

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## Livelihoods Programme

### Background

Malawi is a low-income, least developed country which faces multiple development challenges. Despite a strong policy environment, **agricultural productivity is constrained** by the highest deforestation rates in southern Africa, high population growth, and a heavy reliance on rain-fed agriculture.

In recent years, the country has faced successive **climatic shocks**, including the worst flood in 50 years in 2015 followed by the strongest El Niño event in 35 years, which left 6.7 million people (39% of Malawi's population) in need of assistance in 2016.

In 2018, following dry spells and Fall Army Worm infestations, 3.3 million people were estimated to be food insecure. In March 2019, the country was hit by **Cyclone Idai**, affecting over 800,000 people and causing an estimated USD 220 million in loss and damages.

### Breaking the cycle of hunger

WFP's overall livelihood approach seeks to graduate food and nutrition insecure farmers **from subsistence to surplus-producing livelihoods**, where they can access well-functioning markets that support national food systems, all in line with the Government's priorities and following a clear graduation pathway to resilience.

The Livelihoods Programme leverages WFP's long-standing field presence and partnership base to implement Food For Assets (FFA), the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4), and Smallholder Agriculture Market Support (SAMS) programmes in an integrated approach thereby enhancing the capacity of targeted communities to improve their production and productivity.

### Linkages

Complementary activities in the livelihoods approach

include: generation of climate information for informed decision-making, promotion of post-harvest loss technologies, access to markets through linkages with Home-Grown School Meals, and nutrition-sensitive and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities.

In addition, Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) will form an integral part of the project to influence positive behavioural change.

### Way Forward

**Phase 1:** Building on successful efforts in community mobilization, WFP will continue to scale the livelihood activities within 8 priority districts (Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Mangochi, Phalombe, Nsanje and Zomba). This will integrate gender-transformative approaches, recognizing that the majority of smallholders in Malawi are women. WFP will therefore directly promote the economic empowerment of women.

**Phase 2:** WFP will further scale up activities to ensure that beneficiaries in prioritized districts have access to all activities in all locations while empowering the Government to take this approach to scale.

This phase targets a total of 154,639 households between all programme components in the 8 priority districts, in addition to continuing activities for 12,400 households in 2 districts (Dedza and Salima). 167,039 households are targeted overall.

**US\$ 30 million required for Phase 2 (January to December 2020)**

**167,039 households participating in Food for Assets activities**

**22,000 farmers (77% women) participated in 846 savings groups, accumulating almost USD 400,000 in deposits**

## Our results

The results of WFP's integrated livelihoods approach are considerable: overall, all food security indicators improved against a backdrop of poor harvests throughout the country, indicating progress in building household resilience to shocks.

For instance, at the onset of the programme in 2015, 40% of participant households were using crisis and emergency coping strategies, such as skipping meals or selling livestock. In 2017, this dropped to 9%.

The Government and our donors in Malawi recognise the results of our integrated livelihoods approach:

- **167,000 households** participating in Food For Assets activities.
- **34,000 farmers** participating in SAMS initiatives trained in post-harvest handling and farming as a business
- **12,000 farmers** supplying food to 84 schools participating in the Home-Grown School Meals programme.
- **7,000 farmers** have received an insurance payout valued at USD 400,000 as a compensation for dry spells that affected their crops. This is part of the R4 Resilience Rural Initiative which started in 2015 with 500 farmers in one district. In 2018, **39,000 farmers** have joined the initiative in six districts.
- **22,000 farmers** (77% women) participated in 846 savings groups, accumulating almost USD 400,000 in deposits and enabled more than 15,000 smallholder farmers to borrow around USD 246,000 to invest in income-generating activities. Women participating in the integrated resilience programme through savings increased by 274%.

## Stories from the field

Watch this video to see how WFP's Resilience package is helping participants like Pilirani in Zomba: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNRI4uxCoy8>

Because a picture is worth 1,000 words, see the results of our livelihoods program in action through the photo story of WFP beneficiaries here: <https://bit.ly/2VKp1Vu>

## Partnerships

WFP needs stable, predictable, and flexible support to carry out our ambitious new Country Strategic Plan 2019-2023 and – looking further ahead – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The results we achieve can only happen thanks to our generous donors and strong partnerships. Despite renewed support from various donors, our resilience-building programme needs long-term commitments in order to continue our efforts to support the Government in breaking the cycle of hunger.

## In Numbers (2019)

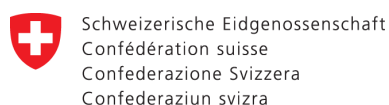
**4.5 million** tree seedlings raised

**312,000** cubic meters of compost generated

**900** hectares household vegetable gardens established

**18,000** hermetic bags distributed to farmers for improved storage

**19,800** hectares of land rehabilitated with soil and water conservation measures



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

