



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

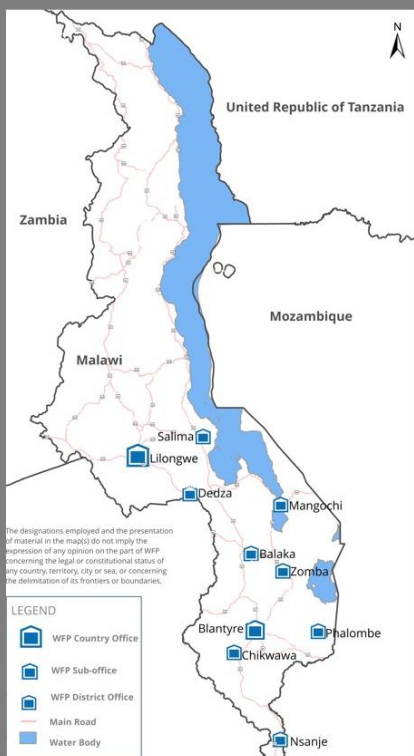
# WFP Malawi Country Brief February 2023



## 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, especially dry spells and floods.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by weak economic growth, high overall debt distress, low primary school completion (51 percent), a high prevalence of stunting and high prevalence of HIV/AIDS infection (8.8 percent). WFP supports the Government for a food and nutrition secure and resilient future, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



## In Numbers

**3.8 million Malawians** (20 percent of the population) face acute food insecurity for the lean season (October 2022 - March 2023)

**USD 13.1 million** six-month (March – August 2023) net funding requirements for WFP

**48,000 refugees and asylum-seekers** receiving cash assistance

### Strategic Outcome 1

- **2022/2023 Lean season response:** The Government of Malawi is implementing a response plan for the 2022/2023 lean season where 3.8 million people need food assistance. WFP's response is supporting 360,000 food insecure people (80,000 households) through three modalities: in kind food transfers, cash transfers and mix modality of both in kind and cash transfers. A monitoring [visit](#) took place in Phalombe with WFP's partners namely Iceland, Japan, Norway and the United Kingdom on 1 March.
- **Refugees:** February monthly distribution was completed via cash (e-payments) for 11,000 refugee households (approximately 48,000 refugees) in Dzaleka refugee camp. Transfer values have been adjusted upwards based on prevailing market prices. WFP has been facing challenges with an increasing caseload of refugees and rising food prices and limited funding to boost self-reliance approaches.

### Strategic Outcome 2

- **School feeding:** WFP is supporting 676,000 school children in 476 primary schools, using the home-grown school feeding approach which promotes using fresh food supplied by local smallholder farmers to provide a daily hot meal to learners before class. WFP is also mainstreaming social behaviour change communication messaging on nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene in order to prevent malnutrition and raise awareness on cholera prevention.
- **Social protection:** Cash plus activities were [rolled out](#) along with the lean season response to fast track recovery after the lean season. To break cyclic humanitarian needs, it is crucial to go beyond providing relief assistance with other types of support so that the affected population can get back on their feet. This approach - commonly known as "cash-plus" - consists of complementary activities which affected beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance choose to do to fast-track their recovery. This season, 15,000 people are receiving cash to buy food in the local market but also plant trees, protect riverbanks and build dykes to be more resilient to floods.

Population: est. 18.6 million

2021 Human Development Index: **169**  
out of 191 countries

Income Level: **Low**

Stunting: **35 percent** of children aged  
6-59 months old

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

Photo: WFP is supporting the Government to respond to the cholera outbreak by implementing complementary activities for cholera prevention in the 2022/2023 lean season response. © WFP/ Badre Bahaji.

# WFP Country Strategy

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
629.7 m	225.5 m	13.1 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 food 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

### 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:** Resilience Building

**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.

**Activity 9.** Support national and sub-national systems strengthening activities to address systemic challenges, reduce the impact of shocks and improve local resilience of the health supply chain in Malawi.

## Strategic Outcome 4

- **Livelihoods:** WFP's food-assistance-for-assets (FFA) intervention is supporting 118,000 households in eight districts with land resource management, irrigation, crop and livestock production, and/or reforestation. WFP is supporting smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods through income diversification by linking smallholder farmers to markets through school feeding and the private sector. WFP facilitated signing of 731 marketing agreements for smallholder farmers and farmers' groups to supply cotton, soya beans, maize and groundnuts to private companies as off-takers.
- To support the economic empowerment of women and youth, WFP is providing village savings and loans associations with loans from revolving funds. Currently, 52 of the 64 targeted groups (with 15 to 20 members each) in the eight districts have obtained loans worth USD 25,000 to establish enterprises. Women comprise 76 percent of the total beneficiaries while youth (both men and women) comprise 85 percent. Among enterprises funded include agro-dealing, buying and selling fish, fabric and textile sale including tailoring, confectionery, livestock production, groceries shop and electronic money services.

## Strategic Outcome 5

- **The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis:** WFP has been supporting the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) with technical support to conduct food security analysis in the country. For 2023, MVAC requires USD 0.2 million to complete full analysis of acute food security in the year.

## Strategic Outcome 6

- **Emergency supply chain support:** Under the global commodity management facility, WFP continued to procure food to be delivered to other countries in the region. Specifically in February, 150 mt of supercereal was procured and [delivered](#) by rail to Mozambique.

## In pictures



Mwasiya received cash assistance for the 2022/2023 lean season response and is doing cash-plus activities in her community. Watch the [video here](#).

## Donors

Adaptation Fund, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, European Union International Partnerships, Flanders, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Takeda, United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development office, United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.