



World Food Programme

# WFP Malawi Country Brief

October 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). Population and housing census data collection will be carried out this year using a computerised system. Given these challenges, WFP's operations 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**

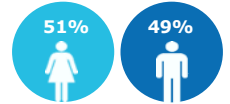
## In Numbers

**34,582** refugees received food

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

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

**84,607** children, adolescents and adults treated for acute malnutrition



## Operational Updates

### General Updates

- WFP joined the rest of the world to mark World Food Day on 16 October which was celebrated in Nkhotakota District, Central Malawi, with the theme: "My actions My Future: A Zero Hunger World is possible by 2030".

### Refugee Programme

- A total of 34,582 refugees received food in Dzaleka camp in October. The repatriation of 3,362 refugees from Mozambique, which began on 20 September, was finalised on 24 October.
- WFP requires USD 4.2 million to provide the required food assistance from January to December 2019 for approximately 35,000 refugees. The situation will become critical by January 2019.

### Resilience Programme

- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** In October, Implementation focused on land resource management, forestation and homestead activities in preparation for the rainy season. Overall progress has been positive with over 60 percent of assets created.
- R4 Rural Resilience Initiative:** Reaching over 39,000 participants, insurance for asset (IFA) activities, where beneficiary households work on asset creation as a condition for earning premiums, and pricing for weather index insurance to trigger compensation for participating households based on defined weather parameters, have been completed for the 2018/19 season.
- Climate Services:** WFP accessed the seasonal rainfall forecasts for the six districts benefiting from Climate Services. Based on the forecasts, Planning and Review Days (PnR) were conducted where agriculture extension workers and other stakeholders assessed the seasonal rainfall forecasts and developed agro-advisories for farmers' decision-making for 2018/2019.
- Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS):** WFP has purchased 400 mt of maize worth USD 82,418 from 10 smallholder farmer organizations as part of a total of 966 mt of maize to be purchased through conditional contracts by end-December 2018.
- Forecast-based financing:** WFP has collaborated with Columbia University's International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), in supporting the Government with action plans to make forecast based financing a reality for smallholder farmers.

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## WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Fund Requirement (in USD)*
<b>Relief and Resilience</b>			
PRRO 200692 (2012-2018)	82.3 m	33.2 m (40 %)	49.1 m (60 %)
<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%)

\* November 2018 to April 2019

- **General:** WFP participated in the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) platform symposium held on 17 and 18 October in Lilongwe under the theme "Building Integrated Resilience and Strengthened Policy Dialogue". The symposium was followed by the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) commemoration on 19 October. The WFP Representative made a keynote address during the event and WFP's resilience team participated in the panel discussions.

### School Meals Programme

- In October, the school meals programme reached 822 schools and over 994,216 school children under the centralised and home-grown school meals models including 28,000 pre-school children in 93 Early Childhood Development centres.
- Principal Secretary of Education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and WFP school meals staff attended a Global Child Nutrition Forum held in Tunis, Tunisia, in early October. The conference discussed sustainable school meals strategies that are nutrition sensitive.
- WFP requires USD 4.2 million to provide meals to school children for the remainder of the academic year (March to July 2019). Without additional funding, some 890,000 children will not receive school meals from March 2019, risking the reversal of the educational gains made through the partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

### Nutrition programme

- The treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) continued reaching 44,223 pregnant and breastfeeding women under Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and 40,384 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition (SAM).

Additionally, 284 service providers from 34 health facilities in Dedza district were trained on the revised CMAM guidelines.

- Through discussions with the Ministry of Health (MoH), through the Central Medical Stores, WFP has managed to integrate MAM food commodities into the MoH supply chain. This aims to strengthen health and nutrition systems, including supply chain integration.
- The Sun Business Network (SBN) has taken significant steps towards its launch. So far, SBN has 16 registered members and has selected the leadership from the private sector, while Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) serves as a secretariat. The secretariat is currently working on the strategy for the next five years which will be launched in February 2019.

### WFP Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

- WFP's 2019-2023 Country Strategic Plan (CSP) has been submitted for approval. The CSP is informed by extensive consultations with communities, the Government, development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector. Key input into the plan is the Zero Hunger and Malnutrition Strategic Review (ZHMSR), which WFP is supporting with other UN partners to establish how Malawi can achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal (Zero Hunger) by 2030.
- The comprehensive ZHMSR process continues towards its conclusion with the research team working on the final draft.

### Food Security Update

- The 2018 IPC Analysis report was officially released by the Government on 05 October through a gazette notice and presented to the Humanitarian Country Team as well as the Humanitarian Response committee. The report indicates that 3.3 million people are food insecure requiring food assistance from October 2018 to March 2019. The two committees adopted the report and the plans for response have commenced. Though the report was released late, an update is scheduled to be done at the end of November to identify significant changes since August. Key consideration will be given to the expected El Nino and its forecasted impact, market prices and the availability of commodities, as well as the impact of Fall Army Worm on irrigated crop and levels of malnutrition at the peak of the lean season.
- WFP is working with other development partners to determine how best to support the Government.

### Donors

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