



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 is scheduled to start on 21st 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
- Conducted cross-border coordination meetings and joint sessions with neighboring districts in Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique
- Following-up on implementation of statement of the 31st Polio IHR Emergency Committee in the country.
- 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

Fig. 1: Cross-border coordination meeting between bordering districts of Malawi and Tanzania



Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA)

- Concluded nationwide vaccination on 26 March 2022, over a total of 6 days (4 days with 2 additional vaccination days in all districts).
- Administrative national coverage is currently at 94% , with 2,711,496 children vaccinated with bOPV. We continue to receive remaining reports from the districts.
- 5,817 vaccination teams supervisions were conducted over the 6 day period in all 29 districts of the country. Supervisors included district, zonal and national level supervisors and partners from WHO, UNICEF, CDC, Rotary, JSI, PATH, GIZ, Gates Foundation.
- 87,670 children 0 -59 months were reviewed during in-process monitoring, with 83,666 finger marked and (4,077) missed. The vaccination teams revisited and vaccinated the missed children.
- WHO trained and deployed 29 LQAS surveyors from Kamuzu University of Health Science (KUHES) to conduct LQAS survey in all 29 districts.
- WHO also deployed 116 independent monitors (4 per district) who conducted 2 days in-process monitoring and continue another 2 days end process monitoring of the campaign in all 29 districts.

Fig. 2: Reaching the last mile in very challenging environments





Table 1: Scope of approved 1st 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

- 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.
- 43 samples from Environmental Surveillance (ES) sites collected, 14 enroute (DHL) and 18 in NICD (11 results received from ES samples and all negative for Polio virus).
- Intensified active search for AFP cases in health facilities and communities across the country conducted during the campaign with a total of 493 alerts reported. Surveillance officers investigation on the alerts and samples collected from true AFP cases.
- 121 active surveillance visits using eSurv checklist in ODK has been conducted as of 27 March 2022, compared to 38 active case search at the end of February 2022. Enhanced active case search remains a priority across the country, particularly in high risk communities.

Communication and Social Mobilization

- MOH, UNICEF and partners Development Communication Trust (DCT), Story Workshop Educational Trust (SWET) and Creative Centre for Community Mobilization (CRECCOM) facilitated sensitisation meetings in 40 IDP sites in Chikwawa, Mwanza, Phalombe and Nsanje districts.
- Integrated messages were disseminated, reaching 26,016 people (8,702 male, 17,314 female) people. The messages were on the upcoming nationwide Polio vaccination campaigns, child rights, access to health services, including routine Vitamin A supplementation and COVID-19 prevention.
- Community engagement meetings were conducted to address refusals reported from pockets of communities.
- Media tour to document the supplementary Immunizations Activities conducted in Salima and Dowa.

- Several **Public Service Announcements** involving influencers promoting the Polio vaccination have been produced and broadcasted. These include [messages from H.E. the President](#), [PAC Executive member](#), [religious leaders](#). These continue to be disseminated via multiple channels.
- **Extensive news coverage** both by international and national media. A few listed below:
 - Voice of America: [UNICEF Supports a Polio Vaccination Campaign after Case in Malawi](#).
 - Aljazeera: [Malawi begins nationwide polio immunisation campaign](#)
 - Reuters: [Huge effort to curb Polio underway after Malawi case](#)
 - The Washington Post: [9 million children to be vaccinated against Polio in Africa](#). Also [Associated Press](#), [The Independent](#), [News24](#), [Sky News](#)
 - ReliefWeb: [Malawi launches the first round of vaccination campaign against wild poliovirus type 1](#)
 - Africa News: [Malawi Kicks off national polio vaccine campaign](#)
 - DW: [Polio vaccination program set to launch in Malawi](#)
 - Statnews.com: [Malawi, neighbors to begin mass vaccination campaigns against Polio](#)
 - [Newsroom Africa YouTube Video](#)
 - [China Global Television Network](#) interviews UNICEF Malawi Health Specialist Ghanashyam Sethy about the ongoing campaign
 - NationWorld: [Malawi Launches Polio Vaccine for East and Southern Africa Countries](#)
 - The Nation: [Malawi polio case triggers regional vaccination](#), Taking polio head on (photo story)
 - The Daily Times: [Malawi in mass polio vaccination exercise](#)
 - Kulinji.com: [Polio immunisation campaign kick start in Malawi, three other countries](#),
 - Nthandatimes.com: [Mass polio vaccination campaign to help curb polio-MoH](#),
 - National Radios, including YONECO, Times Radio, MIJ FM, Capital FM, Zodiak Broadcasting Station Radio, MBC Radio 1, etc., also broadcast the launch of the polio vaccination campaign and its follow up stories.

Fig. 3: Community engagement to address refusals reported in few communities



3.0 NEXT STEPS

- Finalize timely and complete administrative data from the districts to national level
- Finalize LQAS survey and End Process monitoring, and disseminate results to stakeholders
- Conduct national and district level review of R1 campaign performance
- Review and update of schedule of activities for R2
- Facilitate R2 budget parameter adjustments and request submission
- Commence plans for microplanning and border synchronization meetings for R2
- Review the quantity and number of days for national level monitors to be in the districts for R2, to enable more time to support preparedness and post campaign monitoring of the campaign
- Continue implementation of the surveillance enhancement plan

CONTACTS

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ANNEX

Fig 4. Team supervision during the campaigns

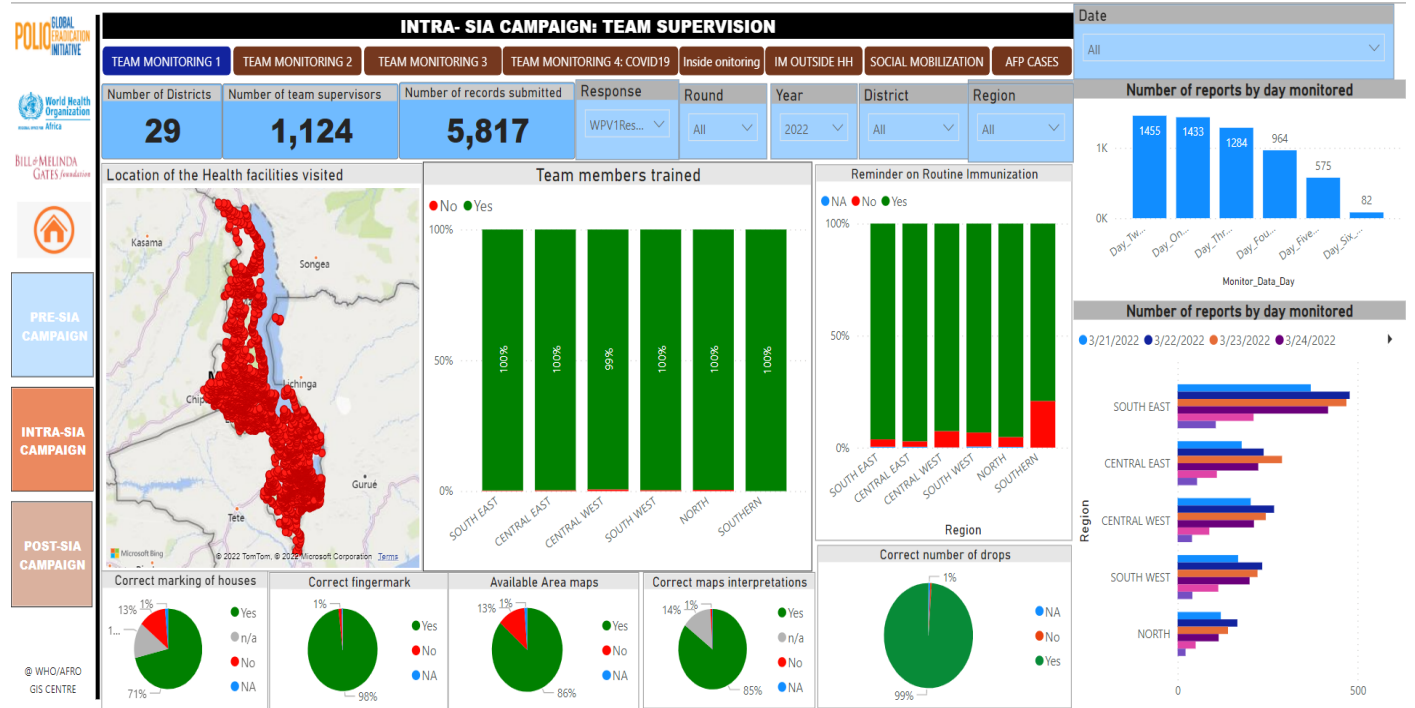


Fig 5. In-process monitoring during the campaigns

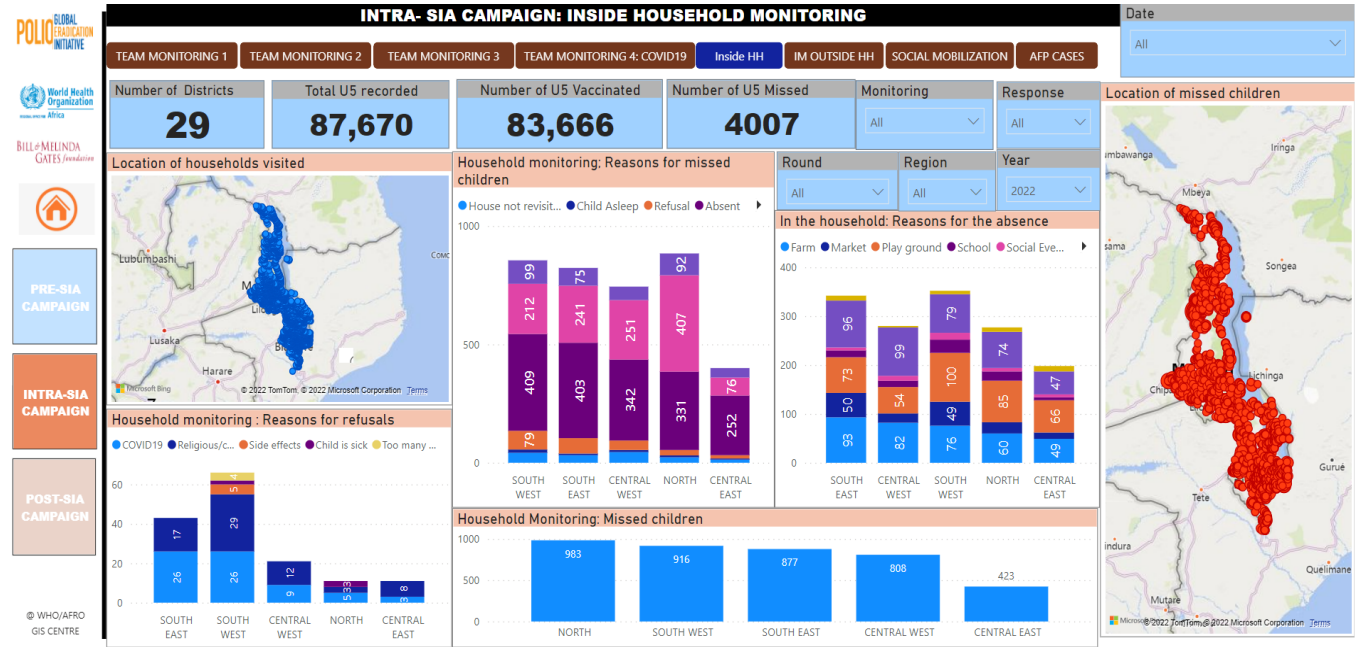


Fig 6 In-process monitoring during the campaigns

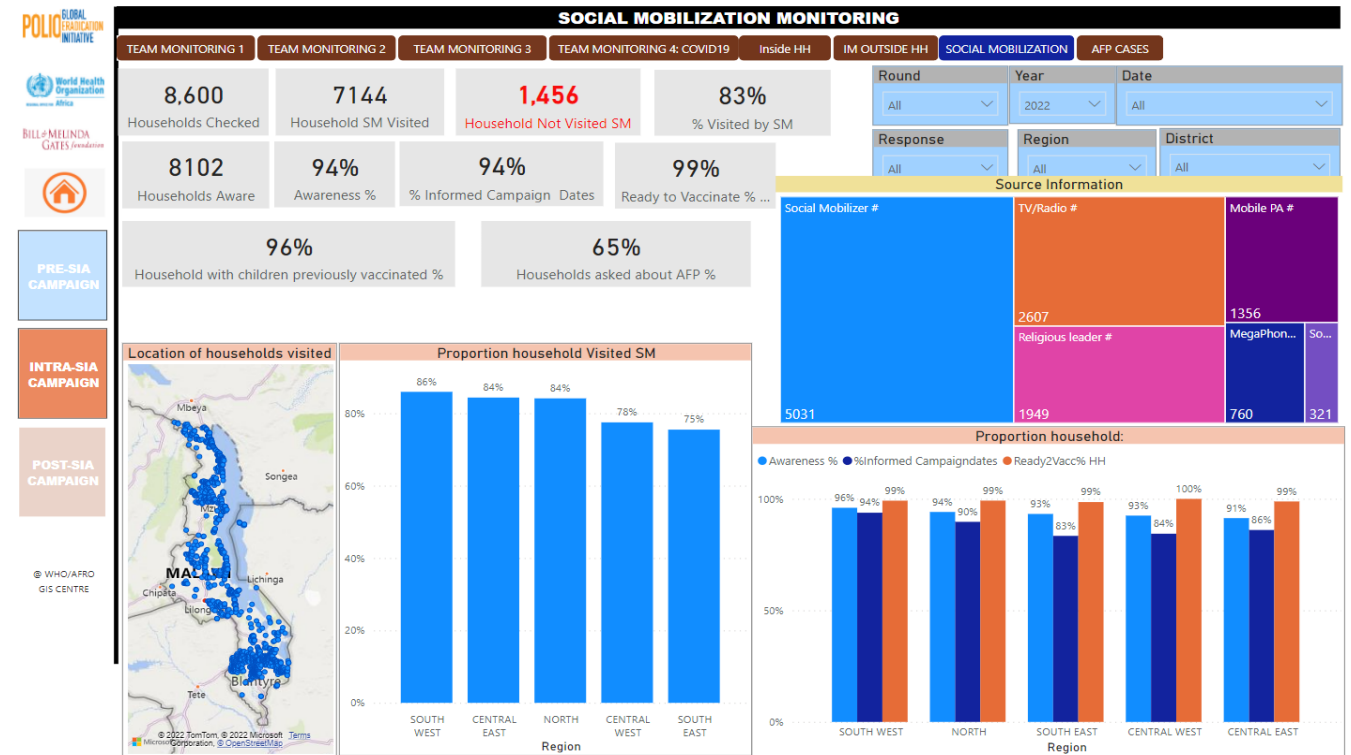


Fig 7. Surveillance Strengthening Dashboard

		Status of implementation			
		Overall status (Completed or pending)	National score card using scale above	Percent of provinces/zones completed activity	To be completed by
Planning and coordination					
1	Surveillance data analysis completed to assess risk and gap	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
2	All administrative levels informed of need to enhance surveillance	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
3	Surveillance action plan developed with budget	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
4	Funds available for implementation of surveillance plan	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
5	Cross border surveillance enhancement plan finalized	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
6	Potential needs if any determined for additional sample carriers	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
7	Additional surveillance supplies (e.g. stool or environmental collection tubes/bottles, gloves, carriers,	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
8	Plan developed for active case search in health facilities	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
9	Calendar developed for quarterly expert review committee meeting for next one year	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
10	Calendar developed for quarterly surveillance review meeting for next one year	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
Scorecard		0	100%	100%	
Surveillance training and implementation					
11	ToTs completed	Completed	10	100%	18-Mar-22
12	Health worker sensitization workshop conducted	Completed	10	100%	18-Mar-22
13	Prioritization of all health facilities completed	Completed	10	100%	18-Mar-22
14	Administrative units (zones/provinces/districts) identified where surge staff will be deployed	Completed	10	100%	7-Mar-22
15	Surge staff deployed as per plan	Completed	10	100%	21-Mar-22
16	Surveillance posters printed for deployment at health facilities	Pending	5	50%	14-Mar-22
17	All high priority facilities have completed first round of active case search	Pending	5	50%	14-Mar-22
Scorecard		0	86%	86%	
Environmental Surveillance					
18	Potential sites for environmental surveillance identified and preliminary assessment completed	Completed	10	100%	14-Mar-22
19	Dates determined for ES site assessment	Completed	10	100%	14-Mar-22
20	New ES site initiated if deemed suitable	Completed	10	100%	1-Apr-22
Scorecard		0	100%	100%	
Surveillance specimen tracking					
21	Transportation plan finalized for rapid movement of surveillance specimens from field to the national level and	Completed	10	100%	4-Mar-22
22	No subnational units have specimens pending for more than 2 days before shipment to national level	Pending	5	50%	4-Mar-22
23	No surveillance specimens in storage at national level for more than 1 day before shipment to laboratory	Pending	5	50%	4-Mar-22
Scorecard		Pending	67%	67%	