Highlights

- With additional funding from UNICEF through UK Aid we have expanded our Emergency WASH Preparedness for COVID-19 project to four more districts: Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo and Chitipa from 22nd June.
- We supported 296 South Africa (SA) returnees with supplies including soap, menstrual hygiene management kits, hand washing buckets and basins and installed 10 latrines at Blantyre Emergency Treatment Unit (ETU).
- Our BMZ/GIZ nutrition programme (FNSP) trained 40 HSAs (28M and 12F) on Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) and monitoring tools, developed 15 teams of HSAs for triggering and monitoring and now all teams are conducting triggering in their respective villages reaching 45,125 community members.
- Our Scottish Government/University of Strathclyde project mWater has developed digital surveys to support remote monitoring during COVID-19 restrictions.
- Under the Scottish Government funded EASE project we switched on our first solar PV micro-grid, which is now providing electricity to households, small businesses, a church and the school in GVH Mthembanji.
- The National Cookstove Steering Committee, of which UP is Secretariat, has now recorded 1,838,562 stoves reaching households in Malawi and we are on track to reach the 2 million by 2020 goal.

INGO Focal Points: INGOs have identified District Focal Points to strengthen existing coordination mechanisms at district level and to assist in bridging communication gaps between district and national levels. This week one of UP’s District Focal Points will be presenting to the Humanitarian Country Team on behalf of INGOs on ‘voices from the field’.

Resources and internal focal points: Offices remain closed for June and we are now three months into remote working. UP COVID-19 Focal points will be conducting refresher training and a number of internal resources which have been shared widely with other organisations, are being revised in light of latest guidance. You can read about one of our focal points and WASH Programme Manager Smorden Tomoka here.

Programme Results

Since 1st April 2020 we have achieved the following results across our programmes:

- 10,377 people having received agricultural inputs (seeds, PICS bags, livestock) to reduce anticipated impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods
- 4,113 health facilities have been equipped with adequate WASH supplies and services
- 15,811,539 people received Ministry of Health approved messages via radio, PA and SMS
- 10,190 of UP posters distributed to community institutions (including health centres, churches)
- 199 community sites supplied with handwashing facilities
- 6,651 frontline workers and community leaders received training and capacity building
- 55,929 bars of soaps have been distributed
- 1,387 water buckets have been distributed
- 810 face masks have been distributed
- 1,160 gloves have been distributed
- 1,800 Menstrual hygiene management kits have been distributed
- 1,800 Menstrual hygiene management kits have been distributed
- 651 KG of Chlorine distributed

The Situation

Malawi is in a declared State of Disaster. As of 16th June there are 564 cases (485 active) confirmed cases of COVID-19; six deaths, 73 recoveries and 8642 samples tested. 24 out of 28 districts are affected.

The injunction against a 21-day lockdown still stands pending review by the Supreme Court meanwhile campaigning ahead of the election re-run planned for 23rd June continues. The National Planning Taskforce recommended reopening all educational institutions from 13 July 2020.

Our Team and Operations

Risk Assessment: All 26 projects have conducted a risk assessment and developed a revised work plan for the next three months. Only field work that is COVID-19 preparedness/response or falls within UP COVID-19 restrictions is permitted.
Our Programmes

Programme highlights from the last two weeks across our strategic pillars are as follows:

Livelihoods and food security

- Under our Embassy of Ireland funded livelihoods programme (ASPIRE), we finalised our project film and analysed the results of our midterm review. Results include OFSP yields increasing by over 300% across two target TAs in Dedza and the number of women reporting to have joint ownership and control of household income rising from 30% to 77%.
- Under our UK Aid funded Resilience programme (PROSPER), a total of 15,000 PICS bags have been distributed to 5,000 project participants in Mangochi and 15,000 are currently being distributed in Balaka. We have tripled the number of bags as a COVID-19 contingency plan; they are the most effective method of storing farm produce without using pesticide.

WASH and healthier lives

- With additional funding from UNICEF through UK Aid we have expanded our Emergency WASH Preparedness for COVID-19 project to four more districts; Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo and Chitipa from 22nd June. Working with District Councils, we are now supporting 12 ETUs located at district hospitals to ensure they have adequate WASH services. To date, we have installed 45 emergency latrines and hand washing stations with soap; installed water tanks in 4 ETUs; enhanced DHO capacity to respond to COVID-19; increased knowledge and about COVID-19 through community radio jingles and mobile vans reaching over 2,000,000 people.
- We continue to work in co-ordination with other NGOs to ensure safe facilities for returnees to quarantine. Last week we supported 296 returnees from South Africa with supplies including soap, menstrual hygiene management kits, hand washing buckets and basins and installed 10 latrines at Blantyre ETU.
- Our BMZ/GIZ nutrition programme (FNSP) is promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices by pushing for the attainment of Open Defecation Free (ODF) status in TA Tambala. Last week we trained 40 HSAs (28M and 12F) on Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) and monitoring tools, developed 15 teams of HSAs for triggering and monitoring and now all teams are conducting triggering in their respective villages reaching 45,125 community members.
- Our Scottish Government/University of Strathclyde project mWater has developed digital surveys to support remote monitoring during COVID-19 restrictions.

Sustainable energy

- Our Embassy of Ireland funded ACCESS project has reached 56 social cash transfer clusters in Dedza with public announcements related to COVID-19 and sustainable energy, while 4,000 SMS messages have also been transmitted.
- The National Cookstove Steering Committee, of which UP is Secretariat, has now recorded 1,838,562 stoves reaching households in Malawi and we are on track to reach the 2 million by 2020 goal.
- Under the Scottish Government funded EASE project we have recently switched on our first solar PV micro-grid, which is now providing electricity to households, small businesses, a church and the school in GVH Mthembanji.
- Through our GIZ-EnDev funded RBF project work is underway to provide up to an additional 30,000 free improved cookstoves to SCT recipients in Chiradzulu and Lilongwe.

Gender equality

- With netball practice postponed due to COVID-19, our Comic Relief funded girls empowerment project (Girls INSPIRED) is working with our nutrition team to develop and implement nutrition training programme for adolescents girls aged 10-19 years using sport.

For more information contact: UP Malawi Country Director (Acting): Kate.Hartley-Louis@united-purpose.org