



# WFP Malawi Country Brief

## April 2019

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



### 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 9.6 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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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/malawi](http://www.wfp.org/countries/malawi)

Cover picture: Floods-affected beneficiaries receiving cash transfers thanks to USAID support. WFP Photo: WFP/Badre Bahaji

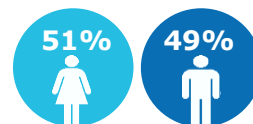
## In Numbers

**4,563.92 mt** of commodities distributed

**USD 1.3 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 18.6 m** six months (May-October 2019) net funding requirements (64% of total)

**1.9 m people** assisted in April 2019



### Operational Updates

- Following the flooding from heavy rains in early March and the rains that followed from Tropical Cyclone Idai in southern Malawi, a Level Two (L2) Emergency Response has been activated for Malawi.
- WFP has so far received contributions and commitments worth USD 10.5 million for support towards the Flood Response from donors including DFID, USAID, Japan, Norway, CERF, Switzerland, South Africa, Italy, Iceland, Sweden and Canada.
- For April, WFP distributed 4,152 MT to 310,500 people in five districts and 617,857 USD of cash transfers to 103,239 people in six districts reaching about 414,000 beneficiaries in total.
- For the next cycle, WFP is providing only cash assistance to the 427,000 beneficiaries targeted in nine districts for the flood's response.
- Refugees:** In the month of April, full rations of food commodities (maize, beans and vegetable oil) were distributed to a total of 37,233 refugees in Dzaleka camp. 163 new refugees registered for food distribution in April. Due to low funding, half rations of food commodities are going to be distributed for May. An additional USD 2 million is required for WFP to support the Refugee operation.
- Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** The FFA programme finalised its activities for the cycle which included: over 2.7 million tree seedlings raised for planting, 930,895 cubic meters of compost manure generated and applied to over 37000 hectares for the 2018/2019 growing season and four irrigation schemes were established, benefitting over 500 beneficiaries.
- R4 Rural Resilience Initiative:** Over 39,000 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, nearly 22,000 farmers are participants in the Village Savings and Loans scheme.
- Climate Services:** As part of the integrated resilience package, climate services are currently reaching 81,000 households, empowering them to anticipate and manage climate-related risks and opportunities by applying the best available climate science to decision-making.
- Smallholder Agriculture Market Support:** Plans have been finalized to assist 20,000 farmers in five districts affected by floods recently. Through DFID

WFP Country Strategy



Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

