COVID-19 Impact in Malawi

Research Operations at Malawi CRS

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Introduction

• Malawi declared national disaster in March 20, 2020
  – Schools closed
  – Most borders closed late March
• First case diagnosed April 2, 2020
• Lockdown proposed but rejected by Human Rights Groups (Court)
• Elections June 22 2020, New leadership
• Enhanced public health measures early July
Table 1: Summary statistics for COVID-19 outbreak in Malawi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Statistic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suspected cases</td>
<td>54,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative confirmed cases</td>
<td>5,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative deaths</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative received samples</td>
<td>54,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative samples tested</td>
<td>54,472</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Malawi CRS Planning

• Project COVID task force established (March 2020)
  – Weekly meetings
  – Planned Trainings on COVID-19 (Clinical, Safety, Modified SOPS)
  – Renovations
    • PPE donning/doffing stations
    • Handwash stations
  – PPE inventory management
  – Clinic Staffing plans with Shifts
Workplace COVID clinical team

- Manage Isolation
- Contact Tracing, Quarantine, Daily monitoring, Followup Testing
- Ensure Clinical Supplies
  - Pulse Oximeter, Thermometer for Confirmed cases
  - Oxygen tank supply
  - Planning with COVID unit

Malawi CRS statistics

- 6 positive cases
  - 1 Hospitalized
  - 5 Mild
- 45 quarantines
- Majority of “quarantines” cases exposed outside of workplace
- 1 known study participant infected
Impact on Research Operations

• Screening/Enrollment hold dictated by the Networks
• All other study visits maintained
  – limited number per day
  – Socially distanced waiting area
• Screening at entry to buildings
• Referral of suspects for review (external to research building)
• PPE use by staff
• Provision of Cloth masks/sanitizer to all participants (for home use)
Summary

• Malawi CRS operations modestly affected by COVID.
  – Adequate structural modifications and sufficient PPE allowed continued operations
  – Few infected staff or participants
• Maintenance of COVID procedures going forward
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