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Operational Overview

WFP Malawi

Background

WFP is supporting the Government of Malawi to create a food and nutrition secure and resilient future. WFP's work is guided by the **Sustainable Development Goals**, with particular emphasis on reaching **Zero Hunger** through partnership (SDGs 2 and 17).

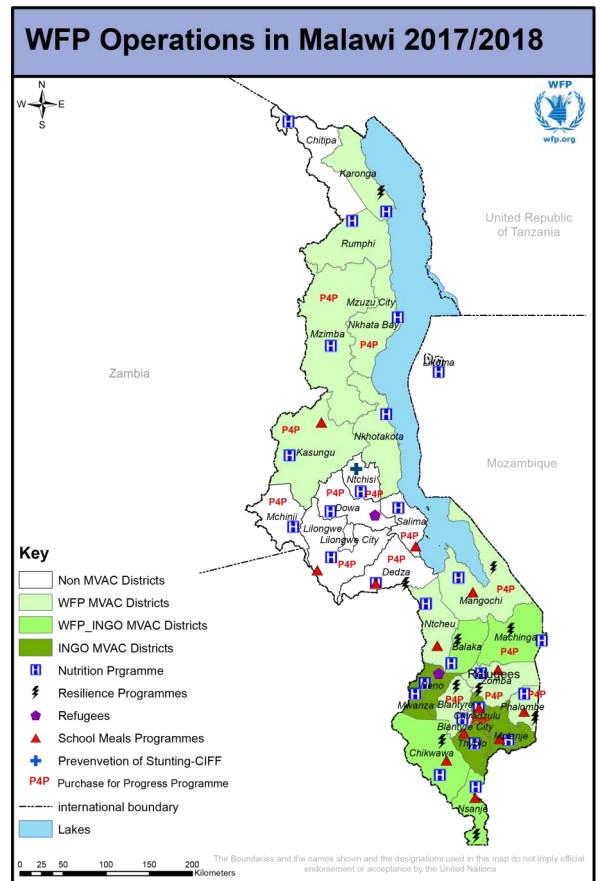
WFP implements **social protection** and development programmes through its school meals, nutrition and resilience-building interventions to help **break the cycle of hunger**.

When crisis hits, WFP works to respond to the country's most urgent **humanitarian needs**, which includes support to Malawians affected by lean season food insecurity, and refugee populations who are reliant on external support to meet their food requirements.

Based on strong evidence, WFP selects the best tool to appropriately meet the needs of the people it serves using both **conditional and unconditional transfers** of food, cash, and vouchers.

Design of assistance is further strengthened when WFP partners with communities in a 3-pronged approach (3PA) to programme design, which involves (1) integrated context analysis, (2) evidence-based programming that takes into account seasonal trends, and (3) initiatives that ensure community engagement and participation are part of the planning process (Community Based Participatory Planning or CBPP).

Investing in **long-term hunger solutions** remains high on WFP's agenda in Malawi. WFP is partnering with smallholder farmers across Malawi through both its Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, which builds the capacity of farmers and gives them a chance to sell to WFP at competitive prices, as well as investing in rural infrastructure such as warehouses and bridges that allow for greater access and inclusion of smallholder Malawian farmers in formal markets.



WFP Malawi is assisting

993,379 primary and pre-primary students with daily school meals across 13 districts.

327,000 people with acute malnutrition assisted in 618 health facilities across all 28 of Malawi's districts.

34,000 smallholder farmers in 59 farmer organisations .

32,000 refugees/asylum seekers in Dzaleka and Luwani camps.

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Social Protection WFP Malawi

Background

Malawi is a shock-prone country with a high prevalence of chronic food and nutrition insecurity, with at-risk populations vulnerable to increasingly frequent, variable, and intense climatic shocks.

In this context, WFP continues to provide vital food and nutrition assistance each year. If these efforts are to be effective in addressing hunger, **WFP recognizes the need to work with government and national systems**, including social protection, to achieve long term gains in hunger reduction.

As such WFP aims to strengthen the social protection system to help address multiple, inter-related issues, including poverty, inequality and food security, thus facilitating the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG2 on Zero Hunger.

In Malawi, Social Protection is governed by the National Social Support Policy (NSSP) and operationalized by the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II) which spans from 2018 to 2023.

Implementation

WFP implements numerous programmes under the objectives of the MNSSP II. Implementation of these programmes has led to the development of tools, systems, techniques, and partnerships.

Food for Assets (FFA) reaches over 723,000 participants across ten shock-prone and food insecure districts, making it one of the largest programmes contributing to productive asset creation. Working at community and household level, WFP supports asset creation activities in exchange for transfers that help meet immediate consumption gaps.

R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) complements FFA by providing households with an integrated package of risk management approaches that can help them become more resilient to shocks, harnessing the gains made under FFA. R4 provides services (insurance; savings; credit) which protect investments in livelihoods, supporting the building of risk reserves

School Meals (SM) implemented by WFP currently reach 786 primary schools in 13 districts, serving as a safety net through the provision of daily meals to students creating linkages between 92 primary schools and 21 farmer organizations supported by WFP's Purchase for Progress project.



April 2018

1,000,000

Children benefiting from the WFP-supported school meals programme

723,000

Participants in WFP's Food for Assets programme in 2017

2018

Launch of the revised National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II)

WFP provides social protection support across project lifecycles to protect and promote the wellbeing of poor and food insecure populations, with interventions layered for greater impact, where possible.

SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

The implementation of these programmes has led to the development of tools, systems, techniques and partnerships which are leveraged in support of systems strengthening under the MNSSP.

SCOPE is a digital platform solution to manage beneficiary information, formulate transfer instructions, and record assistance delivered. SCOPE is being progressively used across WFP's interventions under the MNSSP and humanitarian response, which is the same for the International NGO consortium. It offers a way to harmonize targeting and registration for social protection and humanitarian response, enabling the scalable social protection systems. This promotes the use of appropriate assistance modalities, according to prevailing context and needs.

3PA has been rolled out in Malawi to identify hot spots for action, seasonally appropriate interventions, and participatory planning of interventions with relevant stakeholders, especially communities. The Government, development partners, and WFP have made use of these tools to plan and design resilience building intervention. In the case of shocks, these have also been used in modified ways to determine the most appropriate forms of assistance.

WFP has developed an **integrated M&E logframe** and system to track changes at the outcome level across households reached with WFP's resilience interventions. The approach and systematic use of core outcome indicators is being leveraged by development partners and can be used to strengthen monitoring under the MNSSP II.

WFP has specialized on **vulnerability assessments and targeting** that can be leveraged to support these processes under a shock sensitive social protection model that assists with the harmonization across social protection and humanitarian systems.

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

WFP is part of the task force supporting the Government with the formulation of the new MNSSP II, including the review and re-design of the programme, as well as the formulation of the implementation plan.

WFP participates in the technical working groups pertinent to Public Works, School Meals, Saving and Micro-finance, providing support that help improve and better coordinate programme implementation.

WFP contributes to the development of the National Resilience Strategy, a framework intended to guide work on breaking the cycle of hunger, leveraging the insights gained through the MNSSP II, as social protection is a key component of the Strategy.

PARTNERSHIPS

In the context of this work, WFP has become a key partner of the Government of Malawi. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development is the main interlocutor as it coordinates the MNSSP, bringing together interventions across the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disabilities, and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology.

District councils are also involved in the implementation of these interventions, and there are increasing linkages to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development, and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. In addition, WFP works closely with UNICEF, ILO, and GIZ, the INGO Consortium, Irish Aid, DFID, the World Bank, and the EU.

Shock-Sensitive Social Protection

Operational strategies are also being developed for Shock-Sensitive Social Protection (SSSP), the newest pillar of the MNSSP, through which WFP has been testing different mechanisms and approaches for shock-sensitive programme implementation. These have included: emergency school meals; complementary asset creation through humanitarian assistance; and the inclusion of social cash transfer (SCT) beneficiaries in the humanitarian response, followed by using the SCT mechanism for channeling humanitarian assistance to these. Shock-Sensitive Social Protection.

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Progress towards Gender Equality

Background

Malawi ranked 170 out of 188 countries in the 2016 Global Gender Inequality Index. Patriarchal cultural norms manifest themselves in high rates of child marriage, limited land rights for women and lack of access to justice or protection against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Women and girls continue to face challenges in accessing education, assets, and economic opportunities due to gender inequalities.

This exacerbates their vulnerability to climatic shocks, and limits their capacity to recover from the aftermath of shocks, contributing towards higher food-insecurity among female-headed households.

WFP designs and implements its programmes in a gender transformative manner to ensure that its interventions address the different needs of women, men, boys and girls.

WFP uses food assistance programmes as stepping stones towards raising awareness about exploitative gender norms in Malawi, empowering women, men, boys and girls to question and challenge cultural beliefs and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities.

In Malawi, WFP promotes equal access to WFP activities and mainstreams gender across its programmes.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Zero Hunger can be achieved only when everyone has equal opportunities, equal access to resources, and an equal voice in the decision-making that shapes food security at household, community and societal level.

To achieve this goal, WFP Gender Policy (2015-2020) establishes four objectives:

- 1. Food assistance adapted to different needs.** Women, men, girls and boys benefit from food assistance programmes and activities that are adapted to their different needs and capacities.
- 2. Equal participation.** Women and men participate equally in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of gender-transformative food security and nutrition programmes and policies.
- 3. Decision-making by women and girls.** Women and girls have increased power in decision-making regarding food security and nutrition in households, communities and societies.
- 4. Gender & Protection.** Food assistance does no harm to the safety, dignity and integrity of the women, men, girls and boys receiving it, and is provided in ways that respect their rights.

WFP designs and implements all its programmes in a gender transformative manner to ensure that its interventions address the different needs of women, men, boys and girls of all ages

ACHIEVEMENTS

Recognising that gender inequality exacerbates food and nutrition insecurity and keeps vulnerable people in a vicious cycle of poverty, WFP designs and implements all its programmes in a gender transformative manner to ensure that its interventions address the different needs of women, men, boys and girls of all ages.

Collecting, analysing and using sex- and age-disaggregated data is the first step in designing sound food assistance programmes and policies. Gender considerations can then be mainstreamed into all phases of the programme cycle, from the initial needs assessment to the final evaluation. When gender and age analysis indicates that one population group is particularly vulnerable or at risk, actions targeting that group can be promoted.

In partnership with the Creative Centre for Community Social Mobilization, the **Every Girl in School (EGIS)** campaign was launched in 12 out of 13 districts implementing WFP School Meals programmes, reaching 22,000 people. EGIS seeks to empower girls by strengthening life skills, providing incentives for academic competition and mobilising community structures in schools to eliminate practices such as school-related gender-based violence.

Under the school meals programme, 50 percent of female beneficiaries hold leadership positions on project management committees thanks to community meetings conducted at school level in each of the districts supported by school meals.

During the 2016/2017 lean season response, WFP ensured ration cards were issued in the names of women wherever possible. Monitoring results found that women **were the primary decision-makers** over the use of cash, voucher or food received in more than half (53 percent) of the benefiting households.

Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) messages on gender and protection were disseminated during distributions, community engagement meetings and through radios and posters. WFP used social behaviour change communication across its interventions to disseminate gender-sensitive messages to facilitate transformation and address gender issues..

In 2017, the National Construction Industry Council, with support from WFP, offered official certification training to 23 women participating in construction projects, thereby enhancing their qualifications and increasing their

opportunities to be employed for skilled work.

WFP also conducted **gender assessments** of the P4P, School Meals, Nutrition, and Resilience programmes. In Nutrition, for example, WFP examined the roles of men and boys in infant feeding, as part of the Prevention of Stunting initiative. While the results revealed many traditional views about women being the primary care providers, younger men revealed an openness to sharing caring responsibilities.

This evidence base is informing programming that fosters women's and men's shared responsibility for unpaid care work, including that which promotes nutrition outcomes.

WAY FORWARD: PRIORITIES FOR 2018

- Integration of gender in all partnerships.
- The WFP MW CO needs assessments, data collection and analyses, planning and implementation processes to support effective and accountable integration of GEWE. New trainings and campaigns are planned for 2018 to develop increased awareness and capacity of WFP staff and partners to promote GEWE.
- Integration of gender in assessments, data collection, planning and implementation.
- Protection analysis to identify the gaps and inform programming.
- Gender parity and inclusion in the workplace.



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