UNICEF is supporting the scale up of screening of travellers at Kamuzu International Airport (KIA) and land border crossings to strengthen the surveillance systems and build capacity for detection of COVID-19 cases. Within the reporting period, more than 77,500 road travellers and about 400 flyers that entered the country through KIA were screened by health workers with support from Malawi Red Cross Society volunteers.

In response to the large number of returnees that the country continues to receive, 12 new latrines were installed at Mwanza border post. To date, a total of 112 emergency latrines have been installed with UNICEF support in nine districts.

UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop 100 different key messages on back to school campaign, keeping girls in school including ending child marriages, hygiene and COVID-19 prevention, gender equality including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and on adolescent nutrition. The messages have been translated into local languages including Chichewa, Yao and Tumbuka languages. MoE expects to reach a total of 2.6 million people with these key messages including in and out of schoolboys and girls.

During the reporting period, over 14,500 adolescents from 65 schools in Mangochi, Dedza and Salima have been reached with key COVID 19 related key messages including elimination of child marriages, back to school campaign, gender equality and child rights, adolescent nutrition, hygiene, deworming and COVID-19 prevention.
Situation Overview

Malawi continues to register a reduced number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. At the beginning of the response few samples were being tested and the yield for positive cases was equally very low. However, the situation changed in Week 21, when the country received the first batch of Malawian returnees (both deportee and voluntary returnees) from South Africa. This was coupled with the peak of presidential elections related big crowds. There was an increase in the number of cases from single digit to hundreds with sustained (uninterrupted) transmission. By week 30 the positivity rate had increased to 21%. At week 31 confirmed cases started reducing despite of high number sample being tested then. Coincidentally, the declining number of positive cases reported in Week 31 happened at the time when presidential elections related crowds had ended. While there are challenges associated with continuous lack of test kits and limited contact tracing, analysis of available data shows some evidence of flattening of the curve (See above graph). During the reporting week, Malawi has registered 38 new cases compared to 71 in the previous week.

As of 22 September, Malawi has registered a total of 5,739 confirmed cases from all the 28 districts. The number of recoveries is at 4,065 and 179 deaths have been reported. Of the total cases, 4,593 are locally transmitted and 1,146 are imported infections.

The country continues receiving returning residents and deportees from other countries, mainly South Africa. In the past week over 900 returnees arrived through Mwanza border in southern region. The returnees are screened through a comprehensive triage upon entry and those with symptoms are tested for COVID-19 while those without symptoms proceeded to their destinations for self-quarantine and follow up by respective district health authorities.

Since the opening of the Kamuzu International Airport for commercial flights on 1 September, about 4,349 travellers have been screened with no major reported incidences. All passengers are required to present a negative COVID-19 test result on departure and those arriving in Malawi are required to present a COVID-19 certificate for a negative result in the last 72 hours.

Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing. However, there is a reduction in surveillance activities as a result of limited testing because of shortage of test kits. UNICEF Malawi country office is working closely with UNICEF supply division to fast track the procurement of consumables for Malawi to start using Thermofisher test kits. The rollout of Thermofisher test kits and optimization of the current PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) platforms will lead to increase in testing for COVID-19 testing because Thermofisher test kits are readily available on market compared to Abbott and Cephid kits.
Programme response by UNICEF and partners

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF Malawi is working in the following areas of strategic priority against COVID-19:

- Public health response to reduce coronavirus transmission and mortality
- Continuity of health, education, nutrition and protection services
- Assessing and responding to the immediate secondary impacts of COVID-19
- Strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF maintains critical preparedness and response operations, including operational humanitarian access corridors, and delivery of services in Health, Education, Child and Social Protection, WASH, Nutrition and Communication for Development (C4D). This is being done to prevent and control infections, ensure continuity of education, promote positive behaviours, preventing transmission and ensuring the protection of children rights, especially of the most vulnerable one.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

- The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee continues to meet weekly to review COVID-19 related recommendations from the cluster system.
- The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 partially approved guidelines presented by the Ministry of Youth on resumption of professional sporting. Some aspects in the guidelines are still being investigated including the issue of spectators.
- Clusters continue to hold weekly meetings for better response coordination. Information relating to COVID-19 resource mobilization, allocation, programmatic implementation is regularly being 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 which meets on Fridays every week and the Inter-Cluster Coordination meetings which provide a platform for cross-sectoral coordination.
- A social economic analysis on the impact of COVID-19 has now been completed. The government is now ready to move into recovery planning and will soon call upon stakeholders to support the recovery planning process.
- The government led food insecurity response planning has started following a report by the Malawi vulnerability assessment committee which indicates that 2.6 million people will need relief support to meet their food requirements in the period of November 2020 to March 2021.

Malawi COVID-19 Supply Chain system

UNICEF is helping to ensure continued access to essential supplies for infection prevention and control, WASH and medical use through support to supply chains and local markets during the pandemic. During the reporting period, an evaluation process for procurement of face-cloth mask was completed and 950,000 masks valued at US$ 483,000 have been ordered. Orders for the remaining 350,000 masks will be raised in the following week. Delivery of these masks to District Health offices across the country is expected to commence in October.
Furthermore, UNICEF has locally procured supplies worth US$ 315,000 including sprayers, facemasks, buckets and printed materials. These will be dispatched to health facilities in the next few weeks. UNICEF is also supporting the MoH with procurement of PPEs and medical items worth US$ 781,544 under the Health Services Joint Fund (HSJF).

Assorted WASH supplies including 2,750 bacteriological testing kits, garbage bags, brooms and buckets have been delivered to various district health offices and selected emergency treatment units. These hygiene materials will help to ensure prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in the targeted public facilities in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Thyolo, Mangochi, Mwanza, Mchinji, Nkhata Bay, and Chitipa districts.

**Summary Analysis of Programme Response**

**Public health response to reduce coronavirus transmission and mortality**

UNICEF is supporting the scale up of screening of travellers at Kamuzu International Airport (KIA) and land border crossings to strengthen the surveillance systems and build capacity for detection of COVID-19 cases. The intervention is being supported with funding from Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) through Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS). Within the reporting period, more than 77,500 road travellers who entered through Karonga, Mwanza, Chitipa and about 400 flyers that entered through Kamuzu international airport were screened by health workers with support from MRCS volunteers. UNICEF also provided technical support to the Ministry of Health in the development of community case definition that will be used by schools to identify COVID-19 suspected cases among learners. This is critical considering that at the beginning of September schools started phased opening starting with examination classes.

Additionally, through Luke International, an online training on COVID-19 Health Management Information System (HMIS) Platform, was conducted targeting 28 data personnel from 12 districts to improve on web-based reporting. It is expected that the trained personnel will contribute to efforts aimed at improving availability and access to reliable information which is key for decision making on effective programming and implementation of the response interventions.

UNICEF is also working to ensure availability of adequate WASH services and essential supplies like soap, water treatment chemicals and buckets are available at border posts and health facilities. With funding from FCDO, 12 new latrines were installed at Mwanza border post in response to the large number of returnees. To date, a total of 112 emergency latrines have been installed in nine districts. In addition, UNICEF partner United Purpose trucked water to over 900 returnees from South Africa at Mwanza point of entry. Also, construction of three solar powered water schemes has been completed at Emergency Treatment Units (ETUS) in Mchinji, Mzuzu and Blantyre.

UNICEF is working to ensure adequate WASH services and essential supplies at health facilities and points of entry. In response to the large number of returnees that the country continues to receive, 12 new latrines were installed at Mwanza border post with funding from FCDO. To date, a total of 112 emergency latrines have been installed in nine districts. In addition, United Purpose trucked water to over 900 returnees from South Africa as Mwanza point of entry. Furthermore, construction of three solar powered water schemes at Emergency Treatment Units (ETUS) in Mchinji, Mzuzu and Blantyre has been completed.
Since the beginning of the response to COVID-19, UNICEF has reached about 4.2 million people with WASH related messages through different approaches including community radios, hand washing demonstrations at markets, communities and townships, mobile van messaging, information education and communication materials and newspapers. During the reporting period, UNICEF through United Purpose reached out to 19,173 people with mobile van promotions and another 10,642 people through demonstrations on proper handwashing.

Over 6,200 Malawians, 41% of which are 18-24 years old, participated in the month-long COVID-19 youth challenge which was launched on 3 June 2020. The online hackathon belonged to a pan-African initiative that enabled participants to obtain design thinking skills and ideate solutions to combat the pandemic. UNICEF worked with an implementing partner, Segal Family Foundation, who selected the top 10 winning ideas out of over 2000 ideas submitted, tackling varied challenges from WASH, mental wellness and income generation, etc. The 10 participants with the winning ideas went through a 6-week accelerated incubation program to develop and refine their solution prototypes. On 15 September 2020, the 10 finalists went through a virtual live pitch session where a panel of 5 judges from UNICEF and the incubation Hubs selected the top 5 winning solutions to help fight COVID-19 in Malawi. The winning solutions included: offline mobile learning application to make e-learning work in the face of low digital literacy and poor infrastructure; a digital application that will enable the elderly to stay at home while still having access to the basic supplies and services that they need; a steam-based disinfectant sprayer which can disinfect without necessarily wetting surfaces; and touch-free hand sanitization units for use in public spaces to help minimize the risk of infection. UNICEF supported the COVID-19 youth challenge which involved young people ages 14-35 to actively find innovative ways to fight COVID-19. By participating, young Malawians also had an opportunity to earn rewards and a UNICEF certificate of completion, grow their network, and develop their future-readiness skills. The winners will receive coaching to support scaling up of the ideas.

Strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF has played a key role since the beginning of the pandemic to support implementation of risk communication and community engagement interventions using various delivery platforms. The number of people reached with COVID-19 messages with UNICEF support through door to door, mobile van and community drama sessions and social media has now exceeded one million. During the reporting week, with funding from UK Aid, 162 people with disabilities have also been reached with messages. A total of 5,785 radio and TV spots have been broadcast through the partnership with the Malawi Institute of Journalism. To understand the knowledge on COVID-19 gained, UNICEF is using radio monitors in 12 target districts to interview the listeners. Out of 3,167 radio listeners interviewed, 2,904 listeners (92%) were able to recall the messages.

Continuity of health, education, nutrition and protection services

UNICEF is supporting campaigns targeting school-going aged children, adolescents and people in the surrounding communities including messages to bring children back into the school system and enable them to continue accessing various services. Through implementing partner, the Story Workshop Education Trust (SWET), over 14,500 adolescents from 65 schools in Mangochi, Dedza and Salima have been reached with key messages on elimination of child marriages, back to school campaign, gender equality and child rights, adolescent nutrition (importance of dietary diversification,
uptake of iron rich and nutrient dense foods and uptake of iron–folic acid supplements, hygiene, deworming and COVID-19 prevention. In the schools visited close to 5,100 girls have received iron tablets within the reporting period. At community level, SWET has reached over 14,500 people (5,321 men, 8,573 women, 687 traditional leaders and 1,85 extension workers) with the messages. The messages were delivered through drama, door-to-door activities and through school-based structures by school health and nutrition teachers, health surveillance assistants and mother group members.

In addition to the face-to-face approach, through the Global Partnership Education (GPE), the Ministry of Education is being supported to disseminate the messages through other platforms such as radio jingles and public announcements, television documentaries, SMS, loud hailing activities and IEC materials including posters, flyers and brochure. UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education to develop 100 different key messages on back to school campaign, keeping girls in school including ending child marriages, hygiene and COVID-19 prevention, gender equality including sexual gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and on adolescent nutrition. The messages have been translated into local languages including Chichewa, Yao and Tumbuka languages. MoE expects to reach a total of 2.6 million people with these key messages including in and out of school, boys and girls.

UNICEF is also working on strengthening of reporting and referral mechanisms for child protection as well as violence cases, including sexual exploitation and abuse and negative coping mechanisms such as child marriage. UNICEF is supporting Youth Net and Counselling (YONECO) to ensure the Child Helpline, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Crisis Line continues to provide an opportunity to callers to receive Psychological First Aid (PFA) and to ensure that appropriate referrals and follow-ups in cases of child protection and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) are made. During this reporting period, 106 callers to the national child helpline and GBV crisis line were provided with PFA bringing the total number of callers so far provided with PFA to more than 4,000. The cases which included 71 related to gender-based violence and child protection, 34 child marriage cases and 20 “defilement”/statutory rape, were referred to the relevant service providers, including police, social welfare, judiciary, health, and other partners. YONECO supported case follow up by providing logistics and technical support, especially through YONECO district offices in Balaka, Mangochi, Mulanje, Lilongwe, Rumphi and Nkhati Bay districts. YONECO is also developing messages and radio drama scripts on child protection, GBV, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) that are being disseminated through several mechanisms. To this end, during the reporting week, 10,000 people have received messages through SMS on how to ensure support for children at home, including creating opportunities for children to play and ease their anxiety and stress.

With support from UNICEF, over 14,000 people in 6 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). Of the 14,000, over 2,800 people were provided with MHPSS in Machinga, Dedza, and Blantyre districts during the period of 9-15 September 2020. District level training on Psychological first aid (PFA) for frontline workers supported by UNICEF as well as the collaboration with Community-based organizations at the district level has enabled DSWOs to reach this many people.

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 DSWOs. To date, over 520 children without parental or family care, including children in the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and children reintegrated from CCIs to their families, have been provided with appropriate alternative care.
arrangements and support, including 13 children supported during the reporting period in Dedza district. Similarly, around 700 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 35 children supported during the reporting period. Machinga DSWO also dissolved 140 child marriages from 1 to 15 September.

**Human Interest Stories and External Media**

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Government and UN in Malawi, continues to promote the ‘wear a mask campaign’ messages through its channels, including the [video featuring political leaders (Cabinet Ministers)](https://www.unicef.org) to encourage the general public to wear masks and follow COVID-19 preventive measures.

UNICEF continues to utilise U-Report, a mobile youth engagement platform designed to gather young people’s voices and address issues that they care about. Over [225,000](https://www.unicef.org) U-Reporters in Malawi continue to be reached with messages on COVID-19 through SMS, polling, open end questions, quiz, information bots, social media, etc. U-Report run a poll that asked young people about their opinion on the topic of climate change. Results of the poll can be accessed [here](https://www.unicef.org).

UNICEF hosted a live pitch of the final top 10 solutions in the COVID-19 Youth Innovation Challenge. Top 5 solutions were selected in partnership with the Segal Family Foundation and will receive funding and coaching to support scaling up of the ideas.

On social media, UNICEF continues to share messages on COVID-19 prevention and awareness. During the reporting week, our messages engaged about 43,000 online audiences on all three platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). UNICEF regularly updates its dedicated COVID-19 page on its website with latest news and information on UNICEF and its partners’ response to COVID-19 in Malawi.

**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:** 29 September 2020


**Annex A: Summary of Programme Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Total results as of 16 September 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare facility staff and community health workers trained in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare providers trained in detecting, referral and appropriate management of COVID-19 cases</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of healthcare workers within health facilities and communities provided with PPEs</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women receiving essential healthcare, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, essential newborn care, immunization, treatment of childhood illnesses and HIV care through UNICEF supported community health workers and health facilities.</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>168,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with critical WASH supplies (including hygiene items) and services</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>4,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C4D</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people reached with COVID-19 messages on prevention and access to services</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people engaged on COVID-19 through RCCE actions</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>872,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications for available support services to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>313,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)&quot;</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>8,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children, parents and primary caregivers provided with community based mental health and psychosocial support</td>
<td>21,000*</td>
<td>18,411</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of children without parental or family care provided with alternative care arrangements 350**

** Target has been revised from 30 to 350

Number of children supported with distance/home-based learning 2,139,311

Education 66,993

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

*Target increased from 1,500 to 21,000

Annex B: Malawi COVID-19 funding status by sector as of 16 Sept. 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal Sector</th>
<th>Funding Requirements</th>
<th>Funds received against the appeal</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>$30,600,000</td>
<td>$9,337,367</td>
<td>$21,262,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>$8,600,000</td>
<td>$736,793</td>
<td>$7,863,207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4D</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$632,054</td>
<td>$367,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$3,200,000</td>
<td>$6,484,529*</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>$7,200,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL US$$:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$55,600,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$17,190,743</strong></td>
<td><strong>$41,693,786</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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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