

## Crisis response revision of Malawi country strategic plan (2024–2028) and corresponding budget increase

	Current	Change	Revised
<b>Duration</b>	<b>1 January 2024– 31 December 2028</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>1 January 2024– 31 December 2028</b>
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>2 576 872</b>	<b>1 367 655</b>	<b>3 944 527</b>
<b>(USD)</b>			
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>332 491 322</b>	<b>186 041 035</b>	<b>518 532 357</b>
Transfers	264 702 956	173 981 665	438 684 621
Implementation	25 920 948	4 777 791	30 698 739
Adjusted direct support costs	22 890 989	881 324	23 772 313
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>313 514 894</b>	<b>179 640 780</b>	<b>493 155 673</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	18 976 428	6 400 255	25 376 684

Gender and age marker code: 3

\* <http://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>.

### Rationale

- On 23 March 2024, President Chakwera declared a state of disaster in 23 out of 28 districts in Malawi due to the impact of El Niño conditions. Prolonged dry spells in the southern half of the country and flooding in some districts have led to severe damage to crops and food production.<sup>1</sup>
- On 30 April 2024, the Government issued the “National El Niño-induced prolonged dry spells and floods response appeal”<sup>2</sup> which has been developed with sector working groups (“clusters”)<sup>3</sup>. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) estimates that nearly 1.265 million households, or 5.7 million people, are acutely food insecure and in need of food assistance, which would require 262,000 mt of maize, or the cash equivalent, as humanitarian assistance for a period between three to six months.<sup>4</sup>
- The impact of El Niño on the 2023–2024 harvest is compounded by climate disasters in recent years – Tropical Storm Ana in 2022 and Tropical Cyclone Freddy in 2023 – that have depleted the country's food reserves, with an estimated cereal deficit of 580,000 mt. With a faltering economy, food insecurity will deepen, culminating in a severe and early onset 2024/2025 lean season, especially in the southern parts of Malawi.

<sup>1</sup> El Niño agriculture impact assessment (rapid) conducted jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Malawi Vulnerabilities Assessment Committee and WFP, April 2024.

<sup>2</sup> The Republic of Malawi, Office of the President and Cabinet, Department of Disaster Management Affairs. 2024. *National El Niño-induced Prolonged Dry Spells and Floods Response Appeal*.

<sup>3</sup> WFP is co-leading the food security and transport and logistics clusters while participating in other clusters (agriculture, education and nutrition).

<sup>4</sup> MVAC. 2024. *Integrated Food Security Phase Classification acute food insecurity analysis, May 2024–March 2025*.



4. With these recurrent shocks, there are pockets of nutritional vulnerability and an overall increase in cases of moderate acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition, evidenced by increasing admissions of children requiring treatment, as highlighted by the 2024 nutrition standardized monitoring and assessment of relief and transitions (SMART) survey.<sup>5</sup> Although the prevalence in Malawi is relatively low, it continues to worsen and it will likely deepen as the lean season progresses.
5. Increasing food insecurity has the potential to increase drop-out rates in schools. The drought may also impact farmer organizations' ability to supply commodities to the home-grown school feeding (HGFSF) programme. The Government's El Niño response appeal plans to target 70 percent of affected learners (1.7 million) who are left out from school feeding programmes to provide an important food safety net.
6. The regional impact of El Niño and the consequent surge in demand for maize raises concerns regarding shortages in the region. Importantly, sourcing maize from outside the region would entail a lead time of three to four months, underscoring the urgent necessity for coordinated regional and international efforts to address the food security crisis emerging in Malawi.

## Changes

### Strategic orientation

7. There is no change in the strategic orientation of the country strategic plan (CSP).

### Country strategic plan outcomes

8. Through this revision and aligned with the food security cluster strategy, under CSP outcome 1, activity 1, WFP plans to target a total of 2.1 million people for various durations through food and cash transfers throughout the lean season between September 2024 and March 2025. The remaining acutely food-insecure population may be supported through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) food distributions, and the social cash-transfer programme managed by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, coordinated through the food cluster, and supported by other NGOs and UN agencies. However, it is unlikely that these programmes alone will fully address the needs of the affected population.
9. For CSP outcome 2, activity 3, WFP estimates that 88,000 children between 6–59 months will require supplementation to address moderate acute malnutrition in the 13 southern districts affected by El Niño and last year's Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Households with malnourished children will be provided with a food ration to prevent further deterioration and reduce sharing of specialized nutritious foods.
10. For CSP outcome 2, activity 4, WFP will assist 440,000 additional children with emergency take-home rations (THR) consisting of nutritious foods in support of the Government's response plan.<sup>6</sup> The remaining learners may be supported through the Government's response plan and other partners. Following an assessment of farmer organizations, WFP will also provide 20,000 smallholder farmers, who have been severely affected by El Niño,

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<sup>5</sup> SMART survey provides data on the state of nutrition in Malawi, informing targeted interventions to address acute malnutrition.

<sup>6</sup> Total uncovered caseload in Phalombe, Zomba, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Balaka and Mangochi districts.



with additional technical support through the Integrated Resilience Programme to support production for HGSF.<sup>7</sup>

11. For CSP outcome 5, activity 8, WFP Malawi, as co-lead of the national transport and logistics cluster, will assist partners and the Government, through DoDMA, by facilitating access to common logistics services throughout the El Niño response. Common transport services have been identified as one of the key gaps and priorities for the national El Niño response.
12. For CSP outcome 5, activity 9, WFP will support the Government of Malawi through on-demand services; this will include up to 100,000 mt of food commodities procured regionally and internationally and transported to affected districts and communities.<sup>8</sup>

### **Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis**

13. The MVAC was released a month earlier than usual this year to provide updated and accurate information on the scale and severity of food insecurity.
  - a) For activity 1, geographic targeting will be based on the MVAC assessment of districts with populations in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 3+ (crisis) and above. This will be led by the food security cluster to maximize coverage, where the most severely affected districts will be sequentially targeted, with the overall response peaking in October 2024. Beneficiary households will be targeted based on vulnerability within districts, based on the Unified Beneficiary Register,<sup>9</sup> where available and updated, or using the Joint Emergency Food Aid Programme guidelines.
  - b) For activity 3, the initial targeting will use the 2024 SMART survey. At community and health centre levels, children will be screened and those meeting the criteria will be referred for supplementary feeding.
  - c) For activity 4, WFP has ongoing HGSF in several of the worst-affected districts. Additional schools in those districts will be selected for emergency assistance through THR between September 2024 and March 2025.
  - d) For activities 8 and 9, targeting will be based on selection of districts by DoDMA for relief food distributions, informed by the MVAC assessment.
14. Due considerations will be paid to cross-cutting issues, including gender, protection and accountability to affected people, across the project cycle.

### **Transfer modalities**

15. Activity 1 will use food transfers and cash-based transfers (CBTs), based on market surveys, operational considerations (including protection analyses), and community preferences. For activity 3, in-kind transfers of specialized nutritious food will be provided. For activity 4, THR will be provided as CBTs, commodity vouchers, or food transfers depending on the outcome of the farmers' organization capacity assessment.

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<sup>7</sup> The training provided by the Integrated Resilience Programme unit addresses essential areas such as post-harvest loss management, entrepreneurship and business management, governance of farmer organizations, and improved record management. These trainings are crucial for empowering farmers with the skills needed to effectively manage their operations and sustainably supply schools through the HGSF programme.

<sup>8</sup> In the Government's appeal, the food security sector indicates requirements for the importation of 100,000 mt of maize.

<sup>9</sup> The Unified Beneficiary Register in Malawi is a centralized database designed to improve the targeting, delivery and coordination of social protection programmes across the country. Using Unified Beneficiary Register data, households are ranked to determine their vulnerability status and level of need. The Joint Emergency Food Aid Programme guidelines propose a community-based targeting method.



### ***Partnerships***

16. For activity 1, WFP works closely with DoDMA and the district councils; where additional capacity is needed, WFP will partner with non-governmental organizations and financial service providers. For activity 3, WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Health and the District Nutrition Coordinating Committees. WFP will continue to collaborate with the United Nations Children's Fund and other partners in the management of child wasting and oedema. For activity 4, WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and district councils. For activities 8 and 9, WFP will work with DoDMA, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Transport and Public Works.

### ***Country office capacity***

17. WFP Malawi recently scaled-up supply chain staffing for a substantial lean season response service provision in a short timeframe; this capacity will be retained for the El Niño response. Additional staff for communications and cluster coordination are being recruited. Additional field staff recruitments are being considered from existing rosters.

### ***Supply chain challenges***

18. The United Republic of Tanzania is predicting an above-average harvest and will be targeted as WFP's primary sourcing location for non-genetically modified organism white maize for Malawi considering the availability, favourable lead-times and prices. However, as this maize is highly sought across the region due to the El Niño impact in southern Africa and to meet national import requirements in eastern Africa, international procurement (e.g. Mexico or Ukraine) will also be explored to mitigate the risk of single sourcing from the region. However, longer lead times, transport costs, and port congestion will be key considerations for the sourcing strategy.

### ***Service provision***

19. The on-demand services plan is based on consultation with the Government, with support from international financial institutions. The national logistics cluster plan has been revised to cope with the expected increase in requests for common logistics services (e.g. storage and transport).

### ***Monitoring and evaluation***

20. In line with the minimum monitoring requirements, process and outcome monitoring will adhere to the global assurance project standards with adequate reporting and follow-ups. Additionally, WFP will monitor local market functionality, including assortment, quality, logistics, and supply chain resilience.

### ***Risk management***

21. To mitigate financial risks associated with payment for service provision in local currency due to potential volatility of the Malawi kwacha, WFP Malawi will consider several measures to mitigate these risks including funds being disbursed in tranches, payments made by wire transfer into WFP's Malawi kwacha account and exploring use of a hedging method.



### Proposed transition/handover strategy

22. WFP will implement cash plus activities<sup>10</sup> as an integral part of lean season response to ensure that targeted beneficiaries are engaged in resilience building interventions. Cash plus activities are anchored in the National Resilience Strategy to ensure that the cycle of food and nutrition insecurity is broken by actively reducing chronic vulnerability and risks over time, while strengthening opportunities for households to embark on pathways out of poverty.

### Beneficiary analysis

TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY CSP OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY							
Country strategic plan outcome	Activity	Period	Women (18+ years)	Men (18+ years)	Girls (0-18 years)	Boys (0-18 years)	Total
1	1 CBTs	Current	87 263	80 498	92 504	93 885	<b>354 150</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	228 373	210 673	242 093	245 708	<b>926 847</b>
		Revised	315 636	291 171	334 597	339 593	<b>1 280 997</b>
	1 Food	Current	25 501	23 526	27 034	27 439	<b>103 500</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	222 006	204 797	235 341	238 855	<b>900 999</b>
		Revised	247 507	228 323	262 375	266 294	<b>1 004 499</b>
1	2 CBTs	Current	15 004	3 872	12 540	12 584	<b>44 000</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	15 004	3 872	12 540	12 584	<b>44 000</b>
	2 Food	Current	15 004	3 872	12 540	12 584	<b>44 000</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	15 004	3 872	12 540	12 584	<b>44 000</b>
2	3 Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	-	-	-	-	-
	3 CBTs <sup>1</sup>	Current	1 561	313	2 481	1 895	<b>6 250</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	(1 148)	(1 177)	<b>(2 325)</b>
		Revised	1 561	313	1 333	718	<b>3 925</b>
	3 Food	Current	800	160	1 272	968	<b>3 200</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	42 884	43 930	<b>86 814</b>
		Revised	800	160	44 156	44 898	<b>90 014</b>

<sup>10</sup> "Cash plus" interventions directly link CBTs to other types of support aimed at addressing short-term needs and accelerating recovery and resilience building, such as afforestation, borehole rehabilitation and composting.

<b>TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY CSP OUTCOME, ACTIVITY AND MODALITY</b>							
<b>Country strategic plan outcome</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Women (18+ years)</b>	<b>Men (18+ years)</b>	<b>Girls (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Boys (0-18 years)</b>	<b>Total</b>
2	4 Capacity strengthening	Current	-	-	14 138	14 138	<b>28 276</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	-	-	14 138	14 138	<b>28 276</b>
	4 CBTs	Current	6 654	6 137	733 870	733 973	<b>1 480 634</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	(408 844)	(631 299)	<b>(1 040 143)<sup>2</sup></b>
		Revised	6 654	6 137	325 026	102 674	<b>440 491</b>
	4 Commodity voucher	Current	-	-	-	-	-
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	415 535	415 535	<b>831 070</b>
		Revised	-	-	415 535	415 535	<b>831 070</b>
	4 Food	Current	-	-	15 000	15 000	<b>30 000</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	-	-	15 000	15 000	<b>30 000</b>
3	5 Capacity strengthening <sup>3</sup>	Current	415 844	383 609	440 822	447 405	<b>1 687 680</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	(208 662)	(184 551)	(440 822)	(447 405)	<b>(1 281 440)</b>
		Revised	207 182	199 058	-	-	<b>406 240</b>
	5 CBTs	Current	65 637	60 553	69 584	70 626	<b>266 400</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	65 637	60 553	69 584	70 626	<b>266 400</b>
	5 Food	Current	6 209	5 728	6 582	6 681	<b>25 200</b>
		Increase/ (decrease)	-	-	-	-	-
		Revised	6 209	5 728	6 582	6 681	<b>25 200</b>
<b>Total (without overlap)</b>		<b>Current</b>	<b>242 226</b>	<b>213 881</b>	<b>1 070 690</b>	<b>1 050 075</b>	<b>2 576 872</b>
		<b>Increase/ (decrease)</b>	<b>490 582</b>	<b>453 180</b>	<b>293 546</b>	<b>130 347</b>	<b>1 367 655</b>
		<b>Revised</b>	<b>732 808</b>	<b>667 061</b>	<b>1 364 236</b>	<b>1 180 422</b>	<b>3 944 527</b>

<sup>1</sup> Number of CBT beneficiaries reduced with the increase in food beneficiaries due to overlaps.

<sup>2</sup> In alignment with the provision of school meals through indirect cash transfers guidelines, the HGSF beneficiaries planned under CBT have been moved to commodity voucher modality, resulting in an overall reduction in beneficiaries under CBT.

<sup>3</sup> Beneficiary figure adjusted in line with the Updated (July 2023) Guidance Note on WFP Tier 1 (Direct) Capacity Strengthening Beneficiaries.

## Transfers

23. There are no changes to the food rations or CBT value.

**TABLE 2: FOOD RATION (g/person/day) AND CASH-BASED TRANSFER VALUES (USD/person/day) BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME AND ACTIVITY**

Beneficiary type	CSP outcome 1								CSP outcome 2								CSP outcome 3					
	Activity 1*				Activity 2				Activity 3				Activity 4				Activity 5					
	General distribution		Prevention of acute malnutrition GFD top-up		Refugees GFD	Refugees GFD	Prevention of acute malnutrition GFD top-up		Prevention of acute malnutrition post emergency				School meals – primary school		School meals – pre- and primary schools	Cash for inputs (one-time payment)	Food assistance for assets		Micro/ meso insurance			
In kind	CBTs	In kind	CBTs	Child 6–59 months			HIV/TB and PBWG	Child 6–59 months	HIV/TB and PBWG	Child 6–59 months	HIV/TB and PBWG	Child 6–59 months	HIV/TB and PBWG	In kind (THR)			CBTs (HGSF)	CBTs (HGSF THR)		CBTs	CBTs	In kind
Cereals	450						450													555		
Pulses	50						50													111		
Vegetable oil	25						25													20.4		
Super Cereal			600								200			100								
Super Cereal Plus										200												
Total kcal/day	2 033	1 016	2 255	236	458	2 033	2 033	236	458	820	752	236	458	376	599.3	599.3	436	n.a.	2 581	2 581	n.a.	
% kcal from protein	11.2		16.3				11.2			16.6	16.3			16.3				n.a.	11.2		n.a.	
CBTs (USD/person/day)		0.2		0.15	0.3	0.4		0.15	0.3			0.15	0.3		0.09	0.09	0.06	90		0.45	20	
Number of feeding days per year	90	90	15	90	90	345	15	360	360	178	178	178	178	90	200	90	200	n.a.	72	72	12	

\* In alignment with the provision of school meals through indirect cash transfers guidelines, the HGSF beneficiaries planned under CBT have been moved to commodity voucher modality, resulting in an overall reduction in beneficiaries under CBT.

Abbreviations: GFD = general food distribution; PBWG = pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls; TB = tuberculosis.



	Current budget		Increase		Revised budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	7 459	2 621 751	53 818	18 470 234	61 276	21 091 985
Pulses	1 198	828 539	5 980	4 007 925	7 178	4 836 464
Oil and fats	315	507 720	2 990	4 548 192	3 305	5 055 912
Mixed and blended foods	838	648 498	1 691	2 383 466	2 530	3 031 964
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total (food)</b>	<b>9 810</b>	<b>4 606 507</b>	<b>64 479</b>	<b>29 409 816</b>	<b>74 289</b>	<b>34 016 324</b>
Cash-based transfers		135 821 516		20 316 324		156 137 840
<b>Total (food and cash-based transfer value)</b>	<b>9 810</b>	<b>140 428 023</b>	<b>64 479</b>	<b>49 726 140</b>	<b>74 289</b>	<b>190 154 163</b>

## Cost breakdown

24. This revision increases the overall CSP budget by USD 186 million (at full cost recovery), an increase of 55.9 percent. The increase comprises mainly activity 1 at 48.5 percent and activity 9 at 43 percent.

	WFP strategic outcome 1	WFP strategic outcome 2	WFP strategic outcome 3	WFP strategic outcome 4	WFP strategic outcome 5	Total
	CSP outcome 1	CSP outcome 2	CSP outcome 3	CSP outcome 4	CSP outcome 5	
Focus area	Crisis response	Root causes	Resilience building	Resilience building	Crisis response	
Transfers	88 075 600	6 050 825	2 113 884	440 213	77 301 142	<b>173 981 665</b>
Implementation	831 354	23 411	0	0	3 923 026	<b>4 777 791</b>
Adjusted direct support costs						<b>881 324</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>179 640 780</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)						<b>6 400 255</b>
<b>Total</b>						<b>186 041 035</b>





<b>TABLE 5: OVERALL COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN COST BREAKDOWN, AFTER REVISION (USD)</b>						
	<b>WFP strategic outcome 1</b>	<b>WFP strategic outcome 2</b>	<b>WFP strategic outcome 3</b>	<b>WFP strategic outcome 4</b>	<b>WFP strategic outcome 5</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>CSP outcome 1</b>	<b>CSP outcome 2</b>	<b>CSP outcome 3</b>	<b>CSP outcome 4</b>	<b>CSP outcome 5</b>	
<b>Focus area</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	<b>Root causes</b>	<b>Resilience building</b>	<b>Resilience building</b>	<b>Crisis response</b>	
Transfers	152 153 074	94 304 916	69 844 047	11 158 487	111 224 097	<b>438 684 621</b>
Implementation	7 167 482	9 346 827	6 901 555	592 730	6 690 145	<b>30 698 739</b>
Adjusted direct support costs	7 582 817	6 495 114	4 897 291	743 120	4 053 972	<b>23 772 313</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>166 903 372</b>	<b>110 146 857</b>	<b>81 642 893</b>	<b>12 494 337</b>	<b>121 968 214</b>	<b>493 155 673</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5 percent)	10 848 719	7 159 546	5 306 788	812 132	1 249 499	<b>25 376 684</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>177 752 092</b>	<b>117 306 402</b>	<b>86 949 681</b>	<b>13 306 469</b>	<b>123 217 713</b>	<b>518 532 357</b>

