



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
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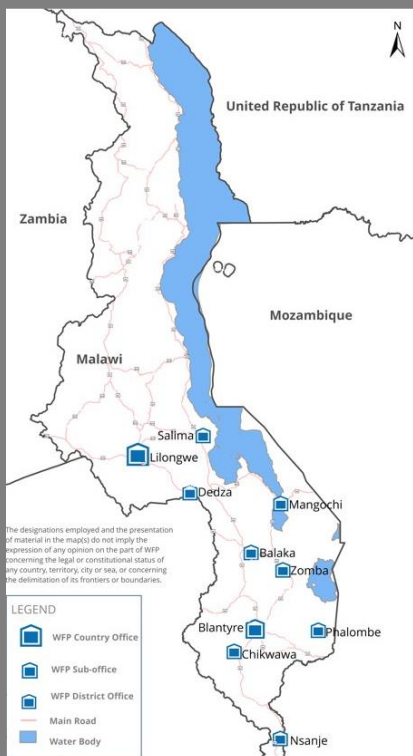
WFP Malawi Country Brief June 2023



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.



Population: est. 18.6 million

Income Level: Low

2021 Human Development Index: 169 out of 191 countries

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

In Numbers

5.4 million Malawians (20 percent of the population) face chronic food insecurity

USD 4.1 million six-month (July – December 2023) net funding requirements for WFP

51,000 refugees and asylum-seekers receiving cash assistance

Strategic Outcome 1

- **Cyclone Freddy flood response:** Following the passage of Cyclone Freddy, which brought floods across the country, the Government of Malawi led a response plan along with humanitarian partners to reach affected populations. WFP complemented the Government's maize distribution with two months of food basket items (vegetable oil, pulses and super cereal), in the four most-affected districts of Chikwawa, Mulanje, Nsanje, and Phalombe to reach 507,000 people. WFP uses cash-based transfers instead of in-kind distributions in areas with market functionality.
- **Refugees:** June monthly distributions were completed via cash (e-payments) for 11,000 refugee households (approximately 51,000 refugees) in Dzaleka refugee camp. Since May 2023, WFP expanded its unconditional cash assistance to cover all refugees registered with UNHCR as living in Dzaleka. WFP has been facing challenges with an increasing caseload of refugees and rising food prices and limited funding to boost self-reliance approaches. Due to resource constraints, WFP is unable to provide a 100 percent ration equivalent to full monthly food needs and will switch to providing only 50 percent of the ration size from July.
- WFP has resourced USD 1.2 million for cash assistance to refugees from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Germany, and the United States Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. However, a USD 1.6 million funding gap remains for WFP to continue providing food assistance at 75 percent ration size to refugees until the end of the year.

Strategic Outcome 2

- **School feeding:** Under the home-grown school feeding programme, 183 schools (out of 216) temporarily switched to in-kind feeding to allow sufficient time for farmers to recover from the shock in Chikwawa, Nsanje, Phalombe, and Zomba districts. Emergency school feeding take-home rations were provided for selected schools not covered under WFP's regular school feeding programme reaching 15,000 children. Due to quality issues of the super cereal, WFP switched to cash-based transfers of take-home rations to reach children in schools affected by the floods.
- **Social protection:** In collaboration with the Government and partners, an after-action-review of the 2022/2023 lean season response was conducted. The review included the use of the social protection system jointly supported by UNICEF and WFP for targeting and delivery of lean season assistance as well as the complementary activities implemented during the response. The final report is expected to be published in July.

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Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

| Total Requirement (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 637 m | 307 m | 4.1 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, PBWG, 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 targets 118,000 households in eight districts with land resource management, irrigation, crop, and livestock production, and/or reforestation. Preparations are underway for the 2023 livelihoods season, which will start in July. A two-week Training of Trainers (ToT) focused on building resilience to climate shocks is scheduled for July. The training brings together governments, universities, non-governmental organisations, and WFP staff from the region to share knowledge and expertise on building resilience.
- As part of the Cyclone Freddy response, WFP will also support early recovery efforts targeting 10,000 households in vulnerable communities affected by climate change in the 2023 livelihoods season starting in July. The initiative will aim to improve livelihoods and promote healthier environments while reducing the impact of future shocks such as floods or dry spells.

Strategic Outcome 5

- The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis:** The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) is conducting its annual food security assessments from May to July to inform the humanitarian needs for the 2023/2024 lean season. The report is expected to be finalized at the end of July with a likely increase in food insecurity due to the impact of the floods this year.

Strategic Outcome 6

- Emergency supply chain support:** Air operations were completed at the end of May, and the helicopter departed Malawi at the beginning of June. Meanwhile, WFP continued to augment logistics interventions with road and boat transport, storage, and coordination services to support the Tropical Cyclone Freddy and Cholera responses on behalf of the humanitarian community.

In pictures



Farmers affected by the floods in southern Malawi are starting to replant following the passage of Cyclone Freddy. From July, WFP is rolling out early recovery interventions to help flood-affected populations bounce back from the crisis.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Canada, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union International Partnerships, France, 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.

Cover photo: Katherine is one of the farmers in Phalombe who have been building assets to protect the environment against climatic shocks. During Cyclone Freddy, none of their crops and houses were affected by the floods.
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