WFP Malawi 
Country Brief 
February 2022

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, 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
85,276 cumulative and 7,205 active cases of COVID-19 in Malawi (24 February 2022)

USD 1.7 million six-month (March - August 2022) net funding requirements

21,000 households affected by tropical storm Ana assisted

Strategic Outcome 1

- **Floods Response:** Tropical storm Ana has affected over 900,000 people in Malawi destroying houses, crops and livelihoods. WFP has distributed fortified corn-soya blend (CSB) to 95,000 people in the four most-affected districts as part of its initial response to affected populations.

- **Refugees:** Double distributions for the months of January and February were completed, with cash (e-payments) and for 11,000 refugee households (approximately 46,000 refugees) in Dzaleka refugee camp.

- **Lean Season Response:** Cash distributions in Chikwawa and cash and food distributions in Mangochi for the lean season response have been completed, reaching a total of 30,236 households with a double ration for January and February. Many of those reached have also been affected by the flooding.

Strategic Outcome 2

- **School feeding:** WFP activated the crisis modifier under its EU-funded TSOLATA school meals intervention due to Tropical Storm Ana. A first round of distributions of take-home rations began targeting 2,500 children in schools affected by the storm but not covered under the regular school meals intervention. As of 24 February, WFP, through the Department of Education, has reached over 2,000 children.

- **Social protection:** As part of the 2021/2022 lean season response, the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare is supporting about 79,000 households receiving regular support from the Social Cash Transfer Programme with a cash top up to meet their food gap. WFP and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry in strengthening its systems such as the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) which is used for beneficiary targeting.

Strategic Outcome 3

- **Malnutrition prevention:** Members of the WFP-convened Scaling-up Nutrition Business Network (SBN) have organised food and non-food item donations for 2,800 flood-affected families worth USD 22,000.

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Photo: Esnat Phiri is one of 4,500 flood-affected people that have received corn soya blend from WFP in Phalombe District. © WFP/ Francis Thawani.
Strategic Outcome 4

- **Livelihoods**: In February, resilience building activities focused on (i) tree planting and (ii) land resource activities including building water conservation structures.
- Simultaneously, WFP along with district councils and cooperating partners are assessing damage caused by floods in Southern Region on assets created by participants.
- Furthermore, collections for crop insurance premiums were done. Over 11,000 farmers out of the planned 28,000 farmers have contributed their premiums representing 47 percent of the planned.
- In a new edition of *Voices from the field*, WFP has collected case studies of participants of livelihoods interventions [view here](#).

Strategic Outcome 5

- **Malawi vulnerability assessment committee integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analysis**: WFP supported the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee to complete its market and price monitoring in early February. The results point towards a potentially lower harvest compared to 2020 and 2021 levels because of the late onset of the rains coupled with the adverse effects of Tropical Storm Ana.
- In mid-February, Malawi launched its first-ever Chronic IPC Analysis, the results of which will be shared in April/May and will be used to inform policy design.

Strategic Outcome 6

- **Emergency supply chain support**: As co-lead of the Logistics cluster, WFP is providing transportation of relief items to five of the most-affected districts in the wake of Cyclone Ana. Furthermore, WFP has provided a boat to Médecins Sans Frontiers to support needs assessment in Nsanje District.
- In support of the National Health Cluster flood response, WFP has set up nine mobile storage units in Chikwawa and six units in Nsanje to provide additional space.
- Through its global commodity management facility, WFP Malawi is supporting the Madagascar emergency response with approximately 1,400 mt of pulses from local suppliers.
- WFP as co-lead of the National Logistics Cluster provides free-to-user emergency logistics support to humanitarian responders (i.e. transportation, storage, cargo handling, engineering). Requests for support should be channelled to malawi.tropicalstormana@wfp.org.

**Donors**

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