

**HONOURABLE DEPUTY MINISTER’S FIELD VISIT TO THE NORTHERN REGION**

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**A BRIEF ON THE SELECTED PROJECTS**

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Global fund has been supporting Malawi in the areas of TB, HIV and Malaria since 2003 and recent support for COVID 19 pandemic. Gavi has been supporting Malawi in the areas of vaccines and immunisation since 2003 The Ministry of Health-Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is the Principal Recipient of the grants. In the current Covid grant, there are resources earmarked for infrastructure and Equipment support across the country.

Regarding the infrastructure, the Global Fund is supporting the Construction of Health Posts and are being co-financed by the Government of Malawi. Currently we have started constructing 20 out 55 planned Health posts in the following Districts: Dedza (3), Phalombe (3), Thyolo (1), Neno (4), Mwanza (1), Ntchisi (3) and Mzimba North (5). This was based on the available funds and the contract amount for 20 is MK4.61 Billion. Out of this amount, the Malawi Government committed to finance with K1.0 Billion for the Health Posts**.**

The construction Mzuzu Infectious Disease Centre, renovation of KUHES Molecular laboratory, Renovation of laboratories various Health facilities, construction of Vaccine Stores, and construction of 240 boreholes across the country are some of the infrastructure underway with funding from Global Fund. The procurement and installation of Oxygen Gas Plants at Mzuzu, Mangochi, Bwaila and Kasungu; Procurement and Installation of MRI and CT Scan Machines; and installation of Incinerators for Kasungu and Zomba among others are some of the equipment being supported by the Global Fund. On the other hand, Gavi is supporting construction of the four vaccines stores in Zomba, Mangochi, Lilongwe and Mzimba South all together worth MK2.7billion

The Planning Department is playing a role of a Project Manager of all infrastructural projects being implemented with support from the Global and Gavi while the MOH PIU manages the fund.

1. **PURPOSE OF THE VISIT**

The purpose of the visit is for the Senior Management Team to:

1. Appreciate implementation progress of all infrastructure projects underway and the utilization of the procured equipment in the facilities
2. Review the investments and Plan for the operationalisation of the completed developments such deployment of the staff to work in these facilities
3. Appreciate and note challenges faced during the implementation of these projects that may require management intervention.

There are two teams during this mission, one is visiting selected sites the North and another selected sites in the South

1. **TEAM NORTHERN REGION**

Some of the Global Fund projects currently underway in the Northern and Central Regions are:

1. Construction of the Mzuzu Infectious disease Centre
2. Mzuzu Gas Plant
3. Health Posts in Mzimba North
4. Installation of incinerator in Kasungu
5. Renovation of laboratories at Malomo and Jenda Health Centres
6. Construction of Vaccines Stores

**4.0 PROJECT SITES TO BE VISITED**

**4.1 CONSTRUCTION OF VACCINE STORES AT CENTRAL MEDICAL STORES**

With support from Gavi, MOH constructing four(4) vaccine stores at CMST in Lilongwe, Mzimba District Hospital, Mangochi District Hospital, and Domasi District Hospital in Zomba. The construction works commenced in January 2023 except for Domasi which commenced in November 2023. The works are expected to be completed in July 2024. The total funds for this project is MK2.7 billion. Lilongwe vaccine store is at 40%, Mzimba above 70%, Mangochi at 30%, while Domasi, which experienced delays due to site challenges, requiring a change of site is at less than 10%.

The value for construction the construction of Vaccine Store at CMST is MK1.7billion.

Vaccine Stores Construction

**4.2 RENOVATIONA OF A LABORATORY MALOMO RURAL HOSPITAL**

The project for Rehabilitation and construction of Laboratory at Malomo Health Centre in Ntchisi is under way. It started on 30th April, 2023 and was expected to end by 30th May, 2024. The contractor is F and J Investments and the contract amount is about **MK 146 Million**

**4.3 INSTALLATION OF AN INCINERATOR AT KASUNGU DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

The contract for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Pharmaceutical Grade Mechanical Incinerator for Kasungu District Hospital is being performed by E-Tech System Joint Venture. The incinerator machine has been installed.

The works for the housing of the machine are at roofing stage. This incinerator for Kasungu together with another installed at Zomba Central Hospital are under one contract worth **MK453million.** The machine will not only serve Kasungu but also the surrounding districts.

**4.4. DRILLING OF BOREHOLES IN KASUNGU**

The contract for Drilling and construction of 19 boreholes in Ntchisi and Kasungu districts is under way. The contractor is China Gansu Engineering Company limited and the contract amount is **MK 170,846,527.50**.

The works commenced on 23rd October 2023 and expected to end by 20th April 2024.

**4.5. JENDA HEALTH CENTRE**

The Rehabilitation and construction of Laboratory at Jenda Health Centre is another infrastructure under way. It was started on 30th April, 2023 and is expected to end by 30th May 2024. The contractor is Chilongozi Building Contractor and the contract amount is **MK** **156,502,554.13.**

**4.6. DRILLING OF BOREHOLES IN NKHATABAY**

The contract for Drilling and construction of 19 boreholes in Mzimba, Nkhata-Bay & Likoma districts is under way. The contractor is PBM Limited and the contract amount is **MK 255,834,780.94**. The works commenced on 24th October, 2023 and expected to end by 21st April 2024.

**4.7 THE MZUZU GAS PLANT**

Procurement and installation of the Gas Plant at Mzuzu Central Hospital is worth **MK 1,307,791,156.50**. Once fully installed and functional, the gas plant is expected to produce 120 oxygen cylinders per 24 Hours. This will ensure un-interrupted and clean gas supply to the desired location and 1will reduce serious oxygen procurement hiccups the facility has been facing.

The gas plant will not only help patients during the pandemics but even in-patients requiring Oxygen for all emerging respiratory conditions and other infectious diseases.

**4.8 CONSTRUCTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CENTRE AT MZUZU CENTRAL HOSPITAL**

This is a 200 bed capacity structure is being constructed at Mzuzu Central Hospital. Once completed, it will help decongest the hospital and other surrounding health facilities during pandemics and beyond. The total cost of the project is

**MK1, 793,117,579.85** million and is expected to be completed by 30th May, 2024.

**4.9 CHIMBONGONDO HEALTH POST IN MZIMBA NORTH**

This is one of the 5 Health Posts being Constructed in Mzimba North. The contract amount for this Health Post is MK236,147,024.02.

These Health Post follows the government of Malawi revised minimum standard of a modern Health Post where there is a clinic, two houses for health workers, water reticulation system and a solar power supply for the facility and the houses. The site handover for the initiation of the construction was done in September 2022 and construction is expected to be completed by March 2023. However, due to heavy rains and other circumstances, the period has been extended to 30th March, 2024.

**4.10 ACTIVE TB FINDING BY USE OF MOBILE DIAGNOSTIC UNITS (MDUs)**

With support from the Global Fund, Malawi introduced Mobile TB Screening and diagnostic interventions using Mobile vans equipped with Digital X-ray machines and the GeneXpert Platform in mid-2018. The intervention was introduced in response to reaching the missing TB cases in the community specifically among TB high-risk populations such as Urban dwellers, prison inmates, Miners and Ex-miners, people living with HIV, internally displaced populations, refugees, Healthcare workers, and industrial workers. The intervention started with five districts and progressively scaled up to all 28 districts.

Since the inception of the intervention, over half a million people have been screened for TB through this intervention of which 66,785 presumptive TB were identified and evaluated for TB.

Close to 6,113 TB cases were diagnosed and started TB treatment. The overall yield is at 1,053 per 100,000 clients screened translating to Number Need to Screened (NNS) to find one case to 97 and 10% contribution to overall TB case notification nationwide.

HIV prevention and COVID screening and testing services are integrated into the Mobile TB screening program. In 2023 alone, 98,000 condoms and 20,000 HIV self-testing kits were distributed to the clients who visited the Mobile TB diagnostic units.

As regards the performance for Mangochi Mobile TB diagnostic unit since mid-2018 to date, 82,807 people have been screened for TB. About 8,132 presumptive TB were identified and evaluated for TB. A total of 505 TB cases were diagnosed and initiated on TB treatment.

**4.11 CHIKHWENGWE MOTHER CARE GROUP (MCG) IN MZIMBA NORTH**

MCG were established to mobilise communities in underserved, hard-to-reach areas, towards ownership of sustained demand for and equity in immunization services, as well as linking communities to services is conducted by MHEN which coordinates CSOs in the health sector.

Community health workers (HSAs) and devolved development structures were linked with community volunteers and were organized into what is called **“Mother Care Groups (MCG).”** MCGs conduct community level advocacy and sensitization meetings, door-to-door registration of under-five children and immunization defaulter tracing using WHO’s reaching every child strategy tools.

Chikhwengwe, established in 2019 under Njuyu Health Centre, is one of the established and trained 281 MCGs in urban slums and hard-to-reach areas in all 9 priority districts of Chitipa, Mzimba North, Mzimba South, Kasungu, Ntchisi, Dowa, Lilongwe, Mchinji and Kasungu. Chikhwengwe is also one of 32 MCGs in Mzimba North.

It is located 40 Kilometres from Mzimba North District Health Office and 5 kilometres from the tarmac road opposite Nthungwa Turn Off. It has been proactive in tracking immunisation defaulters, registering newborn children, initiating advocacy initiatives and conduct community sensitization on health including immunisation. It advocated with chiefs for construction of a house for HSA, which was finished in October 2020 meeting the condition the Senior HSA had given them in order to receive an HAS they had lobbied for. The HSA was deployed in October, 2020. The MCG further lobbied with Mzimba North DHO for a solar-powered refrigerator for storage of vaccines, which they received in May, 2021.

**4.12 CONSTRUCTION OF VACCINE STORES AT MZIMBA SOUTH DHO**

The value for construction the construction of Vaccine Store at CMST is MK758 Million

* 1. **AUTOCLAVE AND DIGITAL X-RAY AT MZIMBA SOUTH DISTRICT HOSPITAL**

With support from the Global Fund MOH through PIU procured 27 Autoclaves and 15 Digital X-ray machines which were distributed in various facilities by CMST. QUECH and Ntcheu District Hospital benefited from one Autoclave and one Digital X-ray from this donation. Each Digital X-ray machine is worth MK76,950,000 and Auto Clave machine is worth MK3,164,184