**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.

**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.

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 Bahai.
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.

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