



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Malawi Country Brief

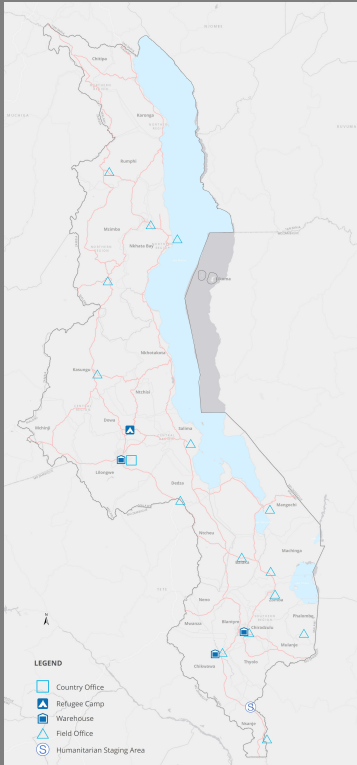
January 2024



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 (SDGs). WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: est. 20 million

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

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

In Numbers

4.4 million Malawians (22 percent of the population) face acute food insecurity October 2023 – March 2024.

USD 45.5 million six-month net funding requirements for WFP (February 2024 – July 2024)

51,391 refugees and asylum-seekers received cash assistance in January 2024

Strategic Outcome 1

- **Lean Season Response:** Food security in Malawi has deteriorated due to climate-related shocks, high prices and economic challenges. In the Government-led Lean Season Response Plan, USD 226 million is needed to address acute food security, with both cash and in-kind food transfers. This lean season (October 2023 to March 2024) sees 4.4 million people across 28 districts affected by food insecurity.
- WFP is currently providing support to Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe, and has procured maize grain and flour from Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania for distribution.
- **Refugees:** WFP reviewed its Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding with UNHCR and the Ministry of Homeland Security to align it with WFP's Country Strategic Plan 2024-2028.
- WFP Malawi faces a shortfall in funding for aiding refugees and asylum seekers. An estimated USD 3.5 million over the next six months is necessary to adequately assist 53,000 refugees from February to July 2024.
- WFP made cash transfers to 51,391 refugees in January 2024.

Strategic Outcome 2

- **School feeding:** WFP collaborated with the ministries of Agriculture, Education, and Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare for school and farmer groups assessments to prepare for the *TSOLATA II* project in northern Malawi; 200 schools are expected to participate in the Home-Grown School Feeding model.
- **Nutrition:** WFP engaged with the United Nations Joint Team on HIV to discuss the status of country envelope funds and snapshot joint plans for 2024.
- WFP also joined the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSCDF) Strategic Priority 3 Sub-Outputs discussions centred on human capital development, in preparation for the United Nations Joint Work Plan with the Government of Malawi.

Strategic Outcome 3

- **Livelihoods:** WFP has targeted 10,000 beneficiaries in the Cyclone Freddy recovery project to support communities affected by the cyclone in Chikwawa, Mulanje and Phalombe districts. Beneficiaries plant trees and construct soil and water conservation structures, among other activities.
- WFP has procured 300 mobile solar irrigation pumps to distribute to local farmers in eight districts of southern Malawi in order to enhance food production through irrigation.
- WFP collaborated with International Potato Center (CIP) and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) to identify sites for demonstration plots for production of orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and biofortified beans. This initiative will involve 100 smallholder farmers, 11 schools and 43 care groups that will host the demonstration plots.

Cover photo: Lean Season 2023/2024 beneficiary receives WFP food in Nsanje. © WFP/Francis Thawani.

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
332 m	21 m	45.5 m

Strategic Result 1: Access to Food

Strategic Outcome 1: People are better able to meet their urgent food and nutrition needs.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 1: Provide food assistance, nutrition, and livelihood support to populations in anticipation of and response to seasonal or other shocks, leveraging national social protection systems where possible.

Activity 2: Provide food and nutrition assistance, services and livelihood support to refugees, asylum seekers and host communities.

Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People have better nutrition, health & education.

Focus area: Root Causes

Activity 3: Promote optimal nutrition practices and strengthen partnerships with food system actors to increase availability and utilisation of diversified nutrient dense foods.

Activity 4: Promote the provision of safe, nutritious, and diversified meals to pre and primary school children delivered in an integrated, inclusive and gender responsive environment, and linked to local production and markets.

Strategic Result 3: Sustainable Food Systems

Strategic Outcome 3: People have improved & sustainable livelihoods.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 5: Provide an integrated package of climate and nutrition-sensitive resilience and livelihoods building support to households and communities, particularly smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

Strategic Result 4: Capacity Strengthening

Strategic Outcome 4: National programmes & systems are strengthened.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activity 6: Provide technical support to national and sub-national actors for resilient food systems, emergency preparedness and response, health, and supply chain systems.

Activity 7: Provide technical expertise and targeted systems and capacities to national and local actors involved in food and nutrition security, social protection, education, health, disaster risk management, anticipatory action and emergency preparedness and response aimed at building government-led, sustainable, scalable national systems.

Strategic Result 5: Enhance Global Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 5: Humanitarian & development actors are more efficient & effective.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activity 8: Provide services through the Logistics Cluster to the National Disaster Management Agency and humanitarian and development partners to enhance logistics coordination and supply chain management.

Activity 9: Provide effective and efficient access to on-demand services to Government, humanitarian, and development actors to augment their capacity to ensure more effective and efficient interventions.

Strategic Outcome 4

- **Health Systems:** WFP supported the Health Technical Support Services with a supply chain analytics dashboard and a decision-making meeting of the main stakeholders (Central Medical Stores Trust, Chemonics, Antimicrobial Resistance Coordination Committee) used the key performance indicators on the dashboards. A final report for support and supervision was submitted to Ministry of Health for circulation.
- **Food Systems:** Ministry of Agriculture requested WFP to support regional trainings of trainers for sesame production through the sesame platform (African Institute of Corporate Citizenship), scheduled for April. WFP also provided a heavy-duty generator at the National Food Reserve Agency.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** WFP hosted a Regional Emergency Preparedness Workshop in Lilongwe with participants from National Disaster Management Agencies and WFP country offices across the region. It highlighted challenges, solutions, and tools to improve emergency response in Southern Africa.
- **Social protection:** WFP supported development of the payment system for Climate-Smart Enhanced Public Works Programme beneficiaries under the National Local Government Finance Committee and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Department of Poverty Reduction and Social Protection.
- **Adaptation programme:** WFP developed radio programmes, disseminated weather forecasts, and sent SMS texts to beneficiaries. A visit to Chilore irrigation scheme in Balaka showed construction progress was at 75 percent.
- WFP supervised on-farm demonstrations in Machinga district, where the impact of Fall Army Worm and dry spells on crops was observed; farmers were advised to use botanicals, such as neem tree leaves, for worm control.

Strategic Outcome 5

- **On demand service provision:** The Government of Malawi and WFP signed an agreement for WFP to procure and transport approximately 23,000 mt of maize flour into Malawi for the ongoing lean season response.
- **Transport and Logistics Cluster:** WFP organised a National Logistics Cluster meeting involving relevant stakeholders for updates on emerging issues and preparedness efforts.

In pictures



Primary school students sharing a meal. © WFP/Francis Thawani.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Canada, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union International Partnerships (INTPA), France, Flanders, Iceland, Germany, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Takeda, United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA).