Operational Context

Malawi is a small landlocked country in Sub-Saharan Africa with a population expanding rapidly at 3 percent per year. With most livelihoods dependent on rainfed 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 weak economic growth, a high risk of overall debt distress with limited space to absorb shocks, a low primary school completion rate (51 percent), a high prevalence of stunting (37 percent for children under 5) and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection (9.6 percent). WFP’s activities support the Government for a food and nutrition-secure and resilient future, and are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with emphasis on achieving zero hunger (SDG 2).

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.

In Numbers

12,475 active cases of COVID-19 in Malawi (31 July 2021)

USD 1 million six-month (August 2021 - January 2022) net funding requirements

11,000 refugee households assisted with food and cash distributions

Strategic Outcome 1

- **Refugees:** Double distributions for the months of July and August were completed, with in-kind transfers of SuperCereal (corn soya blend plus), and cash transfers for the food basket for 11,000 refugee households in the camp.
- Furthermore, 200 participants in the camp were engaged under livelihood projects including soya production, mushroom production and soap and COVID-19 mask making.
- So far, 73 metric tons of soya produced in and around the camp have been sold within the camp. WFP plans to scale up the livelihood activities to an additional 400 refugee households in August.

Strategic Outcome 2

- **School Feeding:** As part of scaling up of the Tsogolo La Thanzi programme (TSOLATA) supported by European Union, a trainer-of-trainers workshop was conducted for 40 participants from the key sectors of education, agriculture, nutrition and monitoring and evaluation from Chikwawa, Nsanje Phalombe and Zomba districts. The training was facilitated by the Ministry of Education, Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, with technical support from WFP.
- Under the UN Joint Programme on Girls’ Education (JPGE), the Ministry of Education jointly with the three UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP) held a series of meetings in Kasungu District to introduce and start the scale up of the programme in the district.

- **Social Protection:** WFP is continuing its preparedness work and strengthening the social protection system to better address food and nutrition outcomes, including in times of shocks. In June, WFP finalised a communication handbook on shock-sensitive social protection, as well as a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis on the use of the national social registry for food insecurity interventions.

Strategic Outcome 3

- **Malnutrition Prevention:** Household door-to-door visits were conducted by care groups supported by WFP to disseminate nutrition messages on infant and young child feeding, maternal nutrition and hygiene and sanitation practices across the five districts of Balaka, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, and Zomba. About 70,500 households were reached with the messages.
**Strategic Outcome 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Activity 1:** Provide cash and/or food transfers to refugees, malnourished people and the most vulnerable populations affected by seasonal shocks.

**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.

**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 Outcome 3:** End Malnutrition

**Activity 4:** Provide chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency prevention services to at-risk populations in targeted areas.

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Sustainable Food Systems

**Activity 5:** Provide resilience-building support, education and systems-strengthening services to smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Capacity Strengthening

**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 Outcome 6:** Common Services

**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.

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**Strategic Outcome 4**

- **Livelihoods:** Food assistance for assets efforts in July focused on sensitization meetings at district and community levels in the targeted districts as part of the roll-out of the 2021/22 livelihood season. The district and the community agreed to the implementation modalities.
- Furthermore, WFP is piloting use of innovations for participants under the Livelihoods activity. In July, WFP trained participants in the use of the *Pesitho* solar cooker to be used as an alternative energy source.
- Meanwhile, under the Smallholder Agriculture Market Support component, the livelihoods activity is expanding to support farmers who are part of the Home-Grown School Feeding programme in Mangochi District supported by the Government of Iceland.

**Strategic Outcome 5**

- **Food Security Analysis:** WFP continues to collect both commodity prices and availability from traders across the country, as well as food security data from some 2,500 households to understand how the COVID-19 situation and its associated risk mitigation measures are impacting market access and food security. These analysis bulletins are disseminated to stakeholders through the bi-weekly *Minimum Expenditure Basket* and monthly *COVID-19 Household Food Security Monitoring* bulletins.
- The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) has finalised the Household Survey and Market Assessment data collection and analysis. Preliminary findings from the MVAC Market Assessment report shows that maize grain is likely to be always available in almost all markets during the lean season. However, this report will further be enriched by the Household Economy Approach to obtain additional food security indicators for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis.

**Strategic Outcome 6**

- **Emergency Supply Chain Support to the COVID-19 Response:** As co-lead of the logistics cluster, WFP has deployed and installed eight tents in health facilities across the country for COVID-19 screening, isolation and treatment.
- On Logistics, WFP has supported the Ministry of Health to transport and deliver urgently needed medical equipment for COVID-19 treatment, including oxygen cylinders, oxygen concentrators, regulators and humidifiers to 25 hospitals across the country. Malawi is in its third wave of the pandemic.
- For procurement, in July, 55 metric tons of SuperCereal were exported to Mozambique for WFP’s emergency operations there.

**Donors**

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