



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Malawi Country Brief

February 2024

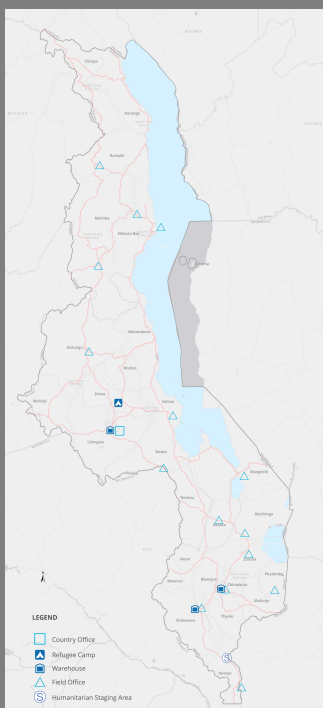


## Operational Context

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). The food security situation in the country continues to deteriorate as 4.4 million people need food assistance during the 2023/2024 lean season. This is a 16 percent increase compared to the same period last year. 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

## In Numbers

**4.4 million Malawians** (22 percent of the population) acutely food insecure from October 2023 to March 2024

**USD 22.1 million** six-month (March – August 2024) net funding requirements

**1.7 million** Malawians to be assisted by WFP imports of maize flour for the Government's lean season response

**51,442 refugees and asylum-seekers** received cash assistance in February 2024

**El Niño-induced dry spells in February, severely damaged crops in Southern & Central regions.**

## Strategic Outcome 1

- Lean Season Response:** In response to the 2023/2024 lean season, [WFP handed over 23,000 mt of maize to the Government](#) through the Ministry of Agriculture for distribution to 1.7 million people in 12 affected districts by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. WFP also made cash-based transfers (CBTs) totalling USD 1.3 million to 68,500 people in Chikwawa covering three months (January to March 2024). WFP also made CBTs to 172,000 people in Phalombe District totalling USD 1.1 million.
- Refugees:** WFP CBTs reached 51,442 refugees and asylum seekers in February 2024 at 50 percent ration size. WFP Malawi faces a shortfall in funding for aiding refugees and asylum seekers. USD 4.3 million over the next six months (April to September 2024) is required to assist 53,000 refugees at a 100 percent ration.

## Strategic Outcome 2

- Nutrition:** The Ministry of Health, UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and WFP reviewed the National Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) guidelines to help develop: (i) new CMAM guidelines aligned with the latest evidence-based practices for preventing and managing malnutrition; (ii) training for health workers; (iii) community engagement strategies; (iv) resource mobilization; and (v) policy recommendations to support CMAM initiatives.
- School feeding:** As part of scaling-up of the *Tsogolo La Thanzi* II programme (TSOLATA 2), WFP conducted a Home-Grown School Feeding trainer-of-trainers training in Mzuzu District involving 15 WFP staff and 96 participants from agriculture, education, community development, nutrition and social welfare from Mzimba, Nkhatabay and Rumphi district councils. After training, WFP advised district councils to develop workplans and roll out the programme.

## Strategic Outcome 3

- Livelihoods:** WFP conducted cash transfers in Chikwawa, Mulanje and Phalombe for the Cyclone Freddy recovery project. Ten thousand beneficiaries received rations covering January and February asset creation outputs. Each beneficiary received a total of USD 53.

Cover photo: WFP Country Director hands over 23,000 mt of maize to the Ministry of Agriculture in Blantyre. © WFP/Francis Thawani.

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## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
332 m	41.3 m	22.1 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 Supply Chain Capacity Strengthening:** WFP organized a national dissemination dashboard and analytics conference attended by 32 people from 20 different agencies.
- **Food Systems:** WFP embarked on value chains development for cowpeas, sesame, and sorghum. As a first step, a scoping mission was undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and African Institute of Corporate Citizenship in ten districts. Findings show that the value chains can be scaled up if structured marketing is made available.
- **Emergency Preparedness and Response:** WFP supported a Search & Rescue training for strategic decision-making and improved boat handling facilitated by the United Kingdom International Search & Rescue team. Training was addressed to local implementing partners to strengthen their capacity.
- **Adaptation Programme:** WFP monitored the construction of five warehouses and one irrigation scheme in three districts. WFP finalized the installation of 22 solar panels and a pump for an irrigation scheme in Balaka District. Maize production was successful at Khanda irrigation scheme in Zomba, despite the dry spell caused by *El Niño*.

## Strategic Outcome 5

- **On-demand service provision:** With support from the World Bank, WFP is leading the procurement, import and transport of 23,000 mt of maize flour for the Ministry of Agriculture into Malawi for the 2023/2024 lean season response by the Department of Disaster Management Affairs.
- **Transport and Logistics Cluster:** WFP organised a National Logistics Cluster meeting involving relevant stakeholders for updates on emerging issues and preparedness efforts. As co-lead of the Cluster, WFP provided coordination support and logistics services to humanitarian responders. Requests for support should be channelled to [Malawi.TLCservices@wfp.org](mailto:Malawi.TLCservices@wfp.org).

### In video:



Learn how WFP is empowering women farmers through its integrated resilience activities. Watch the video [here](#):

### Donors

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