



WFP Malawi Country Brief

May 2020

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 high level of stunting (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

2018 Human Development Index: 172 out of 189 countries

Income Level: Low

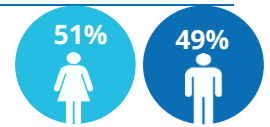
Stunting: 37% of children aged 6-59 months

In Numbers

749 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Malawi

USD 34.2 million required for WFP to respond

850,000 households targeted for the COVID-crisis Intervention



Strategic Outcome 1

- Refugees:** To limit exposure for beneficiaries and staff, WFP has been providing two-month rations of food distributions to the 41,000 beneficiaries in Dzaleka Camp that depend on WFP support. Food items (beans and vegetable oil) were distributed while cash transfers for the cereal component of the food basket were done through bank transfers to be easily withdrawn via MyBucks—a Financial Service Provider in the camp—at participants' own convenience.
- COVID Crisis Intervention:** The Government is preparing an emergency cash intervention to effectively protect its most vulnerable populations from the negative socio-economic effects of COVID-19. Over 850,000 households are targeted with a six-month response. WFP and UN sister agencies (UNICEF and ILO) have already been providing technical assistance specifically through the guideline's development, targeting and verification exercises, communication support, monitoring, capacity-strengthening activities, and plan to assist with implementation of the activities in selected districts. This will ultimately leave behind a social protection floor in urban areas of Malawi that can be utilized in the medium-term for social protection programmes.

Strategic Outcome 2

- School Feeding:** Since school closures due to COVID-19 in March 2020, 600,000 learners have been missing out on daily school meals provided by WFP. Phase one of distributions of take-home rations of remaining stocks to 21,000 learners in four districts has been completed. In June, WFP is rolling out the second phase distributions for all 600,000 learners currently out of school in seven districts.

Strategic Outcome 3

- Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment:** Nutrition activities have been adjusted in the wake of COVID-19. WFP completed orientation for health workers in 13 districts on nutrition response in the context of COVID-19. Meanwhile, other activities including procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE), and social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) on COVID-19 prevention are ongoing.



Contact info: Badre Bahaji (badre.bahaji@wfp.org)

Country Director: Benoit Thiry

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/malawi

Cover picture: Learner benefitting from take-home rations in Malawi with schools closed due to COVID-19. Credit: WFP/Francis Thawani

Country Strategic Plan (2019–2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
621.1 m	148.0 m	42.5 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 all year long.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activity 1: Provide cash and/or food transfers to refugees, malnourished people and 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*

Activity 2: Support national social protection systems to become increasingly shock-responsive and hunger- and nutrition-sensitive

Activity 3: Provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren 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*

Activity 4: Provide 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 in Malawi have enhanced resilience, through diversified livelihoods, increased marketable surpluses and access to well-functioning food systems and efficient supply chains by 2030.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activity 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, agencies and enterprises in Malawi have increased capacity and improved supply chain systems to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activity 6: Provide capacity strengthening, skills transfer, partnership activities and logistics and procurement services to national and local institutions and private-sector enterprises involved in food security, nutrition, food safety, disaster risk management and emergency response

Activity 7: Provide services through the Logistics Cluster to National Disaster Management Offices and other relevant partners to improve emergency logistics coordination, access to services and supply chain management

Activity 8: Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and other relevant partners to ensure effective emergency assistance.

Strategic Outcome 4

- **Livelihoods:** Preparatory activities for the start of the cycle in July were done in March including Community-Based Participatory Planning (CBPPs) workshops and Seasonal Livelihood Planning (SLPs) prior to the confirmation of COVID-19 cases in Malawi. With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Malawi, some activities under WFP's food-assistance-for-assets activities targeting over 150,000 participants will be amended due to restrictions by the Government in line with COVID-19 prevention measures.
- WFP, in collaboration with Farm Radio Trust, continued to facilitate messaging on climate information and agriculture advice for airing on radio to 700,000 listeners across Malawi. The messaging has since also included information on COVID-19, [learn more here](#).

Strategic Outcome 5

- As co-lead of the Logistics Cluster, WFP has supported the humanitarian community in drafting the response plan for logistics. Furthermore, WFP has deployed and erected mobile storage units to support various stakeholders including the Government with augmented storage capacity for isolation and screening of COVID-19 patients.
- WFP has facilitated the reception and transportation of various humanitarian cargo (test kits and PPE) on behalf of the Malawi Government from various stakeholders including the Jack Ma Foundation and the Ethiopian Prime Minister.
- On 3 June, the Government of Malawi approved the request to operate the WFP Aviation air passenger service to transport members of the humanitarian community (UN, I/NGO, embassies and donor community) to and from Malawi. First flights are expected to begin on 16 June.

Market Monitoring

- WFP began collecting availability and price information for both food and non-food commodities (Minimum Expenditure Basket module adapted for Malawi) in April from approximately 200 traders across the country to better understand how the various COVID-19 mitigating measures are impacting market access as well as inform response modality discussions. Analysis of the information is [available here](#).



WFP in Malawi has enforced COVID-19 preventive measures in all its operations to ensure the safety of beneficiaries, staff and partners. [Check out our latest story](#) to see how we are still delivering amid a global pandemic. Photo: WFP/ Badre Bahaji

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Flanders, Germany, Iceland, Mastercard, National Post Lottery Netherlands (NPL), Norway, Russia, SDG Fund, Swiss Development Cooperation, UK (DFID), USAID.