

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

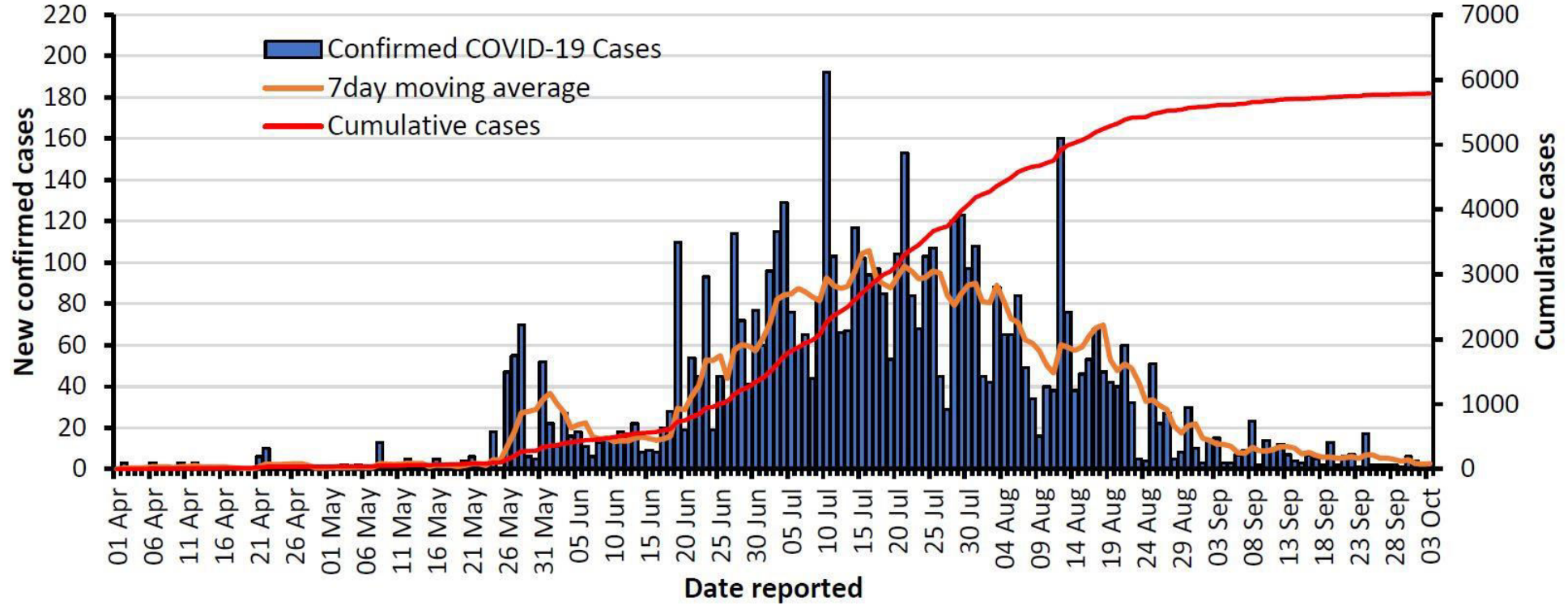


Table 1: Summary statistics for COVID-19 outbreak in Malawi

Parameter	Statistic
Suspected cases	54,578
Cumulative confirmed cases	5,794
Cumulative deaths	180
Cumulative received samples	54,578
Cumulative samples tested	54,472

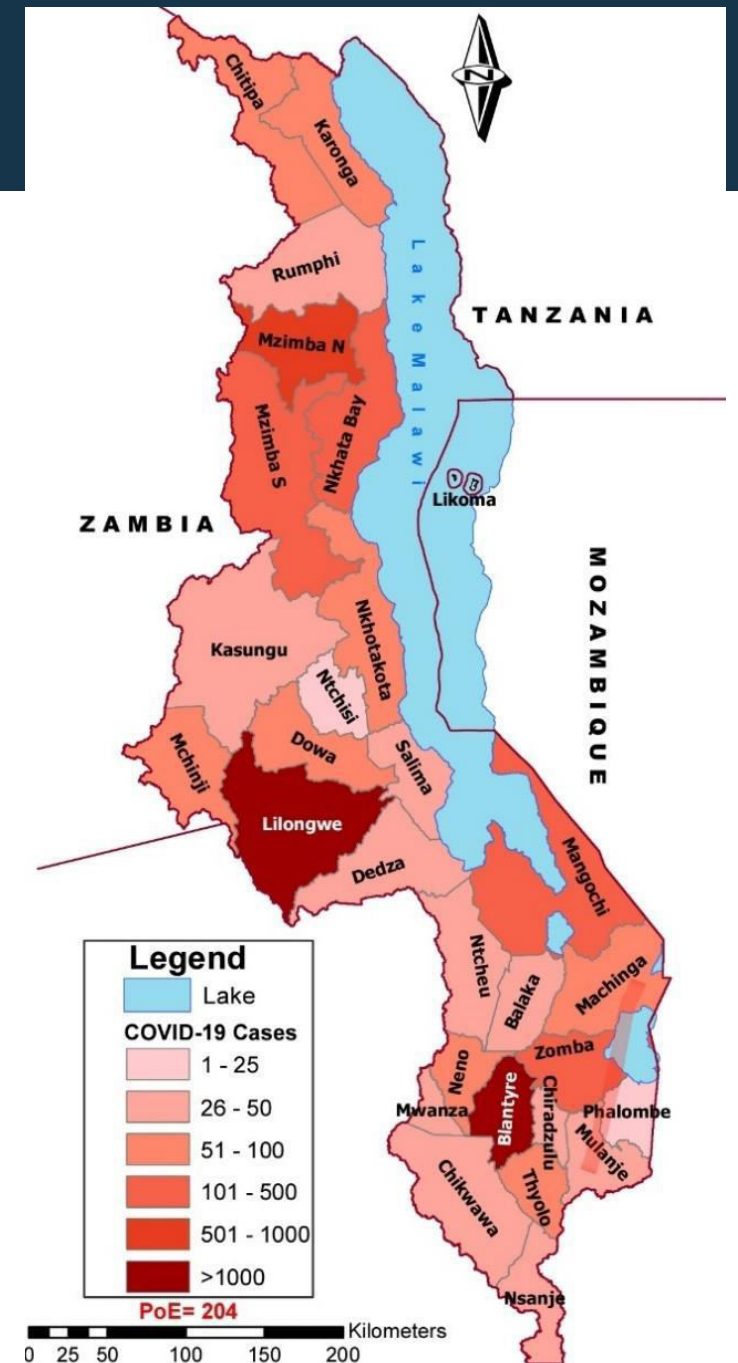


Figure 1: Map of Malawi showing distribution of COVID-19 cases

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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