

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## Strategic Outcome 4: Resilience building

### What is the Situation?

Smallholder farmers produce 70 percent of agricultural output, which is almost entirely rain-fed and is typically grown on small and fragmented landholdings with low crop yields. Women perform 65 percent of agricultural labour at the household-level, and they play a key role in ensuring family nutrition and national food security. The gender gap in land productivity is estimated at 25 percent, and closing the gender gap in agriculture is critical to progress towards SDG 2.

From 2010, however, production gains have been increasingly undermined by the impact of population growth on soil/ecosystem degradation, and crop failures due to seasonal climatic shocks. Government and its partners are responding with a resilience building agenda; however, many efforts remain small-scale, localized, and short-term, lacking the coherence to consistently move affected populations on to a resilience path. With more integrated, better-coordinated approaches, a modest turnaround in yields to sub-Saharan averages would lead to a doubling of production, re-establishing Malawi as a net exporter of food.

### What do we want to do?

Strategic Outcome 4(SO4) is part of WFP Malawi's five-year Country Strategic Plan (CSP) that is in effect from 2019 to 2023. The CSP represents a strategy to help Malawi better coordinate national efforts on hunger and nutrition, reduce vulnerability to food security and malnutrition.

As an objective, SO4 is to ensure **“Smallholder producers and vulnerable populations in Malawi (especially women) have enhanced resilience through diversified livelihoods, increased marketable surplus and access to well-functioning food systems and efficient supply chains by 2030.”**

**20.9** Strategic Outcome funding gap  
in 2019 (million USD)



March 2019



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

To achieve the outcome, WFP will leverage its long-standing field presence and partnership base to implement Food assistance for Assets (FFA), the R4 rural resilience initiative (R4) and Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) in an integrated way, thereby enhancing the capacity of targeted communities to improve their production and productivity. The approach seeks to move food- and nutrition-insecure farmers from subsistence to surplus-producing livelihoods through access to well-functioning markets that support national food systems, all in line with the Government's priorities as set out in the national resilience strategy and the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP II).

### How do we do it?

WFP's key activity under this Strategic Outcome is:

- **Activity5:** Provide resilience-building support, education and systems-strengthening services to smallholder farmers and value chain actors

### Our Goals

While working to achieve SO4, WFP has identified seven goals to be achieved from the activity. These are:

- Targeted food-insecure communities benefit from conditional food, cash-based and knowledge transfers to meet the immediate food needs of targeted girls, boys, women and men while participating in asset-creation activities.
- Targeted food-insecure communities benefit from asset creation and rehabilitation that help to mitigate environmental degradation, improve food security (Strategic Result 1)

and effect behaviour change to build resilience to natural shocks and climate change (Strategic Result 3).

- The population benefits from targeted smallholder producers and cooperatives receiving financial and technical support.
- Targeted farmers and farmers' organizations benefit from strengthened national policies, systems and institutions that facilitate access to well-functioning markets.
- Food value-chain actors, including public and private buyers, have improved access to innovative trading platforms (including through linkages to homegrown school meals projects) and quality assurance systems to increase supply chain efficiency and support procurement for smallholder farmers.
- Targeted households benefit from access to better information management and knowledge-sharing systems to improve awareness of best practices in agriculture, climate services, nutrition, care practices, diverse healthy diets, gender and protection.
- Targeted communities benefit from increased awareness of best practices that promote behaviour change to improve their productivity and nutrition status.

### Funding Situation

Despite renewed support from various donors, our resilience-building programme is also facing a funding shortfall which may erode the gains achieved so far in breaking the cycle of hunger for **935,000 people** in the 10 most food insecure districts. **USD 20.5 million** are needed to maintain and scale up our integrated package of interventions from July to December 2019.

