



# WFP Malawi Country Brief July 2024

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

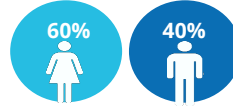


## In Numbers

**5.7 million people** acutely food insecure in Malawi between October 2024 and March 2025

**USD 48 million** six-month net funding requirements for August 2024 – January 2025 representing 28 percent of total.

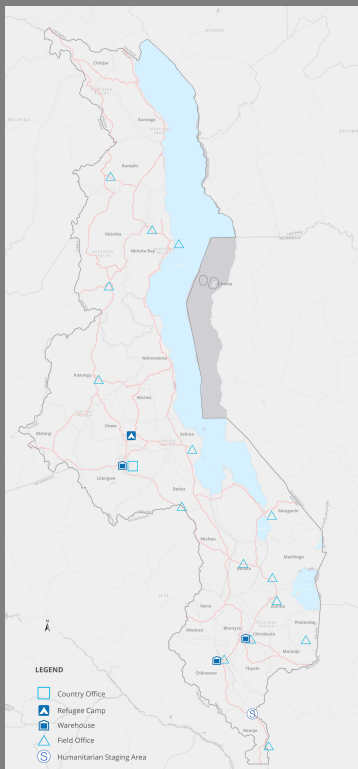
**45,843** refugees assisted with cash transfers in July 2024



## 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). The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has been present in Malawi since 1965. The country is facing a food security crisis because of El Niño-induced dry spells that affected 44 percent of the national crop area.



## Operational Updates

**El Niño Response:** In July, WFP started the procurement of maize and fortified corn soya cereal to provide an initial 1.5 million people with food assistance. WFP has procured 30,533 mt of maize and 317 mt of fortified corn soya cereal blend. WFP will provide food and cash-based transfers to acutely food-insecure households in the six districts of Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga, Nsanje and Phalombe. WFP plans to start distributions from September.

**Refugees:** WFP provides cash transfers to refugees in Dzaleka Refugee Camp to maintain food and nutrition security amongst targeted households. In June 2024, WFP provided cash transfers to 45,843 refugees and asylum seekers at 50 percent of the ration. With the availability of new funding, WFP will increase the ration to 75 percent from August.

**Nutrition:** Impacts of *El Niño*, include a 40 percent increase in cases of moderate acute malnutrition and a 23 percent increase in severe acute malnutrition in children under-5. WFP is supporting the Government to resume facility-based management of MAM through a supplementary feeding programme (SFP) targeting 17,600 children under-5 in the four districts of Blantyre, Chikwawa, Machinga and Nsanje. Towards this, WFP procured 317 mt of fortified corn soya cereal blend and re-trained 392 SFP service providers from 98 health facilities on SFP procedures.

**Livelihoods:** WFP is promoting irrigation agriculture as a strategic response to enhance water management, food security and climate resilience amidst challenges posed by *El Niño* in Malawi. In July, WFP continued to provide technical oversight monitoring in the design and construction of two river diversion gravity-fed irrigation schemes in Mulanje District. The construction of one irrigation scheme is completed while the other scheme will be finished in August 2024.

Population: est. 20 million

2022 Human Development Index: 169 out of 193 countries

Income Level: Low

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

Photo: A farmer shows her cabbage harvest grown with support from WFP's irrigation scheme in Zomba District. © WFP/Francisco Fhote.

Contact info: Kylie Scott (kylie.scott@wfp.org)  
Country Director and Representative: Paul Turnbull  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/malawi](http://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)
169.6 m	66.2 m	48 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.

**Food Systems:** WFP provides technical support to national and sub-national actors for resilient food systems, emergency preparedness and response, health, and supply chain systems. In July, WFP partnered with the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) to establish a technical working group in Malawi. This initiative aims to strengthen food security and market growth through collaborative efforts at both national and sub-national levels. The working group initiated 28 task teams across the country to focus on critical areas such as value chain development, value addition, human resources, financial partnerships, and equipment and infrastructure management. These efforts are pivotal in ensuring that food remains available at affordable prices through a sustainable ADMARC, thereby enhancing national food security. **Health Supply Chain:** In July, WFP conducted consultations with ten key health supply chain actors in Malawi in preparation of the last iteration of the health supply chain simulation exercise (SimEx) planned for between 18 to 24 August 2024 in Blantyre and Nsanje districts. The SimEx will validate and enhance preparedness and response plans, procedures and systems for all hazards and capabilities during emergencies. WFP is facing funding constraints to sustain and expand the SimEx in Malawi beyond 2024.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response:** Under the ECHO Humanitarian Implementation Plans Anticipatory Action funded project, WFP and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) are developing a National Prepositioning Strategy. Between June and July, in collaboration with DoDMA and district councils throughout Southern Region, WFP assessed over 300 warehouse facilities. The mapping initiative is aimed to identify sites for prepositioning lifesaving supplies and to prepare for rapid onset emergency storage needs.

**On-demand Service Provision:** As co-lead of the Logistics Cluster, WFP is providing logistical support to DoDMA for distribution of maize for the 2023/2024 lean season response. In July, WFP transported 790 mt of maize to Ntcheu and Nsanje districts. Since November 2023, WFP has transported 37,491 mt of maize from strategic grain reserve storage facilities to food distribution points. WFP also provided support to the Government for the importation and distribution of maize flour. In total, in collaboration with DoDMA, WFP has distributed 23,616 mt of maize flour since February.

Donors

Adaptation Fund, Canada, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union International Partnerships (INTPA), France, Denmark, Germany, Government of Flanders, Iceland, Multilateral Funds, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, 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) (in alphabetical order).