Highlights

- Under our Embassy of Ireland funded project ASPIRE 43 Community Grains banks provide an important cushion during COVID-19 ensuring reserve food for times of external shocks when households can fall into food shortages.

- In response to the return of 300 Malawians from South Africa across the Mwanza border over the weekend of 29th May, WASH supplies (soap, menstrual hygiene kits, garbage bins, hand washing buckets, Hygiene promotion posters and Fliers, water quality testing kits, chlorine powder 67%) have been delivered to Blantyre for the safe quarantine of our returnees.

- A panel discussion on COVID-19 and the role of communities in its prevention was organized by UP on Zodiak radio which has an estimated listenership of 14,5 million people and 81% coverage across Malawi.

- 20,000 copies of the FUKO newspaper (a newspaper in Chichewa distributed in rural areas for free) was published on 3th June with key messages busting myths around COVID-19.

- The biogas digester installed by the EU-funded Pro-Act project in Mulanje prison to meet prison’s cooking needs as well as for back-up lighting system was officially handed over to the prison administration. The biogas digester is already fully operational. Whilst training the prison staff on this the project integrated COVID 19 messaging and awareness raising.

- Under our EU-funded Pro-ACT project, 53,083 chickens were vaccinated in Mulanje and will be distributed to 1,264 Social Cash Transfer (SCT) beneficiaries. 2,025 SCT beneficiaries received maize and vegetable seeds for winter production in Mulanje and Nsanje.

- Our EU-funded DIVERSIFY project has finalised a film about the orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) bread produced by Mothers Holding using OFSP sourced locally from around 3,000 smallholder farmers supported under this project and is disseminating this remotely through various online platforms.

The Situation

Malawi is in a declared State of Disaster. As of 2nd June 2020 Malawi has reported 358 COVID-19 cases in 16 (out of 28) districts, four deaths, 42 recoveries and 5505 samples tested. The number of reported cases has risen from 101 to 358 between 26th May and 2nd June.

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 end of June continues.

Our Team and Operations

Risk Assessment: As some businesses start to open we have had to reflect on whether we should move away from remote working and restart activities we had suspended. All projects have now conducted a risk assessment and the SMT will be reviewing this by 5th June deciding on which regular programming activities, if any, can commence. For now, UP offices will remain closed for June.

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

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

Livelihoods and food security
- Under our Embassy of Ireland funded project ASPIRE 43 Community Grains banks are able to ensure a reserve of food for uncertain times when households could fall into food shortages.
- Under our EU-funded Pro-Act project, 53,083 chickens were vaccinated in Mulanje and distributed to 1,264 Social Cash Transfer (SCT) beneficiaries.
- 2,025 SCT beneficiaries received maize and vegetable seeds for winter production in Mulanje and Nsanje.
- The biogas digester installed by Pro-Act in Mulanje prison to meet prison’s cooking needs as well as for back-up lighting system was officially handed over to the prison administration. Furthermore, the project continued raising awareness on COVID-19 airing jingles on Mzati Radio Station and distributing leaflets to extension workers and community members.
- We are using the remote working time for learning and documentation. In this regard, our EU-funded DIVERSIFY programme has finalised a film. DIVERSIFY is currently in the process of training lead farmers, Area Development Committee members whilst distributing handwashing facilities and posters to health centres and churches in Thyolo, Balaka and Blantyre.

WASH and healthier lives
- With funding from Charity: water, through our Dowa WASH Program (DI-WASH), UP organized a live panel discussion on Zodiak radio on COVID-19 and the role of community members in its prevention. The two panellists were Mr. Mavuto Thomas, communication expert from the Ministry of Health and Mr. Elias Chimulambe, a health expert. Zodiak radio has an estimated listenership of 14.5 million people and 81% coverage across Malawi.
- In response to the return of 300 Malawians from South Africa across the Mwanza border over the weekend of 29th May, WASH supplies (soap, menstrual hygiene kits, garbage bins, hand washing buckets, Hygiene promotion posters and Fliers, water quality testing kits, and chlorine powder) were set up in the quarantine sites. This is in co-ordination with other NGOs to ensure safe facilities for returnees to quarantine whilst they were tested for COVID 19.
- With funding from The One Foundation, through our Kapichi WASH Project, we trained 129 health workers (87 men & 42 women); sensitized 34 ADC members (22 men & 12 women) and 65 community leaders (48 men & 17 women); supported COVID-19 hygiene awareness campaigns through PA systems with a reach of 39,574 people (10,174 men, 16,800 women, 5,821 boys and 6,779 girls). We distributed WASH supplies (12 hand washing buckets and 100 tablets of soap) to Thyolo District Hospital, Khonjeni, Mitengo and Makapwa Health Centres to improve their capacity to prevent and control COVID-19, and distributed 300 COVID-19 posters to Health Centres, markets, communities and Police Stations.

Sustainable energy
- Our Embassy of Ireland funded project ACCESS continues combining COVID-19 messages with promotions for stoves and solar lamps using PA system and radio jingles aired on Bembeke FM.
- Observing all necessary COVID-19 precautionary measures, our GIZ-funded EnDev Commercial project has resumed stove purchases from production groups and distribution to sales agents in Thyolo, Blantyre and Phalombe.
- Under our University of Strathclyde and Scottish Government funded EASE project, the first micro-grid is on track to be switched on this month and community-based micro-grid operators have been already trained in all relevant SOPs.