

REOPENING OF SCHOOLS IN MALAWI: TEACHERS' EXPERIENCE

Webinar IICBA

23rd September, 2020

Teachers Union of Malawi





Background

- The Malawi government opened schools on the 7th September, 2020 amidst COVID 19 pandemic
- The government took a phase approach where by students in National exam writing classes (Standard 8 and Form 4) are the ones who have started attending school and the rest of the classes will open in October
- A national taskforce on reopening of schools amidst COVID 19 was formed to assess and provide guidelines on how the schools can be safely opened and the taskforce played a big role in opening of the schools.



Successes

- Lessons are progressing smoothly
- No teacher or student has been infected so far
- Excellent support from school government structures in monitoring adherence to school COVID 19 regulations
- Most schools have managed to display COVID 19 messages as instructed by the Education Ministry



Challenges Experienced

- Observation of 1 metre social distancing not being practiced by students
- Teachers failing to adapt to newly instructed teaching methodology amid COVID 19; Strictly using the teachers guide and even when they accommodate group discussions, 1 metre rule is not being observed
- Difficulties in lesson delivery because of face masks



Challenges Cont....

- ▶ Inadequate hand washing facilities in most schools
- ▶ No access to portable water in most schools which is important in implementing hand washing measures. Most schools do not have boreholes hence they use community boreholes which sometimes result in conflicts between schools and communities.

Anticipated Challenges After Full Reopening

- Over crowded Classrooms
- Teaching methodologies like group work does not allow teachers and students to implement the social distance rule; affects the learning process especially for learners who are slow to catch up with class work
- For lower classes like standard 1 and 2, students follow teachers easily when they pronounce and enunciate words but with face masks pronunciation of words will be an issue
- Handling special needs students require methodologies that may put the student and teacher at risk: will affect their learning process



Thank you