

Project Number: 200685 | **Project Category:** Single Country Special Operation
Project Approval Date: February 04, 2015 | **Planned Start Date:** January 29, 2015
Actual Start Date: January 29, 2015 | **Project End Date:** June 30, 2016
Financial Closure Date: December 31, 2016

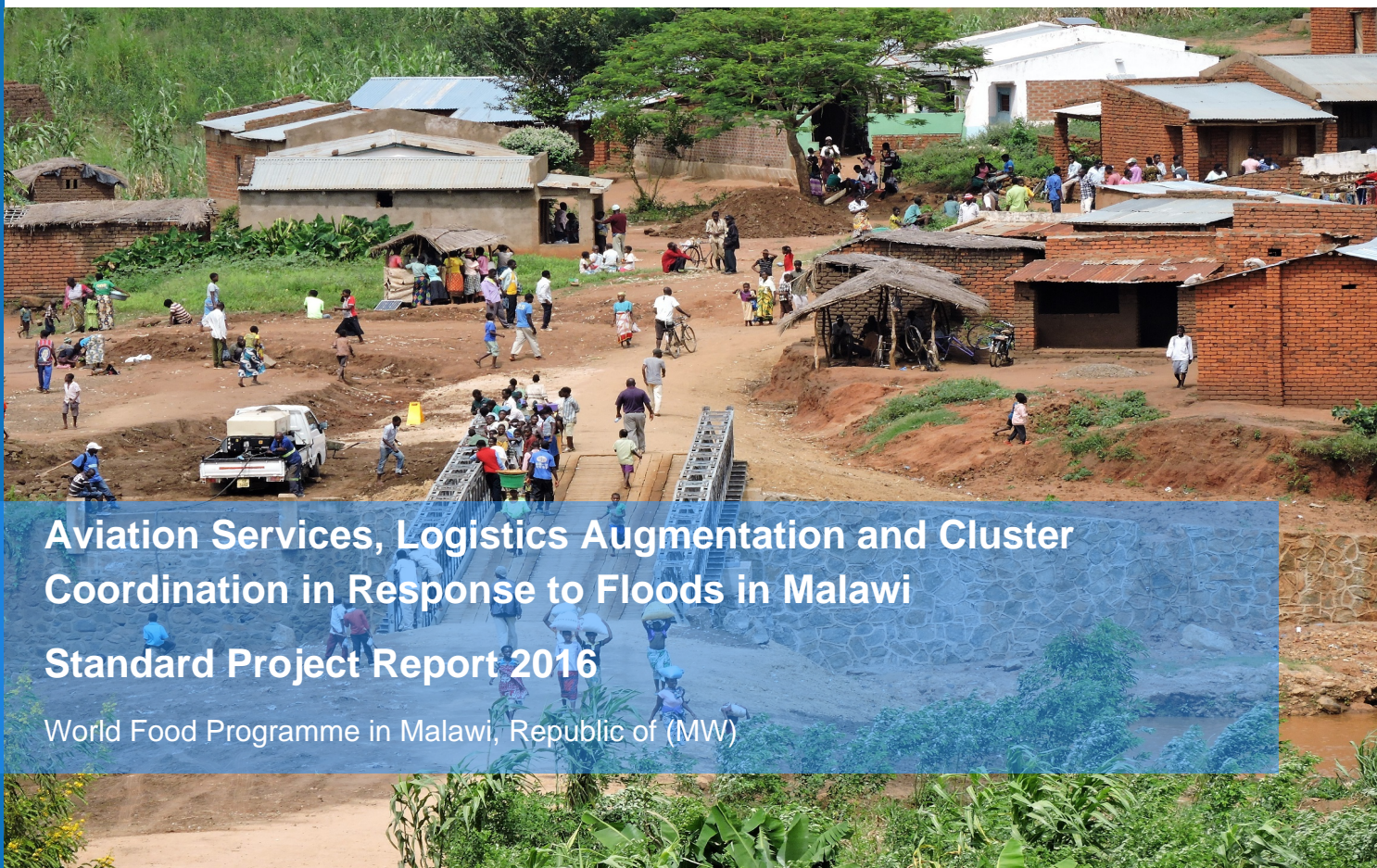
Contact Info

Cheulekene Mita
cheulekene.mita@wfp.org

Country Director
Coco Ushiyama

Further Information

<http://www.wfp.org/countries>
SPR Reading Guidance



**Aviation Services, Logistics Augmentation and Cluster
Coordination in Response to Floods in Malawi
Standard Project Report 2016**

World Food Programme in Malawi, Republic of (MW)



World Food Programme

Table Of Contents

Country Context and WFP Objectives

Country Context

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

Achievements at Country Level

Supply Chain

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Innovation

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

Project Activities

Operational Partnerships

Results/Outcomes

Story Worth Telling

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

Project Indicators

Country Context and WFP Objectives



Country Context

Malawi, a landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa, is hard-hit by environmental degradation and repeated climatic shocks. With a population of close to 17 million people, 53 percent of whom are under the age of 18, Malawi's population continues to expand rapidly at around 3 percent per year. Over half of Malawians live below the poverty line, with the country ranking 173 out of 188 in the UN Human Development Index. Gender inequality in Malawi continues to be among the worst in the world, ranking fifteenth lowest on the gender inequality index (2015 UNDP Human Development Report). Malawi's HIV infection rate is around 9.8 percent (Malawi Demographic and Health Survey, 2015-16), the ninth highest rate in the world.

Poverty is predominantly rural, with female-headed households experiencing higher poverty than those headed by men. Some 51 percent of female-headed households are afflicted by severe food insecurity compared to 38 percent of male-headed households, according to Malawi's latest Integrated Household Panel Survey report (NSO/IHPS 2014).

Over 80 percent of livelihoods in Malawi are dependent on agriculture, which is mostly rain-fed, making the growing season highly vulnerable to seasonal fluctuations in rainfall. Malawi's landholdings are also generally small and densely cultivated. Smallholder farmers contribute 70 percent of the overall national agricultural sector, and most produce maize on a subsistence basis (Government of Malawi, 2014).

For two consecutive growing seasons, the country has seen major drops in year-on-year maize production, leaving significant proportions of the population without enough food, thereby necessitating large-scale and nearly year-round humanitarian responses to food insecurity.

Deforestation in Malawi has resulted in prolonged water shortages and increased power blackouts countrywide over the past year, which has merely heightened the demand for trees. According to the United Nations Environment Program, deforestation across the continent is twice that of the world's average, which makes breaking the cycle of food insecurity for countries like Malawi more difficult.

Year-on-year stress provided insufficient time to recover between shocks, forcing many households towards negative coping strategies, depleting assets and their recovery capacity. According to the latest Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) conducted by WFP in 2014, nearly half of Malawi's 28 districts have experienced at least four major shocks in the last decade. Shocks have disproportionately affected districts in the southern region with the three southern districts of Balaka, Chikwawa and Nsanje having been targeted for humanitarian assistance every year since 2005.

These challenges are aggravated by a volatile economy with one of the highest inflation rates in the world that remained consistently at 20 percent or greater throughout the year. Average incomes were among the three lowest globally, with a GNI per capita of just USD 350 (World Bank 2015), which was further exacerbated by poor prices for cash crops, including tobacco, tea and cotton, among others. The worsening economic situation has hit Malawi's poor especially hard, negatively affecting their ability to access wage-earning work or food. The macroeconomic situation also continued to be affected by withheld donor budgetary aid, further destabilizing the economy and public services.

Continued support to education remains critical given that, among the poorest Malawians, half of young women aged 15-24 and a third of young men are illiterate (NSO/IHPS 2014). Malawi's primary school completion rate is 51 percent, and only 37 percent of students transition into secondary school (EMIS 2015). Dropout rates and absenteeism are high, especially during months of increased food insecurity, when girls tend to be disproportionately affected. Teenage pregnancies account for a large portion of dropouts in the higher primary school classes (MDHS 2015/16).

Nutrition insecurity in the country remains precarious with children under five experiencing a high stunting rate of 37 percent. This is linked to, among other factors, poor dietary diversity, a high disease burden and persistent annual food shortages. According to the 2015 Cost of Hunger in Africa study in Malawi, child undernutrition, which is associated with 23 percent of child mortality cases, costs an estimated USD 597 million each year, equivalent to 10.3 percent of GDP.

Since 1990, Malawi has also hosted refugees, mainly from the Great Lakes Region and more recently from Mozambique. Some 32,500 refugees and asylum seekers were living in Malawi as of 2016, an increase of about 8,000 refugees from the previous year.

During 2016, Malawi faced the worst food insecurity in the country's history with two major consecutive shocks. Following the catastrophic floods of 2015, and while the 2015/2016 food insecurity response was still underway to address the first national food deficit in over a decade, the most severe El Niño event in 35 years caused wide spread erratic rains, dry spells, failed harvests and an even higher national food deficit in 2016 along with abnormally high food prices. Such high levels of successive shocks severely exacerbated the affected populations' vulnerability and in April 2016, the President of Malawi declared the second national state of disaster while in June 2016, level three corporate emergency was declared for the region. Responding to the unprecedented levels of food insecurity, WFP undertook the country's largest and longest response from July 2016.

Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

The year 2016 provided an important space for Government and partners to consolidate efforts aimed to break the annual cycle of food and nutrition security. As a primary partner of the Government in these discussions, WFP continued its strategic shift from relief to resilience and maintained its suite of interventions that operate across the humanitarian-development nexus.

With the national focus pulled to addressing humanitarian crises, the finalization of the National Development Plan (NDP) was delayed, with the NDP expected to be operational from 2018. Correspondingly, UN partners extended the 2012-2016 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

As the Government embarks on the new national planning processes, WFP is ensuring availability of a rigorous body of evidence to inform the NDP, the next iteration of the UNDAF, and WFP's own programmes in support of the goals that will be outlined in these documents.

Following the severe effects of El Niño in 2016, the Government stepped up national response efforts with the President declaring a state of national disaster in April. To coordinate and implement the national humanitarian response to food insecurity, the Government activated the national cluster system that manages the response by

sector and is led by the Government and co-led by UN agencies. WFP co-leads the national food security cluster with the Department of Disaster Management of Affairs (DoDMA) and the national Transport, Logistics and Communications cluster with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW).

WFP actively participated in all other national clusters, such as the national nutrition cluster led by the Ministry of Health, and co-led by UNICEF, and through which all treatment programmes are coordinated. Within the national education cluster, led by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) and UNICEF, WFP expanded its school meals programme to cater for additional emergency needs.

As part of enhanced coordination with the national agriculture cluster, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) and FAO, WFP's relief food assistance was coordinated with seed fairs and other farming inputs and livestock to simultaneously meet peoples' immediate needs and support a better crop harvest in the following year.

To strengthen Accountability to Affected Populations under the relief response, WFP enhanced the collaboration between the food security cluster and the national protection cluster, with specific efforts on improved information sharing, participation and complaints and feedback mechanisms, including the roll out of a toll free complaints hotline.

The Government consolidated all cluster efforts into a national Food Insecurity Response Plan which was launched in June 2016 and guided the overall delivery of assistance and safety net support during the emergency period, which also included preparedness and risk reduction efforts.

Throughout the year, WFP strengthened its support to national social protection under the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) 2012-2016. WFP contributes to all five pillars of the national programme, through operating the largest school meals programmes in the country, aligning and providing technical assistance to the public works pillar through implementing the FFA programme, contributing to the village savings and loans and microfinance pillars through the R4 Rural Resilience initiative, and providing technical support to the Social Cash Transfer Programme (STCP). Under the MNSSP's school meals pillar, WFP and partners developed best practice guidelines to strengthen national delivery of the programme, and also continued to showcase a model for sustainable school meals through the Home Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme. The HGSM programme also benefits from partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA as part of the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education, supporting the Government with a comprehensive approach to improve access and quality education for girls.

In addition, the Government finalized the National School Health and Nutrition Policy in August 2016, developed with support from WFP Malawi and the Brazil-based WFP Centre of Excellence, which provides an overall framework for sustainable, coordinated and comprehensive health and nutrition in Malawi's schools.

With the expiration of the MNSSP in 2016, the Government tasked WFP as one of five organizations to guide the redesign process for the successor programme. WFP is undertaking this work with the aim of strengthening social protection systems and fostering greater linkages between social protection and the humanitarian response towards a more shock responsive mechanism.

In support of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17, which prioritize zero hunger efforts and partnership, respectively, WFP continued to invest in South-South Cooperation type of learning exchanges in 2016. For example, through its Prevention of Stunting pilot project that is creating a blueprint for national and global efforts to tackle stunting in line with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, WFP hosted a multi-country learning visit in July 2016 with members of national governments and WFP nutritionists from five countries in the region to share lessons on reducing chronic undernutrition. Specific focus was given to the pilot's pioneering community-based strategy that embraces multi-sectoral, mutually-reinforcing projects and tailored SBCC to improve nutrition.

Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

In 2016, WFP continued to support the Government in achieving a food and nutrition secure and resilient Malawi. This was operationalized through a 2012-2016 country strategy, and four operations in 2016 that prioritized meeting emergency needs of acutely food insecure Malawians and refugees, providing social and nutritional support for vulnerable groups, building resilience of food insecure communities through productive asset creation and innovation in risk management and climate services, and providing agricultural market support to small-scale farmers. Throughout the year, WFP sought value-adding partnerships and greater synergies within its portfolio of work to maximize benefits for the assisted populations.

Guided by the continued strategic shift from relief to resilience, WFP in 2016 continued to address the structural drivers of hunger wherever possible by integrating seasonally-appropriate productive asset activities into the relief response, prioritising better alignment with government programmes through measures such as the automatic

inclusion of people receiving social cash transfers from the Government into the relief response, and scaling up social and behaviour change communication.

Country Programme: CP 200287 (2012-2018) with an approved budget of USD 200 million aimed to improve primary education outcomes, reduce malnutrition among vulnerable groups and build national capacity in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction measures. These objectives were supported by WFP's Prevention of Stunting pilot project and the Purchase for Progress initiative.

Relief Operation: PRRO 200692 (2014-2017), with an approved budget of USD 540 million, supported government efforts to address record-setting levels of acute food insecurity in 2016 whilst simultaneously building resilience and strengthening livelihoods to reduce vulnerability to shocks through a Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme. This objectives of this operation was complemented by two pilots initiatives: R4 Rural Resilience and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GCFS).

Special Operation: SO 200685 (2015-2016), with an approved budget of USD 2.8 million, was originally activated to provide augmented logistics support during the 2015 floods disaster in Malawi, but remained active for the first part of 2016 to allow for the completion of five Bailey bridges (portable, pre-fabricated bridges) that restored access on three critical transport routes. The SO also supported preparedness measures for the significant relief response to El Niño-induced food insecurity, which started from July 2016 under the PRRO 200692, by boosting transport and storage capacity ahead of the response.

Relief Operation: PRRO 200460, with an approved budget of USD 17.9 million, aimed to contribute towards achieving and maintaining food security while addressing micronutrient deficiencies in children under two among the population of asylum-seekers and refugees in Malawi's two refugee camps.

Country Resources and Results

Resources for Results

WFP required significantly high levels of resources in 2016, amounting to USD 280 million, to respond to the unprecedented levels of acute food insecurity, as well as to maintain and scale up ongoing safety net and development programmes. In this regard, both PRROs and the Country Programme underwent budget revisions to cater for increased needs and to extend activities beyond the end of 2016.

Enhanced partnership with the Government of Malawi was demonstrated by its contribution to WFP's operations, which included cash and in-kind contributions valued at USD 112 million. This support was also enabled by partnerships between WFP, the Government, international finance institutions, and other donors.

The Country Office continued to share regular situation reports, resourcing alerts, pipeline information, and reports on results and learning with donors throughout the year to elevate the awareness of resource requirements and demonstrate the impact of WFP operations in sustaining people in times of crisis. These communication efforts were further enhanced by engagement with media and donors in the field. In 2016, the Country Office hosted journalists from international media outlets 13 times and organized 22 visits for donors.

The strong government commitment to tackle food insecurity in the country encouraged increased support from traditional donors, and also brought forward contributions from new donors. By the end of 2016, WFP had received contributions from 27 different donors, including eight from the private sector. Funds were also raised through the ShareTheMeal app, which engaged smartphone users around the world in WFP's school meals work in Malawi.

Food donations made up one third of all resources received overall in 2016, which went towards in-kind food assistance as the largest budget component. A total of USD 23 million was raised for cash-based transfer programming in 2016, for both the 2016 and 2017 needs.

Activities across all operations experienced ration cuts throughout the year for various commodities, when contributions took up to four months to be received. To overcome challenges of timeliness, WFP accessed internal advance financing to kick start procurement and project activities as much as possible. Overall, WFP received donor approval to access advance financing 45 times in 2016, which resulted in time gains by as much as two months.

With the resources received, WFP sought to improve organisational performance wherever possible to ensure value for money. For example in 2016, WFP and other UN agencies pooled demand for internet services, use of vehicles, and other joint common services, which notably reduced information and communication technology costs by 50 percent. Further attempts to reduce costs included use of air travel for staff on duty travel between the WFP office in Blantyre, which is in the southern region where the bulk of WFP operations happen, and the capital city Lilongwe, which hugely contributed to reduce travel time, reduced emissions, and reduced cost in terms of transport and staff costs. Light vehicle costs were also minimized by opting to rent local vehicles, if and as needed, rather than importing additional vehicles overseas, which enabled WFP to maintain the necessary wide scale field presence to run and monitor operations at a lower cost.

To expedite the augmentation of staffing capacity from 155 to 261, an increase of some 106 staff, to quickly roll out activities during the emergency response period, WFP created a recruitment roster and trained an internal core interview panel to streamline processes and increase recruitment efficiency.

Achievements at Country Level

In 2016, WFP reached over 6.6 million people through its food and nutrition security interventions with close to 250,000 mt food and USD 10.1 million cash. While this represents the cumulative beneficiaries who received food and cash assistance across programmes, taking into account individuals participating in multiple projects, WFP has reached 6 million Malawians. Overall, slightly more women than men were assisted at 52 percent and 48 percent, respectively.

The majority of beneficiaries (about 90 percent) were served under the relief component of PRRO 200692, which was the vehicle through which WFP supported the Government of Malawi in responding to widespread acute food insecurity during the 2015/16 lean season (January-April 2016) and 2016/17 lean season (July-December 2016).

WFP scaled up nutrition support and safety nets, including school meals and FFA, for more than 1 million people. More than 60,000 smallholder farmers benefited from the Purchase for Progress initiative, through which they

received capacity building support to improve their productivity and connect to formal markets.

WFP also continued to provide assistance to asylum seekers and refugees residing in Dzaleka and Luwani camps in Malawi.

WFP assistance was essential in stabilizing and minimizing the deterioration of food security. Overall, the percentage of beneficiaries in the lowest food consumption category (poor) remained stable at around 20 percent at the start and end of the relief response, with almost no difference between households headed by men and those headed by women. Similarly, the Coping Strategy Index, slightly improved (reducing from about 18 to 17), signalling a stable situation in the coping strategies and frequency with which beneficiaries had to adopt them in order to meet their food needs.

Considerable progress was made in bridging the humanitarian-development divide through the relief response under PRRO 200692. For example, WFP trialed the use of the national social protection programme's Unified Beneficiary Register for targeting of relief assistance, which ensured the automatic registration of recipients of the national Social Cash Transfer into the relief response, and also rolled out complementary productive asset creation at a large scale (reaching more than 1 million beneficiaries) to start the recovery process.

Enhanced accountability to the affected population was made possible by more robust complaints management, with the roll out of a toll-free complaints hotline enabling two-way communication between WFP and the beneficiaries.

Relief assistance was complemented by WFP's logistics and infrastructure work under Special Operation 200685, through which, in 2016, five Bailey Bridges were successfully installed to repair infrastructure damaged by the 2015 floods disaster.

WFP managed to stabilise and improve participants' food security status under the FFA programme, which expanded to three more districts and an additional 10,000 households in 2016. In Balaka district, where the FFA programme had completed its second full year in 2016, the percentage of households with poor food consumption remained below one percent. The programme also included complementary inputs from the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative, the Global Framework for Climate Services, and Village Savings and Loans (VSL) groups, which included access to credit, index-based micro insurance, and reliable and timely climate information.

In the other six FFA districts, implementation varied between four to 10 months by the time of data collection. In these districts, improvement or stabilization was noted across indicators, demonstrating the immediate effect of introducing the programme in food insecure areas. Beneficiaries' food consumption improved, with a reduction from 24 percent to 10 percent in the "poor" category, and were maintained in the borderline food consumption category (at roughly 40 percent), suggesting a progressive increase in food security levels. Dietary diversity also improved with the beneficiaries consuming food from an average of five food groups versus the four food groups at the start of the intervention.

Notable asset creation achievements include more than 10.3 million tree seedlings raised, of which the majority will be planted in degraded land, woodlots, watershed areas, and in the grounds of schools, clinics and religious centres; more than 47,300 heaps of compost were created with the aim of improving soil fertility to boost future production; and over 3,200 hectares land turned into vegetable gardens which ensured the availability of diverse vegetables for consumption.

WFP's school meals and nutrition interventions contributed to increased access to pre-primary and primary education for boys and girls, and prevented an increase in the incidences of malnutrition among children, women and adolescent and adults on TB treatment, at a time when they would have otherwise worsened given the high food insecurity. Evidence showed improved enrollment and stabilized attendance (at greater than 89 percent) and retention rates (at greater than 95 percent), while drop-out rates slightly worsened in the 2015/16 academic year (at 4.5 percent). However, drop-out rates still met the target of under 5 percent and remain a significant improvement from the baseline figure of nearly 13 percent.

WFP's coverage of nutrition treatment services increased to 95 percent of the population eligible for nutrition support, mainly due to the countrywide mass screening campaign conducted by the national nutrition cluster. Key outcome performance indicators of recovery, default, and mortality rates all remained stable as compared to 2015 and continued to outperform set targets for the third consecutive year. However, the non-response rate (the percentage of people that do not recover within the treatment window) slightly worsened in 2016.

In 2016, WFP maintained and improved the National Capacity Index (NCI) for nutrition and school meals, respectively, through its role in spearheading the approval of the National School Health and Nutrition (NSHN) Policy and ongoing support to the Government in enhancing front-line workers' knowledge, skills and competencies in the implementation of nutrition treatment programmes. The NCI measures change in capacity level according to milestones agreed to against a country's overarching capacity strengthening objectives, with an increase indicating a country's improved capacity to reduce and eliminate hunger.

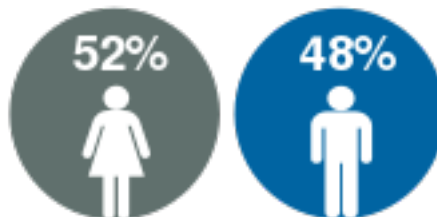
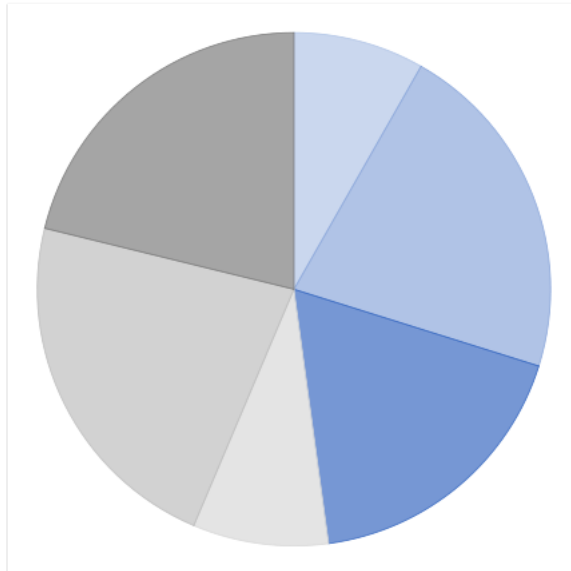


Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	491,465	509,002	1,000,467
Children (5-18 years)	1,286,494	1,337,412	2,623,906
Adults (18 years plus)	1,073,075	1,262,149	2,335,224
Total number of beneficiaries in 2016	2,851,034	3,108,563	5,959,597

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)





Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	445	-	-	14,272	-	14,717
Single Country PRRO	196,641	4,474	25,655	7,304	-	234,073
Total Food Distributed in 2016	197,085	4,474	25,655	21,576	-	248,790



Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Country Programme	421,716	-	-
Single Country PRRO	9,697,653	-	-
Total Distributed in 2016	10,119,369	-	-

Supply Chain

WFP required over 297,000 mt of mixed food commodities to meet the needs in 2016. Of the 297,000 mt, 172,000 mt was procured from local, regional and international markets in 2016, which was supplemented by in-kind contributions to meet requirements.

Malawi depends heavily upon ports of neighbouring countries for the import of humanitarian food assistance, general goods and strategic supplies. Weak infrastructure, coupled with a transport industry that is primarily designed to support cross border activities, also makes the movement of high volumes of food assistance a formidable challenge for in-country distributions.

Commodities sourced comprised of maize, pulses, fortified vegetable oil and specialised nutritious foods made from corn soya blend (i.e. Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus) were provided to treat moderate acute malnutrition and address micronutrient deficiencies amongst vulnerable groups, as well as to provide a daily nutritious meal to schoolchildren.

WFP procured Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) as part of a new component of the nutrition programme to treat severe acute malnutrition among malnourished adolescents and adults on anti-retroviral therapy (ART) or tuberculosis treatment.

In preparedness for the full effects of El Niño and seasonal flooding, WFP procured maize meal and ready-to-eat High Energy Biscuits (HEB) as contingency commodities to respond to flood-induced food insecurity in mid-2016 in areas where people were displaced. WFP invested significant time in identifying and quality-approving a local biscuit-manufacturer, quality-approved for production of HEBs. The local supplier met half of the HEB requirements, with the balance sourced from the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai.

WFP purchased a total of 5,640 mt of maize from 22 smallholder farmer organisations, with 347 mt bought through the Warehouse Receipt System, a smallholder-friendly aggregation, procurement and structured marketing system. Local purchases of maize were primarily pursued immediately post-harvest, and subject to available resources, from June-August 2016.

In 2016, most purchases were conducted through WFP's Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF). From the total of 159,027 mt purchased through GCMF, 25,713 mt was sourced from local suppliers, 60,940 mt from regional sources and 72,374 mt from international vendors. The total of local purchases within Malawi for the year

was 35,861 mt. Super Cereal Plus, RUTF and vegetable oil were specifically procured through the GCMF from regional and international markets, as they are not available at the required minimum quality standards on local markets. Super Cereal was purchased through a strategic combination of local purchases and regional purchases (through GCMF) to offset stretched capacity of local suppliers, who faced high demand and constrained production capacity due to an erratic supply of electricity. With the majority of the GCMF purchases requiring importation, WFP coordinated transport through five corridors in the region, including Beira and Nacala in Mozambique, various origins in Zambia, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and Durban in South Africa.

Within Malawi, transporters delivered food to some 3,500 distribution points throughout the country. To meet greater needs, WFP increased the number of logistics staff by 77 percent, tripled its transporter shortlist and outsourced requirements to commercial transporters as much as possible.

In areas where the 55 commercial transporters could not reach, WFP employed its fleet of 25 off-road trucks, (4x4 and 6x6) to ensure access to difficult to reach communities and beneficiaries. WFP also installed five bailey bridges in areas which had been cut-off due to the floods; and tripled its prepositioned amount to 35,000 mt of commodities compared to 2015. This tonnage was placed in 76 strategic sites for the relief response.

Overall post-delivery losses remained minimal at 0.01 percent, due to the combined efforts of good logistics planning, handling practices by all WFP warehouse staff, commercial partners, and cooperating partner staff. Losses were primarily as a result of remote area warehousing challenges during the rainy season at final distribution points. WFP has a zero loss tolerance policy with contractors that ensures that any loss is fully recoverable.



Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Corn Soya Blend	300	2,704	3,004
High Energy Biscuits	7	-	7
Maize	8,891	-	8,891
Maize Meal	951	-	951
Ready To Use Therapeutic Food	-	235	235
Total	10,148	2,939	13,086
Percentage	77.5%	22.5%	

Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Beans	3,163
Corn Soya Blend	25,826
High Energy Biscuits	8
Maize	122,498
Peas	6,533
Vegetable Oil	999
Total	159,027

Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

Recommendations for improved programming in 2016 came from a set of evaluations and assessments conducted over the past two years, including the 2014 mid-term Operation Evaluation of the Country Programme, a 2015 evaluation of the school meals programme, the 2016 Operation Evaluation of PRRO 200692, and an After Action Review of the 2015/16 relief response (under PRRO 200692). The recommendations were broadly focused on four primary themes: strengthening government support and capacity building, improving evidence-based programming, intensifying field monitoring, and developing linkages and synergies across programmes.

Strengthened Support and Capacity Building

WFP made major strides in its support to the Ministry of Health to enhance national efforts in addressing malnutrition countrywide. To identify early cases of acute malnutrition among children, WFP partnered with UNICEF to support the Government in rolling out a mass screening exercise, which was complemented by intensified onsite coaching of Ministry of Health staff to improve quality of service delivery in the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Nutrition Care Support and Treatment (NCST) programmes.

WFP also supported the Government to pave the way for longer term food and nutrition security, which was a key area identified in the After Action Review of the 2015/16 relief response. For example, to better address chronic vulnerability, WFP and partners supported the Government in review of the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP), which outlines national social protection programmes that enhance the social status and rights of the ultra and moderately poor while protecting them from future vulnerabilities.

Evidence-Based Programming

WFP introduced an accountability framework, which included the WFP roll out of the toll-free hotline ensuring that complaints are received timely and regular feedback is provided.

WFP also conducted a cost-benefit analysis study of the Home Grown School Meals programme, which generated findings on the value for money achieved through this model, to support the gradual handover of the school meals programme to the Government.

Intensified Monitoring

WFP rolled out a Monitoring and Evaluation platform, known as *Ona*, to facilitate quicker analysis and data visualization, enabling WFP and partners to easily monitor implementation progress of operations to foster timely decision-making for programme management. WFP also enhanced its toolkit for monitoring complementary productive asset creation activities, thereby allowing WFP to better track progress.

WFP also continued the real-time monitoring of prices, food security information and malnutrition admission rates through mVAM.

Greater Linkages Between Programmes

WFP worked with partners to better link relief beneficiaries with nutrition-sensitive development and resilience-building initiatives. By complementing relief assistance with productive asset activities, WFP successfully responded to immediate needs while also protecting and building upon long term household resilience, thereby lessening the humanitarian-development divide. All complementary resilience-building activities were designed using the three pronged approach (3PA), which WFP adapted and improved based on experience gained in previous 3PA exercises used for its Food Assistance For Assets programme.

Other improvements included the strengthening of the cash working group and the establishment of Participatory Action Learning (PAL) to mainstream gender throughout WFP's portfolio.

Innovation

WFP worked with partners across its operations to leverage innovations and better respond to food and nutrition insecurity. By embedding resilience-building elements into the relief response it was possible to both introduce and scale-up innovations to help break the annual cycle of food and nutrition insecurity.

WFP and partners successfully advocated for the automatic inclusion of people receiving social cash transfers from the Government into the relief response and trialed the use of the Unified Beneficiary Registry – initially developed to serve the needs of long-term social protection programmes and collects core demographic and vulnerability data – it can also be used as an information management tool during a humanitarian response, to better understand the households in need. Additionally, to support government-to-government social protection learning and foster south-to-south cooperation, WFP accompanied by government officials and partners participated in a learning mission to Ethiopia to share lessons learned on their Productive Safety Net Programme.

Throughout the year, WFP worked to address the structural drivers of poverty and food insecurity through the continuation of several innovative projects aimed at building resilience and ending the intergenerational cycle of hunger.

The R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) targeted communities with four risk management activities that included risk reduction, risk transfer, prudent risk taking and risk reserves. Building on the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme that aims to reduce disaster risk under PRRO 200692, the R4 pilot added the three additional risk management components in an integrated manner to provide participants with protection measures aimed at safeguarding livelihoods and providing a guarantee that investments will not be destroyed in case of an extreme weather event.

The R4 pilot was further complemented by innovations in climate services through the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Adaptation Programme for Africa, which provided FFA and R4 participants' access to reliable and timely climate information to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards and encourage climate-informed decisions relating to crop, livestock and livelihood options in order to maximize productivity.

WFP also continued its multi-year *prevention of stunting* pilot in Ntchisi District, which is pioneering a holistic approach to tackling chronic undernutrition by scaling up high-impact nutrition specific and sensitive activities. In 2016, the pilot completed its third year of implementation and continued to demonstrate promising results towards the reduction of stunting.

WFP's pilot and activities under all operations were supported by innovations in gender through a continued partnership with the Institute of Development Studies for the third consecutive year, which was initially formed to establish best practices for gender mainstreaming. Under the umbrella of this partnership, in 2016 WFP conducted a gender enquiry to explore ways to reinforce participation of men in childcare to improve child nutrition, to understand high participation of women in formal construction work under the school meals programme, and to better support Farmer Organisations (FOs) under the P4P programme in strengthening their strategies on addressing gender issues and improving gender equality within each FO. These pieces of operational research are contributing to the gender-sensitivity of WFP programmes and aim to help reduce gender inequality in the long run.

Project Objectives and Results

Project Objectives

WFP, as the Government's co-lead of the National Logistics Cluster, activated Special Operation 200685 (2015-2016) to provide augmented logistics support during the 2015 floods disaster in Malawi. The operation remained active throughout 2015 and the first half of 2016 to allow for the completion of five Bailey Bridges.

The Special Operation also supported preparedness measures for the significant relief response to El Niño-induced food insecurity, which started in July 2016 under PRRO 200692, by enhancing transport and storage capacity.

Although not initially envisaged for Special Operation 200685, WFP was able to procure a swamp boat and mobile storage units to boost transport and storage capacity to further strengthen preparedness measures.

The activities undertaken in 2016 were linked to WFP's Strategic Objective 1: "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies."



Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,768,435
Direct Support Costs	837,414
Indirect Support Costs	182,409
Total	2,788,258

Project Activities

Having focused on logistics coordination, information management and delivery of life-saving assistance during the floods emergency in 2015, the primary activity under this operation in 2016 was the construction of five Bailey Bridges, which are portable steel structure bridges made up of three main parts - floor, stringers and side panels - that can be erected without use of specialised tools or heavy machinery. Building on the groundwork laid in mid-2015, the five Bailey Bridges, donated by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), were installed in three key locations in the southern districts of Phalombe, Thyolo and Zomba, which were identified by the Government and the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) team as priority areas. WFP worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MoTPW) and the Department of Road Authorities to complete the construction of the bridges.

WFP was responsible for overall project management for the Bailey Bridge construction. This included reviewing construction drawings, facilitating communication between the different stakeholders and ensuring that the project was implemented in line with quality standards. As WFP's standby partner, MSB (the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency) also funded a civil engineer to oversee the overall management of the project including the transportation of the bridges to identified sites, supervision of on-going construction works and assembly and launching of the bridges. Improving access to these areas classified as highly at-risk of food insecurity was deemed critical to ensure the humanitarian community's ability to reach these at-risk populations with assistance in the case of future emergencies.

Additionally, while not foreseen at the time of the latest revision of this operation, WFP also procured a swamp boat and 18 mobile storage units to enhance WFP's ability to respond quickly to forecast floods (due to La Niña) and to augment storage capacity for the 2016 relief response under PRRO 200692. WFP purchased the swamp boat from Aliboats, a boat company from Botswana, and the storage units from UN Humanitarian Response Depots (UNHRD)

in Dubai.

Operational Partnerships

WFP worked in close coordination with the Government of Malawi to successfully augment and coordinate the logistics services under this Special Operation. The primary partnership was with the MoTPW, which led the National Logistics Cluster with co-lead support from WFP. Through the Logistics Cluster, all national activities were coordinated with logistics and transport specialists. The cluster also provided an advocacy platform for road construction and enabled WFP to successfully advocate for the rehabilitation of priority roads for humanitarian access ahead of the 2016/17 lean season response.

Preparation and structural construction was completed in 2015 under a Memorandum of Understanding signed by WFP and MoTPW, which facilitated the donation of the bridges from SIDA. The donation was also supported through WFP's standby partner, MSB.

While WFP and MoTPW led the infrastructure project, the initiative was supported by multiple partners including the Roads Authority, which led implementation of the rehabilitation works, and the World Bank, which provided funding to the Government of Malawi to erect the complementary structures through the bank's Malawi Floods Emergency Recovery Project. The construction was also supported by MoTPW's Department of Public Works, which provided the necessary tools, equipment and manpower for the construction.

The swamp boat procured under this operation will join a small fleet of boats in the country, which are owned by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and managed by the Malawi Defense Force (MDF). In the case of flooding in early 2017, WFP will work together with the Department of Marine Services who will provide the personnel to deploy and operate the swamp boat. In this scenario, WFP will also continue its close work with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, which is responsible for overall coordination of emergency responses across sectors.

Results/Outcomes

WFP successfully installed the five Bailey Bridges at three sites in Phalombe, Thyolo and Zomba districts, achieving 100 percent of its output targets within the designated time frame, June 2016.

Once completed, the bridges reopened critical routes for communities, thereby restoring access to key nearby social services, such as schools and health clinics, which were previously cut off as a result of damaged and collapsed infrastructure. Construction of the bridges also reconnected people to the main nearby markets, allowing for proper access to food and resulting in other positive effects such as economic stimulation for the surrounding communities. The majority of bridge users reported being satisfied with the bridges and their provided outcomes with just 16 percent of users citing that they felt unsafe when using the bridge. User satisfaction of the bridge was collected during the peak of the rainy season, therefore it is likely that safety concerns originated from stronger currents of water beneath the bridge that worried users rather than concerns with the bridge infrastructure.

The benefits of completing the five bridges lead to increased transport efficiency by WFP and other humanitarian distributors to the most vulnerable communities. The completion of the bridges allowed WFP to realise the delivery of 65,000 mt of food to one million beneficiaries outlined in PRRO 200692. The bridges allowed access to the worst affected communities of the 2015/2016 drought brought on by the El Niño weather phenomena.

Learning from previous relief responses and rainy seasons, the project was undertaken by WFP and others as a preparedness measures for future climactic shocks and disasters – specifically predicted flooding resulting from a potential La Niña event in early 2017. Other preparedness measures adopted included the procurement of the six-meter swamp boat, which will enhance WFP's rapid response capacity and ability to reach people with humanitarian assistance needs in areas that would otherwise be cut-off in the event of flooding. When necessary, WFP will use this boat to augment the Government's capacity to ensure food access to the affected populations.

WFP also procured 18 mobile storage units to provide storage for up to 500 mt of food each. The mobile units were part of a total of 81 units WFP installed across 12 districts ahead of the 2016/17 rainy season (December 2016 - March 2017) to augment storage capacity and preposition food stocks. Increased storage for prepositioning allowed WFP to move a greater amount of food in advance of the rains to ensure that food insecure people can receive uninterrupted food assistance, regardless of accessibility. All 18 units were managed by WFP's

cooperating partners and communities receiving food assistance. The mobile storage units are expected to last for up to a decade, and will be dismantled after the rainy season in 2017 to be kept in WFP warehouses until they are required again.

Overall, this operation directly enabled positive food security outcomes for beneficiaries served by WFP under other operations by facilitating the movement and storage of relief food in key strategic locations. Together, the five Bailey Bridges, the swamp boat and storage units have increased access to remote locations and will better equip WFP, the Government and other actors with the logistics capacity required to reach people in need of assistance during future rainy seasons and in the case of future emergencies.

Story Worth Telling

Msuwazi River in Malawi's southern region is a treacherous waterway for the people of Thyolo and Mulanje districts, cutting off access to critical social services and markets each time the water level rises, and sometimes causing loss of life. When heavy rains inundated southern Malawi in early 2015, Msuwazi River again burst its banks.

"The only big market where we buy our basic necessities, including maize, is across the river, so when the river is full, we can't buy food and end up going hungry," says the village chief, Mr. Gubudu.

For decades, this community of about 15,000 residents has tried to find alternatives to having to wade across the river which is home to crocodiles and other animals. The most recent bridge made from concrete was destroyed by the 2015 floods.

"We've had many fatal accidents when the river is full," says Kesteni Magaleta, a mother of four who lives near the river. "And children miss classes for several days at a time."

Magaleta's second born child is in his last year of primary school, which is just about 500 metres across the river, and would normally be a few minutes' walk. When the bridge broke, Magaleta was forced to send him to a school five kilometres away from their village, which was more than an hour's walk.

WFP has constructed five Bailey Bridges in Malawi – the first of which opened on the Msuwazi River in March 2016. Now fully functioning, people like Magaleta are once again able to regularly access food, medical treatment and send their children back to nearby schools.

Figures and Indicators

Data Notes

A Bailey Bridge constructed in Thyolo district to reopen critical access routes for communities and guarantee they can be reached with future assistance. Photo © WFP/Johan Hansson.

Project Indicators

Outcome Indicators

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
National institutions, regional bodies and the humanitarian community are able to prepare for, assess and respond to emergencies				
User satisfaction rate				
<i>MALAWI, Project End Target: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2016.12, WFP survey</i>	=100.00	-	-	84.20

Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: Special Operation (Logistics)				
Number of bridges built/rehabilitated	bridge	5	5	100.0%

Partnership Indicators

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>MALAWI, Special Operation (Logistics), Latest Follow-up: 2016.06</i>		559,890.81
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>MALAWI, Special Operation (Logistics), Project End Target: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06</i>	=3.00	3.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>MALAWI, Special Operation (Logistics), Project End Target: 2016.06, Latest Follow-up: 2016.06</i>	=100.00	100.00