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School Meals Programme (SMP)

WFP Malawi

Background

WFP is the largest provider of school meals in Malawi, supporting education with school meals since 1999. Since then, millions of school children have received school meals to enable them to stay in school, concentrate, and learn better.

Studies in Malawi estimate that for every USD \$1 spent on school feeding, at least USD \$6 are returned in better health and productivity when these reach adulthood

WFP's school meals programme supports the Government of Malawi's National Social Support Programme, where school meals are one of five priority social nets, as well as the National Education Sector Plan.

Daily Porridge: WFP provides daily nutrition meals to reduce short-term hunger and improve attention span in class. WFP supports 783 primary schools in 13 food insecure districts that have the lowest enrolment, highest dropout and repetition rates, and widest gender disparities.

Take Home Rations (THRs): WFP provides THRs of maize or its cash equivalent primarily to girls and orphan boys in upper grades at 694 primary schools during the lean season and at 167 primary schools for the entire academic year, to encourage attendance and reduce dropouts. THRs are conditional on an 80 percent attendance rate each month.

Early Childhood Development: WFP provides daily porridge to children under the age of five who attend targeted Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres to promote early learning and stimulation, strengthen nutrition and reduce underage enrolment in primary schools. WFP is currently supporting 24,577 pre-primary aged children in 93 ECD centres in two districts.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

WFP invests in capacity development to help the government design and manage nationally owned hunger solutions including the implementation and management of SMP. WFP supported the government to develop a National School Health and Nutrition Policy (MNSSP) II and Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III.

In numbers

783 primary schools currently assisted with school meals, with 30% of all public primary schools covered by the programme

954,669 primary school students across Malawi receiving school meals

90% average daily attendance rate at WFP supported schools, which is 15% higher than non-supported equivalents

2,200+ school kitchens, storerooms and feeding shelters constructed under WFP coordination



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Home Grown School Meals (HGSM)

WFP Malawi

Background

WFP is the largest provider of school meals in Malawi. WFP, in partnership with the Government, contributes to improved education outcomes in addition to reducing short-term hunger and improving attention spans to help advance pre-primary and primary education across Malawi.

The Home Grown School Meals (HGSM) programme sources **locally produced food** of the right quality and quantity to students at the right time and increases knowledge about the use of locally available food.

It **empowers schools to be autonomous** in managing their own funds for successful decentralisation, creating awareness in communities about the importance of providing nutritious food to students and applying lessons learned in their homes.

The programme also links participating schools to WFP's **Purchase for Progress (P4P)** initiative in order to increase smallholder farmers' capacities in productivity, storage management, group marketing and market engagement, in order to help them raise income from their agricultural activities.

Through the district councils, WFP partners with schools to purchase food locally. Participating schools sign contracts with farmer organisations to procure specific quantities of diversified foods within an agreed time frame, based on the school menu with the seasonally available fruit and vegetables.

Parent and teacher committees oversee fund management, procurement plans and purchases, and are responsible for the handling, storing and preparation of the meals.

In numbers

92 primary schools reached across four districts

94,400 primary school students currently benefitting from the HGSM programme

15 percent increase in enrollment at each participating school since the beginning of the programme

30,300

Farmers reached through partnerships with 21 Farmer Organisations

13,189

Girls and orphan boys registered as beneficiaries of the conditional Take Home Rations (THR) intervention

Linkages between HGSM and WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative are increasing smallholder farmers' capacities in productivity, storage management, group marketing and market engagement

LINKAGES WITH THE HOME GROWN SCHOOL MEALS (HGSM) PROGRAMME

WFP's partnerships with Malawi Lake Basin Programme/We Effect, NASFAM and CADECOM resulted in agriculture expertise and technical support to farmers and also increased outreach to support to farmers to effectively mobilize themselves into Farmer Organisations.

WFP's partnership with FAO, as well as with the Ministries of Education and Agriculture, continued under the umbrella of the Purchase from Africans for Africa (PAA) programme, which supports the HGSM model through directly procuring foods from smallholder farmers. This has helped to improve school feeding, family farmers's livelihoods and local food markets with the goal of eventually eradicating hunger.

Key partnerships under the P4P programme also continued with the **Agriculture Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE)**, as well as with local NGOs that provided labour-saving technology and other supply side support to the FO.

INNOVATION

As part of the **Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE)**, by May 2017 WFP had registered 13,189 beneficiaries (11,211 girls and 1,978 orphan boys) on the conditional Take Home Rations (THR) initiative using SCOPE.

SCOPE is WFP's beneficiary and transfer management platform which supports the intervention cycle from beginning to end. SCOPE will help improve data management, i.e. attendance tracking for all participating schools. SCOPE is also used to verify transactions and ensure that the right assistance goes to the right learners.



SELF-SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL MEALS PROGRAMME (SSSMP)

The Self-Sustainable School Meals Programme (SSSMP) is an innovative pilot project which aims to **provide schools with solar powered irrigation systems**, allowing them to produce and sell their own cash-crops.

The majority of Malawi's population is dependent on rain-fed, smallholder agriculture, and is highly vulnerable to macroeconomic and climatic shocks. Resultant food insecurity can severely disrupt school attendance as affected households often resort to reduce the number of meals eaten per day.

Agricultural production in the country is limited to one annual harvest and is highly dependent on rainfall fluctuations. With an irrigation system, farmers can expect up to three harvests a year, boosting their overall agricultural yield and income.

The SSSMP is based on the production and sale of food within the school plot, with improved yield thanks to the development of solar powered irrigation. A share of the production is used for the school feeding programme and the surplus is sold in markets in order to generate income to upkeep the system.

Less than a hectare irrigation system is necessary to maintain the programme in an average-size school. Labour and management are provided by the community members and paid at market rates, producing a positive impact in the community.



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Support to Early Childhood Education

WFP Malawi

Background

WFP provides **daily meals** to children under the age of five who attend targeted Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres to promote early learning and stimulation, strengthen nutrition and reduce underage enrolment in primary schools. The programme aims to enhance smooth transition from pre-school to primary school.

Activities

WFP supports the development of infrastructure at targeted centres, assisting with the **construction of kitchens**, storerooms, feeding shelters, and water/sanitation facilities, as well as providing non-food items such as kitchen utensils.

In partnership with the **Association for Early Child Development in Malawi (AECDM)**, WFP also supports capacity development through the training of caregivers, ECD Centre committee members, local leaders, and infant school teachers, as well as enhanced coordination of ECD activities in targeted districts.

The programme also aims to strengthen partnerships through complementary programming for effective integration of school and **community-based interventions** with government and other partner programmes. WFP engages with partners, including UNICEF and Action Aid, to provide a comprehensive package of interventions, while supporting the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) to finalise a comprehensive **National School Health and Nutrition Strategy**.

In numbers

24,577 pre-primary aged children provided with daily porridge

93 ECD centres in Nsanje and Chikwawa



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