

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## Prevention of undernutrition

### Background

The World Food Programme's (WFP) nutrition programmes in Malawi have been focusing on the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition, stunting prevention, nutrition sensitive programming, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network support, and evidence generation and capacity strengthening across all levels.

According to the SMART nutrition survey conducted in July 2019, there is a sharp decline in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM), showing that investments in nutrition are paying off. However, stunting prevalence—a sign of chronic malnutrition—still remains high at 37%. Even with the decline in undernutrition, continued efforts are needed to address micronutrient deficiencies and the high rates of stunting.

### Towards Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

WFP is proposing a reshaped nutrition strategy focused on the prevention of undernutrition through the reduction of the prevalence of stunting and micronutrient deficiencies with an emphasis on capacity strengthening for Government at national and district levels.

### Geographic Prioritization

In order to enhance synergies with existing investments, particularly in social protection and livelihoods, WFP plans to strengthen nutrition-sensitive prevention activities in 9 districts in the Southern and Central regions (Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Balaka, Zomba and Machinga in the Southern region, and Dedza, Ntchisi and Salima in the Central region).

***USD 4 million required for prevention of undernutrition and capacity strengthening from January to December 2020***

### In numbers

**37%** of children between 6-59 months suffer from stunting

**61%** of children aged 0-5 months are exclusively breastfed

**24%** of children aged 6-23 months are receiving diversified diets

According to the 2015 Cost of Hunger in Africa study, undernutrition is associated with 23 percent of child mortality cases in Malawi. The annual **costs of child undernutrition** are estimated at **USD 597 million**, equivalent to **10.3 percent** of Malawi's GDP.

### A Different Approach to Nutrition

Several strategies will be undertaken to prevent undernutrition and alleviate the underlying causes of malnutrition. These include:

- (i) Roll-out support and capacity strengthening at district level on policies and guidelines;
- (ii) Home fortification through micronutrient supplementation;
- (iii) Nutrition-sensitive social protection through conditional transfers incorporating Social Behaviour Change Communication;
- (iv) Nutrition-sensitive Home-Grown School Feeding;
- (v) Engagement of private sector in nutrition across the value chain through the SUN Business Network;
- (vi) Evidence generation.

**Social Behaviour Change Communication** focused on nutrition is integrated across all WFP programmes as a sustainable approach to improve family, maternal, and child nutrition practices.

**Design and implementation:** WFP activities are deliberately designed to broker partnerships for delivery of nutrition services at district level to create a common vision for nutrition, community stewardship, and sustained commitment to end hunger and malnutrition.

**Building Partnerships:** WFP is building strong alliances with the Government, NGOs, the UN, and bilateral partners at both the national and district level. The SUN Business Network is also an important catalyst of private sector engagement in nutrition.



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### Exit Strategy

In line with the 2018 – 2022 National Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Policy, WFP supports the Ministry of Health in the implementation of the Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and Nutrition Care Support and Treatment (NCST) programmes in the country.

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition is already mainstreamed throughout the government system. WFP will continue to provide technical support, capacity building, and the delivery of supplies for moderate acute malnutrition treatment with available resources for 6 districts that are funded until December 2019, all while strengthening nutrition-sensitive and prevention activities.

For non-funded districts, WFP will continue to support the effective use of pre-positioned commodities with continuous technical assistance in facilitating CMAM for other community-based interventions. WFP will provide support emergencies for the treatment of acute malnutrition.

WFP will continue to support the scale-up of social behavior change communications in supported communities to promote key practices, including infant and young child feeding, water and sanitation hygiene, and dietary diversity. This will be done through social behavior change communications materials, capacity building of frontline workers and care group volunteers, and strengthening of district coordination structures.

### Our partners



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