



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
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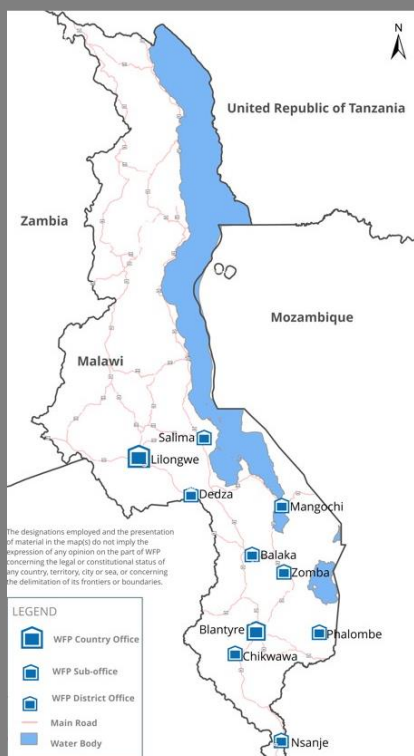
WFP Malawi Country Brief August 2023



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 drought and cyclone-induced 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. WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: est. 19 million

2021 Human Development Index: 169
out of 191 countries

Income Level: Low

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

In Numbers

4.4 million Malawians (22 percent of the population)
face acute food insecurity for October - March

USD 33.8 million six-month net funding requirements for
WFP (September 2023 – February 2024)

50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers receiving cash
assistance

Strategic Outcome 1

- **Cyclone response:** Following the passage of Tropical Cyclone Freddy in mid-March, which brought heavy floods across the south of the country, the Government of Malawi together with humanitarian partners led a response to assist the affected population. Cyclone Freddy affected 2.3 million people, displacing 659,000 and killing 1,200. In August, the Government and the United Nations led an after-action review of the response to the cyclone. WFP participated and supported with recommendations and developing five-month preparedness plans for the food security cluster and the transport and logistics cluster.
- **Refugees:** WFP has been facing challenges with an increasing population of refugees, rising food prices and limited funding to boost self-reliance approaches. Due to resource constraints, WFP reduced food assistance (a cash-based transfer) from the equivalent of a 75 percent ration to a 50 percent ration from July. Distributions for July and August reached the 50,000 refugees in Dzaleka camp.
- In 2023 so far, WFP has received support for cash assistance to refugees from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, Germany, and the United States Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. However, WFP is at risk of halting its refugee assistance from January 2024 should no additional resources be received.

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 of Cyclone Freddy 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, reaching 15,000 children in schools most affected by floods. Due to delays in production of corn-soya blend, WFP switched to cash-based transfers of take-home rations.
- **Social protection:** The after-action review of Cyclone Freddy response also covered learning on the use of the social cash transfer programme as a shock-sensitive social protection system for targeting and delivery of assistance implemented simultaneously with the lean season response.

Contact info: Kylie Scott (kylie.scott@wfp.org)
Country Director and Representative: Paul Turnbull
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/malawi

Cover photo: Nearly 18,000 mt of food and relief items was transported by WFP on behalf of the humanitarian community to flood-affected areas over land, water, and air in response to Cyclone Freddy. © WFP/ Badre Bahaii.

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
637 m	310 m	33.8 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 targeted 118,000 households in 8 districts with land resource management, irrigation, crop and livestock production, and reforestation. In August, participants rolled out the implementation of interventions for the 2023 livelihoods cycle. These included the maintenance of land resource assets such as deep trenches, eyebrow basins and check dams ahead of the rainy season (November-March).
- As part of the Cyclone Freddy response, WFP has expanded livelihood interventions to target an additional 10,000 vulnerable households in the most-affected communities in the 2023 cycle. The initiative aims 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 [published](#) the results of its annual food security assessments which indicates that 4.4 million people in the country (22 percent of the total population) will be acutely food insecure between October 2023 to March 2024 and will require humanitarian assistance. This is substantially higher than in the previous year (3.8 million) and more than double the average of the past five years (2.1 million).

Strategic Outcome 6

- Health supply chain systems:** In collaboration with government departments, WFP hosted a week-long health supply chain simulation exercise (SimEx) at the humanitarian staging area in Nsanje which attracted 65 participants from the 19 organisations represented. SimEx are aimed at preparing national actors to respond to health emergencies.

In pictures



For "World Humanitarian Day", we joined the rest of the world in celebrating the work humanitarians like Jamia did to support the response to tropical Cyclone Freddy, which brought disaster in Malawi in March 2023.

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.