

MALAWI

CHILD PROTECTION DATA BULLETIN

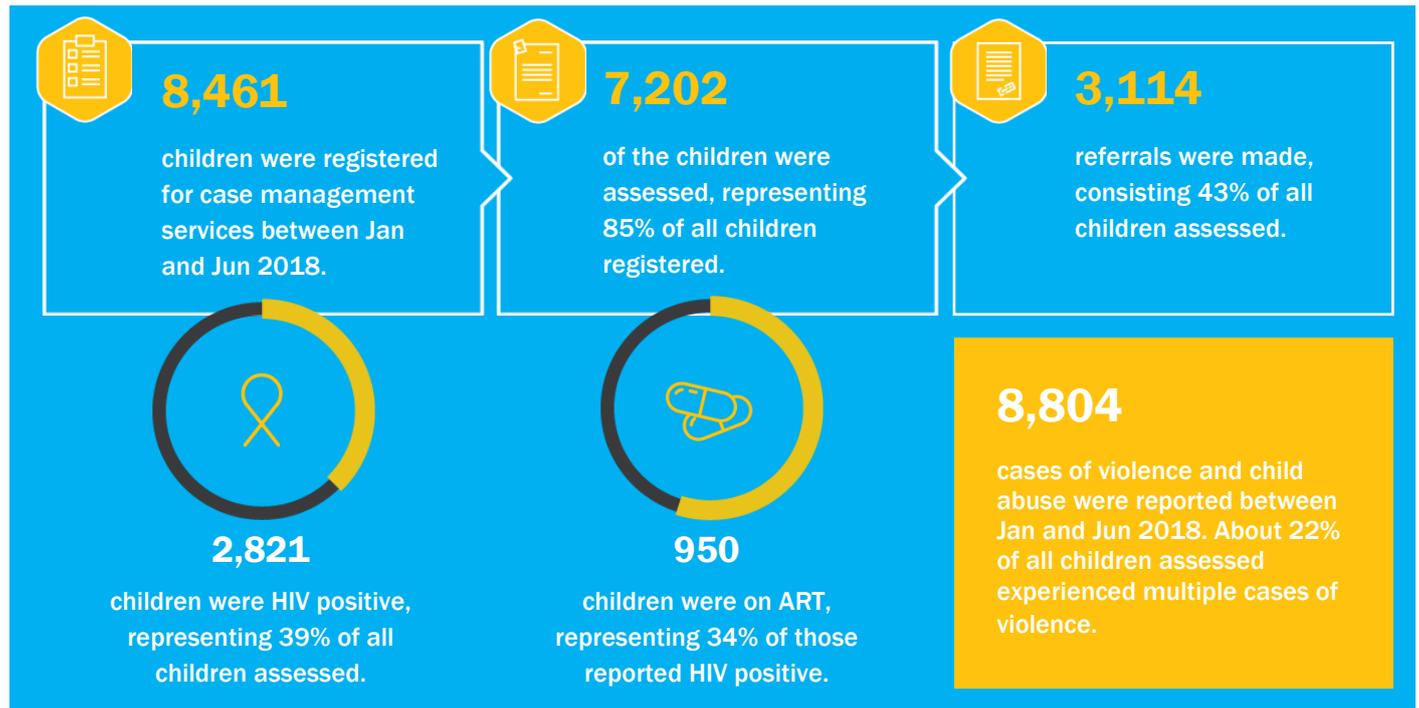
JANUARY – JUNE **2018**



unicef 
for every child

A regular update of child protection data collected by the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare in relation to Child Protection Case Management, Community Victim Support Units and Children's Corners.

CHILD PROTECTION CASE MANAGEMENT DATA

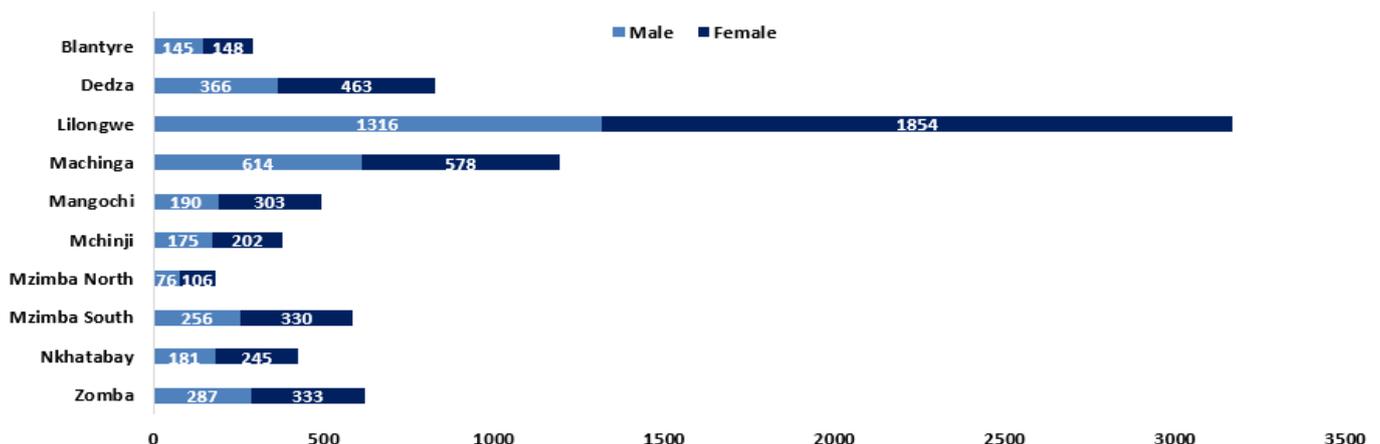


The total number of children who benefitted from child protection case management services in the 10 districts of Blantyre, Zomba, Machinga, Mangochi, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mchinji, Mzimba South, Mzimba North and Nkhatabay from January to June 2018 was 8,461 (4,710 males and 3,751 females). A total of 4,316 children were registered in quarter 1 (January – March 2018) down from 6,168 registered in quarter 1 of 2017. A total of 4,145 children

were registered in quarter 2 (April – June 2018), down from 5,875 in quarter 2 of 2017. It is expected that the numbers of cases registered and assessed should decrease as Child Protection Workers become more used to the case management process and more easily identify cases that do not qualify for case management. Between January and June 2018, the top three districts in registering children for case management were

Lilongwe (n=3170), followed by Machinga (n=1192) and Dedza (n=869). In 2017, the top three districts in registering children for case management were Lilongwe, Zomba and Machinga. The chart below contains details of the number of children per district who were registered for case management services between January and June 2018. In general, more girls (56%) than boys (44%) were registered for case management services during this period under review.

FIGURE 1: Case management cases per district

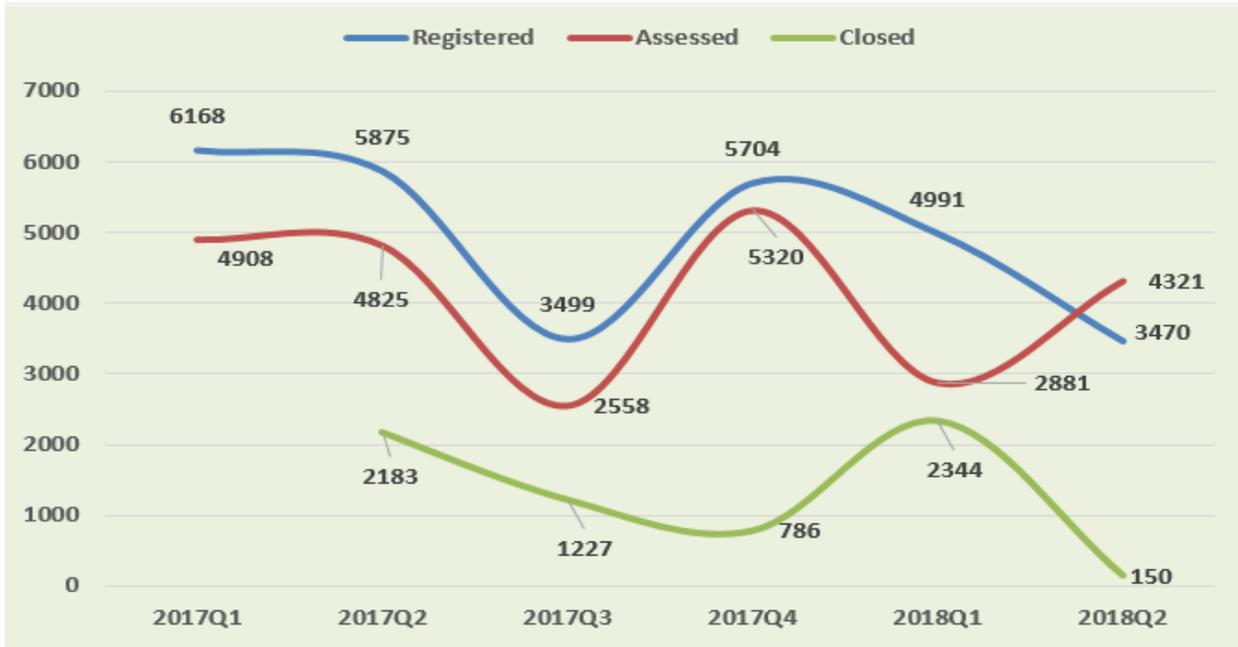


ASSESSMENT, REFERRAL AND CLOSURE

From January to June 2018 a total of 7,202 cases were assessed (3,201 boys and 4,001 girls) representing 85% of all cases registered. During the same period, a total of 2,494 cases were closed, representing 35% of all cases assessed.

While 29% of cases assessed in quarter 1 (January - March) were closed in quarter 2, only 6% of all cases in quarter 2 were closed within the quarter. Figure 2 below shows trends in cases registered, assessed and closed during the first half of the year 2018.

FIGURE 2: Cases registered, assessed and closed in 2018

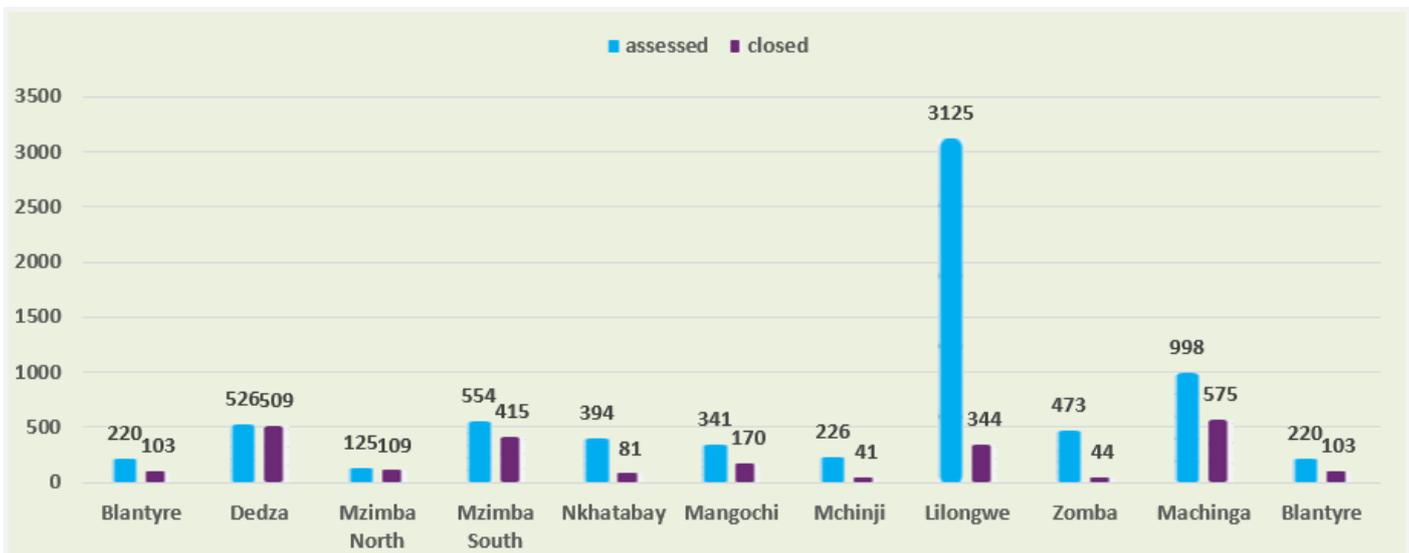


ASSESSMENT, REFERRAL AND CLOSURE BY DISTRICT

During the January to June 2018 period, Dedza closed 98% of its assessed cases followed by Mzimba North at 87% and then Mzimba South at 74%. Between 2016 and 2017 there was a 31% drop in annual number of cases assessed - a total of 22,643 cases were assessed in 2016 compared to 15,661 in 2017. A total of 7,202 have been assessed as of mid 2018. At this rate,

there will likely be a drop in the annual numbers of cases assessed in 2018 compared to 2017. Between January and June 2018, a total of 3,114 referrals were made. This number consists of 1,432 boys and 1,682 girls. Lilongwe reported the highest number of successful case referrals (n=2,054) followed by Mzimba South (n=256) and Dedza (n=181).

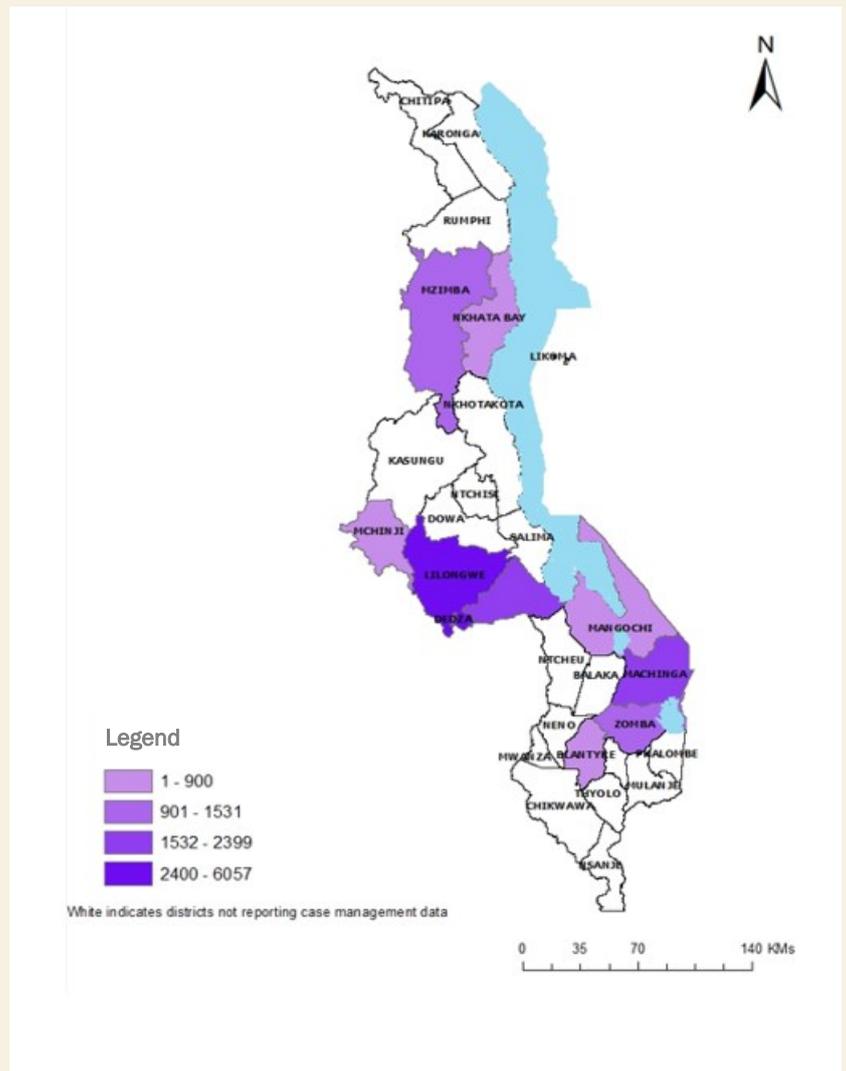
FIGURE 3: Assessment, referral and closure by district



CASES OF VIOLENCE

Between January to June 2018, the highest number of cases of violence against children were reported in Lilongwe (n=3,148), Dedza (1,685) and Machinga (n=1,197). Zomba, Mzimba South and Mchinji also reported high numbers. Between January and June 2018, there were more cases of violence reported (n=8,804) than the actual number of children assessed (n=8,461). This is because 22% of children suffered multiples cases of violence. The number of multiple cases doubled from 7.2% in 2016 to 14.8% in 2017. This number is on course to double again in 2018 given that multiple cases of violence stand at 22% as of June 2018.

Of the 8,804 cases of violence, girls were victims in 56% of the cases (n=4,907) while boys in 44% (n=3,897). Gender dimensions are apparent on closer analysis. The majority of sexual abuse cases were against girls (90%, n=423), while boys were victims in 10% of cases (n=47). The cases of physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect were fairly evenly divided between female and male victims. For physical abuse, girls were victims in 47% (n=536), while boys in 53% (n=598). Girls constituted 51% of emotional abuse victims (n=877) and boys made up 49% of cases (n=836). Girls were victims in 53% of neglect cases (n=1,264) and boys were victims in 47% (n=1,100). More boys were victims of child labour (71%, 935) than girls (21%, 382). Girls constituted the majority of victims of child marriage (81%, n=1,407), while boys were victims in 19% of the cases (n=324). Boys were victims in 76% of child trafficking cases (n=57) and girls in 24% (n=18).



Map of Malawi showing violence hotspots as per Jan to Jun 2018 data

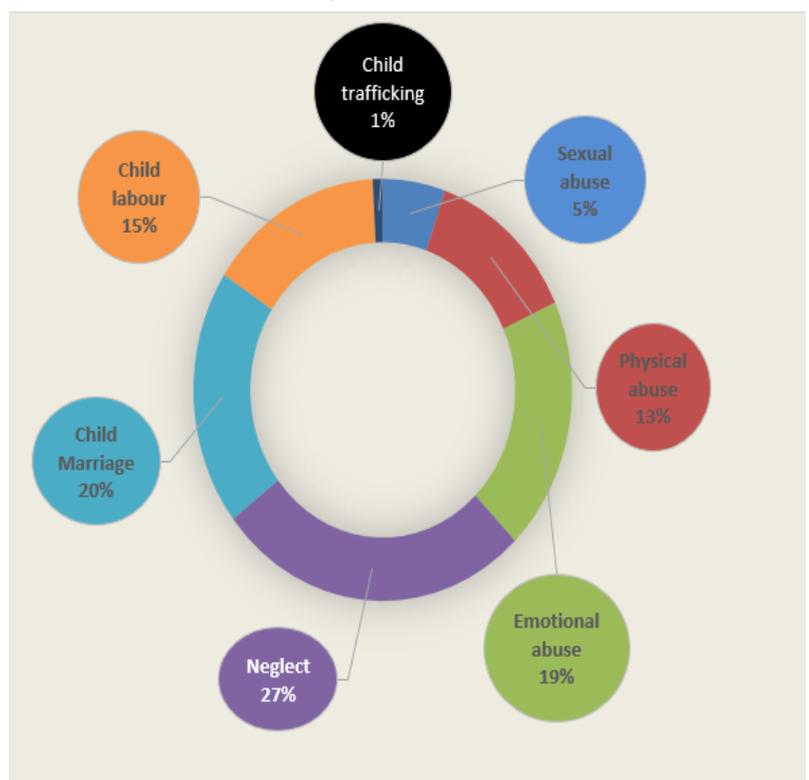
FREQUENCY OF CASES

The most frequently reported cases during the January to June 2018 period were cases of neglect at 27% (n=2,364), followed by child marriage cases at 20% (n=1,731), emotional abuse cases at 19% (n=1,713), child labour cases at 15% (n= 1,317), physical abuse cases at 13% (n=1,134), sexual abuse at 5% (n=470) and finally child trafficking cases at 1% (n=75).

HIV TESTING AND ACCESS TO ART

A total of 2,821 children receiving case management services were reported HIV positive during period January to June 2018. This consists of 39% of all children assessed. Average ART coverage was 37% (n=950) among all the children reported HIV positive. However ART coverage was slightly higher among children below 5 years (51%) than children above 5 years (49%). ART coverage was 13% higher among girls than among boys.

FIGURE 4: Most reported types of violence between Jan to Jun 2018



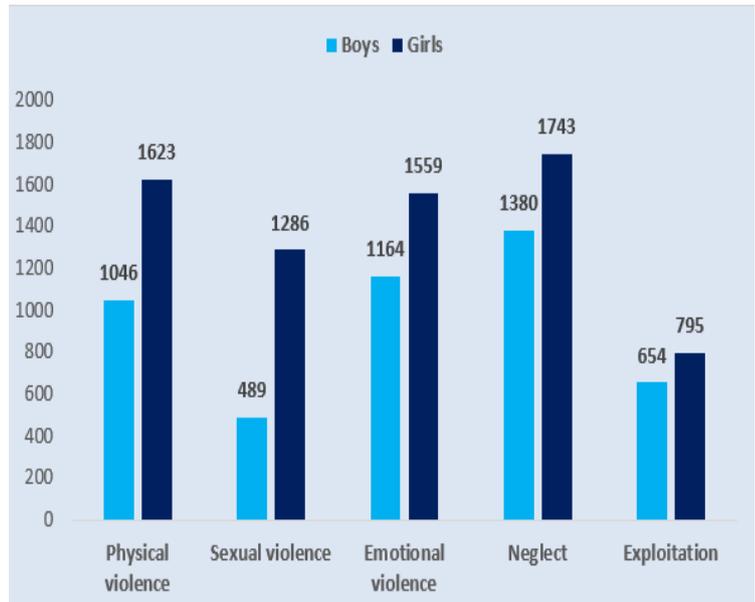
COMMUNITY VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT (CVSU) DATA

A total of 21,725 victims of violence were supported by CVSUs between January and June 2018.

These included 54% children (11,739 child victims with 4,733 boys and 7,006 girls). The majority of children who sought help from CVSUs suffered neglect at 3,123 (1,743 girls and 1,380 boys) followed by emotional abuse at 2,723 (1,164 boys and 1,559 girls) and physical violence at 1,775 (489 boys and 1,286 girls).

Sexual abuse cases comprised 8% of all child violence cases seen at CVSUs between January and June 2018. Girls reported more than double the amount of sexual violence cases compared to boys (1,286 for girls and 489 for boys).

FIGURE 5: Child abuse cases seen at CVSUs between Jan-Jun 2018



CHILDREN'S CORNERS

From January to June 2018, a total of 244,716 attended Children's Corner made up of 125,250 girls and 119,466 boys (51% girls and 49% boys). This number has already surpassed the 2017 full year attendance report for Children's Corners, which stood at 240,269. By June 2018, the highest number of children attending Children's Corners were recorded in March

2018 at 61,550 (30,131 girls and 31,419 boys), followed by 37,976 recorded in April (19,637 boys and 18,339 girls).

The Children's Corner with the highest monthly attendance during the January to June period was Kachere (in Dedza) with a total of 2,822 average attendance (1,401 girls and 1,421 boys) and Mponda (in

Zomba) with 2,697 average attendance (1,414 girls and 1,283 boys). Other highly attended Children's Corners in 2018 include Mlambe (1,244 girls and 1,061 boys) in Blantyre, Mahwah (964 girls and 1,031 boys) in Zomba and Chikumba (1,007 girls and 868 boys) in Dedza.



Limitations:

We rely on case management data sent by District Social Welfare Officers from 10 districts. 2 of the 10 districts submitted incomplete data for some of the Traditional Authorities affecting our level of accuracy. For CVSU and Children Corner's data we rely on data sent via the mobile "Data winners" platform where the average submission rate for 2018 (Jan-Jun) was 95%.

For more information contact:

Richard Chakhame, Director of Planning and Research, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare, Capital Hill, Lilongwe. Email: richardchakhame@gmail.com

John Njunga, Child Protection Officer (IMS/M&E), UNICEF Malawi. Email: jnjunga@unicef.org