



**QUICK
OUTLOOK**

7 July 2020

1942

Confirmed cases

65

new cases

1548

active cases

710

imported

1159

local transmission

73

under investigation

67%

male

34 (11.6)

average age
(SD), years

369

recoveries

25

deaths (1 new)

27

districts affected

18375

tests conducted

14

RT-PCR testing sites

29

GeneXpert testing sites

Highlights

- 65 new COVID-19 cases, 24 new recoveries, and one new deaths have been recorded in the past 24 hours
- Cumulatively, the total number of COVID-19 cases in Malawi is 1942, including 25 deaths, and 369 recoveries
- 18375 COVID-19 tests have been conducted to date
- 253 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 6 July 2020, 11 669 259 (168 957 new) COVID-19 cases have been reported globally, including 539 906 (4 147 new) deaths. Out of these, 397 942 (15 379 new) cases and 7 415 (276 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	1040	28	8	0	0
Zambia	1 895	263	42	12	0
Tanzania	509	0	21	0	61

**Table 3:** Summary of COVID-19 cases reported countrywide as of 7 July 2020

R+A1:L26eporting 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	20	22	501	0	7	0	40	96	364	41	0
Lilongwe	13	22	393	1	7	0	87	71	313	9	0
Mzuzu	5	-	277	3	4	0	6	7	262	8	0
Mangochi		16	69	0	0	0	3	60	7	2	0
Mzimba S		2	56	0	0	0	1	16	33	7	0
Nkhata Bay	5	10	48	0	0	0	20	26	22	0	0
Chitipa	2	-	41	1	1	0	0	3	38	0	0
Zomba	2	3	36	0	0	0	1	15	19	2	0
Thyolo		1	33	1	1	0	10	14	19	0	0
Machinga	1	6	29	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0
Nsanje	1	5	25	0	0	0	0	22	3	0	0
Nkhotakota		9	23	0	0	18	22	22	1	0	7
Mchinji	4	1	27	0	1	0	0	5	22	0	0
Salima		-	21	0	0	0	0	15	6	0	2
Balaka	3	7	24	0	1	6	6	21	3	0	0
Karonga	2	3	20	0	1	0	0	10	10	0	0
Dowa		-	18	0	0	0	0	14	4	0	2
Ntcheu		2	17	0	0	0	1	17	0	0	2
Chikwawa		4	17	0	0	0	1	15	1	1	2
Dedza		2	16	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	0
Rumphi	4	1	18	0	0	0	0	5	13	0	0
Kasungu		4	13	0	0	0	0	11	2	0	2
Mwanza	3	-	16	0	0	0	1	13	3	0	0
Neno		1	12	0	0	0	1	2	10	0	0
Mulanje		-	10	0	1	0	1	5	2	3	0
Chiradzulu		-	8	0	1	0	0	8	0	0	0
Phalombe		-	5	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	7
Mwanza PoE		-	169	0	0	0	167	169	0	0	0
Total	65	121	1942	6	25	24	369	710	1159	73	

**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

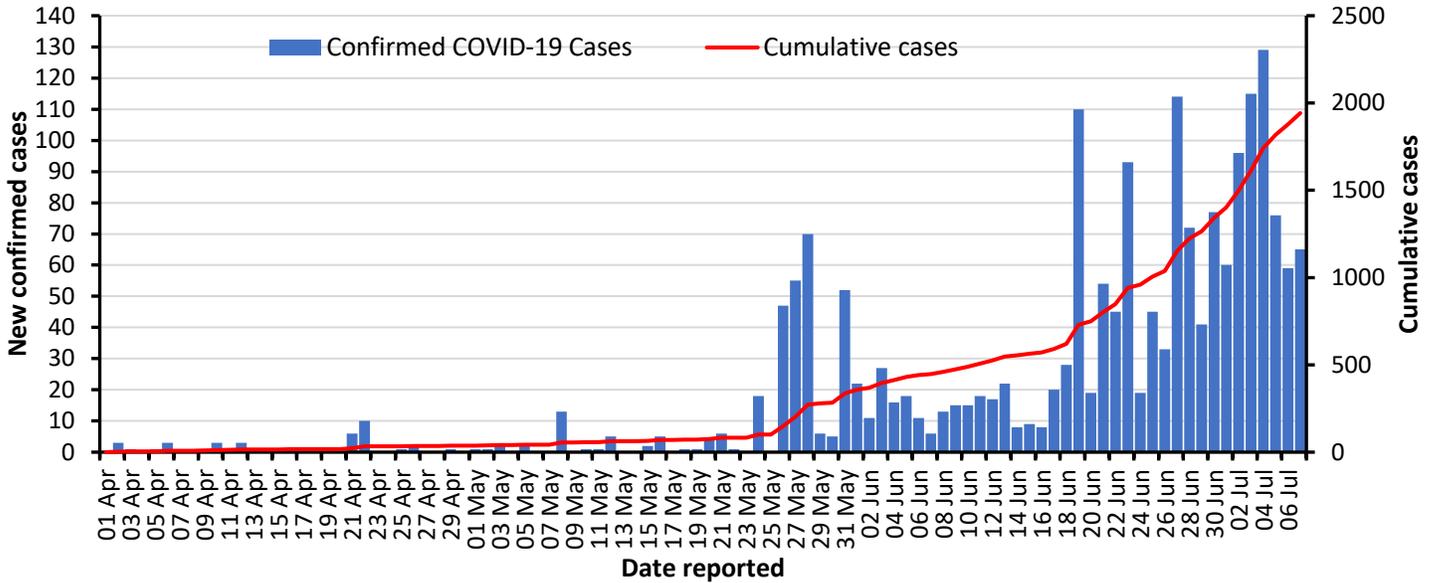


Figure 2: New and cumulative confirmed COVID-19 cases in Malawi by date reported as of July 2020

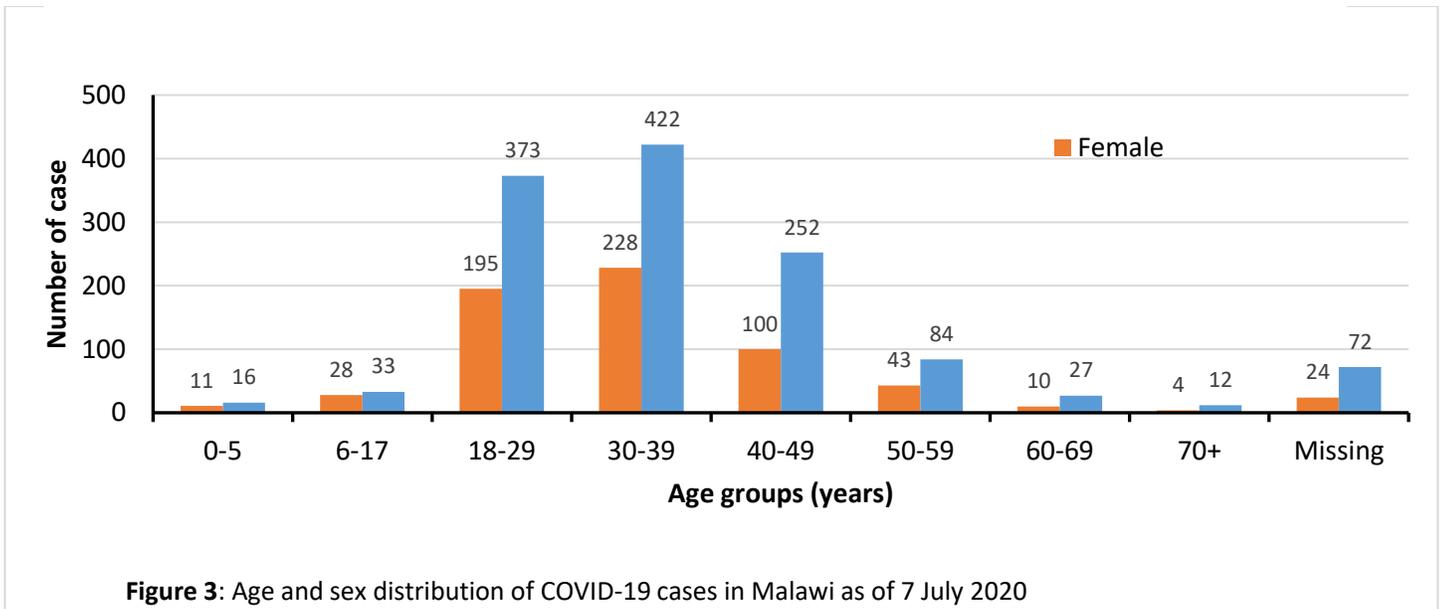


Figure 3: Age and sex distribution of COVID-19 cases in Malawi as of 7 July 2020

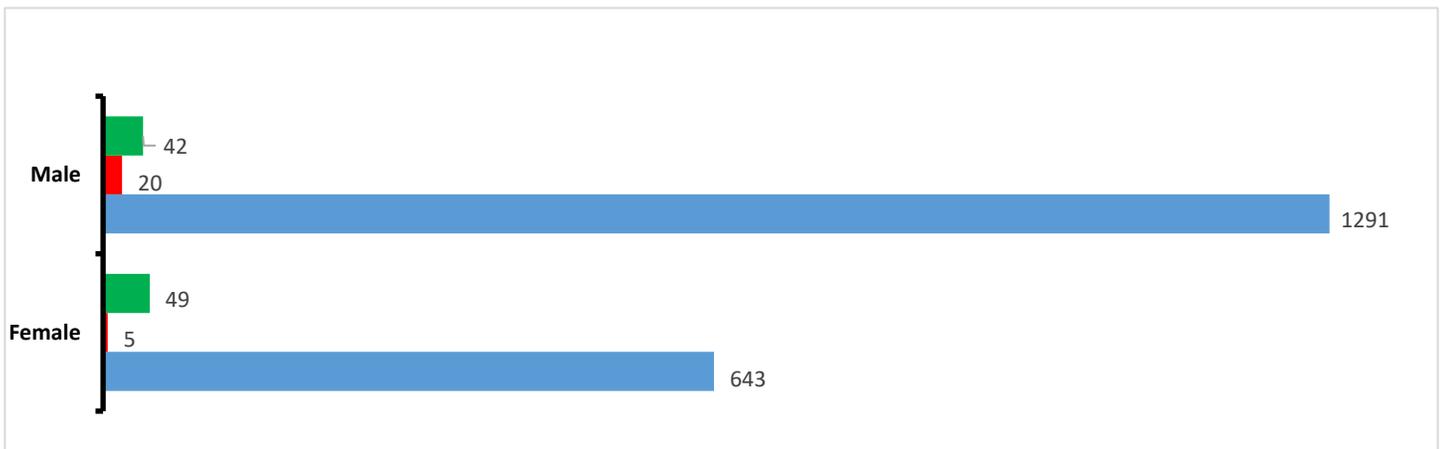


Figure 4: Sex distribution of COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recoveries in Malawi as of 7 July 2020



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 7 July 2020, a total of **18375** samples have been tested, with **1942** positive results, **224** pending results and **155** to be re-tested.

Table 4: Laboratory testing for COVID-19 in Malawi as of 7 July 2020

Name of Laboratory	Cumulative samples	In the past 24hrs		Total samples		Result		
		Samples received	Samples tested	Tested	Pending	Indeterminate	Positive	Negative
COM	3072	11	11	3018	54	43	334	2641
QECH	2145	0	0	2145	0	41	200	1904
Blantyre DREAM	2321	84	84	2224	97	0	209	2015
NHRL	2235	54	0	2181	54	0	202	1979
Mwanza	1633	83	83	1633	0	0	102	1531
Mzuzu	1281	14	14	1281	0	24	292	965
MLW	761	1	1	759	2	14	46	699
PIH	755	0	0	755	0	0	64	691
KCH	759	8	8	744	15	19	102	623
Mzimba South	679	0	0	677	2	2	41	634
Zomba	456	41	41	456	0	0	46	410
Balaka DREAM	331	0	0	331	0	0	66	265
Salima	249	0	0	249	0	0	16	233
Mchinji	187	0	0	187	0	0	27	160
Thyolo	168	3	3	168	0	9	13	146
Karonga	191	60	60	191	0	0	14	177
Bwaila	215	0	0	215	0	0	32	183
Karonga MEIRU	119	0	0	119	0	3	12	104
Chitipa	125	3	1	125	0	0	28	97
Mangochi	213	7	7	213	0	0	8	205
Nsanje	85	1	1	85	0	0	13	72
Dedza	70	0	0	70	0	0	4	66
Dowa	69	0	0	69	0	0	11	58
Balaka	68	0	0	68	0	0	7	61
Neno	64	0	0	64	0	0	12	52
Rumphi	69	8	8	69	0	0	13	56
Phalombe	40	1	1	40	0	0	3	37
Nkhatabay	47	9	9	47	0	0	21	26
Machinga	22	0	0	22	0	0	0	22
Mulanje	24	6	6	24	0	0	2	22
Nkhotakota	18	2	2	18	0	0	2	16
Kasungu	9	0	0	9	0	0	0	9
Chikwawa	19	14	14	19	0	0	0	19
Ntcheu	94	4	4	94	0	0	0	94
Ntchisi	6	2	2	6	0	0	0	6
Total	18599	416	360	18375	224	155	1942	16278



Clinical case management

- 10 cases are under institutional isolation
- 1329 active cases are being managed as outpatients and are under self-isolation
- Cumulatively 345 cases have now recovered and 24 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 the 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>