



WFP Malawi Country Brief May 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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. The country is facing a food security crisis because of El Niño-induced dry spells that affected over 40 percent of the national crop area.

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. 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. 20 million

2022 Human Development Index: **169**
out of 191 countries

Income Level: **Low**

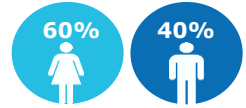
Stunting: **35 percent** of children aged
6-59 months old

In Numbers

Up to 9 million people in Malawi have been affected by *El Niño* conditions

USD 81.6 million six-month (June – November 2024) net funding requirements.

52,115 refugees assisted with cash transfers in May 2024



Operational Updates

El Niño Response: WFP aims to provide food assistance to 2.1 million acutely food-insecure people through in-kind assistance and cash-based transfers for the 2024/2025 lean season response.

Refugees: In May 2024, WFP provided rations covering April and May in form of cash-based transfers to 52,115 refugees and asylum seekers at 50 percent ration size. WFP Malawi faces a shortfall in funding for aiding refugees and asylum seekers. USD 4.8 million is required over the next six months (July to December 2024) to assist 53,000 refugees at 100 percent ration.

Nutrition: In May, WFP received funding to support the Government in implementing supplementary feeding in response to El Niño in Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga and Nsanje districts from June 2024. WFP will support with the procurement and distribution of 315 mt of corn soya blend to support 17,484 children with moderate acute malnutrition aged 6 to 59 months through the facility level approach.

School feeding: In coordination with Harvard University, WFP presented a preliminary value-for-money report to the Ministry of Education. The report analysed multisectoral costs and benefits of providing nutritious meals to primary school children through the national school feeding programme (SFP) implemented by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Mary's Meals, Nascent Solutions and WFP.

The analysis found that SFP leads to improved health outcomes such as reductions in cases of stunting and anaemia, SFP beneficiaries achieve on average 11 percent additional years of schooling compared to non-beneficiaries, and that a transition to 100 percent locally procured commodities can increase economic activity and national food self-sufficiency. The Ministry of Education endorsed the report and planned to organise a round table discussion to advocate for more resources.

Livelihoods: WFP is working with farmers to enhance recovery and resilience building towards the impact of El Niño in Malawi. In May, WFP assembled 300 mobile solar irrigation pumps and conducted user trainings on operation and maintenance to promote winter cultivation of crops. The solar pumps will benefit 4,500 smallholder farmers.

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

Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
332 m	55.9 m	81.6 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has 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.

Health Systems: WFP finalised the 2022/2023 Simulation Exercise (SimEx) assessment report and circulated it to key stakeholders. The assessment was conducted to find out if there was an improvement in health emergency response systems through key capabilities strengthening in supply chain management such as planning, coordination, information management and decision making. The results indicated that there is an 80 percent increase in all key capabilities after the SimEx trainings.

WFP also created nine dashboards for the Ministry of Health to promote end to end supply chain visibility. The purpose of the dashboards is to allow the Ministry of Health to make informed decisions to avoid stockouts, overstocking and expiries of medical supplies.

Food Systems: WFP has mobilised USD 26,000 for stock management system upgrade of National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) which will enhance accountability, transparency and minimise food losses. WFP is also working on providing training on NFRA's employees on food safety and quality management. WFP has mobilised the resources for value chain development on sesame, cowpeas, and sorghum. WFP and Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation have finalised the terms of reference of technical working groups.

Transport and Logistics Cluster: Throughout the 2023/2024 lean season response, WFP supported the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) by providing transport of Government maize to affected communities. In May, WFP finalised lean season transport support to DoDMA. In total, WFP has provided transport for 36,738 mt of maize.

On-demand service provision: WFP provided further support on behalf of the Government with the importation and distribution of fortified maize flour for the 2023/2024 lean season response. In May, WFP distributed 3,460 mt of imported maize flour to affected areas. Between February and May, over 21,000 mt of maize flour have been distributed with support from the World Bank.

Monitoring

WFP and humanitarian partners carry out rapid needs assessments during disasters such as El Niño. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) conducted the annual food security assessment in May to determine the acutely food-insecure population requiring assistance during the 2024/2025 lean season. MVAC has concluded integrated food security phase classification (IPC) analysis and will release the report at the end of June.

Donors

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