

**QUICK
OUTLOOK**

1 July 2020


1402

Confirmed cases

60 new cases

1069 active cases

640 imported

696 local transmission

66 under investigation

68% male

33.8 (11.6) average age
(SD), years

317 recoveries

16 deaths

27 districts affected

15176 tests conducted

14 RT-PCR testing sites

29 GeneXpert testing sites

Highlights

- 60 new COVID-19 cases, 46 new recoveries, and no new deaths have been recorded in the past 24 hours
- Cumulatively, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Malawi is 1402, including 16 deaths, and 317 recoveries
- 15 176 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 254 people have entered Malawi through the official ports of entry in the past 24 hours

Background

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) was alerted of several cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Later the disease was named Coronavirus disease-19 (COVID-19) and the virus was named SARS-COV2. World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic on 12th March 2020.

On 20 March 2020, COVID-19 was declared a national disaster in Malawi, and on 2 April 2020, Malawi registered the first cases of COVID-19. On 6 May 2020, a Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19 was appointed.

Global situation

As of 1 July 2020, 10 357 662 (163 939 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 508 055 (4 188 new) deaths. Out of these, 306 794 (9 504 new) cases and 6 192 (182 new) deaths are in Africa. **Table 1** below shows the number of reported cases and deaths in the countries that share boundaries with Malawi.

Table 1: Number of cases and deaths of COVID-19 in countries that share a boundary with Malawi

Country	Cumulative cases	New cases	Cumulative deaths	New deaths	Days since last reported case
Mozambique	889	6	6	1	0
Zambia	1 594	26	24	2	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	54

Local situation

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 60 new COVID-19 cases, 46 new recoveries, and no new deaths.

Of the new cases, 57 are linked to being in contact with confirmed cases and three are under investigation¹. Of the locally transmitted infections, 23 are from Mzuzu (four are healthcare workers), 12 from Chitipa (two are healthcare workers), 11 from Lilongwe, four from Mchinji (three are healthcare workers), three from Blantyre and one each from Mulanje, Mzimba South (a healthcare worker), Rumpi and Zomba. Three cases under investigation are from Blantyre, Mangochi, and Mzuzu.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 1402 cases including 16 deaths. **Figure 1** is a map of Malawi showing the number of cases in each affected district. Of these cases, 640 are imported infections and 696 are locally transmitted while 66 are still under investigation. Cumulatively, 317 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1069. The average age of the cases is 33.9 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 78 years and 68% are male. **Table 3**, and **Figures 2, 3**, and **4** show detailed distributions of the cases.

Malawi's borders remain closed except three borders and one airport (KIA) to allow transit of essential goods and services. In the past 24 hours, 254 people have entered Malawi. Active tracing and monitoring of contacts of confirmed COVID-19 are ongoing, currently, a total of 2149 primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 cases have been traced out of which 1805 have been tested.

Recently, Malawi has been receiving returning residents and deportees from other countries, mainly South Africa. Upon entry, they are tested for COVID-19, if positive they put under institutional isolation until safe transfer to their destination district has been arranged. Those tested negative are allowed to proceed to their destination for self-quarantine and follow up by respective district health authorities.

Table 2: Summary statistics for COVID-19 outbreak in Malawi to date

Parameter	Statistic
Cumulative confirmed cases	1402
Number of active cases	1069
Number of cases with a positive result in the past 24 hours	60
Cumulative deaths	16
Cumulative recoveries	317
Suspected cases	15544
Cumulative specimen received by the lab	15544
Cumulative specimen tested	15177
Specimen tested by the lab in the past 24 hours	465
Cumulative contacts listed and follow up	2149
Contacts tested to date	1805
PoEs* entries in the last 24 hours	254
High-risk travellers on follow up at district level**	3163
Cumulative travellers completed 14 days follow up at a district	1912
Returning residents and deportees through Mwanza and KIA	1977

* Point of entry **The number of high-risk travellers on follow up as district level is under-reported (few districts reported)

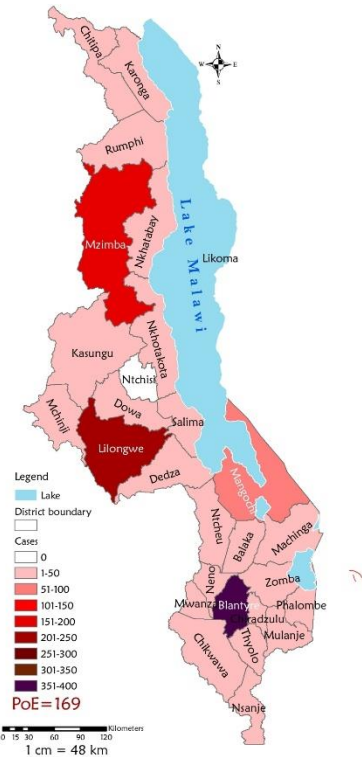


Figure 1: Map of Malawi showing districts with COVID-19 cases

¹ Epidemiological link not yet defined

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases reported countrywide as of 1 July 2020

Reporting District	Confirmed Cases			Deaths		Recoveries		Transmission Classification**			Days since last reported case
	New	PoE TranOuts*	Total	New	Total	New	Total	Imported	Local	Under investigation	
Blantyre	4	22	389	0	5	0	40	81	271	37	0
Lilongwe	11	22	266	0	5	46	84	64	193	9	0
Mzuzu	24	-	147	0	1	0	1	6	133	8	0
Mangochi	1	16	61	0	0	0	3	55	4	2	0
Zomba	1	3	32	0	0	0	1	14	16	2	0
Machinga	0	6	26	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	8
Mzimba	1	2	26	0	0	0	1	14	8	4	0
Thyolo	0	1	24	0	0	0	10	12	12	0	11
Nsanje	0	5	23	0	0	0	0	22	1	0	2
Nkhotakota	0	9	23	0	0	0	4	22	1	0	3
Nkhata Bay	0	10	22	0	0	0	0	22	0	0	14
Balaka	0	7	19	0	1	0	0	19	0	0	4
Chitipa	12	-	30	0	0	0	0	3	27	0	0
Ntcheu	0	2	16	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	4
Chikwawa	0	4	16	0	0	0	1	14	1	1	3
Salima	0	-	16	0	0	0	0	13	3	0	2
Karonga	0	3	15	0	1	0	0	9	6	0	3
Dedza	0	2	13	0	0	0	1	13	0	0	3
Kasungu	0	4	11	0	0	0	0	9	2	0	19
Dowa	0	-	11	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	22
Rumphi	1	1	10	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	0
Mulanje	1	-	9	0	1	0	1	5	1	3	0
Chiradzulu	0	-	7	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	8
Mchinji	4	1	9	0	1	0	0	2	7	0	0
Phalombe	0	-	5	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	2
Mwanza	0	-	4	0	1	0	0	3	1	0	7
Neno	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1
Mwanza PoE	0	-	169	0	0	0	167	169	0	0	8
Total	60	121	1402	0	16	46	317	640	696	66	

**Imported means that infection has been acquired from outside the country; Local transmission means that the source of infection is within the country; Under investigation means that the source of infection has not been determined; PoE, Point of Entry; KIA, Kamuzu International Airport *Cases from PoE that have been traced by the district health authorities

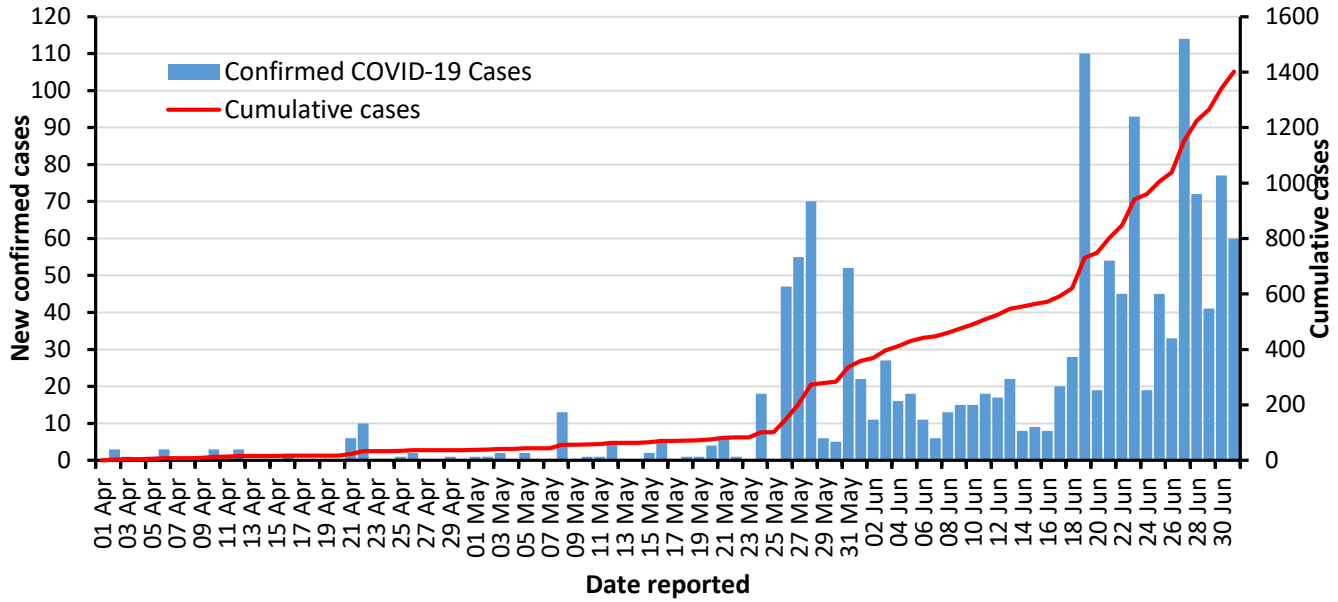


Figure 2: New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of 1 July 2020

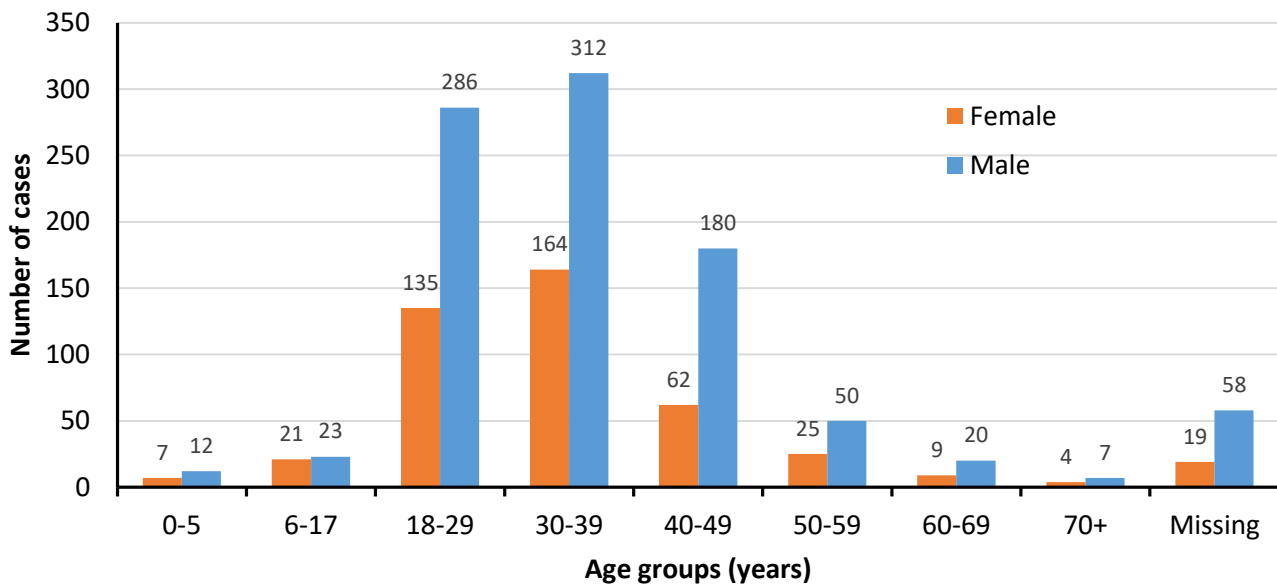


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 1 July 2020

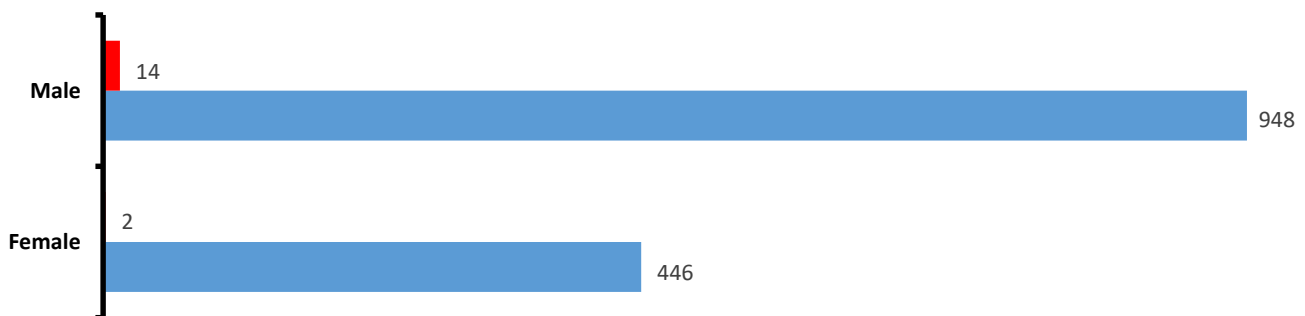


Figure 4: Sex distribution of COVID-19 cases, deaths and recoveries in Malawi as of 1 July 2020

Summary of Prevention and Response Activities

Laboratory testing

Fourteen laboratories in the country have the capacity to confirm COVID-19 using RT-PCR and GeneXpert testing is being done in 29 laboratories. As of 1 July 2020, a total of 15176 samples have been tested, with 1402 positive results, 367 pending results and 127 to be re-tested.

Table 4: Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 1 July 2020

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
COM	2928	40	40	2928	0	43	300	2585
NHRL	1963	0	0	1963	0	0	197	1766
QECH	1949	58	58	1949	0	41	168	1740
Blantyre Dream	1943	174	0	1769	174	0	164	1605
Mwanza	1374	0	0	1374	0	0	88	1286
Mzuzu	992	103	103	907	85	9	153	745
MLW	753	2	2	751	2	14	44	693
PIH	587	25	25	587	0	0	39	548
Mzimba	532	13	13	532	0	0	16	516
KCH	536	13	13	464	72	15	51	398
Zomba	410	5	5	376	34	0	42	334
Balaka Dream	266	0	0	266	0	0	31	235
Salima	207	3	3	207	0	0	13	194
Mchinji	138	18	18	138	0	0	8	130
Thyolo	106	0	0	106	0	5	6	95
Karonga	98	4	4	98	0	0	9	89
Chitipa	102	2	2	102	0	0	22	80
Bwaila	117	24	24	117	0	0	6	111
Mangochi	94	14	14	94	0	0	5	89
Dedza	63	1	1	63	0	0	2	61
Nsanje	78	26	26	78	0	0	12	66
Phalombe	35	0	0	35	0	0	3	32
Dowa	41	6	6	41	0	0	2	39
Rumphi	31	6	6	31	0	0	6	25
MEIRU Chilumba	110	88	88	110	0	0	6	104
Machinga	22	2	2	22	0	0	0	22
Neno	17	0	0	17	0	0	3	14
Nkhotakota	16	0	0	16	0	0	2	14
Balaka	11	10	10	11	0	0	3	8
Kasungu	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
Mulanje	13	2	2	13	0	0	1	12
Ntchisi	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Total	15543	639	465	15176	367	127	1402	13647

NHRL; National Health Reference laboratory: COM; College of Medicine: MLW; Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust: QECH; Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital: KCH; Kamuzu Central Hospital: PIH; Partners in Hope:



Clinical case management

- 169 of the cases identified from Mwanza point of entry are being traced
- 8 cases are under institutional isolation
- 892 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 317 cases have now recovered and 16 have died

Enforcement and security

- Police and Immigration are continuing border patrols
- Road traffic police continue to enforce new seating capacity for public transportation
- Control of crowds in public and private service outlets (e.g. banks)
- Roadblocks are being mounted in strategic points across the country

Point of entry

- Monitoring personnel transporting essential goods and services
- All borders closed except three and one airport for essential personnel travel (e.g. petroleum services and other goods).
- Laboratory testing has been intensified in PoEs
- 1977 returning residents and deportees have arrived in the country through Mwanza and KIA

Supply Chain & Stockpiles

- AMREF stocks distributed to Chitipa, Ntchisi, Mangochi, Machinga, Zomba and Chikwawa Districts
- Lilongwe DHO has also been supported with additional PPE
- Distribution of some PPE to Aviation has been done
- Morocco donation will be distributed in week starting 5th July 2020
- COVID-19 Facility-level M&E tool is being developed with a goal of ensuring **accountability and monitoring stock** place to track donated products to facility-level

Risk communication and community engagement

- The public can access the COVID-19 information by dialing *929#, 321 (Airtel), 54747, or by sending “hi” through WhatsApp to 0990 800 000.
- Information is also available on official Ministry of Health pages; Facebook – Ministry of Health – Malawi, Twitter @health_malawi and website <https://covid19.health.gov.mw>
- Continuous community engagement both at the national and district level through different platforms
- Continued airing of COVID-19 public service announcements on community radios, national radio, and TV stations.
- Daily COVID-19 situation updates to the public through different channels
- Production and printing of fact sheets, posters, leaflets, and roll-up banners. Revised communication products finalized and ready for printing
- Push messages on Airtel and TNM in both English and Chichewa.
- Daily press conferences to give updates on COVID-19 in the country
- Interface meetings with communities using mobile van units in all the districts in the country

Coordination

In order to facilitate coordination and maintain focused efforts towards combating COVID-19 we hold routine and ad-hoc meetings:

- Presidential Task Force on COVID-9 was established and they meet regularly
- Weekly health cluster meetings
- Weekly meetings of technical committees for the various response pillars
- Daily surveillance technical committee meetings
- Daily emergency operation center meetings



Case definitions

1. Suspect Case

- a. A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.
- b. A patient with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset;

OR

- c. A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g. cough and shortness of breath) AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation

2. Probable case

- a. A suspect case for whom testing for COVID-19 is inconclusive. Inconclusive being the result of the test reported by the laboratory

OR

- b. A suspect case for whom testing could not be performed for any reason.

3. Confirmed case

- a. A person with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs, and symptoms.

4. Definition of contact

- a. A primary contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:
 - i. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes;
 - ii. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case;
 - iii. Direct care for a patient with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment

Note: for confirmed asymptomatic cases, the period of contact is measured as the 2 days before through the 14 days after the date on which the sample was taken which led to confirmation.

- b. A secondary contact is a person who was in contact with the primary contact or any contact which does not meet the definition of the primary contact.

5. COVID-19 death

COVID-19 death is defined for surveillance purposes as a death resulting from a clinically compatible illness in a probable or confirmed COVID-19 case unless there is a clear alternative cause of death that cannot be related to COVID disease (e.g. trauma). There should be no period of complete recovery between illness and death.

Classification of transmission patterns

No cases: Countries/territories/areas with no confirmed cases

Sporadic cases: Countries/territories/areas with one or more cases, imported or locally detected

Clusters of cases: Countries/territories/areas experiencing cases, clustered in time, geographic location and/or by common exposures

Community transmission: Countries/area/territories experiencing larger outbreaks of local transmission defined through an assessment of factors including, but not limited to:

1. Large numbers of cases not linkable to transmission chains
2. Large numbers of cases from sentinel lab surveillance
3. Multiple unrelated clusters in several areas of the country/territory/area



Conclusion

Confirmed COVID-19 cases are steadily increasing since the first three cases of COVID-19 were confirmed on 2 April 2020. This has also been compounded by the inflow of Malawian residents returning from South Africa. The Ministry of Health and partners continue in its efforts to ensure the citizens are protected from the Coronavirus outbreak and that the country is able to detect and respond to any cases that may arise.

Prepared by: Epidemiology Unit, Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM), available on <https://malawipublichealth.org/index.php/resources/covid-19-daily-updates/detail>