

Timeline

10-11AM EDT / 4-5PM CAT

Date

September 11, 2020

RECOVR Webinar Series | Learning from Rapid Data to Inform Policy on COVID-19 in Zambia and Malawi

*This webinar is part of IPA's **RECOVR Webinar Series: Bringing Evidence to COVID-19 Policy Responses in the Global South**. Together with our partners, we are using this series to rapidly share what we are learning with the policy and research community to support evidence-informed response efforts. More information about other events in the series is available [here](#).*

How has COVID-19 affected Zambian and Malawian families, workers, and business owners? How well have people complied with public health measures? How are students and families adapting to distance learning? How is the Zambian government responding to these challenges, and what can Zambian and Malawian decision-makers learn from each other?

These and other questions have been at the forefront of decision-makers' minds while forming policy responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Zambia and Malawi. Tracking how people's lives are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic can enable policymakers to better understand the situation in their countries and make evidence-based policy decisions.

This webinar shared findings from the first round of the RECOVR survey in Zambia—a panel survey designed to inform decision-makers about the communities that are hardest hit by the economic toll of the pandemic—and a similar survey in Malawi. It also covered how Zambian policymakers are using the results to continually adapt their responses to changing demands and to plan for long-term strategies across education, small scale enterprise, and social protection.

Elliott Collins (IPA) presented on the RECOVR survey and IPA's approach to equipping government partners with critical data for timely decision-making. **Salifu Amadu (IPA)** discussed the survey's findings on health, social protection, employment and economic activity, and education. **Dr. Andrew Silumesii (Zambia Ministry of Health)** and **Besnart Simunchembu Kangalu (Zambia Ministry of General Education)** provided commentary and policy perspectives from government partners, including recent measures since the survey was implemented. **Witness Alfonso (Institute of Public Opinion and Research, Malawi)** provided comparative perspectives on the effects of COVID-19 in Malawi and

implications for policymakers. **Tamara Billima-Mulenga (IPA)** introduced the webinar and moderated the discussion and Q&A throughout the presentations.

Watch the webinar recording below:

Panelists

- **Dr. Andrew Silumesii**, *Director of Public Health and Research, Ministry of Health, Zambia*
- **Besnart Simunchembu Kangalu**, *Principal Planner, Ministry of General Education, Zambia*
- **Witness Alfonso**, *Senior Associate Researcher, Institute of Public Opinion and Research, Malawi*
- **Salifu Amadu**, *Country Representative, IPA Zambia*
- **Elliott Collins**, *Director of Poverty Measurement, IPA*
- **Tamara Billima-Mulenga (Moderator)**, *Policy Manager, IPA Zambia*

City

Webinar

Country

United States