



World Food Programme

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# WFP Malawi Country Brief May 2021



## 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, and are 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**

2019 Human Development Index: **174 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

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

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

**Country Director:** Benoit Thiry

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

Photo: Cecilia Matewere is a participant of WFP's Food Assistance for Assets programme in Malawi. WFP/Badre Bahaji

## In Numbers

**335 active cases** of COVID-19 in Malawi (31 May 2021)

**USD 4.2 million** six-month (June - November 2021) net funding requirements

**11,000 refugee households** assisted with food and cash distributions

51%



49%



## Strategic Outcome 1

- **Refugees:** Double distributions for the months of May and June are underway with in-kind transfers of Corn Soya Blend, to be followed by cash transfers for the food basket for 11,000 refugees in the camp. Monthly distributions are planned to be conducted from July onwards should the low number of COVID-19 cases continue.
- Furthermore, 5,000 households are receiving debit cards from WFP's financial service provider — MyBucks — to access their cash transfers as e-payments.
- **Crisis Response:** The Lean Season 2020/2021 and Boma Response endline assessment was conducted in mid-April, the results of which overall indicate improved food security for WFP beneficiaries. More details can be [found here](#). Furthermore, as part of its technical assistance package to the Government, the M&E and Social Protection Units hosted a week-long Tableau training for select Government staff members, allowing them to learn how data visualizations can be utilized for their work.

## Strategic Outcome 2

- **School Feeding:** In May, WFP started distribution of take-home rations for the current term for the 600,000 learners under its school feeding programme in the country. The adaptation of the school feeding programme to take-home rations is in line with the Ministry of Education's guidance to partners during the pandemic. Rations are being provided in-kind or as cash transfers. As of 31 May, 412,477 learners have been reached, with distributions slated for completion in June 2021.
- **Social Protection:** In collaboration with the Government and UNICEF, WFP is finalising an After-Action Review of the lean season response, including the use of social protection as part of this response. In addition, WFP is continuing its preparedness work and strengthening the social protection system to better address food and nutrition outcomes, including in times of shocks.

## Strategic Outcome 3

- **Malnutrition Prevention:** A total of 75,387 households (out of a planned 60,000 households) were reached with nutrition messages on topics including infant and young child feeding, maternal nutrition, hygiene and sanitation through household visits by care group members across the five target districts of Balaka, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe and Zomba.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>629.7 m</b>	<b>225.5 m</b>	<b>4.2 m</b>

## 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 4

- **Livelihoods:** The Livelihoods programmes piloted the use of a self-powering cooler (Fenik) which relies exclusively on water for functioning. The coolers were distributed to 300 households engaged under WFP-supported irrigation schemes in eight districts in the Southern region of Malawi. Baseline data has been collected to be used to estimate the increase of shelf life and associated cost savings and nutritional outcomes.
- PULA in collaboration with WFP and District Councils conducted crop cut assessments to determine the yield lost by farmers due to adverse weather conditions and other shocks (i.e. pests). The resulting yield from the crop cuts exercise will determine the pay-outs to be made by NICO (insurance firm) to the 66,000 insured farmers supported by WFP and the Adaptation Fund Programmes.

## Strategic Outcome 5

- **Food Security Analysis:** 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](#).
- The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) began its annual Acute IPC assessments on 31 May 2021. The results of these assessments will be used to predict the number of people classified as vulnerable during the upcoming 2021/2022 Lean Season. In addition, WFP and MVAC received funding from USAID to conduct Malawi's first-ever Chronic IPC activity. This will allow the Government and development partners to better identify and understand underlying food and nutrition security issues as well as work to address them, mitigating acute needs over time.

## Strategic Outcome 6

- **Emergency Supply Chain Support to the COVID-19 Response:** The cluster supported UNHCR with the transportation of three mobile storage units (MSU) back from Dzaleka Refugee Camp to the warehouse. The tents were used for the vaccination campaign.
- The cluster supported the deployment and installation of five tents at the Malawi Blood transfusion Services (MBTS) in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu districts.
- Meanwhile, in May, 97 metric tonnes of commodities including maize, pulses, vegetable oil and Super Cereal were exported to other country offices (Zimbabwe and Angola).

## 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.