



WFP Malawi Country Brief January 2021

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, in particular prolonged dry spells and flash floods.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by a volatile economy, high rates of HIV/AIDS infection (at 9.6 percent), a low primary school completion rate (at 51 percent), and a 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 (SDG) with a particular emphasis on achieving zero hunger (SDG 2).

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: **17.5 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **174 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

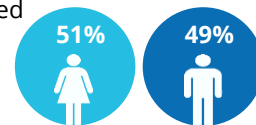
Stunting: **37% of children aged 6-59 months old**

In Numbers

14,436 active cases of COVID-19 in Malawi (31 January 2021)

USD 12.1 million six-month (January - June 2021) net funding requirements

11,000 refugee households assisted with food and cash distributions



Strategic Outcome 1

- **Refugees:** 11,000 refugee households have received cash transfers for the January-February 2021 cycle covering the cereal, pulses and oil components of the food basket. One hundred refugees have received ATM cards and financial literacy trainings. In addition, refugees have received Corn Soya Blend with Sugar (CSB+) for malnutrition prevention.
- **COVID-19 Cash Response:** WFP is targeting 12,000 urban households in 7 towns (bomas) with cash distributions to help respond to the economic impact of COVID-19 on urban areas from December 2020 to March 2021. The response is ongoing in Machinga, Mangochi and Nsanje. As of 31 January, 1,100 households have received cash support. The next cycle of distribution will also target Balaka, Dedza, Neno, Salima districts and is planned to start in early February.
- **Rural Lean Season Cash Response:** WFP is targeting 230,000 rural households affected by weather shocks in 12 districts from December 2020 to March 2021. Cash distributions under the lean season response for December were completed in Nsanje, Zomba and Machinga, reaching 52,000 households. Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, WFP is conducting double distributions to cover the months of January and February. First distributions are planned to start in early February.
- **Support to Government's In-kind Rural Response:** WFP is providing logistics and technical assistance to the Government-led food distributions, targeting 120,000 rural households in 5 districts. As of 31 January, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) has distributed 1,500 mt to 15,000 households in Mangochi and Blantyre.

Strategic Outcome 2

- **School Feeding:** Following the rise in COVID-19 cases in the country, the Government ordered the closure of all schools from 15 January to 08 February. WFP's take-home support for the 600,000 learners under its school feeding programme was completed for the October-December 2020 cycle.
- **Social Protection:** Technical assistance on the use of the social protection system for targeting and delivery of lean season assistance is underway in target districts, with a communication strategy rolled out. The Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) has been used for the targeting beneficiaries on the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) for the first time in Nsanje.

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Cover picture: Emme Kanama has received a cash transfer from WFP as part of the Lean Season Response in Zomba district. Credit: WFP/Tawonga Ngoma

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
621.1 m	202.3 m	12.1 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.

Strategic Result 8: Common Services

Strategic Outcome 6: Humanitarian and development partners in Malawi have access to increased emergency services throughout the crisis.
Focus area: Crisis 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 3

- **Malnutrition Prevention:** WFP has received a timely contribution amounting to EUR 550,000 (USD 650,000) from Ireland to support the Government of Malawi nutrition interventions. The contribution will be used to promote improved access to quality nutrition and health services, targeting 30,000 individuals in the Neno district. In addition, the contribution will be used to support the Government in establishing a National Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition. The Centre will be a national hub for evidence generation, knowledge sharing and information management for nutrition innovation.

Strategic Outcome 4

- **Livelihoods:** WFP's Food-Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) programme is supporting 128,000 households in eight districts with land resource management, irrigation, crop and livestock production, and/or reforestation. WFP started implementing a transition strategy in selected areas where WFP had been working for multiple years and deemed able to transition into other kinds of support. This resulted in almost 61,000 households implementing FFA activities without cash transfers in 2020.
- About 66,000 farming households have enrolled for crop insurance for the 2020/2021 growing season. These households will be compensated in case of crop failure while they work on assets to improve their resilience to weather shocks.

Strategic Outcome 5

- WFP continued to collect availability and price information for both food and non-food commodities from traders and households across the country to better understand how COVID-19 and its associated mitigating measures are impacting market access and food security, as well as to help inform response modality discussions. These analysis bulletins have been disseminated to stakeholders through the bi-weekly [Minimum Expenditure Basket bulletin](#) and the monthly [COVID-19 Household Food Security Monitoring bulletin](#).

Strategic Outcome 6

- As co-lead of the Logistics Cluster, WFP has provided mobile storage units to support the Ministry of Health to be used as COVID-19 isolation centres or treatment units and Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre.
- Furthermore, WFP has also provided mobile storage units to support the Ministry of Education at Lilongwe Girls Secondary School in Lilongwe and UNHCR at Dzaleka Camp in Dowa to be used as isolation centres.
- Lastly, WFP has supported the Community Health Science Unit-CHSU with the relocation of an 8m x 6.5m tent which is being used as a testing lab for COVID-19.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Flanders, ECHO, European Union (INTPA), FEED, Flanders, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Mastercard, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Russia, SDG Fund, Swiss Development Cooperation, UK (FCDO), USAID.