

# Covid-19 Fears

## Key Findings in Malawi

May 29, 2020



### Malawians Don't Fear Covid-19 as much as Hunger, Loss of Access to Healthcare and Stigma

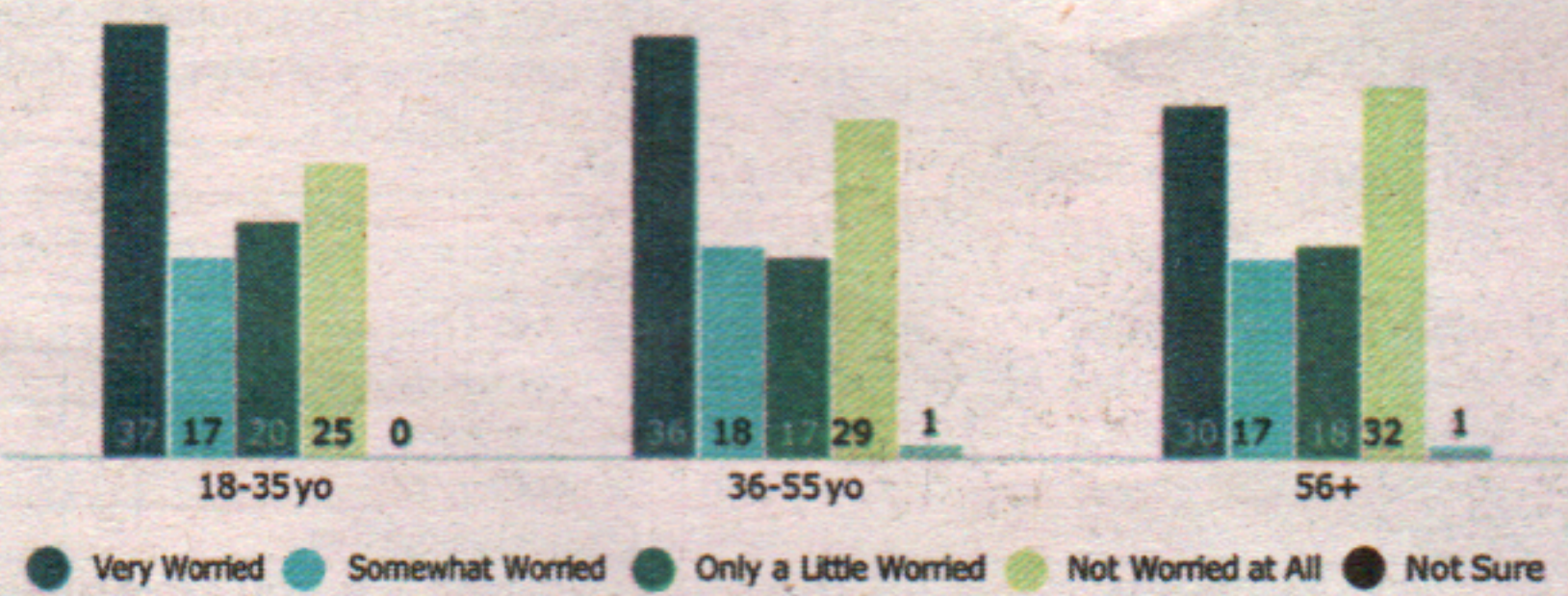
The majority of Malawians are not very worried about becoming infected with Covid-19. The percentage varies across districts, with the highest amount of concern in Chipita and Karonga, on the Tanzanian border, but most are not very worried.

Malawians over 55 years old are the least likely to be very worried about becoming infected, even though they face the greatest risk from infection.

Highest Percent Who are Very Worried About Becoming Infected are in the North



Percent Who Are Very Worried About Becoming Infected Grouped by Age<sup>1</sup>



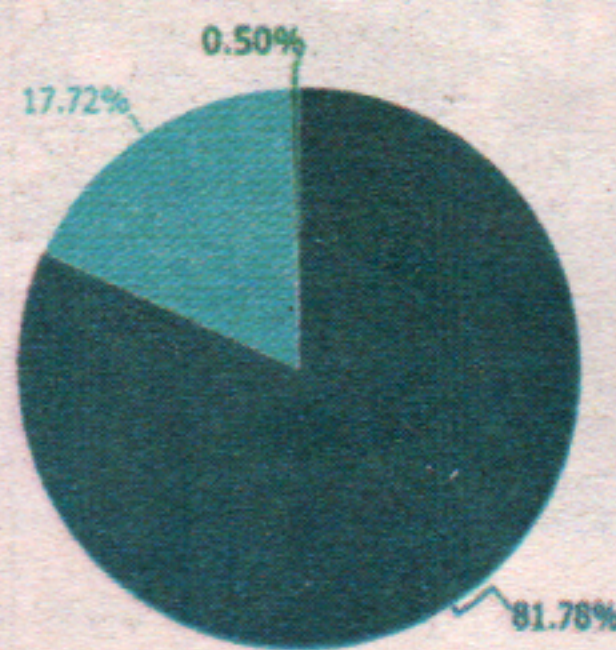
### Majority of Malawians Fear They Will Go Hungry Due to Covid-19<sup>2</sup>

Malawians in the Southern region are the most likely to fear going hungry.

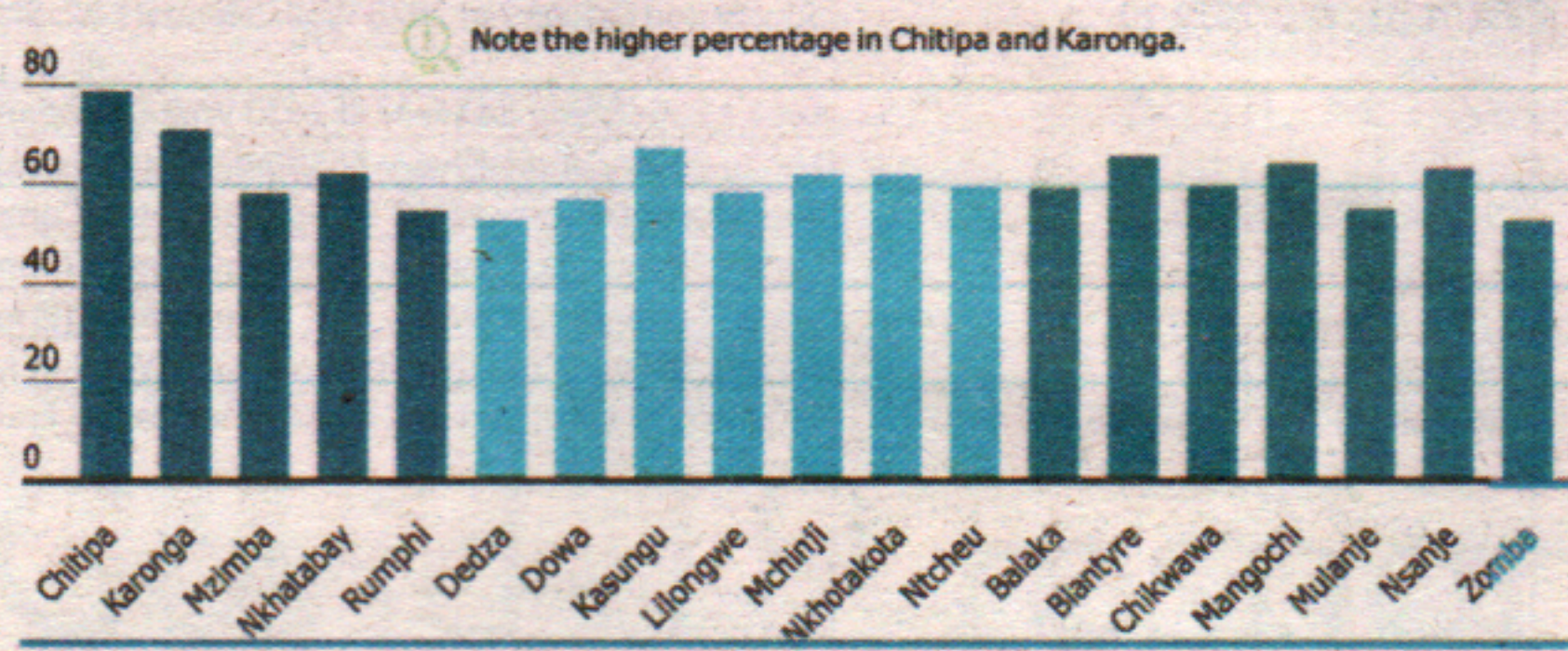
Malawians who identify as outsiders in their community are more likely to fear going hungry.

Malawians with higher education levels are less likely to fear going hungry.

Older Malawians are less likely to fear going hungry.



### About 60% of Malawians Fear Healthcare Will Be More Difficult to Access Due to Covid-19<sup>3</sup>



### About 76% of Malawians Believe Others Will Think Poorly of Them if They Have Covid-19<sup>4</sup>



These are preliminary findings from the 1st GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey (N= 4078, May 7-28, 2020). For more information, contact Boniface Dulani (bdulani@ipormw.org) in Malawi or Ellen Lust (ellen.lust@gu.se) elsewhere. We thank the Swedish Research Council and FORMAS for funding this project and for their continued support of GLD (gld.gu.se).

Full Survey Questions:  
 1- How worried are you about getting infected with Covid 19? Would you say you are... Very Worried, Somewhat worried, only a little worried, not worried at all, not sure, refuse to answer  
 2- Do you fear that you will be hungry/go without food because of the Covid-19 pandemic?  
 3- Do you think it will be more difficult to get access to healthcare because of Covid 19?  
 4- Do you think others would treat you poorly if they believed you had Covid 19?

How to Cite:  
 Metheny, Erica; Lust, Ellen; Dulani, Boniface. 2020. "Covid-19 Fears." Data drawn from Lust, Ellen (PI); Dulani, Boniface; Harris, Adam; Ferree, Karen; Kao, Kristen; Metheny, Erica. 2020. The First GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey in Malawi. www.gld.gu.se

# Covid-19 Social Reactions

## Key Findings in Malawi

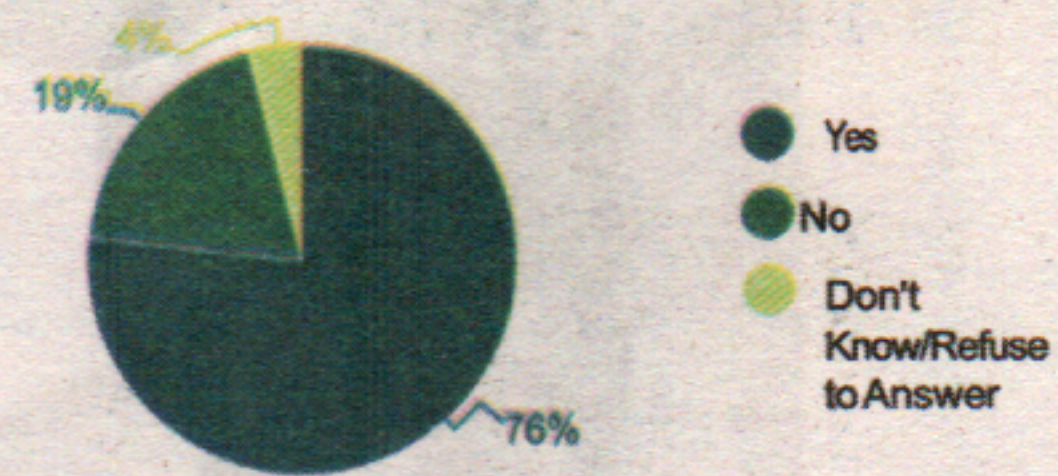
June 11, 2020



### Stigma, Stereotypes, and Symptoms Affect Malawians' Response

#### Stigma

3 out of 4 Malawians Fear Others Would Think Poorly of Them if They Were Suspected to have Covid 19!



#### Stereotypes

Malawians are More Likely to Think Zambians and Malawians of Indian Descent have Covid 19 and are Less Likely to Help Them!



#### Symptoms

Malawians are Less Likely to Help Those with Covid 19 Symptoms than Those with Other Problems!



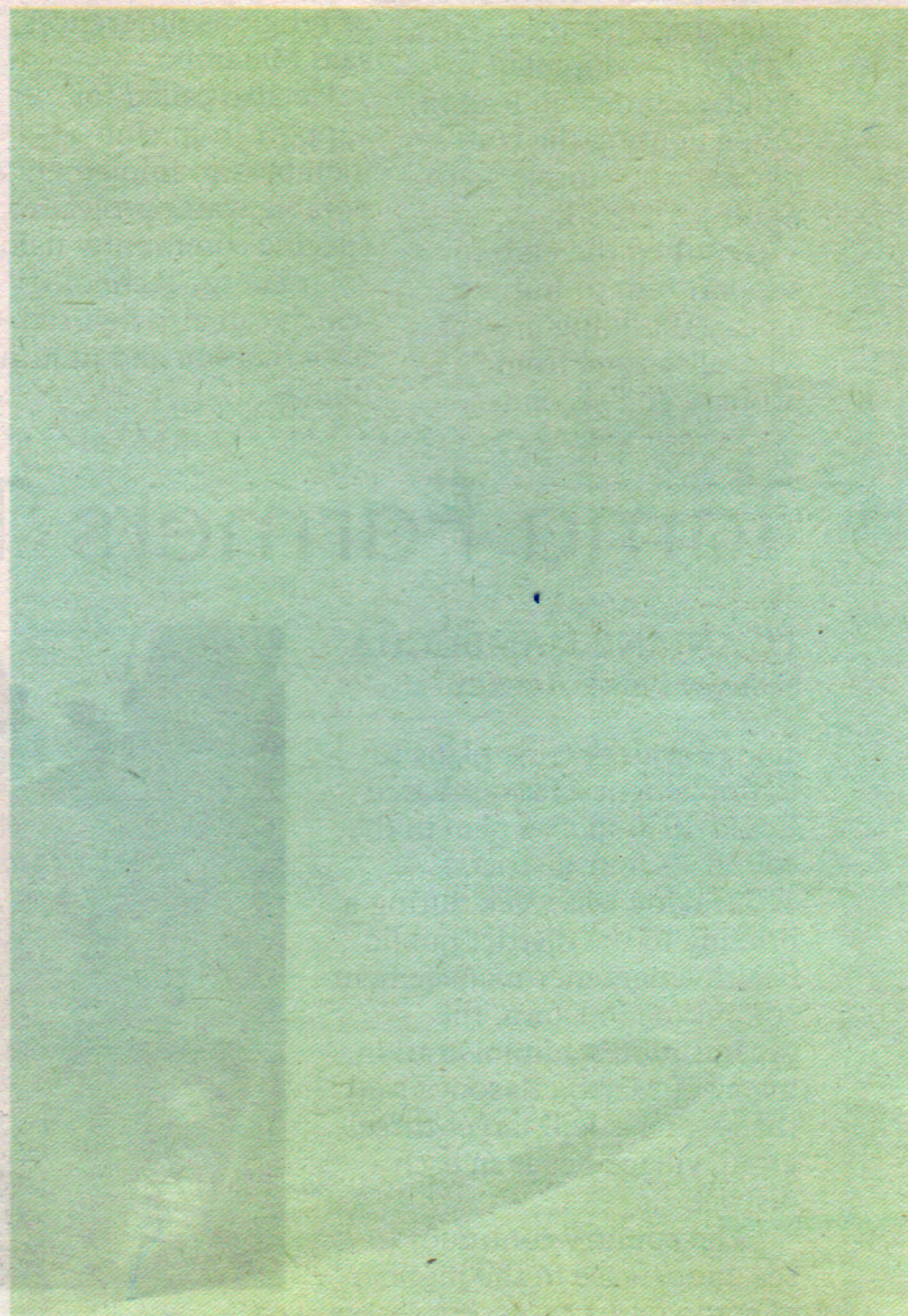
These are preliminary findings from the 1st GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey (N= 4641, May 7-June 10, 2020). For more information, contact Boniface Dulani (bdulani@ipormw.org) in Malawi or Ellen Lust (ellen.lust@gu.se) elsewhere. We thank the Swedish Research Council and FORMAS for funding this project and for their continued support of GLD.

**Full Survey Questions:**

- 1- Do you think others would treat you poorly if they believed you had Covid 19?
- 2- Preliminary results from survey experiment by Dulani, Boniface; Ferree, Karen; Harris, Adam; Kao, Kristen; Lust, Ellen; Metheney, Erica. Details available upon request.

**How to Cite:**

Metheney, Erica; Lust, Ellen; Dulani, Boniface. 2020. "Covid-19 Social Reactions." Data drawn from Lust, Ellen (PI); Dulani, Boniface; Harris, Adam; Ferree, Karen; Kao, Kristen; Metheney, Erica. 2020. The First GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey in Malawi. www.gld.gu.se



...se to answer  
...food because of the Covid-19 pandemic?  
...ess to healthcare because of Covid 19?  
...ly if they believed you had Covid 19?

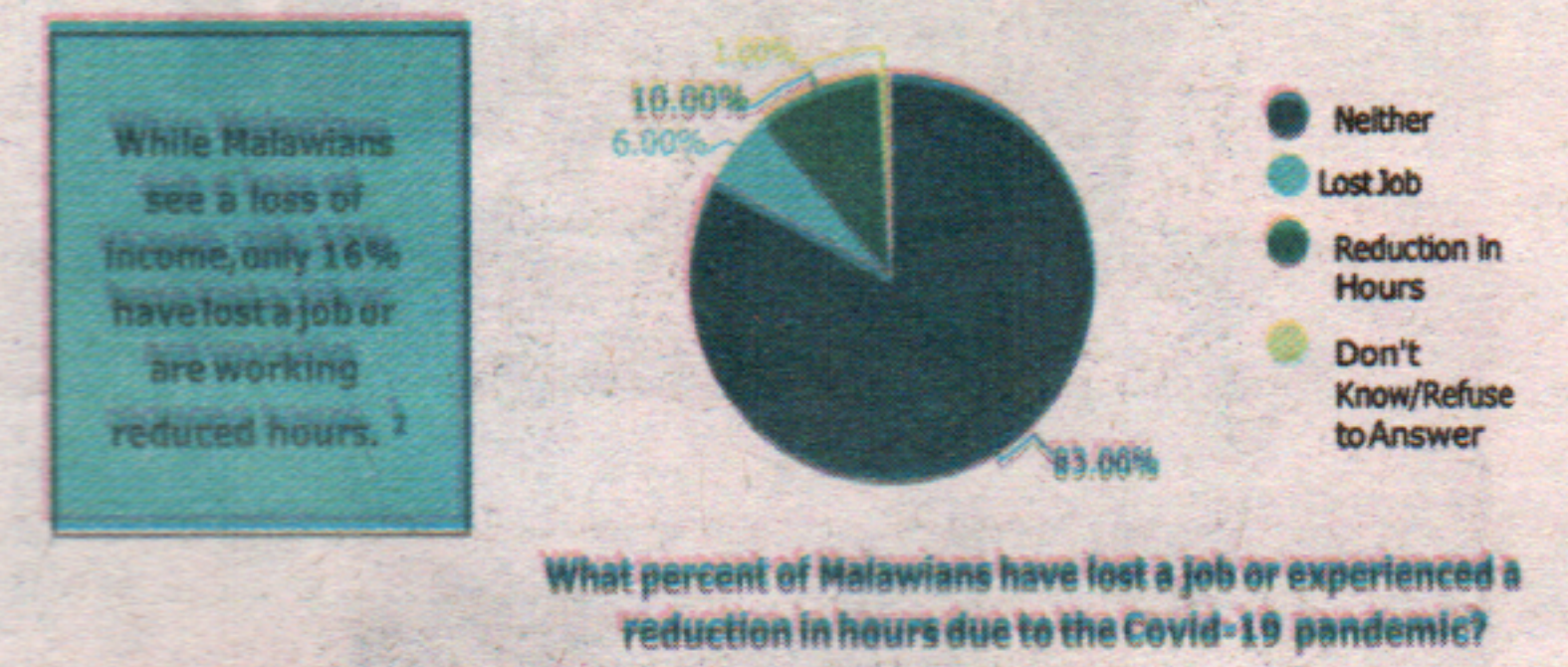
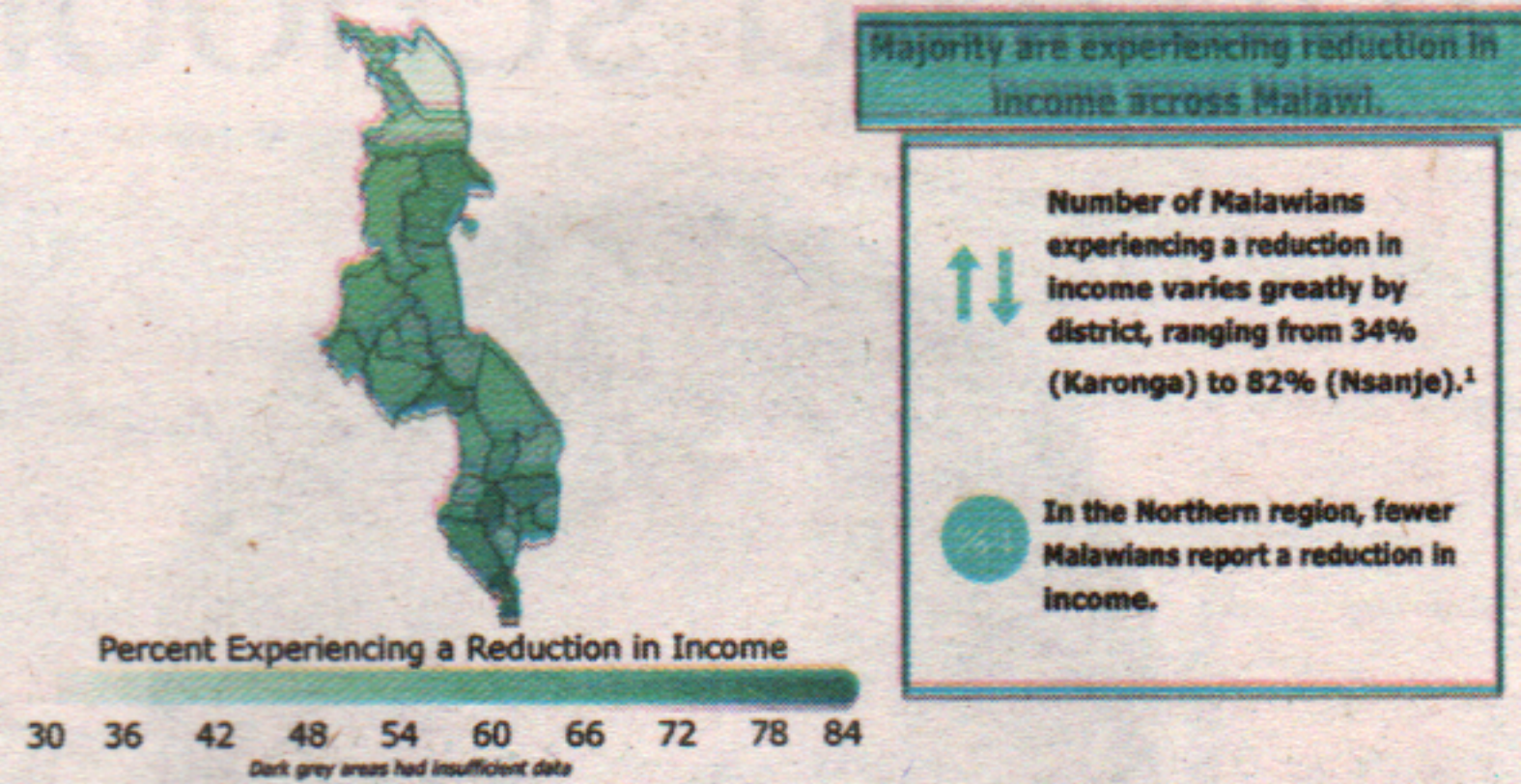
# Covid-19 Economic Impact

Key Findings in Malawi

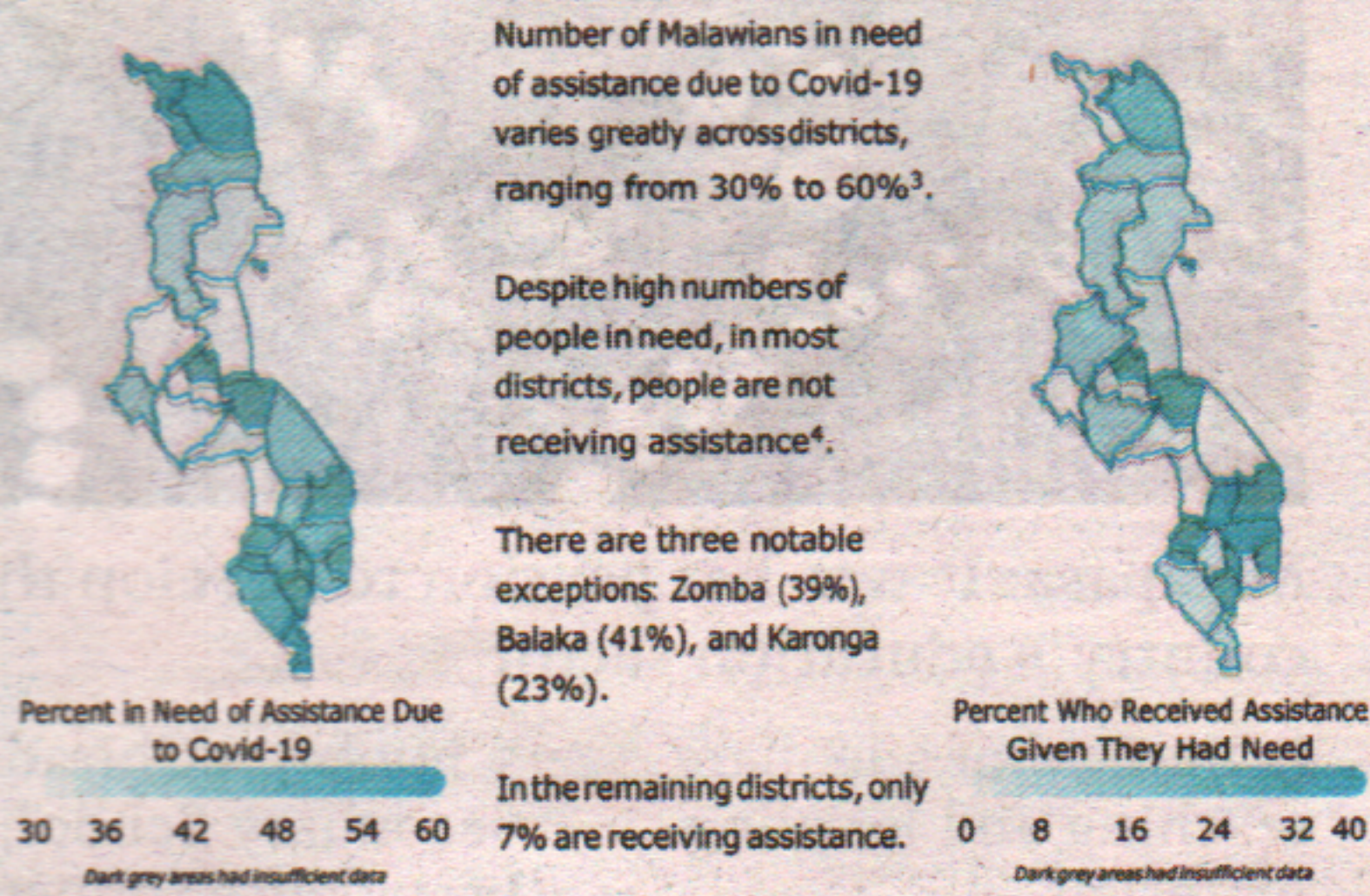
June 11, 2020



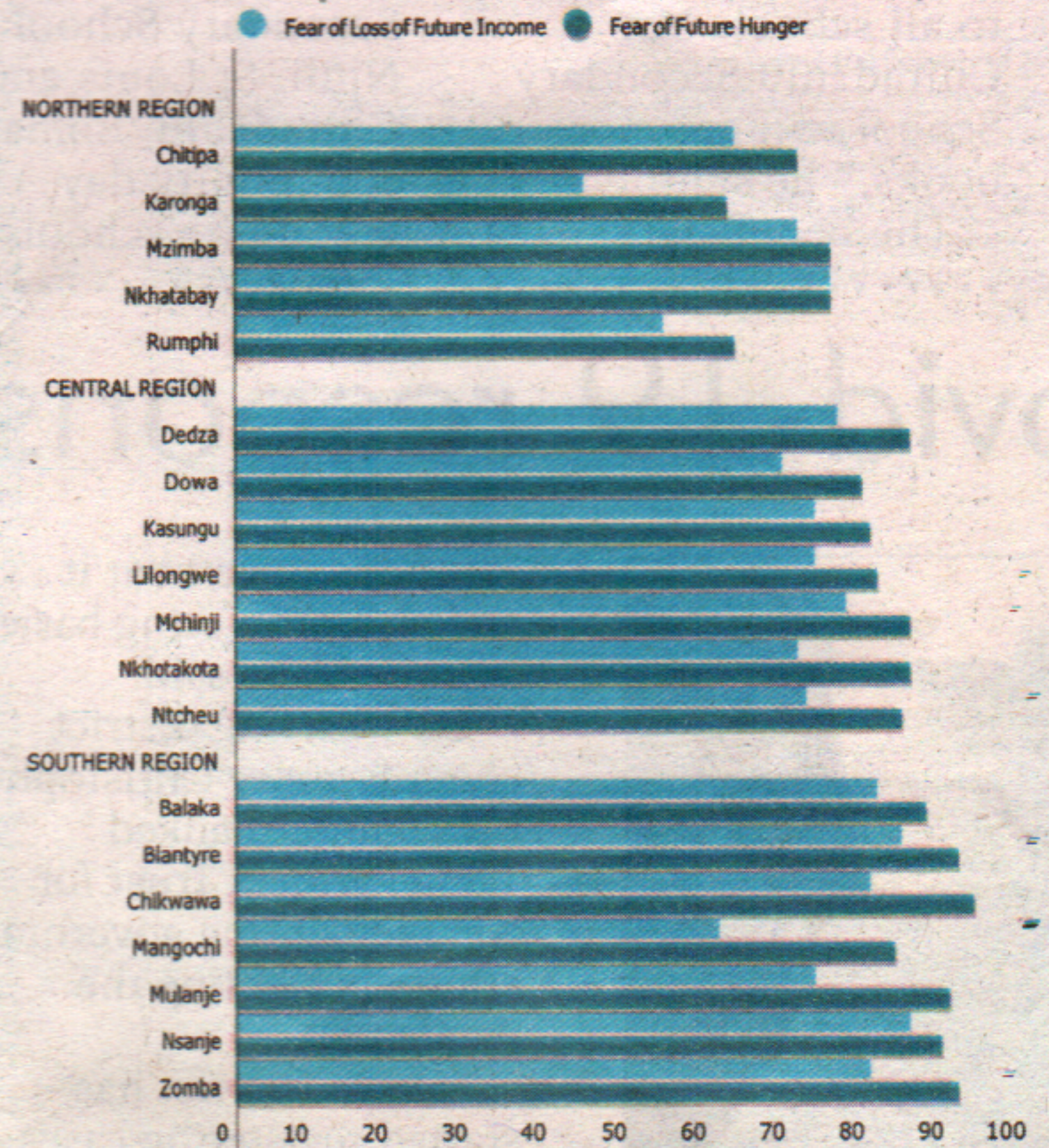
## Malawians Experiencing Increasing Economic Stress, Receiving Little Aid



## Despite High Levels of Need, Few Receive Aid



## Malawians Worry about Future Economic Hardships<sup>5,6</sup>



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Full Survey Questions:  
 1- Have you experienced a reduction in income/salary due to the Covid-19 pandemic?  
 2- Have you lost a job or experienced a reduction in hours due to the Covid-19 pandemic?  
 3- Have you needed assistance during the Covid 19 crisis?  
 4- (if assistance was needed) Have you received assistance during the Covid 19 crisis?  
 5- Do you fear a reduction in future income/salary due to the Covid-19 pandemic?  
 6- Do you fear that you will be hungry/go without food because of the Covid-19 pandemic?

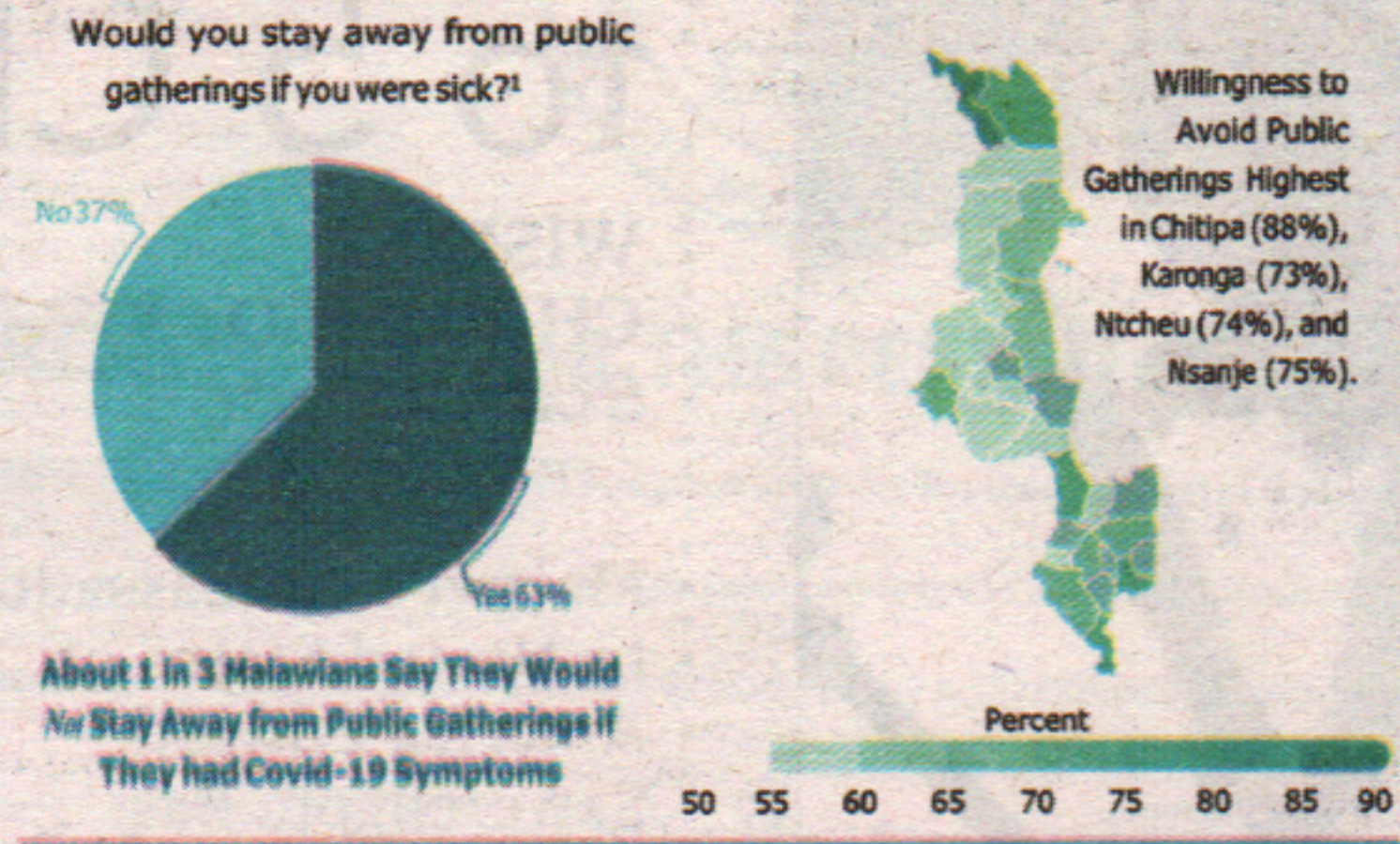
# Covid-19 Response to Illness

Key Findings in Malawi

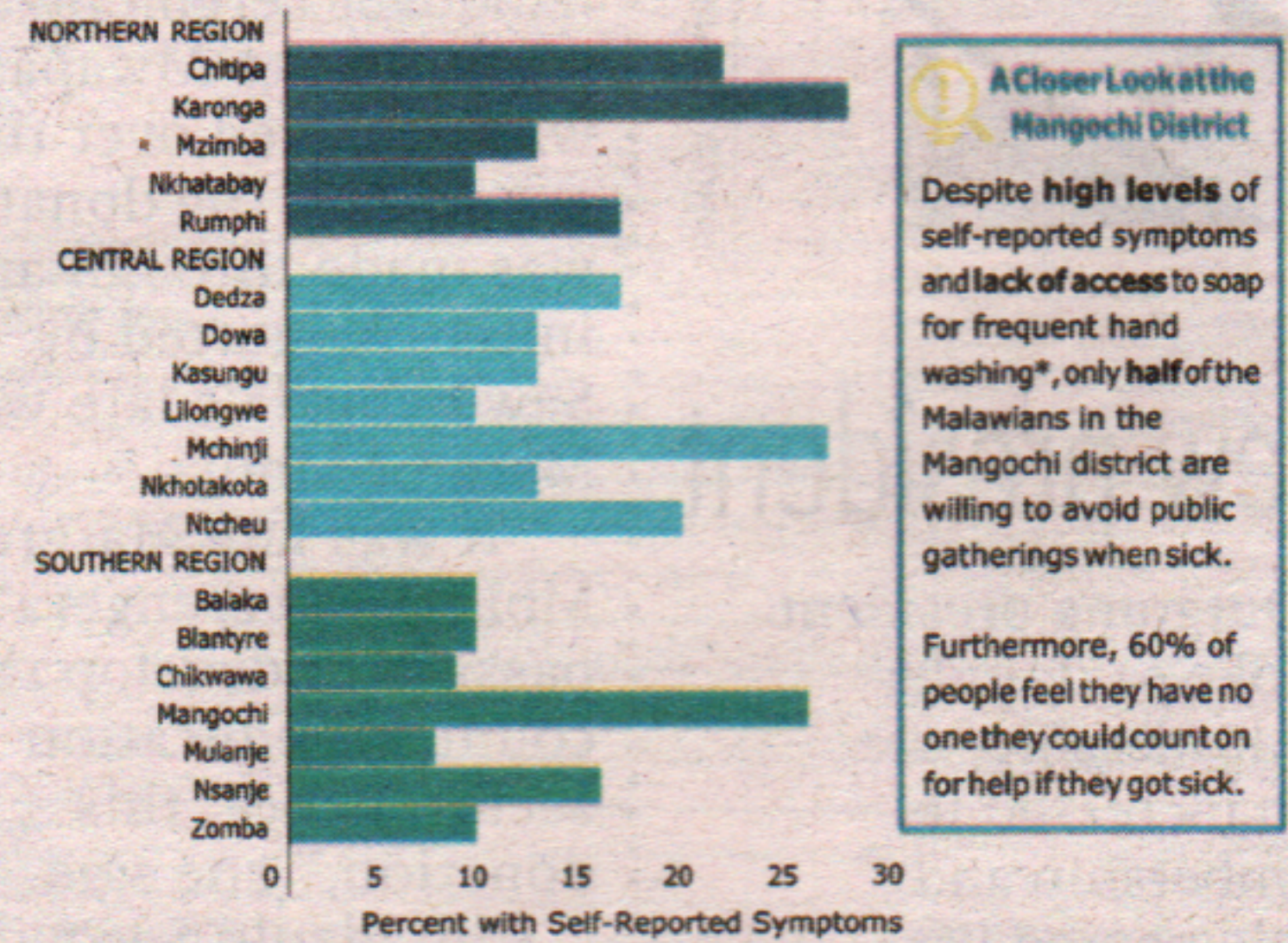
June 9, 2020



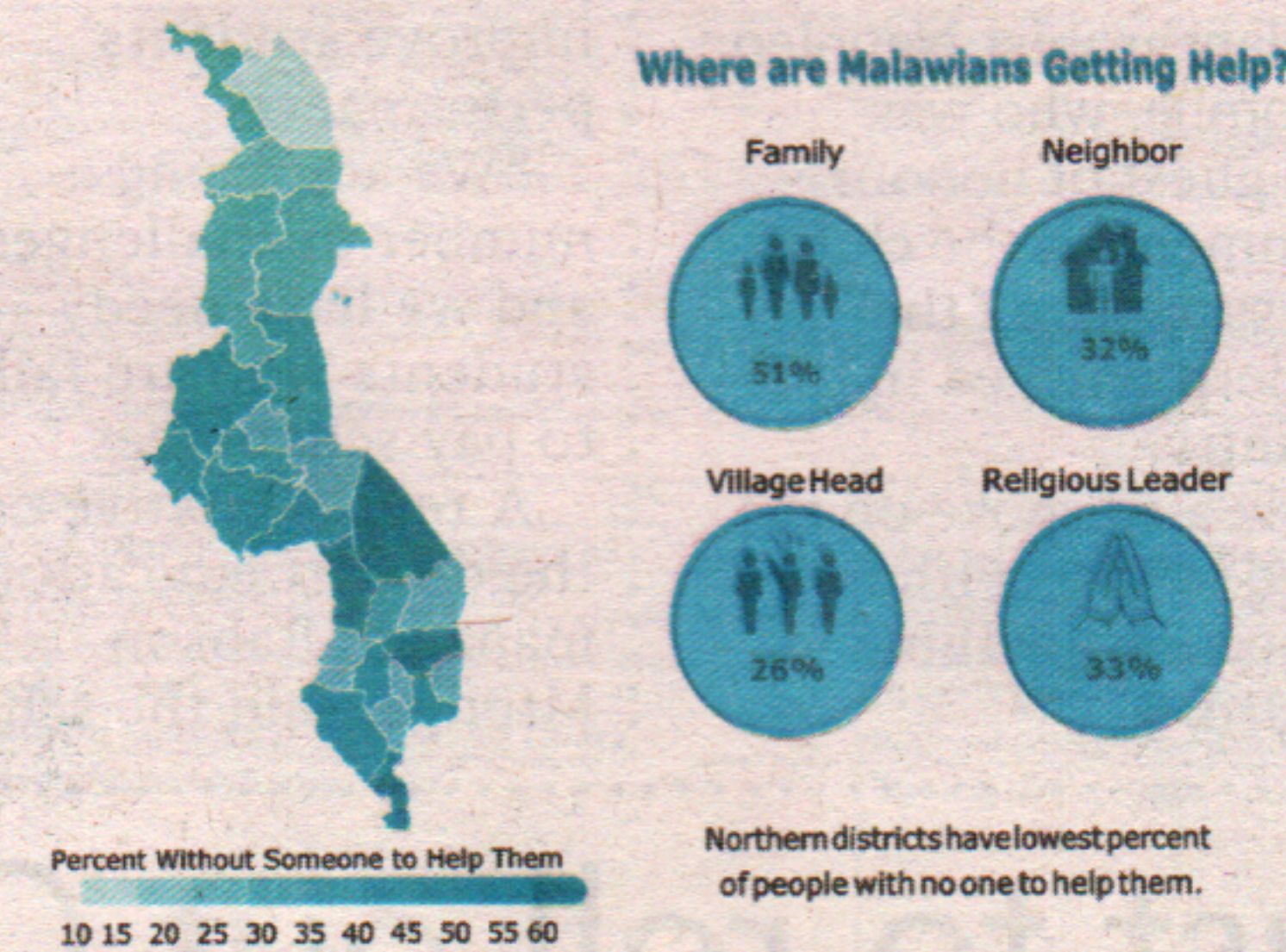
## Are Malawians Waiting Until Symptoms are Prevalent to Take Precautions?



## Karonga, Mchinji, Mangochi, and Chitipa Have Highest Percentage of Self-reported Covid-19 Symptoms<sup>2</sup>



## 45% of Malawians Report Not Having Someone to Help Them if Sick from Covid-19<sup>3</sup>



These are preliminary findings from the 1st GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey (N= 4641, May 7- June 8, 2020). For more information, contact Boniface Dulani (bdulani@ipormw.org) in Malawi or Ellen Lust (ellen.lust@gu.se) elsewhere. We thank the Swedish Research Council and FORMAS for funding this project and for their continued support of GLD.

Full Survey Questions:  
 1- Have you had a dry cough, shortness of breath, or fever during the past two weeks? -> Given your symptoms did you? OR If you had these symptoms would you? -> Stay away from public functions like church meetings or funerals?  
 2- Have you had a dry cough, shortness of breath, or fever during the past two weeks?  
 3- If you were sick from Covid 19, could you count on help from: family, neighbors, Village Head/Neighborhood Leader, religious leader?

How to Cite:  
 Metheny, Erica; Lust, Ellen; Dulani, Boniface. 2020. "Covid-19 Response to Illness." Data drawn from Lust, Ellen (PI); Dulani, Boniface; Harris, Adam; Ferree, Karen; Kao, Kristen; Metheny, Erica. 2020. The First GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey in Malawi. www.gld.gu.se

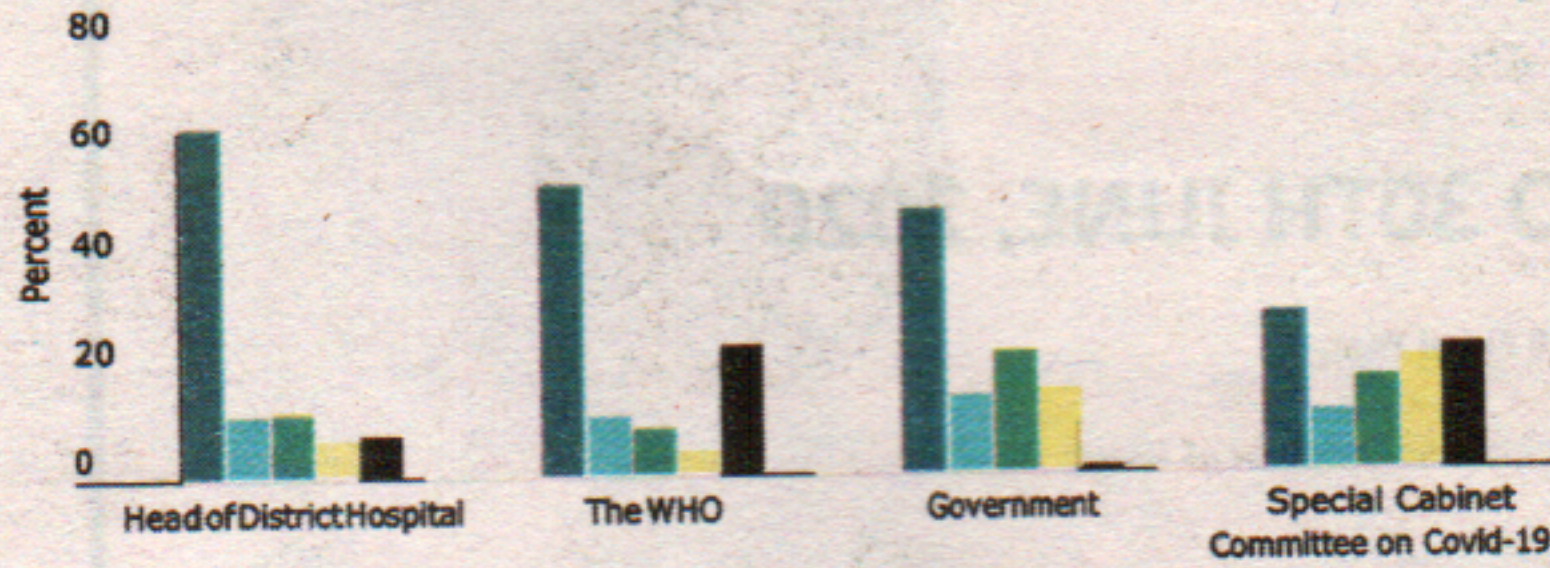
## Covid-19: Trust in Authorities

### Key Findings in Malawi

June 3, 2020



### Malawians Most Trust Health Professionals to Address Covid-19 Crisis, Wary It Becomes a Political Football<sup>1</sup>



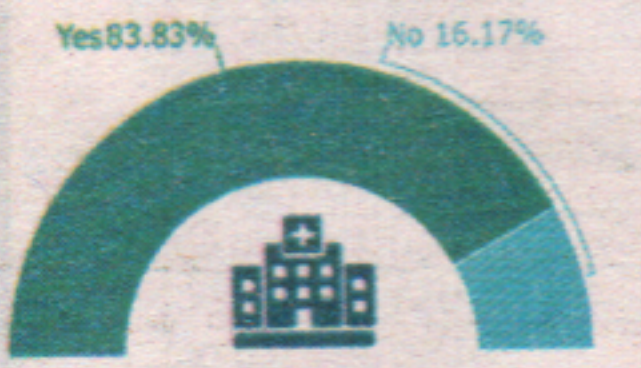
How much do you trust each of the following?

● A lot ● Somewhat ● Just a little ● Not at all ● Haven't Heard Enough to Say



Malawians have a lot of trust in healthcare providers (64% Head of District Hospitals, 53% WHO) and are unlikely to say they do not trust healthcare providers at all (6% Head of District Hospitals, 4% WHO). Even though many Malawians haven't heard enough to have an opinion about the WHO (24%) or The Special Cabinet Committee on Covid-19 (22.5%), trust in the WHO is much higher.

### Malawians Recognize Importance of Medical Expertise



Do you think the head of the district hospital best understands the novel coronavirus?<sup>2</sup>



Survey Experiment<sup>[1]</sup> Shows That When Directives Come from the Head of a District Hospital:

- Malawians are **more likely** to comply with the directive (compared to directives from a religious leader).
- Malawians are **more likely** to believe this person has the right to make such a request (compared to a religious leader).

Details on the full experiment can be found [here](#).

### Looking Ahead: Malawians Fear Corruption in Covid-19 Management and Think the Presidential Election Should be Held as Scheduled

Support of Presidential Election Occurring as Scheduled



75% of Malawians Think Presidential Election Should be Held as Scheduled<sup>3</sup>

Percent Who Fear Corruption in Covid-19 Management



67% of Malawians Fear Corruption in Covid-19 Management<sup>4</sup>

These are preliminary findings from the 1st GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey (N= 4632, May 7- June 2, 2020). For more information, contact Boniface Dulani (bdulani@ipormw.org) in Malawi or Ellen Lust (ellen.lust@gu.se) elsewhere. We thank the Swedish Research Council and FORMAS for funding this project and for their continued support of GLD (gld.gu.se).

Full survey questions:

- How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough to say?
- Which of the following do you think best understands the coronavirus?
- Do you think the presidential elections should be held on July 2nd as scheduled, given Covid 19?
- In some countries, some politicians have used the crisis to increase their power/authority or enrich themselves. Do you worry that this is happening or could happen here in Malawi?

References:

[1]-Dulani, Boniface; Ferree, Karen; Harris, Adam; Kao, Kristen; Lust, Ellen; Metheny, Erica. 2020. "The ABCs of Covid-19 Prevention in Malawi: Authority, Benefits, and Costs of Compliance." [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v1GxwJVk95Nhh1uRz\\_H3FzeY2hSHwVZv/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v1GxwJVk95Nhh1uRz_H3FzeY2hSHwVZv/view)

How to Cite:

Metheny, Erica; Lust, Ellen; Dulani, Boniface. 2020. "Covid-19 Trust in Authorities." Data drawn from Lust, Ellen (PI); Dulani, Boniface; Harris, Adam; Ferree, Karen; Kao, Kristen; Metheny, Erica. 2020. The First GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey in Malawi. [www.gld.gu.se](http://www.gld.gu.se)

## Covid-19 Vulnerabilities

### Key Findings in Malawi

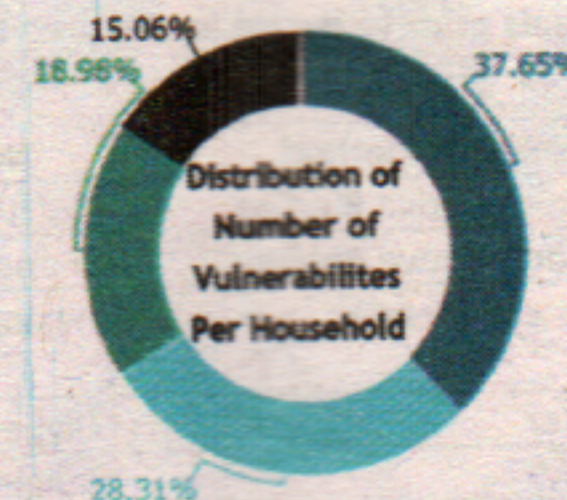
June 5, 2020



This report examines 6 vulnerabilities to Covid-19

- Household Density = # of people in house/ # of rooms in house
- Presence of Household Member > 55 Years Old
- Multi-Generational Household = Children and Someone > 55 years
- Not Enough Water to Wash Hands Frequently
- No Soap/Sanitizer Within the Home
- Pre-existing Health Conditions

### 82% of Malawians Say Income Doesn't Meet Needs, Opens Door to Covid-19 Vulnerabilities<sup>1</sup>



Percent with Insufficient Income

60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100

### Vulnerabilities in the Home: About 1 in 5 Malawians...



Live in a Multi-Generational Household<sup>2</sup>



Live in a Household with More than 2 People Per Room<sup>3</sup>



Live in a Household with Someone with a Pre-existing Condition<sup>4</sup>

### Lack of Soap, Not Access to Water, is Greatest Challenge to Frequent Handwashing in Malawi



95% of Malawians have access to enough water for their entire family to wash hands frequently.<sup>5</sup>



26% of Malawians do NOT have access to soap or sanitizer to wash hands.<sup>6</sup>



Need for soap is greater in Southern and Central Regions than in Northern Region.



Lack of soap is associated with insufficient income.

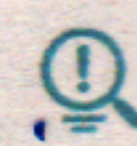


Percent Without Soap/Sanitizer

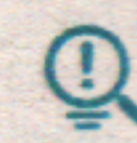
6 10 14 18 22 26 30 34

Dark grey areas had insufficient data.

### Prevalence of Self-Reported Symptoms Varies Greatly by District<sup>7</sup>



Karonga, Mchinji, and Mangochi have the highest percentages of self-reported cases, each around 25%.



In addition to having some of the highest percentages of self-reported cases, Mchinji and Mangochi have nearly 30% without of soap in the home.



Percent Reporting Symptoms

0 6 12 18 24 30

Dark grey areas had insufficient data.

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Full Survey Questions

- I will read out a few statements about your income. Please tell me, which of the following statement is closest to your situation:
  - Our household income covers the needs well - we can save.
  - Our household income covers the needs alright, without much difficulty.
  - Our household income does not cover the needs, there are difficulties.
  - Our household income does not cover the needs, there are great difficulties.
  - Don't Know/Refuse to answer
- Are children under the age of 18 currently living in this household? What is the age of the oldest member of your household?
- How many people currently live with you in your household? How many rooms are in your house?
- Does anyone in your household have diabetes, high blood pressure, lung disease or other chronic health problems?
- Do you have enough water for everyone in your household to wash their hands frequently?
- Do you have access to soap or hand sanitizer in your home for washing hands?
- Have you had a dry cough, shortness of breath, or fever during the past two weeks?

How to Cite:

Metheny, Erica; Lust, Ellen; Dulani, Boniface. 2020. "Covid-19 Vulnerabilities." Data drawn from Lust, Ellen (PI); Dulani, Boniface; Harris, Adam; Ferree, Karen; Kao, Kristen; Metheny, Erica. 2020. The First GLD-IPOR Covid-19 Survey in Malawi. [www.gld.gu.se](http://www.gld.gu.se)