



Summary - WPV1 outbreak:

Outbreak confirmation: 16th Feb. 2022

Total number of WPV1 viruses: 1

WPV1 cases this week: 0

PHE declaration: 17th Feb. 2022

Most recent isolation and date of onset:

Source: AFP case

Location: Lilongwe

Date of onset: 19th Nov. 2021

Fig 1: Distribution of WPV1 case in Malawi



● WPV1 case

1.0 HIGHLIGHTS

- On 16 February 2022, Malawi received confirmation of Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1) from an acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) case in Lilongwe
- The date of onset of this case was 19 November 2021 and stool samples were collected on 26 and 27 November 2021
- The isolated WPV1 virus was highly divergent from the closest genetic relative and is virologically linked to circulation in Pakistan in 2019.
- Since its last isolation in Pakistan, the circulation of the reported virus was missed for about 2 years
- Within 24 hours of the outbreak notification, the Government of Malawi declared Public Health Emergency and activated Emergency Operation Centre to address the Polio Outbreak
- Within 72 hours, global support from GPEI Rapid Response Team arrived in the country to support outbreak response
- The response plan includes at least 4 rounds of nationwide supplementary immunization campaigns (SIA) using bivalent oral poliovirus vaccine (bOPV) in Malawi. The first response round was conducted from 21 to 26 March 2022
- Operational budgets have been developed and approved; funds for response operations provided

2.0 KEY UPDATES

Coordination

- The government of Malawi at all levels continue to show strong commitment to addressing the WPV 1 outbreak response
- Post campaign national review meeting for Round One held on 5 April 2022 with the 29 districts teams in attendance.
 - The review was led by senior MOH officials, supported by WHO, UNICEF, BMGF, CDC.
- Conducted cross-border coordination meeting between Karonga district and border districts in Tanzania for Public Health Emergencies (including WPV1 outbreak) response across borders.
- Participation in the inter-country coordination meetings for coordinated regional response to the outbreak
- Held weekly briefing meeting with Minister of Health on progress of the campaign
- National Emergency Operations Centre with technical working groups fully functional
- In-country GPEI team continue to support and work as one team with the Government of Malawi

Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA)

- New date for RD2 campaign is 25 – 28 April 2022. This is to give additional time to adequately prepare for the campaign and implement improvement plans following RD1 campaign
- Updated timeline for activities in preparation for RD2 campaign
- Commenced update of self assessment dashboard at national and district levels for Round 2 campaign
- Updated partner mapping and deployment for RD 2 campaign. A total of 28 partners from WHO, UNICEF, CDC already identified at the national level.
 - Each partner to support a national supervisor to support and be accountable for one district for pre, intra and post campaign implementation.
 - Additional surge is expected in-country and will be deployed to the districts as per need.

Table 1: Scope of Approved 2nd round of Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA)

Geopolitical zones	Number of districts	Population of 0-5years
North	7	347,681
Central East	5	454,996
Central West	4	741,443
South East	6	818,831
South West	7	559,224
Total	29	2,922,175

Surveillance

- Ongoing enhanced active case search in health facilities and communities in all 29 districts
 - At national level NPAFP rate at 3.3/100,000 pop and Stool Adequacy at 81%
 - Surge team deployed to poorly performing districts to strengthen active case search and finalize investigation of alerts reported during round one campaign
- A total of 11 Environmental Surveillance (ES) sites have so far been established, Lilongwe (3), Blantyre (3), Mzuzu (3) and Zomba (2), with 22 collectors and 11 supervisors trained.
- 54 samples from Environmental Surveillance (ES) sites collected, 11 enroute (DHL) and 32 in NICD (11 results received from ES samples and all negative for Polio virus).

Communication and Social Mobilization

- Continued engagement to communities through media and advocacy meetings for upcoming campaigns

3.0 NEXT STEPS

- Fast track fund transfer for RD2 campaign from WHO and UNICEF to national and district levels
- Optimize functionality of District EOCs and closely coordinate with national EOC
- Closely monitor pre-campaign activities and update preparedness self-assessment dashboard
- Review of microplan for the campaign – identify and strategize for special populations and areas that performed poorly in RD1
- Fastrack deployment of national supervisors and partners to districts to support EOCs and preparedness for RD 2 campaign
- Intensify on-going social mobilization activities at all levels
- Ensure cross-border planning and coordination for RD 2 campaign across all border districts
- Continue monitoring implementation of outbreak surveillance enhancement plan

CONTACTS

For more information about the situation report, please contact:

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ANNEX

Fig. 2 National level preparedness dashboard for RD2 campaign

Level self assessment preparedness		National
1.Planning, coordination and financing		73%
2.Training for SIAs		86%
3.Monitoring and Supervision		75%
4.Vaccine, cold chain and logistics		90%
5.Advocacy, social mobilization and communication		79%
6. Global Status of preparedness		81%

Fig.3 Non-Polio AFP Rate and Stool Adequacy

Analysis based on data received by:

11-Apr

	Population Under 15	Cases in Database	No. AFP cases	Annualised Non-polio AFP rate*	AFP cases with 2 stools within 14 days of onset*	
					(n)	%
Balaka	212,260	0	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!
Blantyre	494,680	4	4	2.7	2	50%
Chikwawa	260,247	4	4	5.1	3	75%
Chiradzulu	149,895	5	5	11.0	4	80%
Chitipa	102,520	0	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!
Dedza	369,676	3	3	2.7	1	33%
Dowa	337,115	2	2	2.0	2	100%
Karonga	162,111	4	4	8.2	3	75%
Kasungu	383,749	6	6	5.2	6	100%
Likoma	5,361	0	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!
Lilongwe	1,116,580	5	5	1.5	5	100%
Machinga	387,299	0	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!
Mangochi	594,870	2	2	1.1	1	50%
Mchinji	273,806	2	2	2.4	0	0%
Mulanje	307,949	2	2	2.2	2	100%
Mwanza	60,208	4	4	22.0	3	75%
Mzimba	499,915	1	1	0.7	1	100%
Neno	63,913	3	3	15.5	3	100%
Nkhata Bay	123,763	3	3	8.0	3	100%
Nkhotakota	182,819	0	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!
Nsanje	140,906	5	5	11.8	4	80%
Ntcheu	295,739	6	6	6.7	5	83%
Ntchisi	147,785	4	4	9.0	4	100%
Phalombe	208,609	0	0	0.0	0	#DIV/0!
Rumphi	100,616	3	3	9.9	2	67%
Salima	245,499	6	6	8.1	6	100%
Thyolo	313,473	1	1	1.1	1	100%
Zomba	383,330	4	4	3.5	3	75%
Malawi Total	7,924,693	79	79	3.3	64	81%