
Malawi National Logistics Cluster Meeting

Minutes, 2nd February 2021

Zoom Online Meeting



LOCATION	Lilongwe, Malawi (online meeting)
DATE	2 nd February 2021
CHAIR	Patrick Mills Lamptey (WFP - National Logistics Cluster Coordinator), on behalf of Herbert Chingati (Under Secretary - Ministry of Transport and Public Works - MoTPW)
PARTICIPANTS	Last Mile Health, FAO, Concern Worldwide, SPRODETA, GOAL Malawi, World Food Programme
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners to make available trained staff or staff to be trained for the setting up of MSUs (to assist on a voluntary basis)• Partners to channel support requests for transportation and storage via the National Logistics Cluster and to communicate their organisation's needs• The National Logistics Cluster to update on SOPs in public transport• The National Logistics Cluster to update on the COVID-19 Response Plan• Partners to provide feedback on the Draft COVID-19 Response Plan• The National Logistics Cluster to inform about which CP is leading the LSR in which districts in the next meeting

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AGENDA

1. Recap of the Previous Meeting
2. General COVID-19 Updates
3. Draft COVID-19 Response Plan
4. National Response Updates
5. Lean Season Response Updates
6. AOB

1. Recap of the Previous Meeting

- Technicians and casual labour required to assist with tent deployment – currently there is no budget for extra allowances
- Prioritization list for the distribution of MSUs in progress
- COVID-19 regulations on public transporters: Tightened preventative measures to be adopted by transporter's crew and passengers on board
- Passengers arriving at the airports:
 - To get tested 48hours before departure and present a valid negative PCR test upon arrival
 - Those without certificates to be tested on arrival and non-residents to pay for test and quarantine
- Two bridges collapsed in Mangochi district affecting the LSR distributions to Makanjira and Lulanga

2. General Covid-19 Updates

- Daily record of confirmed COVID-19 cases over the past week still high but decreased slightly
- Testing & laboratory capacities significantly augmented
 - Over 17,334 tests conducted over the past week in Malawi
 - First Malawian COVID-19 lab operative at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital
 - COVID-19 strain from South Africa confirmed in Malawi
- Bingu stadium field hospital now operational: capacity of over 240 beds
- Order of Astra Zeneca vaccine doses: distributions to start in March
- COVID-19 hotline service expanded

<https://logcluster.org/countries/MWI>

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- Airports to remain open
- Fine of 100,000 MK for non-compliance to COVID-19 safety measure in public transportation

3. Draft COVID-19 Response Plan

- ICCG meeting held last Wednesday chaired by DoDMA and the UN Resident Coordinator Office on next steps in the COVID-19 response
- All national clusters to submit draft response plans that are revised considering the rising COVID-19 cases in Malawi
- Proposal for the plan to cover the whole year instead of 6 months
- Coordination structures from the previous year still in place to align the decision making on COVID-19 measures in the country

Draft COVID-19 National Logistics Cluster Preparedness & Response Plan to include:

- Tent installation for screening, treatment, and isolation purposes (overall needs in all district: 80; immediate needs: over 30)
- Deployment of container labs
- Storage support to Ministry of Health & partners
- Transport services of relief items from central stores to health facilities etc.
- Information management support to be handed over to the government
- Technical logistical support/trainings to logistics humanitarian actors:
 - Warehouse and inventory management trainings
 - Coordination meetings
 - MSU/tent installation trainings
 - Logistics capacity assessments including cold chain warehouse mapping and needs assessments
- In-person technical/logistical trainings still in planning; online trainings already available
- Budget not finalized yet
- Procurement of additional MSUs

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4. National Response Updates

- Current funding situation:
 - Shortage of funding: \$1.05m required for the National Logistics Cluster to continue providing its services to the beneficiaries
 - \$195,000 received from the Government of Iceland
 - To advocate for more funding from the donor community
- Key logistics services provided in the past week:
 - Provision of 3 MSUs to UNHCR for the setting up of COVID-19 treatment centres at the Dzaleka refugee camp
 - Container lab site assessments in Mchinji and Karonga, and Chitipa in cooperation with the Ministry of Health (inspection of the surrounding infrastructure)
 - 2 MSUs deployed to QECH to be used as staff quarters and morgue
- Weekly Priorities:
 - Setting up of 1 additional MSU at QECH
 - Completion of the COVID-19 National Logistics Cluster Response Plan
 - Finalization of the MSU prioritization list
- 42 organisations supported

5. Lean Season Response Updates

- Dispatches to Mangochi district have reached 62% of the allocated tonnage for December & January
- An arrangement has been made to dispatch some maize from Kanengo silos to Mangochi district to expedite completion
- Overall dispatches to Blantyre district are at 57%
- February distribution plans for the remaining districts yet to be issued
- LSR commodity tracking trainings to continue the February 3rd

6. AOB

- Please remember to refer to the Malawi Logistics Cluster webpage for COVID-19 flight SOPs & FAQ at <https://logcluster.org/countries/MWI>
- For MSU (tent) support requests, please use the online form
- Remember to email malawi.covid19@wfp.org for free-to-user logistics support
- Free to use trainings are available on the GLC Learning Channel

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Contacts

Herbert Chingati	<i>Undersecretary MoPTW</i>	hchingati2@gmail.com
Patrick Mills Lamptey	<i>National Logistics Cluster Coordinator</i>	patrick.millslamptey@wfp.org
Mbachi Munthali	<i>National Preparedness Officer</i>	mbachi.munthali@wfp.org
Jana Schmidt	<i>Information Management Officer</i>	jana.schmidt@wfp.org