

Humanitarian Situation Report [No of situation report eg.1st]
[Issues: e.g.: Epidemic of COVID 19 Virus] – [Malawi/ Chinansi Foundation]
[Submission Date: 20th May, 2020]

■ **Point of Contacts**

Name	Simplex Chithyola	Organization / Title	Chinansi Foundation Executive Director
E-mail	<u>Chinansifoundfation07@gmail.com</u>	Phone	+265 995649878

■ **Part 1: Overall Situation**

Situation in the country (Target area)

The world pandemic of corona virus has infected and affected people of all kinds of status and age and the world is on the fight to cub down the situation. Recently globally 4,618,821) cases have been confirmed 311,847 people have lost their lives out of which 1748 deaths are from Africa and only 1,602,443 have recovered. **As of 19th May, 2020 Malawi**, has registered 71 confirmed cases and 3 deaths. Out of the cases 27 have recovered, 41 are active cases. The deaths from Africa include 3 from Malawi and 28 from Malawi neighboring countries of Tanzania (21) and Zambia (7). This pauses a challenge in the country as Malawi borders are very porous hence creating a free flow of citizens from other countries may continue to result into widespread of the virus of corona as depicted in the report that 26 are imported cases. President Peter Mutharika declared Malawi as State of Disaster as far as COVID -19 is concerned. In the declaration, he has ordered that all the schools and public gatherings be stopped until the situation on corona virus improves. The declarations include suspension of conferences, public markets, recreational activities, beer clubs, schools, and many others. In conjunction with Ministry of Health a plea on promoting hygienic behavior and maintain social distances have been encouraged to the citizenry. In addition, on 15th April, Malawi announced a lockdown for 21 days from 18th April to 9th May, 2020 though there are some reactions from the populace looking at the way basic needs are resourced by the people. The people are demanding if government would put quickly measures on how it is going to support them especially on food during the period or after. This poses a lot of shock to the people including children not only for COVID-19 but hunger. In addition, the following are some updates:

- 13 new cases confirmed cases of COVID-19 and no new death recorded from previous report dated of 6th May, 2020.
- Cumulatively, Malawi has registered 71 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 3 deaths and 27 recoveries.
- 39 cases are being managed as out patients and are under self-isolation while 2 cases are institutionalized.
- 1973 laboratory tests have been conducted to date
- 430 close contacts to confirmed cases tested to date
- 1895 Cumulative travelers completed 14 days follow up at the district level
- 46 people transporting essential goods and services have entered the country in the past 24 hours.
- The 12 districts of Malawi have been affected which include Lilongwe (28 cases out of which 2 died), Blantyre (17 cases out of which one died), Thyolo (10 cases), Nkhatabay (5 cases), Zomba (2 case)

Chikwawa (1 case) Nkhotakota (1 case), Karonga (1 case) Mangochi (1 case) Mulanje (1 case), Mzuzu (3 cases) and Ntcheu (1 case)

- 6 out of the cases are children between 6 to 17 years. But 3 have recovered.
- 5 health workers in Blantyre have tested positive.
- Lilongwe district which is where the MWAKO project funded by CFK is located still remains with the highest number of cases.
- Malawi is going for Fresh Presidential Elections and candidates with their supporters are going on campaign. This also poses a threat to Corona virus prevention however measures stipulated in this report are being encouraged to the mass. It's very challenging in town where people have mixed reactions due to excitements. This is happening despite that the infection rate is increasing from 58 cases last week to 71 cases thus 13 more cases within a week which represent 22% increase. Meanwhile 42 cases are of local transmission.
- Due to the political tension in some parts of the country especially the Northern part hardly accept the pandemic thinking it's a political agenda to disturb political rallies towards Fresh Presidential Elections. Hence Government appeal of support to sensitize communities.
- Malawi seek support to turn around the status quo in preventing the virus as this poses a threat that 1.5 million people can be infected including those from rural communities. This has been quoted from Dr Dan Namalika, Min of Health.
- Chinansi recently paid a visit to the GVH Ngawa community on 2nd May 2020 where it was strongly observed that no intervention has reached to the community in any form like dissemination of preventive messages and the Health personnel at Ndaula have not received any orientation as well as materials.
- On 20th Chinansi had a whatsapp call with Ndaula Health Environmental Officer Mr Ndalama to check on the situation if at all they have received any support from the Government or any well wisher to help them promote preventive measures to the people including Ngawa community. The following were the quotes from the call:
 1. *'We have not received any orientation from the Lilongwe DHO about the pandemic as Health workers. We just hear that our colleagues in town clinics have been oriented.'*
 2. *'The center has not been provided with any preventive material as we hear from the provisions our Health workers received in other areas like masks, sanitizers, soap, hand washing materials.'*
 3. *'We are at great risk together with the communities in contracting the corona virus.'*
- In addition, also had a call with Bertha, the HAS for GVH Ngawa who concurred with Mr Ndalama that there is no support provided to them so that they would reach the communities.

Ngawa in Masumbankhunda lies to the South East of Lilongwe district in Malawi and borders with Mozambique where its porous to illegal immigrants. This poses a threat to transmission of the COVID-19. Being very remote the area is deprived of health-related messages let it alone the COVID-19. Sanitation and Hygiene practices are still a challenge as evidenced by outbreak of scabies which is highly contributed by unhygienic behaviors. Development players are very few and especially the Non-Governmental or Civil Society where only Chinansi with support from CFK. Therefore, this poses a big threat of having misconception of the pandemic and that demands quick response from CFK and Chinansi to support the Government to reach out to the targeted area. The most hit district of the pandemic in Malawi currently is Lilongwe where information below entails:

The Government of Malawi through its councils, faith and community, ministries

- Health Authorities have taken necessary actions to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and have established a number of laboratories for diagnostic investigation including the main center at College of Medicine in Blantyre. The Malawi government has declared 14 days' quarantine period for immigrants coming from high risk countries and who seem to be suspected. Accordingly, quarantine centers have established through the support of military service in all the entry points of Mwanza, Mchinji, Kamuzu and Chileka international airports, Chiponde, Songwe, Mulanje and Dedza and Biliwili respectively
- The President and Malawi government has ordered that on arrival visa should be cancelled for all countries, the Foreign Ministry has imposed travel restrictions to the countries of China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, France, Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, The Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Belgium, United Kingdom and Norway
- All schools, universities, religious education and private classes and preschools in the country are closed off from 23rd March till further notice.
- The general public is requested to refrain from engaging in pilgrimages, tours, and trips even within the country in the upcoming until further notice. The Police has decided to restrict public gathering and functions like wedding ceremonies, sports, churches, drinking places to the maximum possible extent (not more than 50 people.
- Government plans to disinfect buses and trains used for public transportation and the security forces will aid in this regard.
- .The police hotline 119/117 is available for the general public to inform in case of suspicion of having contracted the corona virus.
- As per observation and revealed through media, general public have been panicked and begun swarming supermarkets and bulk buying goods, raising concerns. Endless queues were seen at petrol stations as residence waited in long lines to pump their vehicles with gas, amid fears daily life will be severely disrupted by the spread of corona virus.
- There is no special security concern been reported and security situation remain normal
- An appeal to place Hand washing facilities in all entries like markets, offices, banks, shops etc in order to promote hygienic practices
- The Government through Minister of Health Jappie Mhango announced that Malawi will be on Lockdown starting 18th April, 2020 to 9th May, 2020 thus 21 days. To be extended as need arises. The decision which CSOs and other academia says was not consultative enough and have taken an injunction. The court ruled that before its implementation there should be 7 days consultative meetings before its effected which is still under way'

■ Part 2: Organization's Response or Plan for response

* Based on the analysis, Chinansi has received a Humanitarian **US\$ 50,000** Grant from CFK to respond to the pandemic and the summarized plan for response_will focus on the following outcomes:

1. Disseminated of preventive messages of Covid 19 in the targeted communities
2. Improved hygiene and sanitation through adoption of best practices by community members.
3. Improved nutrition to all people especially children and the elderly during days of restriction/ lockdowns

• □ Security and Logistics

Safety and security measures of staffs, community people and others will be available throughout the project period because of the assurance by the Government due to the deployed security personnel in place. Also, the availability of different support by the Government and NGOs towards the people of Malawi. In this case Chinansi has the following safety and security measures:

BY GOVERNMENT:

- Police deployed to provide border security patrols
- MDF and Police ready to enforce lockdown measures (when enforced)
- Road traffic police enforcing new seating capacity for public transportation
- Control of crowds in public and private service outlets (e.g. banks)
- Joint patrols on Lake Malawi (MDF and Immigration)
- Roadblocks mounted in strategic points across the country

All borders closed except 3 to allow essential personnel travel (e.g petroleum services and other goods)

Toll free call line with Chipatala Cha pa Fone (Mobile Hospital line) on number 54747

BY CHINANSI:

1. Chinansi shall ensure that all staff, project beneficiaries, stakeholders and volunteers are informed of coronavirus prevention measures.
2. Chinansi has affected a NO-HANDSHAKE policy with immediate effect at its offices, field activities, meetings, workshops, conferences etc.
3. Coronavirus prevention IEC materials shall be displayed in all offices including Transitional enters, target schools and community places of gatherings
4. Chinansi shall place hand washing facilities in all offices for staff and visitors. Everyone (including staff and visitors) must ensure that they wash their hands before entering Chinansi office premises
5. In the event of any suspected case of Coronavirus, staff will be sent back home for a reasonable number of days until such a time the hospital has confirmed them coronavirus free.
6. Chinansi has with immediate effect banned all staff from travelling to high risk countries as per Malawi Government and WHO listed countries.
7. Chinansi staff must ensure that coronavirus prevention information and messages have been mainstreamed in all program activities.
8. Chinansi shall also work closely with the Malawi ministry of health and other stakeholders in monitoring the situation and get updates on further actions to prevent the spread of the virus within Malawi.
9. In the event that the situation goes out of hand, Chinansi management shall advise all staff and volunteers to operate from homes except those staff on Corona Virus response until such a time when fresh communication shall be sent to all staff to return to their offices and duty stations.
10. Chinansi has developed a motto as ***“TOGETHER FOR A CORONAVIRUS FREE SOCIETY!!!”***

• □ **Partnership and Coordination**

The response will be coordinated by the Ministry of Health and the District Commissioner for Lilongwe District Council and the following Malawi government departments and organizations will support the response:

Departments	Roles To Be Played
Lilongwe District & city Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community awareness • Joint monitoring • Participate in the trainings of the HSAs
Lilongwe Water Board Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of safe water •
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of medical experts' volunteers • Trainings of HSAs and Provision of the awareness raising of communities
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall coordination of the response, • Training of HSAs on the COVID 19 response, • Joint coordination and monitoring
Chinansi Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings of the HSAs within the target areas • Provision and administering of the Non-Biomedical care • Sanitizers,etc plus awareness raising

Source of data for Malawi COVID-19 Situation Report: PHIM (Public Health Institute of Malawi)