

This epidemiological bulletin aims to inform all stakeholders at local authorities, district, national, and global levels about disease trends, public health surveillance, disease outbreaks, and emergencies in Malawi. In this issue (Volume 1, Issue 7 of 2025), we present the following updates:

- Key highlights on events of public health significance in Epidemiological (Epi) week 7
- Performance of Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (IDSR)
- Reported Event Based Surveillance (EBS) signals
- Reported Diseases/Conditions of Public Health Importance
- Ongoing outbreaks and emergencies in Malawi

### 1. Key Highlights on Events of Public Health Significance in Epi-week 7, 2025

- IDSR reporting was 97.2% for completeness and 95.6% for timeliness on the One Health Surveillance Platform (OHSP).
- Fifty (50) EBS signals reported in Epi-week 7
- One (1) alert was reported for cholera disease
- Thirty-five (35) new alerts for measles cases reported
- One (1) Mpox alert was reported.
- Other alerts generated were Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) (113), Diarrhoea with blood (1353), Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) (92), Typhoid fever (108), Meningococcal meningitis (5), and Acute Flaccid Paralysis (10) as shown in Figure 1.

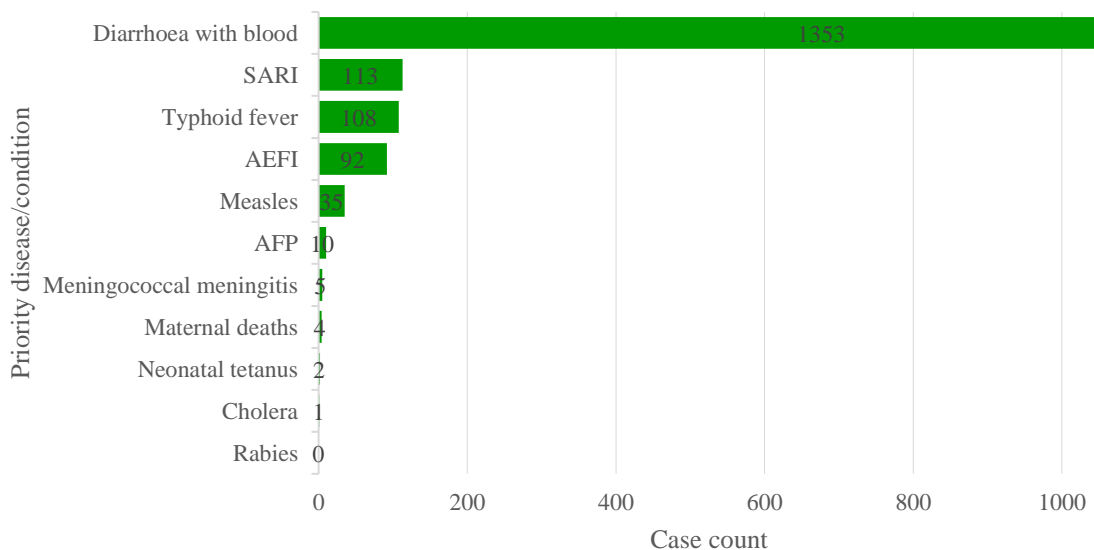


Figure 1. Notifiable diseases/conditions alerts reported in Epi-week 7 in Malawi (Data accessed on 18 February, 2025).

## 2. Performance of the Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response

### 2.1. Timeliness and Completeness

#### 2.1.1 Reporting rate at the National level up to Epi-week 7

During Epi-week 7, the completeness of reporting increased from 93.2% in Epi-week 6 to 97.3%. Similarly, the timeliness of reporting also improved from 89.8% in Epi-week 6 to 95.6% (see Figure 2).

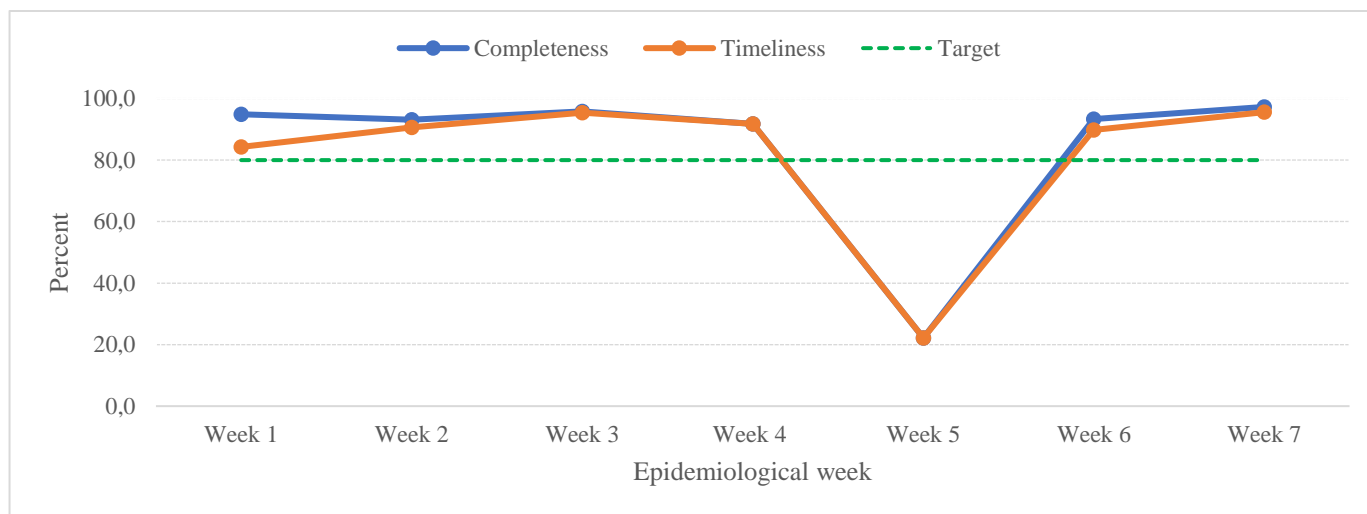


Figure 2. Trend of national IDSR weekly reporting rates in Malawi, Epi-week 1 to 7, 2025 (Data accessed on 18 February, 2025).

#### 2.1.2. Reporting rates at Zonal level up to Epi-week 7

Figure 3 presents the reporting rates across various health zones. Except for Central Hospitals, all five zones (Central East, Central West, North, South East, and South West) achieved the target of  $\geq 80\%$  in both completeness and timeliness. The Central Hospitals achieved 75% in both completeness and timeliness in the week under review.

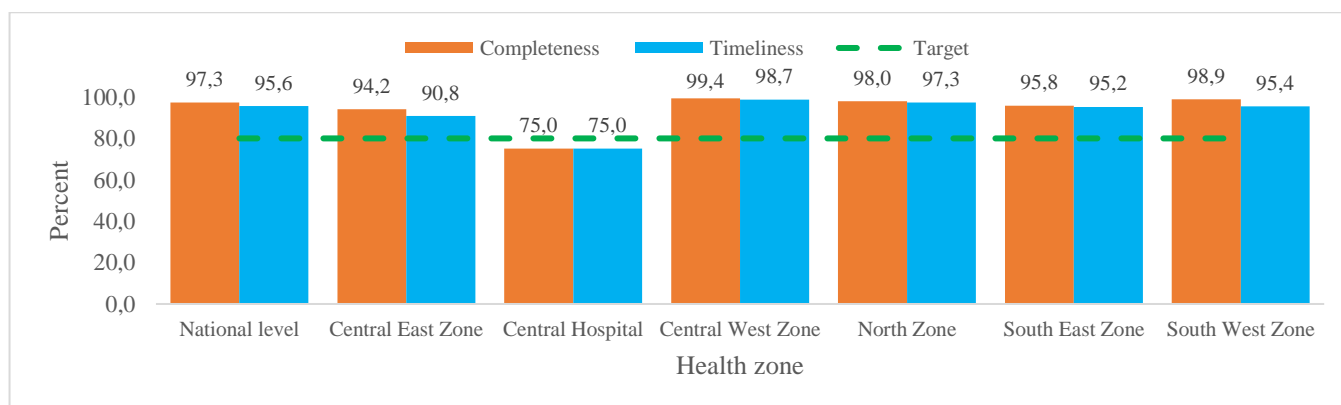


Figure 3. Reporting rates of IDSR weekly reports by zones, Epi-week 7 (Data accessed on 18 February 2025)

### 2.1.3. Reporting rates at District level for Epi-week 7

Among the 33 reporting sites (District and Central Hospitals), 32 (97.2%) achieved the national target of  $\geq 80\%$  in completeness, while 31 sites (95.6%) met the timeliness target. Zomba Central Hospital did not report during the period under review. The completeness and timeliness of all reporting sites from Epi-week 1 to 7 of 2025 are presented in Annex 1.

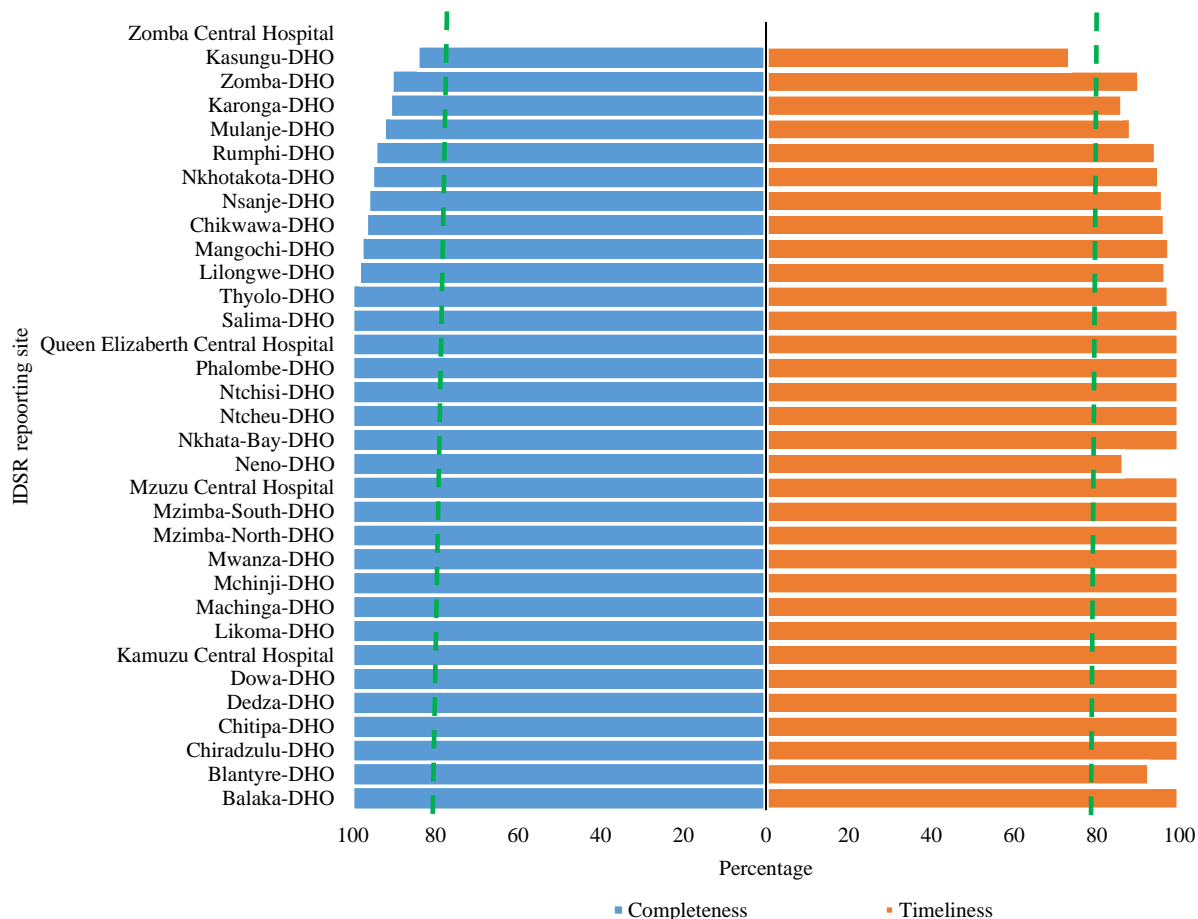


Figure 4. Reporting rates (completeness and timeliness) by reporting sites for Epi-week 7 (Data accessed on 18 February 2025).

## 3. Event Based Surveillance (EBS)

### 3.1. Community EBS signals reported in Epi-week 7

Figure 5 presents the list of signals that were reported in Epi-week 7. In total, 50 signals were reported in Epi week 7 compared to 34 signals that were reported in Epi week 6. All the signals were verified. Sixteen (16) of these signals (32%) fell into the category of “Any person with sudden onset of watery diarrhoea in

24 hours with dehydration”.

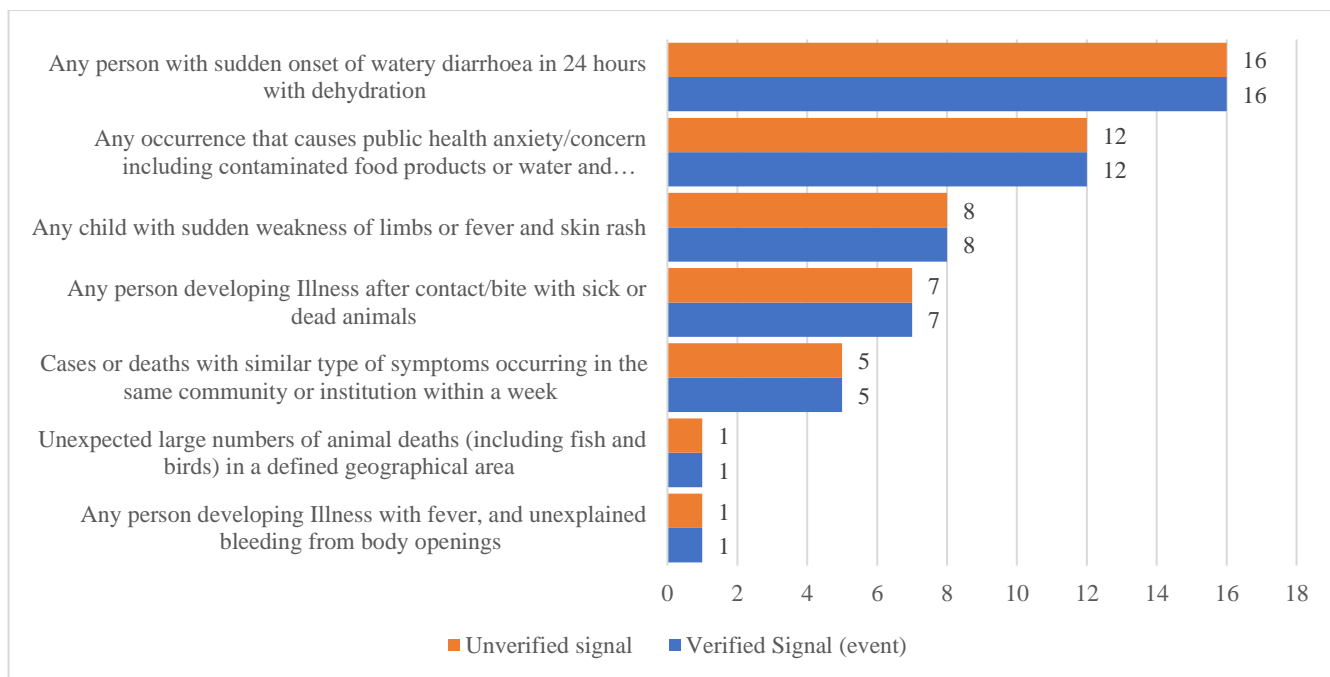


Figure 5: Event-based signals reported in Epi-week 7 (Data accessed on 18 February, 2025)

### 3.2. Distribution of Community Signals across the reporting units in Malawi

During the week under review, among the 33 reporting units, eight (24.2%) reporting units reported the EBS signals with Mchinji reporting majority (48%) of the signals. A detailed breakdown of the signals reported by each reporting unit can be found in Annex 2.

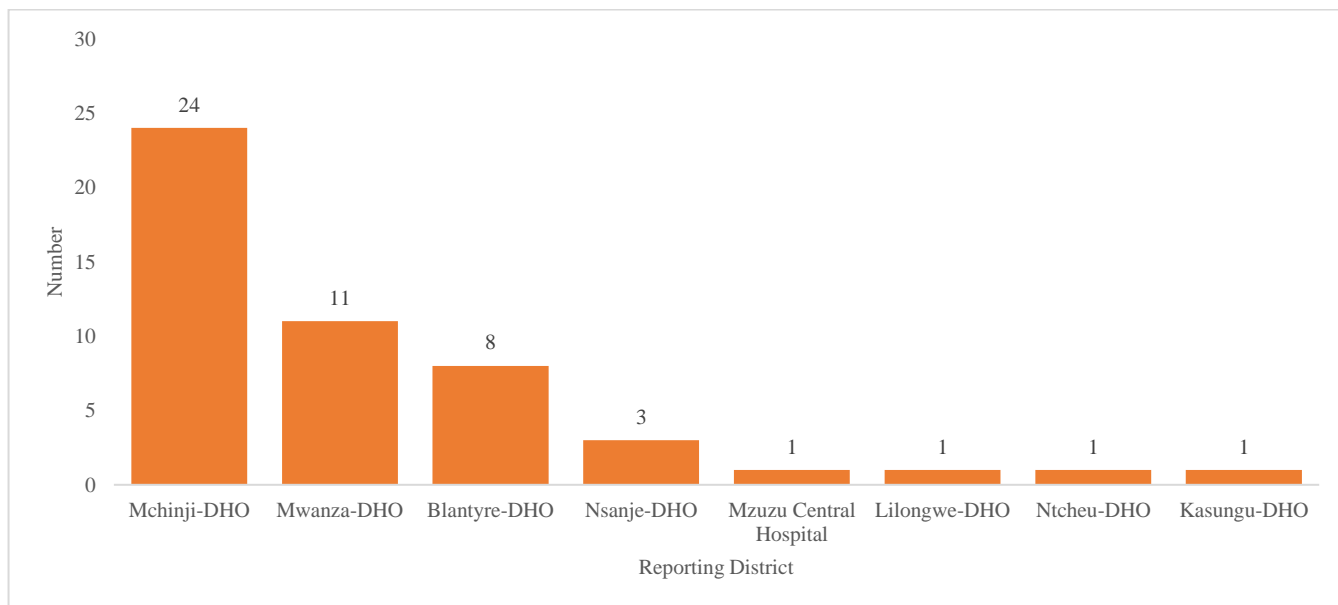


Figure 6: Distribution of EBS signals reported in Epi-week 7 (Data accessed on 18 February, 2025)

#### 4. Diseases/Conditions of Public Health Importance in Epi-week 7

Table 1 highlights the alerts related to diseases and public health conditions during Epi-week 7. Apart from malaria, diarrhoea with blood accounted for the second highest number of alerts (1353). Blantyre DHO contributed the highest (164), while QECH reported zero cases. Annex 3 presents has the details.

*Table 1. Reported alerts of diseases/conditions of public health importance in Malawi, Epi-week 7.*

	Suspected cases
<b><i>EPIDEMIC PRONE DISEASES</i></b>	
Diarrheal with blood	1353
Meningococcal Meningitis	5
Typhoid Fever	108
SARI	113
Cholera	1
Mpox	1
<b><i>DISEASES TARGETED FOR ERADICATION/ELIMINATION</i></b>	
Measles	35
Acute Flaccid Paralysis	10
Neonatal tetanus	2
<b><i>CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IMPORTANCE</i></b>	
Food borne illnesses	0
Maternal death	4
Yellow fever	0
Rabies	0

#### 5. Ongoing outbreaks and emergencies in Malawi as of 17 February, 2025.

##### 5.1. Measles

Some districts in the country have been registering confirmed cases of measles. Since 10 September 2024, nine (9) districts have experienced localized measles outbreaks: Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Mangochi, Rumphi, Blantyre, Balaka, Nkhotakota, Machinga, and Salima. Currently, seven (7) districts are actively responding to the outbreak with the following confirmation dates: Lilongwe (24 October 2024), Rumphi (9 November 2024), Blantyre (5 December 2024), Balaka (5 December 2024), and Nkhotakota (5 December 2024). Ntcheu and Salima districts, which had their first outbreak controlled, are experiencing another localized outbreak confirmed on 11 February 2025. Meanwhile, Mangochi and Machinga have successfully managed to control their outbreaks. Further details are shown in Table 1 and Annex 3.

Table 1. Districts with localised Measles outbreak as of Epi-week 7, 2025

District	New Lab. confirmed cases	New epi-link cases	Cumulative (lab confirmed)	New Admissions	Cumulative admissions	New Deaths	CFR (%)	No. of affected Health facilities	Days without reporting a new case
Lilongwe	0	14	501 (139)	1	55	0	0	10	2
Rumphi	0	0	143 (6)	0	0	0	0	1	23
Mangochi*	0	0	37 (6)	0	0	0	0	1	NA
Blantyre	0	0	36 <sup>†</sup> (32)	0	0	0	0	3	31
Balaka	0	0	12 <sup>†</sup> (12)	0	0	0	0	2	33
Nkhotakota	0	0	57 (14)	0	0	0	0	2	39
Salima	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	
Ntcheu	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	1	29
Machinga*	0	0	5 (5)	0	0	0	0	1	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>801 (249)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	

\*The outbreak is closed in these districts. <sup>†</sup>On 11 Feb 2025, Balaka confirmed 7 cases under Kalembo H/C; Blantyre (1 case); Salima (4 cases); Ntcheu (6 cases under Katsekera H/C – new outbreak).

## On-going interventions

- Routine immunisation in the affected areas
- Supportive supervision
- Case management
- Active case search
- Sample collection and laboratory analysis
- Risk Communication and Community Engagement

## 5.2. Cholera

Malawi is currently responding to a cholera outbreak that was confirmed on 8 September 2024. Cumulatively, 298 cholera cases, including 14 deaths (CFR: 4.7%), have been reported. Among the deaths, 69% (9) were facility-based, while the remaining were community deaths. Malawi has also reported 3 imported cases from Zambia and Mozambique through Chitipa and Mulanje, respectively. As of Epi-week 7, Chitipa reported 61 cases including 2 deaths (CFR: 3.3%), Karonga has reported 56 cases including 6 deaths (CFR: 10.7%), Machinga 58 cases including 3 deaths (CFR: 3.7%), Balaka 89 cases including 3 deaths (CFR: 4%), and Mzimba North 33 cases with zero death (CFR: 0%). Currently, six districts (Balaka, Mzimba North, and Machinga) are still reporting cases. The epidemiological situation is as described below.

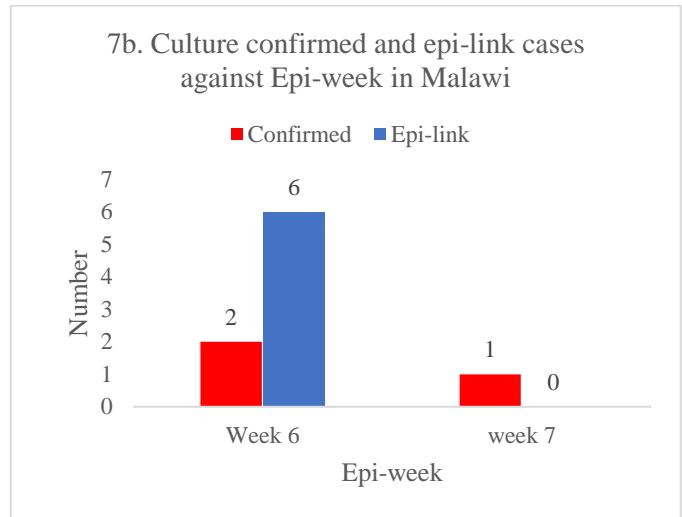
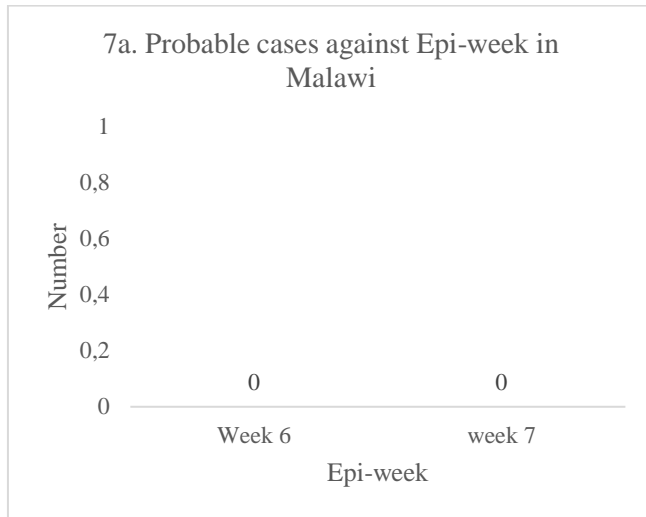


Figure 7. Comparison of cholera cases between week 6 and 7 of 2025 in Malawi: Probable cases (7a), confirmed and epi-linked cases (7b).

### Updates for Epi-week 7

- No probable case was reported in Epi-week 7
- One culture-positive case was reported from Balaka (1) in Epi-week 7, compared to two culture-positive cases reported in Epi-week 6 from Balaka (1) and Machinga (1), as shown in Figure 7b. Additionally, zero epidemiologically linked cases were reported in Epi-week 7 the same as in Epi-week 6, as shown in Figure 7b.

### On-going interventions

- Case management
- Line-listing of cases
- Case investigation and follow up
- Sample collection and laboratory analysis
- Risk community and community engagement

### Annex 1: Timeliness and completeness of IDSR reports by districts, from Epi-week 1 to 7, 2025

District/Central Hospital	Completeness							Timeliness						
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
<b>National</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96</b>
Balaka-DHO	100	100	100	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	88	35	100	100
Blantyre-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	83	100	95	95	98	98	93
Chikwawa-DHO	100	100	97	100	100	100	97	97	97	97	97	7	100	97
Chiradzulu-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Chitipa-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	80	93	93	100	0	100	100
Dedza-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	76	100	100
Dowa-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	4	100	100	23	100	100	0	4	100
Kamuzu Central Hospital	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100
Karonga-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	91	73	68	91	91	41	91	86
Kasungu-DHO	100	97	100	100	76	79	84	87	82	100	95	26	74	74
Likoma-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	67	100	100	100	100	100	33	67	100
Lilongwe-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	98	100	100	100	86	16	100	97
Machinga-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100
Mangochi-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	98	100	100	100	100	21	100	98
Mchinji-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	5	100	100
Mulanje-DHO	100	100	100	100	96	92	92	89	100	96	100	0	89	88
Mwanza-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	20	100	100	0	100	100
Mzimba-North-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	55	100	100	100	17	86	100
Mzimba-South-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	79	100	100
Mzuzu Central Hospital	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0	100	100
Neno-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	13	100	87
Nkhata-Bay-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	86	100	93	50	86	100
Nkhotakota-DHO	71	81	95	91	100	95	95	5	81	95	5	5	91	95
Nsanje-DHO	83	88	96	92	75	83	96	63	54	83	75	71	83	96
Ntcheu-DHO	100	95	100	95	100	92	100	87	87	100	95	8	87	100
Ntchisi-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	92	100
Phalombe-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
QECH	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rumphi-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	94	100	100	100	100	0	94	94
Salima-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	64	100	100
Thyolo-DHO	100	100	95	100	100	100	100	73	100	85	100	49	100	98
Zomba Central Hospital	100	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	0
Zomba-DHO	100	100	100	100	100	100	90	83	91	88	81	10	86	90



## Annex 2: Distribution of EBS signals per reporting unit in Epi-week 7

Organisation unit	Any child with sudden weakness of limbs or fever and skin rash	Any person with sudden onset of watery diarrhoea in 24 hours with dehydration	Any person developing Illness after contact/bite with sick or dead animals	Any person developing Illness with fever, and unexplained bleeding from body openings	Cases or deaths with similar type of symptoms occurring in the same community or institution within a week	Unexpected large numbers of animal deaths (including fish and birds) in a defined geographical area	Any occurrence that causes public health anxiety/concern including contaminated food products or water and environmental hazard (flooding, drought), chemical and radio-nuclear events, vaccination, or mass drug administration	Total
Mzuzu Central Hospital	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mchinji-DHO	6	3	7	0	4	0	4	24
Blantyre-DHO	1	0		1	1	1	4	8
Lilongwe-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ntcheu-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mwanza-DHO	0	9	0	0	0	0	2	11
Nsanje-DHO	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
Kasungu-DHO	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>50</b>

### Annex 3. Localised measles outbreak as of 17 February, 2025

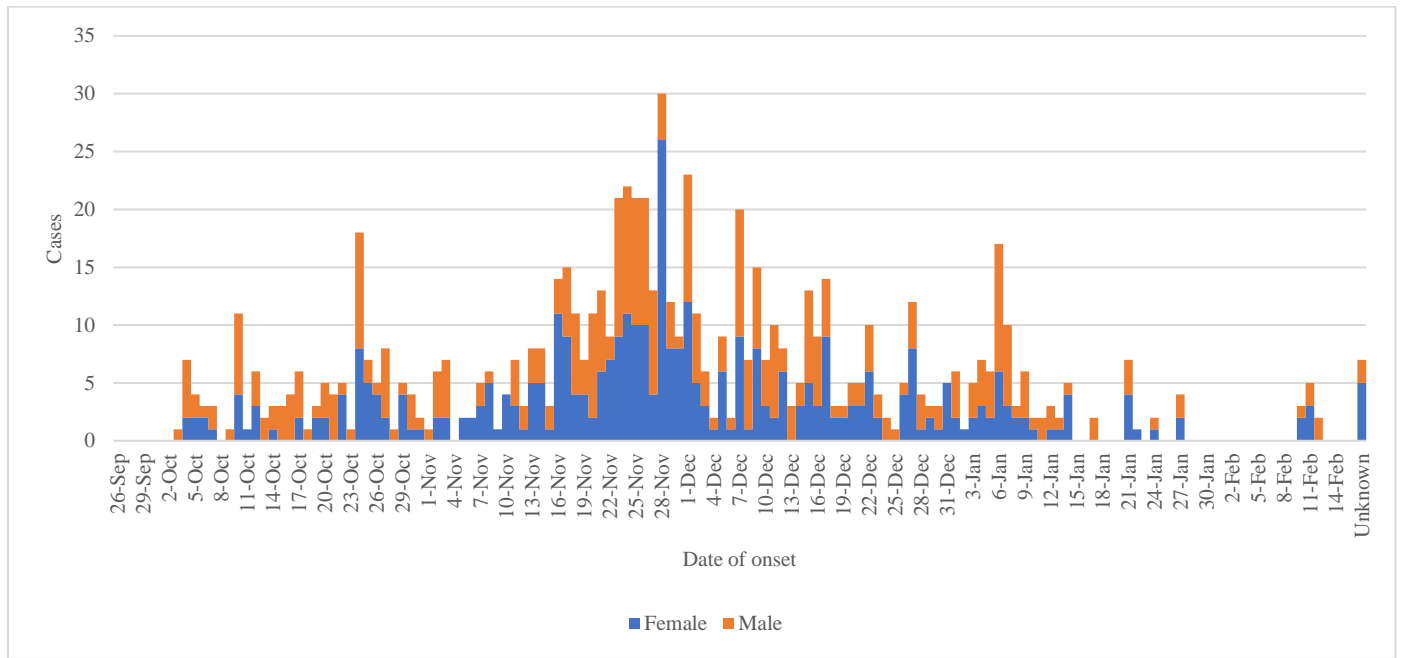


Figure 8. Overall Distribution of measles cases in the current outbreak by date of onset, Malawi 2024-25 (N=848)

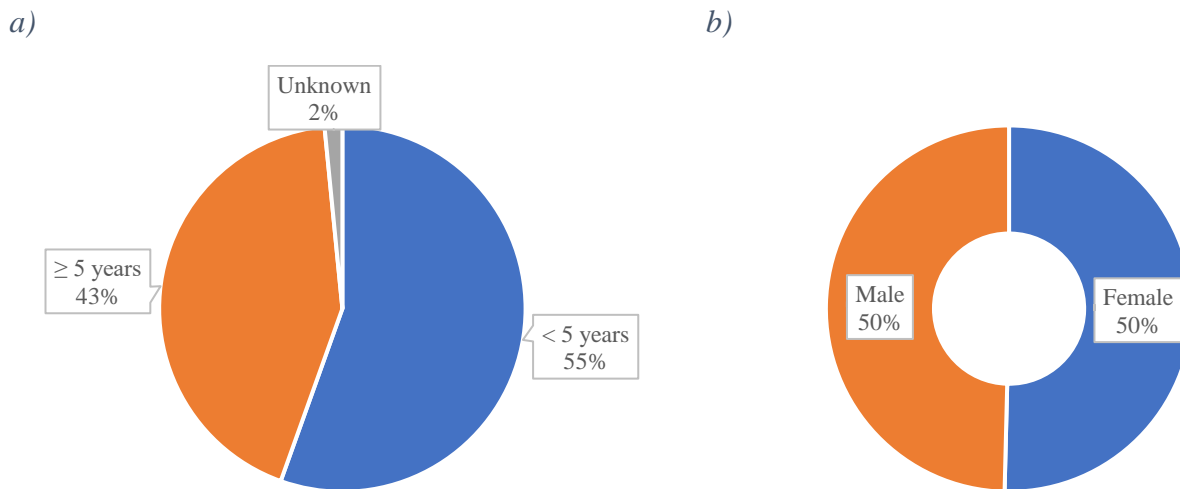


Figure 9. Distribution of measles cases by age-group (a) and sex (b), Malawi 2024-25 (N=801)

### Annex 4. Priority diseases/conditions/events under surveillance, Epi-week 7

District/Central Hospital	OPD AEFI cases	IP AEFI cases	OPD AFP cases	IP AFP cases	IP cholera cases	IP cholera deaths	OPD Diarrhoea With Blood (Bacterial) Cases	IP Diarrhoea With Blood (Bacterial) Cases	OPD Malaria Cases	IP Malaria Cases	IP Death Malaria Cases	IP Maternal death cases	OPD measles cases	IP meningococcal meningitis cases	IP Neonatal tetanus cases	IP Neonatal tetanus deaths	IP SARI cases	IP SARI deaths	OPD typhoid fever cases	IP typhoid fever cases
Kasungu-DHO	2	0	0	0	0	0	58	0	11008	211	291	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nkhotakota-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	46	0	3336	29	3	0	6	0	0	0	10	0	4	0
Ntchisi-DHO	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	6114	40	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Salima-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	142	0	7987	42	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dowa-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	0	12111	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kamuzu Central Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	26	128	0	0	2	0	0	0	30	0	0	0
Mzuzu Central Hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	91	39	1	1	1	0	0	0	26	1	2	0
QECH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dedza-DHO	2	0	1	0	0	0	87	0	7278	174	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lilongwe-DHO	1	0	0	0	0	0	72	0	23963	323	10	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Ntcheu-DHO	0	0	2	0	0	0	32	0	7968	22	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mchinji-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	10648	55	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	2
Chitipa-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	1865	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Karonga-DHO	1	0	0	0	1	0	42	0	4179	72	2	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0
Likoma-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	192	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mzimba-North-DHO	28	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	5282	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mzimba-South-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	87	0	18691	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nkhata-Bay-DHO	1	0	2	0	0	0	38	0	3991	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rumphi-DHO	28	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	4087	31	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Balaka-DHO	1	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	2175	43	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Machinga-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	138	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mangochi-DHO	0	0	1	0	0	0	59	2	2779	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mulanje-DHO	0	0	0	1	0	0	10	1	6529	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Phalombe-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	2143	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Zomba-DHO	2	0	1	0	0	0	103	0	14161	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blantyre-DHO	3	0	0	0	0	0	163	1	7191	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	3
Chikwawa-DHO	2	0	1	0	0	0	45	0	3619	14	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	0	6	0
Chiradzulu-DHO	6	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	4088	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mwanza-DHO	3	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	2419	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neno-DHO	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	2631	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	4	0
Nsanje-DHO	4	6	0	0	0	0	71	2	878	11	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Thyolo-DHO	1	0	0	1	0	0	25	0	3903	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>181511</b>	<b>1701</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>10</b>

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