

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



Support to Refugees

WFP Malawi

Background

For more than two decades, the Government of Malawi has hosted both refugees and asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Somalia, most of whom are settled at Dzaleka Camp.

WFP currently provides food assistance to 32,500 refugees in Dzaleka Camp, and since July 2015, this assistance has been extended to an additional 4,000 asylum seekers from Mozambique who have settled at Luwani Camp.

The Karonga transit shelter in the north of the country, roughly 1,500km from the DRC, serves as a transit shelter for refugees entering Malawi. WFP, in partnership with the Government and UNHCR, is also providing food assistance to populations housed there.

As refugees have limited access to arable land or means of earning a living, they are largely dependent on food and other assistance provided by WFP, development partners, and the Government.

There has recently been an increase in the number of new arrivals, the majority of whom are from DRC. This trend is anticipated to continue, with arrivals projected to rise and potentially surpass those of last year, due to the ongoing volatile security situation in DRC.

The refugee operation is aligned with WFP 2017-2021 strategic objective 1—End hunger by protecting access to food—and strategic objectives 2 and 3—improve nutrition and achieve food security.

It is also aligned with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III) and contributes towards outcomes for the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2012-2016 and the Sustainable Development Goals of ending hunger (SDG2) and promoting peaceful societies (SDG16).

Food & Nutrition Security

WFP food aid makes up around 90 percent of food consumed by refugees living in Malawi. Although this remains subject to available donor funding, WFP plans to provision of food assistance using individual monthly food baskets, which include maize (13.5kg), pulses, and fortified vegetable oil (0.75kg).

To safeguard the nutrition status of the assisted populations, especially among children under the age of two, pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and people living with HIV, an individual ration of Super Cereal (1.5kg), fortified blended food rich in vitamins and minerals, was included in the general food ration.

Individual rations of Super Cereal Plus (3kg), an iron-rich food with micronutrients, sugar and oil, were also provided for children under the age of two to address micronutrient deficiencies, anaemia in particular.

In numbers

33,554 refugees and asylum seekers receiving food assistance from WFP Malawi (2017)

500 new beneficiaries arriving in Malawi each month, mainly from DRC (2017)

2,300 children under the age of two benefitting from monthly individual rations to address micro-nutrient deficiencies

USD 1.2 million

is WFP's funding gap for the refugee programme in 2018 (as of April 2018)

Findings from a joint WFP, UN Women and UNHCR survey on the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among Malawi's refugee population found a very high prevalence of SGBV, with women constituting the majority of victims

GENDER AND PROTECTION

In 2015, WFP initiated a partnership with UN Women focusing on the promotion of gender equality. The project provided rights-based training to members of the refugee community, local police force and partner staff present in the camp to enhance mechanisms to deal with SGBV and supported the creation of a tailoring shop for increased income generating activities.

The objective was to strengthen camp capacity to deal with SGBV cases and improve basic services for redress, while training the project participants to train others in the camp to support a mindset shift away from violence.

In 2017, WFP and partners continued to share messages on protection rights and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence.

These were disseminated in the form of skits, posters and house visits by refugee leaders. At Luwani camp, WFP's partner World Vision communicated information through community-based participatory methods such as plays, house visits, and public talks, as the majority of the target population is illiterate. WFP has established help desks and suggestion boxes at distribution sites at both camps to address concerns.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Overall, WFP has moved towards paperless monitoring with data collection taking place with Android tablets that every field monitor uses. Google Sheets and Google Forms, covering process and output-level results, were used along with corporate databases such as the Country Office Tool for Managing Effectively (COMET) and the Logistics Execution Support System (LESS) for database management and data analysis.

In 2017, WFP assistance in Dzaleka and Luwani refugee camps was monitored monthly as well as through an end-of year Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise. In November 2017, a biennial Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) was also conducted by WFP, UNHCR, the Government of Malawi and other partners to capture broader data on food and nutrition security and livelihoods.

CASH TRANSFERS

WFP is exploring changing its mode of support from in-kind only support to hybridization with multipurpose Cash Transfers, mainly for non-nutrition food commodities.

This transition hybridization plan responds to the needs of refugees presented through several case studies conducted within the past few years and is expected to improve the quality of assistance provided to refugees. In addition, this will also address the issue of variety and food preference by most refugees based in Dzaleka camp.

However, due to funding constraints, WFP has not yet implemented the proposed shift to cash-based transfer.

PARTNERSHIPS

WFP pursues value-adding partnerships to support its food assistance to refugees, including working hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Home Affairs, UNHCR, World Vision International, and Plan International Malawi in order to distribute the monthly food assistance.

In 2013, WFP teamed up with Jesuit Refugee Services to construct a multi-purpose centre that provides a vibrant and safe community space where refugees take part in recreational activities and use it as a neutral gathering place. Women who have been trained by partners in income generating activities, business and marketing, also use the facility to meet and practice their skills.

