



World Food Programme

WFP Malawi Country Brief

August 2018



Operational Context

Malawi is a small landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa with a population expanding rapidly at 3 percent per year. With most 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). 2018 Population and Housing census data collection will be carried out this year using a computerised system. 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**

2017 Human Development Index: **171 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

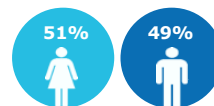
In Numbers

36,954 refugees received food distributions

170,000 households targeted by Food for Assets

39,000 participants targeted by R4 Rural Initiative

47,054 children, adolescents and adults treated for acute malnutrition



Operational Updates

Refugee Programme

- The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) reported an additional 3,069 asylum seekers arriving in Malawi from January to August 2018. A total of 36,954 refugees benefited from the general food distribution in Luwani and Dzaleka camps in August. Thanks to USAID's support, refugees have benefited from full rations since the beginning of the year. However, WFP still requires USD 1 million to provide food and nutrition assistance for the next six months.

Resilience Programme

- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) Programme:** In August, participants focused on land resource management (swales, deep trenches, composting), forestry (tree nurseries), and homestead (backyard gardens, waste pits, construction of energy efficient stoves). Cash and food distributions have started for the 170,000 participants in asset creation.
- R4 Rural Resilience Initiative:** R4 in Malawi is expanding from 10,000 participating households in 2017/2018 to over 39,000 participants for the upcoming 2018/2019 season. In August, a training was conducted for field staff from all the six districts implementing R4 activities to equip participants with necessary skills and knowledge for the implementation of R4 interventions.
- Climate Services:** Following the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) training, (a methodology enabling agricultural extension officers to interpret and communicate climate service information to farmers), 54 trained extension officers started training farmers in Mangochi District.
- Purchase for Progress:** Over 30,000 Purdue Improved Crop storage (PICS) hermetic grain storage bags have been procured in preparation for the training of trainers on post-harvest handling and food loss reduction for WFP's partners and district government staff. WFP has issued a conditional tender inviting private companies to supply 3,300 metric tons of maize, of which 20 percent should be purchased directly from Smallholder Agricultural Market Support (SAMS) assisted farmers. This is part of the CO strategy to scale up purchases from smallholder farmers in Malawi.

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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%)	55.5 m (60.6%)
School Meals & Nutrition			
CP 200287 (2012-2018)	38.8 m	7.1 m (18.3%)	4.7 m (12.1%)
Refugee Operation			
PRRO 200460 (2012-2018)	3.9 m	1 m (25.6%)	1 m (25.6%)

* September 2018 – February 2019

School Meals Programme

- In August, three important events took place with partners and government officials involved in the School Meals Programme. Specifically, the dissemination of Standard Operating Procedures for Home-Grown School Meals, the Annual Review Meeting, and the Commodity Loss Management Workshop gave partners the opportunity to discuss best practices, challenges and lessons learned in the implementation of the school meals programme.
- As schools are in recess since 20 July, the school meals programme will start again in September 2018.

Nutrition programme

- WFP continued supporting the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) reaching 24,301 children and pregnant and lactating women under Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and 22,752 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) adolescents and adults on HIV and TB treatments
- The roll-out of Micronutrient powder supplementation is ongoing in Ntchisi, Nkhatakota and Mchinji districts. This includes sensitisation on product usage and programme implementation reaching 1,287 frontline workers and community leaders.
- WFP is supporting the SUN Business Network to foster the private sector engagement in the nutrition sector. In August, the secretariat conducted two regional meetings to facilitate membership recruitment and sensitisation. Currently, 11 companies are part of the network.
- The nutrition treatment programme, particularly Nutrition Care Support and Treatment, continues to face a funding gap with US\$3.3 million required to cover the nutrition needs in 10 districts from August to March 2019.

WFP Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

- Detailed work on WFP's 2019-2023 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) progresses after the Executive Board approval of the concept note. The CSP is informed by extensive consultations with communities, the Government, development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. A key input into the plan is the Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review, which WFP is supporting with

other UN partners to determine how Malawi can achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal (Zero Hunger) by 2030.

- The CSP seeks to help Malawi better coordinate national action on hunger and nutrition and reduce vulnerabilities to shocks in the context of climate change. It lays out how WFP will work with the Government and partners to assist Malawi's most at-risk populations withstand recurring climate shocks and build resilience. WFP Malawi is now detailing the full plan, which will come into operation in 2019, subject to final Executive Board approval.

Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review (ZHMSR)

- In August, the ZHMSR team and advisory board members organised regional stakeholder consultations in Mzuzu, Kasungu, Zomba, Blantyre and Lilongwe to share the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)-led findings and to solicit input from regional stakeholders on the relevance and feasibility of the recommendations.
- Following regional consultations, national stakeholder roundtable consultation took place on 28 August, with participation from government ministries, traditional leaders, development partners and the private sector. Inputs from these meetings will inform the final research report expected in January 2019.

Food Security Update

- According to the third round of the Agriculture Production Estimates Survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, maize production decreased by 22.1% from the previous harvest.
- The price of maize has increased by 40 percent in the last three months (June - August). Current grain prices are at par with the five-year average and likely to increase further in the coming months. At an average price of MK 127 per kilogram, as observed in the third week of August, grain prices are 6 percent higher than the same time last month and 32 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 Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) analysis. The process was completed in August bringing together more than 25 analysts from across the key technical government departments, NGOs, UN and donors. The final report will be made available in September.

Donors

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

Cover Picture: The Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review Consultations attracted leaders across all sectors including traditional chiefs. Photo WFP/Cheulekene Mita