonga, Mzimba, Rumphu, and Neno.

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC), ACCOUNTABILITY to AFFECTED POPULATION (AAP), LOCALIZATION

In Nkhotakhota and Mzuzu/Mzimba North, 140 radio listeners group members have been trained on interpersonal communication skills and cholera prevention content. This week, 4,789 households have been reached with cholera prevention content through 500 radio listener group members of four districts, namely Chikawawa, Salima, Karonga, and Mwanza. Also, 60 religious leaders capacitated on cholera prevention content and have sensitised communities on cholera prevention and safe water in the Blantyre district.

HEALTH

On January 13, UNICEF delivered lifesaving health supplies worth USD 300 thousand to the Government of Malawi for the ongoing cholera outbreak response, with financial support from the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Scottish government, and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The supplies can cover 2,900 people through 29 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) kits (29 periphery drug kits, 28 community kits) in health facilities and communities. In addition to AWD kits, supplies include 12 high-performance tents (72m² each), 10,320 compound sodium lactate of 500ml which can treat more than 300 severe cases, 2,000 tablets of 100mg doxycycline, 10,000 tablets of 500 mg paracetamol, and different sizes cannulas, among others. To establish the Cholera Treatment Units (CTUs), UNICEF provided three high-performance tents (72m² each) in Balaka, Machinga, and Zomba districts, due to increased cases.

EDUCATION

UNICEF supported the education emergency cluster and strongly advocated the importance of reopening schools in Lilongwe and Blantyre. This contributed to the government's decision to open schools from January 17, 2023, in the above two districts.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF supported the orientation of 125 child protection workers from five districts, namely Blantyre, Neno, Mwanza, Machinga, and Mangochi, on protecting children during the cholera outbreak. Community Child Protection Workers (para social workers) from the Ministry of Gender Community Development and Social Welfare assessed 255 boys and girls to determine child protection needs.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION, and STRATEGY

The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 and cholera continues to coordinate various measures of response to the cholera outbreak. On January 12, the Presidential Task Force lifted the closure of schools directive in the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe. This was done after the schools were inspected and the measures put in place to ensure access to safe water and sanitation facilities to make it easier to follow standard operating procedures for preventing cholera.

At the technical level, an Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) exists, led by the Ministry of Health, with WHO as the co-chair. The EOC holds regular meetings on Tuesdays and Fridays where UNICEF Health, SBC, and WASH regularly participate. The Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) is primarily responsible for the surveillance system. National-level clusters are also active, of which UNICEF is the co-leading agency for Education, Nutrition, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), and Protection Clusters while also playing a pivotal role in the Health Cluster.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND PUBLIC ADVOCACY

UNICEF Malawi issued a press release, "[UNICEF delivers lifesaving supplies to support the cholera outbreak response in Malawi](#)," which garnered comprehensive media coverage, including the following:

1. [Government gets K300m sanitation supplies](#), The Nation on Sunday
2. [Cholera Situation in Malawi interview with UNICEF Malawi | Al Jazeera TV](#)
3. [UNICEF Delivers Anti-Cholera Supplies to Malawi](#), Voice of America
4. [Hundreds die from cholera in Malawi](#), Newsroom Afrika
5. <https://www.newdelhitimes.com/unicef-delivers-anti-cholera-supplies-to-malawi/>, New Delhi Times
6. <https://www.macaubusiness.com/unicef-supports-malawi-with-lifesaving-supplies-to-cope-with-cholera-outbreak/>, Xinhua News Agency

Through its partnership with MBC's Development Broadcasting Unit (DBU), UNICEF has extended the broadcasting of cholera jingles on two national and five community radios to promote awareness of cholera and its prevention measures. UNICEF Malawi continued to post cholera-related messages on its social media platforms in the past week.

For the previous update of 2023, please follow the links here:

Issue 1, Jan [Malawi Humanitarian Flash Update - 2023.01.pdf](#)

Issue 2, Jan: [Malawi Humanitarian Flash Update 2 - 2023.01.09 Final.pdf](#)

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Annex A

Funding Status (in USD)

Funding Requirements as Per the UNICEF Country Response Plan cholera 2022					
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received	Other resources used	US\$	%
Health	\$ 2,230,000	\$ 493,277	\$ 279,252	\$ 1,457,471	65%
WASH	\$ 6,850,000	\$ 653,750		\$ 6,196,250	90%
Nutrition	\$ 1,600,000	\$ -		\$ 1,600,000	100%
Education	\$ 660,000	\$ -		\$ 660,000	100%
SBC	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 308,000	\$ 96,000	\$ 796,000	66%
Child Protection	\$ 600,000	\$ -		\$ 600,000	100%
Coordination	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 278,331		\$ 721,669	72%
Total	\$ 14,140,000	\$ 1,733,358	\$ 375,252	\$ 12,031,390	85%

Annex B

Summary of Programme Result⁴s (Target as of December 2022, subject to revision by the end of January 2023)

UNICEF and IPs Response			
Sector	2023 target	Total results	% Achieved
HEALTH			
# Children and adults treated in cholera treatment units with UNICEF support	28,000	2000	7.14%
# Healthcare workers oriented on infection prevention and control, WASHFIT	600	0	0%
SBC			
# local actors participating in engagement actions	8,000	640	8%
# of people reached through Mass Media with health, hygiene, nutrition, or risk communication activities on cholera disease] prevention and treatment through 1-way information dissemination such as social media, print materials, telephone announcements, radio, TV, and IVR (estimation)	1,800,000	1,000,000	55%
# of people directly reached with health, hygiene, or risk communication activities on cholera prevention and treatment, involving a 2-way dialogue.	1,000,000	26,584	3%
# People sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	50,000	6,618	13%
WASH			
# of people accessing safe water through emergency household water treatment	3,100,000	845,000	84%
# health care facilities supported to applying IPC protocols	197	197	100%
# of water sources rehabilitated and disinfected	1,000	0	0%
# of water sources sampled to assess water quality	1,000	0	0%
# of people sensitized on key hygiene practices (hand washing with soap, water handling, and proper latrine use)	3,100,000	0	0%
EDUCATION			
# Schools supported to implement of safe school protocols (IPC) through the provision of soap and buckets	400	50	12%
# Schools reached with hygiene awareness campaigns in schools and surrounding communities	400	0	0%
# Schools provided with hygiene-related IEC materials and messages for schools	400	0	0%
# Teachers trained on infection prevention, cholera response, and management at the school level	800	0	0%
# children in cholera hotspots supported to access formal or non-formal-education, including early learning	-	0	0%
NUTRITION			
# Children aged 6-59 months with SAM admitted for treatment and recovery."	18,000	0	0%
# Children 6-59 months screened for malnutrition	125,000	0	0%
# Primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months who received IYCF counselling	35,700	0	0%
CHILD PROTECTION			
# People and children affected by cholera reached with PFA	4000	0	0%
# Children in safe spaces (children's corners) reached with messaging on cholera prevention and social, and behavioural change interventions	10,000	0	0%
# of women, girls, and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation or response interventions	3,000	558	18%
# of Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) identified and referred for support	50	0	0%

⁴ All the indicators and targets are revised as per revised cholera response plan.