



World Food Programme

# WFP Malawi Country Brief

September 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), a low primary school completion rate (at 51 percent) and chronic under-nutrition (at 37 percent for children under the age of five). 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**

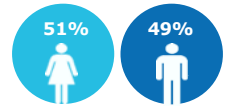
## In Numbers

**37,197** refugees received food distributions

**170,000** households targeted by Food for Assets

**39,000** participants targeted by R4 Rural Initiative

**72,039** children, adolescents and adults treated for acute malnutrition



## Operational Updates

### Refugee Programme

- A total of 37,197 refugees benefited from WFP's general food distribution in Luwani and Dzaleka camps in September. Thanks to USAID's support, refugees have received full food rations since the beginning of the year. However, WFP still requires USD 4.2 million to provide food and nutrition assistance in 2019.
- Voluntary repatriation of refugees from Mozambique living in Luwani camp started on 20 September 2018. Thus far, 2,592 individuals have left the camp and returned to their home country.

### Resilience Programme

- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** In September, participants focused on seasonal activities such as land resource management (swales, deep trenches, composting), forestry (tree seedling raising), integrated homestead (backyard gardens, waste pits, construction of energy efficient stoves), irrigation scheme planning, and fruit tree grafting. Cash and food distributions for the month of September were in progress for the 170,000 participants in the FFA programme.
- 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. The weather-index insurance product for the 2018/2019 season is currently being finalised. WFP continues supporting Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups. By September, VSL groups had made a total of USD 232,162 with USD 189,224 of loans taken by the 13,772 members in 695 groups.
- Climate Services:** The Global Framework for Climate Services Adaptation Program in Africa (GFCS-APA) Phase II was launched in Lilongwe in September 2018. WFP is the lead agency of the Agriculture and Food Security component of the GFCS-APA. In 2018/2019, WFP will consolidate successes achieved under phase I in Balaka and Zomba districts and will continue to build local capacity to disseminate climate information to smallholder farmers.
- Purchase for Progress:** Two WFP-supported Farmer Organisations participated in the National Agriculture Fair displaying value added products and hermetic grain storage for post-harvest loss reduction.

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## WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>Relief and Resilience</b>			
PRRO 200692 (2012-2018)	96.8 m	35.1 m (36.2%)	61.4 m (63.4%)
<b>School Meals &amp; Nutrition</b>			
CP 200287 (2012-2018)	20.3 m	7.1 m (34.9%)	7.8 m (38.4%)
<b>Refugee Operation</b>			
PRRO 200460 (2012-2018)	4.2 m	1 m (23.8%)	1.6 m (38.1%)

\* October 2018 – March 2019

### School Meals Programme

- In September, the school meals programme started again in 822 schools reaching over 873,000 school children under the centralised model (where fortified porridge is distributed to the school) including 28,000 pre-school children in 93 Early Development Centres.
- In addition, 101,000 school children are provided with a daily hot breakfast as part of the home-grown school meals approach where locally-produced food is purchased from smallholder farmers.

### Nutrition programme

- WFP continued supporting the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) reaching 36,219 children and pregnant and lactating women under Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and 35,820 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acutely malnourished adolescents and adults on HIV and TB treatments.
- Micronutrient powder supplementation is currently being rolled out in Ntchisi, Nkhotakota and Mchinji districts. Some 2,010 care groups and 1,444 promoters have been sensitised.
- The nutrition treatment programme, particularly Nutrition Care Support and Treatment, continues to face a funding gap with USD 3.3 million needed to cover the nutrition needs in 10 districts from October 2018 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 part of 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.

### Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review (ZHMSR)

- The comprehensive ZHMSR process continues towards its final stages. National consensus around key strategic themes has been achieved and informed the development of WFP's CSP. The research team is currently working on the first draft of the final research report, which will be used to undertake a final set of consultations.

## Food Security Update

- The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) has finalised its Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and Forecast 2018. MVAC used the IPC Analytical Framework to arrive at overall district classification phases and project populations in those phases. Many poor and very poor households have already consumed household food stocks and an estimated 3,306,405 people in 27 districts will be in IPC Phase 3 (crisis) during the upcoming lean season from October 2018 to March 2019. This figure represents 18 percent of the total population.
- According to the Government, the total tonnage of maize required to support the affected people is estimated at 138,488 metric tonnes with an estimated cash value of about MK 20.7 billion (USD 28.6m). This excludes costs associated with distribution as well as other components of the food basket.
- In 15 districts, at least 20 percent of the population has been identified to be in IPC 3 by the MVAC assessment. This represents about 2.4 million people who would require lean season support as a priority. WFP is therefore advocating with the Food Security Cluster (FSC) for the response to focus on these 15 districts.
- Despite the 22.1 percent drop in maize production, projections are that food will be readily available on the market. MVAC findings show that almost all markets have the capacity to satisfy an additional 50 percent increased demand and can handle market-based interventions like cash-based transfers for the lean season response of households in IPC phase 3.
- Lean season response activities will be carried out in line with national safety net programmes under the leadership of the Government. While addressing these pressing needs, WFP and the Food Security Cluster will continue to build resilience, enabling communities to prepare for subsequent lean seasons and to handle future shocks.
- In addition to its response to the current lean season, a major concern is the prediction of the severity of a possible El Niño event during the October 2018 – March 2019 period, with most models currently showing a 70-75 percent likelihood of the weather phenomenon occurring in the Southern Africa region.

## Donors

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