

**HONOURABLE MINISTER’S FIELD VISIT TO THE SOUTHERN 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 of Mzuzu Infectious Disease Centre, renovation of KUHES Molecular laboratory, Renovation of laboratories various Health facilities, Renovation of a laboratory at QECH, 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 MK2.7 billion

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 PIU manages the funds.

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 SOUTHERN REGION**

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

1. Construction of Health Posts
2. Incinerator at Zomba Central Hospital
3. Zomba Police laboratory renovation
4. KUHES Molecular Laboratory renovation
5. Renovation of a laboratory at QECH
6. Vaccine Store in Mangochi

**4.0 PROJECTS SITES TO BE VISITED**

**4.1 KANOLO HEALTH POST IN DEDZA DISTRICT**

This is 1 of the 3 Health Posts being Constructed in Dedza District by DEC Construction.

These Health Posts follow 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 was expected to be completed by March 2023. However due to heavy rains and other circumstances, the period has been extended to March, 2024. The contract amount for this Health Post is **MK227,080,647.45**

**Health Care Worker Housing Health Post**

**4.2 INSTALLATION OF INCINERATOR AT IN ZOMBA**

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 slab stage. This incinerator for Zomba together with another installed at Kasungu District Hospital are under one contract worth MK453,035,442.35. The machine will not only serve Zomba but also the surrounding districts.

**4.3 RENOVATION OF A LABORATORY ZOMBA POLICE HOSPITAL IN ZOMBA**

The renovation of a laboratory at the police clinic in Zomba is another infrastructure under way. The contractor is Thundu Building contractor. It was started on 1ST January 2023 and expected to end by 30th March 2024. The contract amount is **MK85,605,999.29**.

* 1. **MAONI HEALTH POST**

Maoni Health Post is 1 of the 3 Health Posts under way in the District. It is being constructed by ACH Limited. It also, follows the same standards as all Health posts as per Government requirements 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 project has the contract value of MK231,661,844.47. Expected to be completed by end March 2024

**4.5 MALAWI BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICES (MBTS)**

The Global Fund has also supported blood transfusion services in Malawi, through Malawi Blood Transfusion (MBTS). The support started in 2017 under the New Funding Model (NFM 1), followed by NFM2 (2018 – 2020), and the current NFM3 (2021 – June 2024).

So far Over USD 22 million has supported MBTS blood collection health commodities, equipment, and in-country activities. This is to ensure patients on ART, and other treatments are receiving safe blood as part of treatment. In the upcoming grant, Grant Cycle 7 which has been approved, there is a provision of USD 5.1 million towards health commodities mainly reagents for blood collection, Quality Assurance and transfusion services, and in-country activities.

* 1. **RENOVATION OF A LABORATORY AT QUEEN ELIZABETH CENTRAL HOSPITAL (QECH)**

There are two works projects on the site. Firstly, Renovation of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital ART Building into Laboratory is under way. The project was started on 8th August, 2023 and it is expected to end by 6th February, 2024. The contractor is Wahkong Construction Engineering Company and the contract amount is **MK 193,175,273.32**. Secondly, all procurement processes have been completed for the Renovation of Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital Ward 3A and Ward 3B. The Infrastructure unit of the MOH is planning a site handover meeting to mark commencement of the works.

**3.7 RENOVATION OF KUHES MOLECULAR LABORATORY FOR COVID SEQUENCING**

It is being constructed to support molecular sequencing in the southern Region. The procurement processes have been completed, and it is at an award stage. Estimated to cost about MK190,000,000.00. The equipment has already been procured.

In addition, the Global Fund has supported with equipment for this laboratory at a total cost of US$2.5million of which about $1.2million has arrived and been installed in the current lab building. The other equipment awaits the completion of the renovations of the laboratory.

**Some equipment at KUHeS Molecular Laboratory**

**3.8 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, 74,464 people have been screened for TB. About 10,361 presumptive TB were identified and evaluated for TB. A total of 984 TB cases were diagnosed and initiated on TB treatment.

* 1. **CONSTRUCTION OF VACCINE STORES AT MANGOCHI DHO**

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 Mangochi Vaccine Store is MK1.1billion.