
Malawi National Logistics Cluster Meeting Minutes, 9th February 2021

Zoom Online Meeting



LOCATION	Lilongwe, Malawi (online meeting)
DATE	9 th 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	USAID, GHSC – PSM, FAO, Concern Worldwide, Save The Children, GOAL Malawi, World Food Programme
ACTION POINTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Partners to make available trained staff for the setting up of MSUs (to assist on a voluntary basis)• Partners to communicate their interest in technical trainings• The National Logistics Cluster to update on the intended rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in Malawi• 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 the COVID-19 Response Plan• Partners to provide feedback on the Draft COVID-19 Response Plan• Partners to submit the online form on their storage capacity

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AGENDA

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

1. Recap of the Previous Meeting

- Testing & laboratory capacities significantly augmented in the country
- COVID-19 strain from South Africa confirmed in Malawi
- Order of Astra Zeneca vaccine doses: distributions to start in March
- COVID-19 Draft Response Plans to be submitted by all national clusters
- 2021 National Logistics Cluster COVID-19 Response Plan to include:
 - Tent installation
 - Deployment of container labs
 - Storage support
 - Transport services of relief items
 - Technical logistical support and trainings
- Container lab site assessments took place in Karonga, Mchinji and Chitipa

2. General Covid-19 Updates

- African Union to play a critical role in the fight against COVID-19
- Astra Zeneca vaccine chosen because of its relative efficiency (60-70%) and its affordability (\$ 4 per dose)
- Astra Zeneca vaccine requires two doses
- Rollout of the Astra Zeneca vaccine discontinued in South Africa
- Preventive measures remain key to control the spread of infections

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3. Draft COVID-19 Response Plan

- 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
- The plan to contain similar contents as last year, but at larger scale

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

- Tent installation for screening, treatment, and isolation purposes (overall needs in all districts: 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
- 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 in planning under the compliance to COVID-19 protocols

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 1 more MSU to MSF to be used as staff quarters at QECH in Blantyre
 - Support to FAO with the storage and transportation of laundry soap
 - Completion of the container lab site assessment in Dedza and Muloza

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- Weekly Priorities:
 - Completion of the COVID-19 National Logistics Cluster Response Plan
 - Finalization of the MSU prioritization list
 - Organisation of technical trainings for the setting up of MSUs
- 42 organisations supported

5. LCA Update

- Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) update on the following chapters:
 - Warehouses & storage
 - Road networks & waterways
 - Airports & customs
 - Fuel
 - Food suppliers, other markets, and accommodation
 - Contact list
- Current version of the LCA: <https://dlca.logcluster.org/display/public/DLCA/Malawi>
- Partners to fill in the form on their storage capacity via KoBo: <https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/KDKmJ4tr>

6. Lean Season Response Updates

- Dispatches to Mangochi district have reached 78% of the allocated tonnage for December & January
- December, January & February dispatches to Blantyre district have been completed
- February dispatches to the remaining 20 districts are waiting for the issuance of Authority To Collect (ATCs) and approved distribution plans
- Commodity tracking trainings approved to start

7. 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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