



Cholera Situation in Malawi

Presented by

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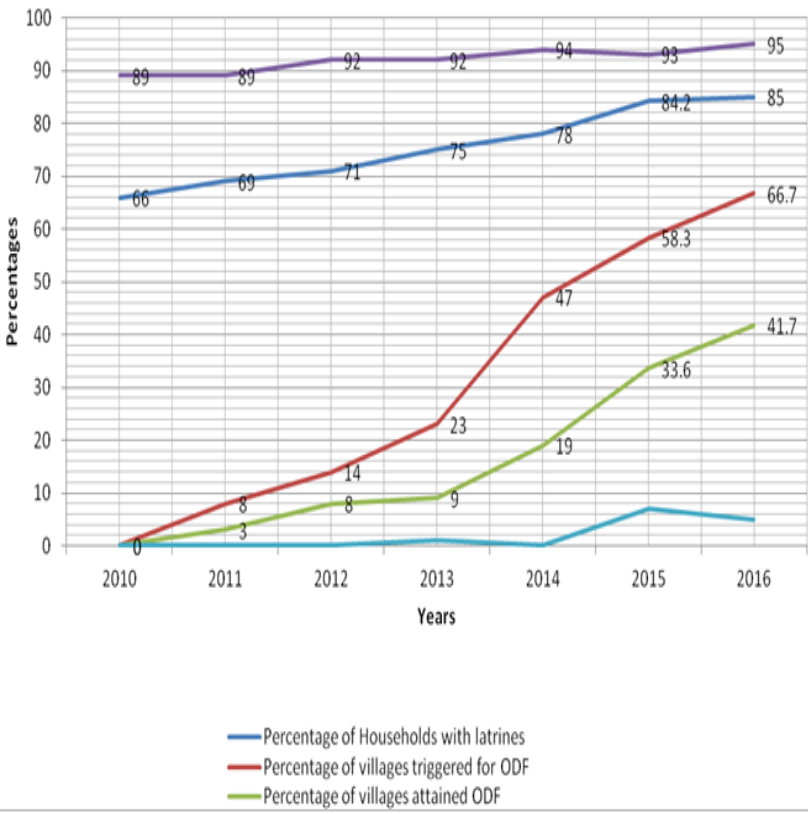
WASH and cholera situation in Malawi

- In Malawi about 86% population (both rural and urban) has use safe water supply (**GoM, 2017**) while, 73–82%% of the population that has access to 'some form of basic excreta disposal facilities (latrine) coverage' (**Government of Malawi 2005**). Furthermore, **the 2017 Irrigation, Water and Sanitation Sector Performance Report** indicates that in 2015 the population using improved sanitation was at 44%. The report also states that the population using hand washing facilities with water or soap was at 10%.
- The outbreaks are due to its location within the Great Lakes region and the disease is endemic among fishing communities along the lakes and main rivers.

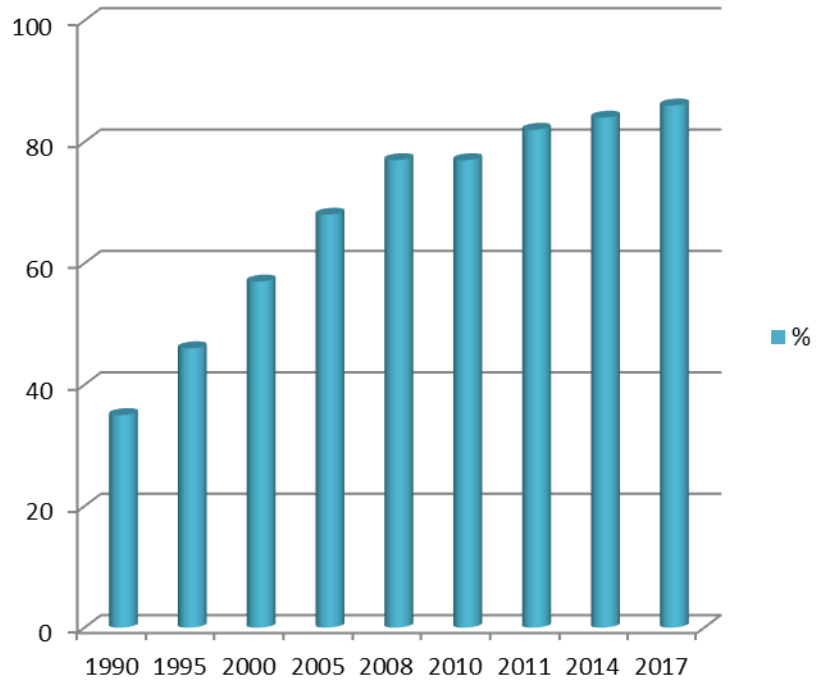


WASH Situation

Malawi WASH Data over seven years



% of people using safe water supply by year in Malawi





Overview of cholera and prevention strategies currently in place

- First cholera case in 1973
- Malawi has been reporting cholera outbreaks since 1998, every year. The highest numbers of cases and deaths were reported in 2001/ 2002 (33,546 cases or 0.29 attack rate and 968 deaths or 2.3 case fatality rate)
- Case fatality rates ranging from 1.5- 6.7 % are reported occurring along the lake basin “hotspots” mostly throughout the seasons, thus from November,1 to October, 31. Recent cholera case was reported in Karonga District in the north of the country on 24th November, 2017.
- As of 6th Feb 2018, 399 cumulative cases and 5 deaths
- Strategies include: improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene as a target under the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 6; hygiene promotion to deal with socio-cultural issues like discouraging people from preparing foods at funeral ceremonies in cholera situation, and capacity building for community-based management of the facilities among the at risk communities.



WASH sector in Malawi

- The WASH sector is coordinated by the Department of Irrigation and Water Development in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Health
- Some of the policies guiding the WASH sector include :
 - The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
 - The Sustainable Development Goals
 - The National Water Policy
 - The National Sanitation Policy
 - The Decentralization Policy
 - The Environment Policy
 - The National Land Policy
- WASH Sector stakeholders:
 - ✓ The World Bank
 - ✓ The African Development Bank
 - ✓ JICA
 - ✓ UNICEF
 - ✓ DfID
 - ✓ Malawi Red Cross Society
 - ✓ Local and International NGOs (e.g. WaterAid, World Vision, Plan Malawi, United Purpose and Oxfam) and other Government Agencies



WASH sector involvement in cholera prevention and control

The WASH sector participates in cholera prevention and control through the WASH Cluster as follows:

- Participation in cholera related meetings with Ministry of Health and other stakeholders
- Undertaking assessments in cholera affected areas and hotspots
- Provision of safe water supply and sanitation services
- Promotion of various technologies such as water filters and toilets
- Hygiene education, distribution of water filters, pot chlorination, Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaigns, etc.



Recommendations

- Enhanced multi-sectoral collaboration (Ministries responsible for Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene including other government agencies and local authorities)
- Strengthen cross border collaboration
- Carry out mapping of cholera hotspots
- Need to improve WASH indicators (improving access to adequate safe drinking water, sanitation, and adopting good hygiene practices)
- More awareness behavior change
- Build capacity for the organizational staff, and government staff, volunteers and communities to effectively perform the required functions.



Challenges



Flooding in Southern Region (2015)



Fishermen's floating homes, Lake Chilwa

- **Socio-cultural issues**
 - Some community members refusing to take chlorinated water
 - Fishing communities in temporary shelters with no safe water and sanitation services
- **Regular flooding during rainy season**
 - Displaced communities
 - Damaged and contaminated WASH infrastructure
- **Overall poor access to safe water and sanitation**
 - Limited technologies to fully serve some populations (e.g saline aquifers and non-availability of surface water sources)
 - Poor settlement patterns



Conclusion

Malawi has been experiencing cholera outbreaks since 1998 almost every year

The WASH Sector is implementing a number of activities (both development and response) to prevent and control cholera in the country

The Government of Malawi with support from its development partners, other development agencies and the private sector is committed to reduce cholera by 2030



Some photos from cholera affected areas

