



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Malawi Country Brief January 2019



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

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Cover picture: Food for Assets participant planting a tree in Machinga District. Photo: WFP/ Badre Bahaji

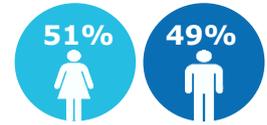
In Numbers

16,515 mt of commodities distributed

USD 2.1 m cash-based transfers made

USD 15.2 m six months (February-July 2018) net funding requirements (64% of total)

1.6 m people assisted in January 2019



Operational Updates

- **Lean season Response:** WFP continued to complement the Government's maize distribution with cash transfers in the six most food insecure districts. WFP has so far distributed cash worth USD 2.1 million for December and January reaching 1,362,360 beneficiaries.
- WFP is working with several financial service providers to supply mobile money and cash in envelopes in coordination with cooperating partners.
- In addition, WFP supports the Government with technical support on coordination, targeting, distribution management, monitoring and evaluation, and logistics.
- In January, WFP received USD 5.9 million from the Central Emergency Fund (CERF) to support the Lean Season Response. Together with the funding from USAID, WFP will be able to support 1.7 million people with cash-based transfers to complement the maize distribution from Government.
- **Refugees:** In the month of January, full rations of food commodities (maize, beans and vegetable oil) were distributed to a total of 35,881 refugees in Dzaleka camp.
- With support from USAID, WFP will continue to provide monthly full rations to refugees until March 2019.
- **R4 Rural Resilience Initiative:** Seasonal monitoring activities began in all six districts to facilitate seasonal outlook and monitor performance of the insurance index for the 2018/19 season.
- **Climate Services:** 25 additional Farmer Organizations (FOs) in Mangochi District were given radio sets and were trained on how to operate them. Priority was given to groups who had already been participating in Food for Assets - supplying their produce to schools under the Home-Grown School Feeding activity - to enhance integration of WFP-supported initiatives.
- **Smallholder Agriculture Market Support:** Following the successful roll-out of the Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) Programme development manual to prospective partners in December 2018, SAMS issued a call for proposals to implement activities addressing constraints to production, productivity and access to markets for smallholder farmers for the period March-December 2019.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 51.8 m | 66.6 m | 15.2 m |

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Shock-affected people vulnerable to seasonal and climatic shocks and refugees in Malawi have access to nutritious food all year long.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

1. Provide cash and/or food transfers to the most vulnerable populations affected by seasonal shocks.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in food-insecure communities, benefit from strengthened shock-responsive social protection systems and efficient supply chains to ensure access to safe, nutritious food all year round.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

2. Support national social protection systems to become increasingly shock responsive and hunger sensitive.
3. Provide nutritious meals to school children in food insecure areas.

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations, especially children under 5, adolescents, PLWG, and TB & HIV/AIDS clients, in Malawi, have improved nutritional status in line with national targets.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

4. Provide acute malnutrition treatment, and chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency prevention services to at-risk populations in targeted areas.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 4: Smallholder producers, vulnerable populations, (especially women), in Malawi, have enhanced resilience, diversified livelihoods, and increased marketable surplus, through access to well-functioning food systems and efficient supply chain.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

5. Provide resilience-building support, education, and systems strengthening services to smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 5: National and local institutions and enterprises in Malawi have increased capacity and improved systems to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

6. Provide capacity strengthening, skills transfer and partnership activities to link national and local institutions and private sector enterprises involved in food security, nutrition, food safety, disaster risk management and emergency response.

- **Nutrition:** The treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) continued, reaching a total of 127,835 recipients, with children and pregnant and lactating women under the Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) activity and adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition.
- WFP received USD 1.5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the management of acute malnutrition in the most affected food insecure districts of Salima, Mangochi, Machinga, Mulanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Balaka and Phalombe.
- **School Meals:** WFP and the Malawi Government officially announced a new contribution from Norway towards School Meals amounting to USD 3.6 million.
- In January, the school meals programme reached 822 schools and over 900,000 school children under the centralised and Home-Grown School Feeding models including 28,000 pre-school children in 93 Early Childhood Development Centres.

Monitoring

- WFP provided technical support to the Government of Malawi through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) for the Lean Season Response baseline assessment.

Challenges

- There is a funding gap for operationalization of the Sun Business Network strategy for Nutrition which is being finalized, to be launched on 21 February.
- Due to heavy rains, in some areas, accessibility has been a challenge delaying progress in maize distribution of the lean season response by the Government and cash-based transfers by WFP.

Donors

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