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Survey shows Malawians don't fear Covid-19 as much as hunger, healthcare collapse

June 1, 2020 Green Muheya - Nyasa Times [7 Comments](#)

Malawians are more scared of going hungry than contracting Covid-19, the strands of coronavirus pandemic, according to a survey jointly conducted by the Institute of Public Opinion and Research (Ipor) and the programme on Governance and Local Development (GLD).

The survey was conducted to gauge the public perception on Covid-19 and preliminary findings show 81 .73 percent don't fear the virus pandemic.

Reads the survey report in part: " The majority of Malawians are not worried about becoming infected with Covid-19. The percentage varies across districts, with the highest amount of concern in Chitipa and Karonga, on the Tanzania border, but most are not very worried."

The survey, with a sample size of 4 078 respondents conducted between May 7 and 28 2020 says Malawians over 55 years old are the least likely to be worried about becoming infected, even though they face the greatest risk from infection.

It shows that Malawians in the Southern Region are the most likely to fear going hungry.

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

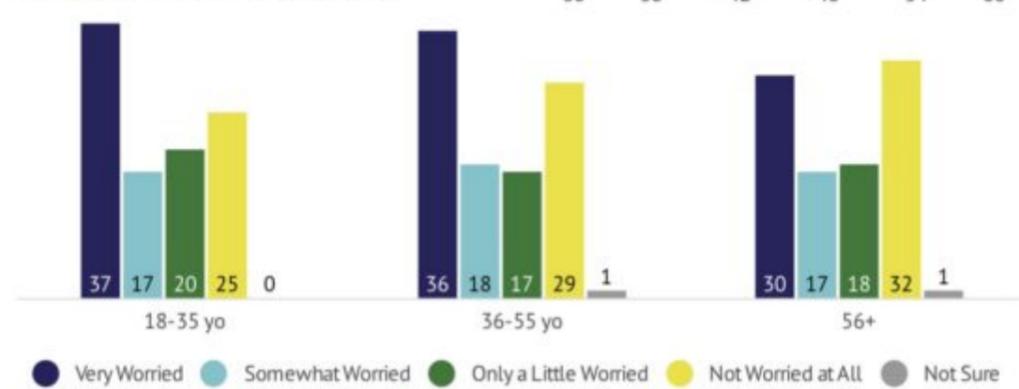
The majority of Malawians are not very worried about becoming infected with Covid-19. The percentage varies across districts, with the highest amount of concern in Chipita and Karonga, on the Tanzanian border, but most are not very worried.

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

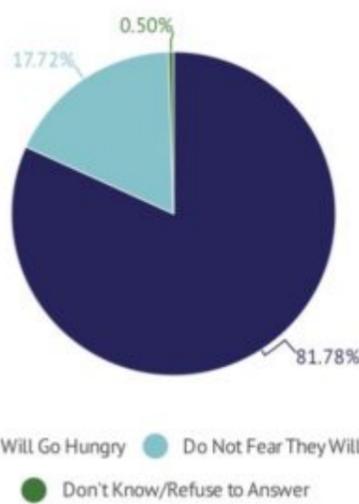


Percent Who Are Very Worried About Becoming Infected Grouped by Age



Majority of Malawians Fear They Will Go Hungry Due to Covid-19

- 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.



findings of the survey come at a time Malawi has recorded 279 Covid-19 positive cases, including four deaths, since the the first three cases were reported on April 2 this year.

Dr John Phuka the Dean of Public Health at the College of Medicine – a constituent college of the University of Malawi, who is also co-chairperson of the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 said he was at pains to understand the source of perception by Malawians towards coronavirus as revealed by the survey.

The survey was conducted with financial support from Swedish Research Council.

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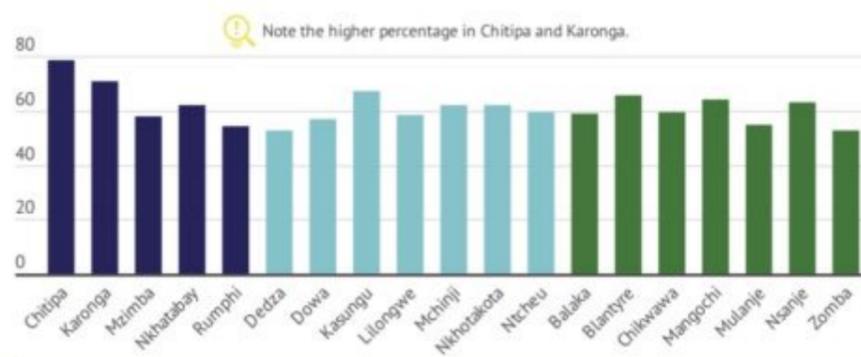
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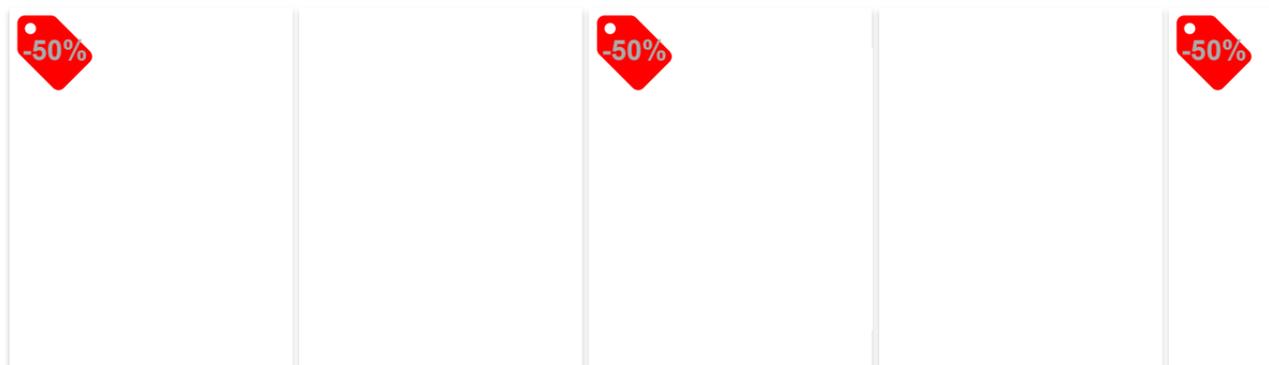
About 60% of Malawians Fear Healthcare Will Be More Difficult to Access Due to Covid-19



About 76% of Malawians Believe Others Will Think Poorly of Them if They Have Covid-19.



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 for funding this project and for their continued support of GLD.



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Guest

Mangochi Kabwafu



Nkhalamba thought that would be his route to run away from elections but has failed. He's heading for exit door.

+ 0 -

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Guest

Sodo chinamuluma chakuda pa Malawi



YES yes we are not fear because our country things not well and what we need is food, money and medication to change ,that is why we are not fear with this Corona virus.Yes we will die in numbers but with God hands tipulumuka ambili,our leaders they don't care about us but they use us ngati makasu pokalima,So Malawi it's our time to change this nation with our hands not for khondo but for vote that is why Malawi we are not fear ndi COVID 19.

+ 0 -

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Guest

Chekamtanda Madalitso.



Rich people fear corona than poors. Only poors hv suffering with hunger so we can't and re-cant to fear "ka" corona yet we hv nothing to eat.

+ 0 -

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Guest

Sodo chinamuluma chakuda pa Malawi



Good

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Guest

Mangochi Kabwafu



Why should they fear something with such low mortality rate? Since April, only 4 dead (though that's questionable too). In the same period, thousands have died of other diseases. I would rather fear malaria than covid-19 as I am sure malaria has killed more than 4 in the same time frame.

+ 1 -

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Guest

Njala mchilombo



Anthu akudziwa kuti CORONA VIRUS akamwa Alovera achila. Koma Njala ilibe alternative solution.



+ 3 -

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Guest

Prof. Dr. Willem Van Cotthem [🔗](#)

It's a pity that not all our Malawian friends are aware of the fact that one can apply container gardening at home without any significant costs. Anyone, even all the youngsters, can grow fresh food (vegetables, herbs, fruits) all year long in containers (pots, buckets, bottles, jugs, tubs, etc.). That is a successful alternative solution for hunger and malnutrition.

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