



World Food Programme

WFP Malawi Country Brief

December 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 support the Government in attaining a food and nutrition secure and resilient future, which is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals with particular emphasis on reaching zero hunger (SDG 2).

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: 17.5 million

2017 Human Development Index: 171 out of 189

Income Level: Low

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

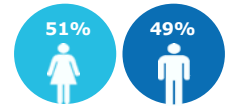
In Numbers

35,792 refugees received food

85,113 households targeted by Food for Assets

37,000 farmers targeted in R4 Rural Initiative

87,278 children, adolescents and adults treated for acute malnutrition



Operational Updates

Refugee Programme

- The profiling exercise carried out by WFP, UNHCR and the Malawi Government has been finalised. Preliminary results indicate that 92 percent of the refugees are dependent on food assistance. In general, 76 percent of the population is classified as "highly vulnerable" and stopping food assistance would pose a major risk to their lives.
- A total of 35,792 refugees - including 161 new arrivals - were provided with full ration of the general food basket in December. For January, WFP will continue to provide full rations of the general full basket but will likely reduce rations unless resources improve.

Resilience Programme

- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** In 2018, over 170,000 households in 10 districts have participated in the FFA programme resulting in 12ha of land conserved through swale construction (21,800 km), gully reclamation (195,999 m) and deep trench construction (78,407 m³). Additionally, 13 irrigation schemes (65 ha) were established benefiting over 1,500 households.
- R4 Rural Resilience Initiative:** Over 37,000 households in Mangochi, Chikwawa, Balaka, Zomba, Blantyre and Nsanje, are participating in R4 Insurance for protection to farmers against dry spells for the 2018/19 season. Similarly, participants in the Village Savings and Loans scheme accumulated over USD 270,000 during the year to be shared among groups' members in the month of December.
- Climate Services:** 300 MP3 Radio Handsets were distributed to 6 districts. Currently, orientations are underway to enable additional farmers access weather and climate information. Priority farmer groups are those participating in SAMS, FFA, R4 and Nutrition activities.
- Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS):** In 2018, WFP purchased about 966mt of maize from 10 Farmer organisations (FOs). SAMS also distributed an assortment of post-harvest handling tools and equipment to 37 FOs.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/malawi

WFP Operations

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Relief and Resilience			
PRRO 200692 (2012-2018)	60m	33.8m	18.1m
School Meals & Nutrition			
CP 200287 (2012-2018)	21.2m	8.8m	12.4m
Refugee Operation			
PRRO 200460 (2012-2018)	1.8m	1.50m	1.2m

* January 2019 to June 2019

School Meals Programme

- In December, the school meals programme reached 822 schools and over 1 million school children under the centralised and home-grown school meals (HGSM) models including 28,000 pre-school children in 93 Early Childhood Development centres.
- 88 schools in Dedza, Mangochi and Salima were assessed to transition from Centralised Model to Home-Grown School Meals with funding from Norway under the Joint Programming on Girls' Education (JPGE).
- Construction of the 5 secondary schools and feeding shelters across Malawi is progressing. Similarly, the Self-Sustainable School Meals Project in Dedza implemented by Foundation for Irrigation & Sustainable Development (FISD) at Mua School is progressing well

Nutrition programme

- Throughout 2018, WFP supported the Department of Nutrition HIV and AIDs (DNHA), Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (MoITT) and the Civil Society Network Nutrition Alliance (CSONA) to mobilise the private sector to establish the SUN Business Network (SBN), a platform for engaging the private sector in nutrition. By the end of the year, 18 food and non-food businesses had committed to support the national nutrition agenda through the SBN.
- Meanwhile, SBN is working with its partners including the National Fortification Alliance (NFA) to officially launch the network in February 2019.
- WFP, with support from UNICEF and CARE Malawi, is providing cash assistance to 36,520 food insecure households between December 2018 to March 2019 through the "linked and adaptive food and nutrition support during the lean season response".
- The project – supported by DFID - will scale up life-saving nutritional services provided to vulnerable children, pregnant lactating women and People Living with HIV and AIDS by providing cash transfers to the families benefiting from nutrition treatment.

- Regular treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) continued in December, reaching 45,112 children and pregnant and lactating women under CMAM and 42,166 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- 24 district managers participated in nutrition-specific trainings on counselling and education in 4 districts.

Food Security Update

- Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) plans to conduct a food security monitoring in the second week of January 2019 with the aim of assessing general crop outlook amid the looming El Niño as well to update the assumptions made during the annual vulnerability Assessment and Analysis.
- Most areas in southern and central Malawi did not receive effective rains well into the first week of December 2018. This delayed farming activities especially planting of various staple and cash crops and decreased the availability of seasonal agricultural labor. The latest official El Niño forecast from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) indicates a 96% chance that El Niño will occur this season.

Lean season Response

- The Government of Malawi has started a cereal-based response to the current lean season, planning to distribute 138,488 mt of maize to the 3.3 million food-insecure people identified across the country.
- WFP is complementing the maize distribution to provide the vulnerable with a balanced basket. As such, WFP has identified urgent needs in the most-food insecure areas and is planning to reach a total of 916,798 beneficiaries with a cash transfer top-up in addition to the maize distribution to help meet the needs of food insecure people in six districts (Phalombe, Chikwawa, Machinga, Balaka, Blantyre and Nsanje).
- WFP is supporting the Government of Malawi with technical assistance in areas of coordination, targeting, distribution management, Monitoring & Evaluation and logistics. WFP has engaged 12 NGOs to participate in capacity strengthening.

Donors

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