



World Food Programme

WFP Malawi Country Brief

July 2018



Operational Context

Malawi is a small landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa with a population expanding rapidly at 3 percent per year. With the majority of livelihoods dependent on agriculture, the population is highly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by a volatile economy, high rates of HIV infection (at 8.8 percent), low primary school completion rate (at 51 percent) and chronic under-nutrition (at 37 percent for children under five).

Given these challenges, WFP's operations work to support the Government in attaining a food and nutrition secure and resilient future, which is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals with a particular emphasis on reaching zero hunger (SDG 2).

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: **19 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **170 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **37% of children between 6-59 months**

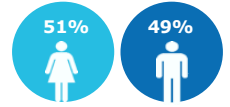
In Numbers

35,421 refugees received food assistance

170,000 households targeted for Food for Assets

41,921 children, adolescents and adults treated for acute malnutrition

880,929 children received school meals



Operational Updates

Refugee Programme

- The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) reported an additional influx of 2,200 asylum seekers into Malawi since January 2018. In July, a total of 35,241 refugees benefited from general food distribution in Luwani and Dzaleka camps. Thanks to USAID's support, WFP was able to provide full food rations in July. However, WFP still requires USD 0.8 million to provide food and nutrition assistance until the end of 2018.

Resilience Programme

- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) Programme.** The 2017/2018 implementation cycle for food assistance for assets (FFA) re-started in July, planning to reach 170,000 households across 10 districts. In July, participants started working on asset creation across all districts and the first food or cash transfers will take place in August. Activities included training on fruit tree propagation and budding; construction of swales/contour ridges and deep trenches; gully reclamation; establishment of vetiver nursery; among others.
- R4 Rural Resilience Initiative.** R4 in Malawi is expanding. From over 10,000 households participating in 2017/2018, the initiative will be scaled up to over 39,000 participants for the upcoming 2018/2019 season. Data collection for the index design was finalised in July.
- Climate Services** are trialling the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA), a methodology used to enable extension officers to interpret and communicate climate service information to farmers. This includes the use of a tablet-supported application that enables extension officers to access and interpret climate and weather information with advisory for dissemination to farmers. Over 220 extension officers will be trained in July and August, leading up to the release of the seasonal forecasts and start of the agricultural season.
- Purchase for Progress:** procurement of Purdue Improved Crop storage (PICS) hermetic grain storage bags for programme participants in Blantyre is being finalised. The bags will be used for demonstration of the effectiveness of hermetic storage and the reduction of post-harvest food losses.

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WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Relief and Resilience			
PRRO 200692 (2012-2018)	91.6 m	35.1 m (38.3%)	22.8 m
School Meals & Nutrition			
CP 200287 (2012-2018)	38.8 m	7.1 m (18.3%)	3 m
Refugee Operation			
PRRO 200460 (2012-2018)	3.9 m	1 m (25.6%)	0.8 m

* July – December 2018

School Meals Programme

- In July, WFP continued to provide school meals through the Centralised Model (CM) and Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) to 880,929 primary and pre-primary students in 13 food insecure districts. As schools are in recess since July 20, the school meals programme is currently on hold and will start again in September.

Nutrition programme

- WFP is focusing on high-impact and cost-efficient support to the Government to provide life-saving nutrition assistance to vulnerable children, pregnant & lactating women and People Living with HIV and AIDS affected by the food and nutrition insecurity.
- In July 2018, WFP's support to the management of moderate acute malnutrition continued, reaching 20,277 children and pregnant and lactating women under Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and 21,644 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme.
- WFP has secured funding of USD 41,840 from the Flanders Government for supporting the creation of a Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network in Malawi.
- The nutrition programme is still facing a funding gap of USD 3 million for its NCST programme and additional funding is urgently required to support life-saving services.

WFP Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

- The development of WFP's upcoming 2019-2023 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) continues, with the concept for the 5-year blueprint presented to WFP's Executive Board in July. The plan is also informed by the Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review, and extensive consultations with communities, the Government, development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector, and other key actors.
- The CSP details how WFP Malawi will work with partners to deliver an integrated programme, with five strategic outcomes designed to help Malawi better coordinate national action on hunger and nutrition, and reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and malnutrition. The CSP will be submitted for Executive Board final approval in February 2019.

Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review (ZHMSR)

- In July, following stakeholder consultations and review of household food security, demographic and health data, WFP's partner, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), presented a set of research and advocacy briefs with key discussion points and recommendations to achieve Zero Hunger and Malnutrition in Malawi by 2030.

Food Security Update

- The price of maize has increased by almost 30 percent between April and July, underpinned by tight supplies and concerns over the performance of the 2017/18 growing season.
- Current grain prices are nearly at par with the five-year average and likely to increase further in the coming months. At an average price of MK 121 per kilogram as observed in the last week of July, grain prices are 10 percent higher than the same time last month and 26 percent higher than the same time last year.
- The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) has completed a series of assessments (including household food insecurity survey, SMART survey, market assessments, etc.) to inform the IPC analysis. The process will be completed on 07 August bringing together more than 25 analyses from across the key technical government departments, NGOs, UN agencies and donors.



Donors

Flanders, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, UK (DFID), USAID, USDA, Swiss Cooperation, World Bank