



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

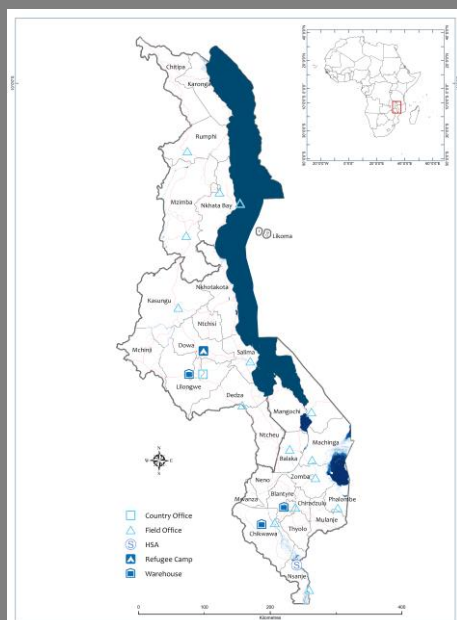
# WFP Malawi Country Brief March 2025



## 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. The country is facing a food security crisis because of *El Niño*-induced dry spells that damaged 44 percent of the national crop area.



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**

**Contact info:** Kylie Scott ([kylie.scott@wfp.org](mailto:kylie.scott@wfp.org))  
**Country Director and Representative a.i.:** Simon Denhere  
**Further information:** [www.wfp.org/countries/malawi](http://www.wfp.org/countries/malawi)

Cover photo: Two women in Phalombe district after impact of Tropical Cyclone Jude © WFP

## In Numbers

**34,552 mt of maize** distributed for *El Niño* response

**USD 3,331,312** in cash-based transfers distributed for *El Niño* response

**1.6 million people assisted** for *El Niño* response

**USD 21.2 million** six-month net funding requirements (April– September 2025) representing 53 percent of total requirements

## Operational Updates

**Emergency Response:** Tropical Cyclone Jude passed through Malawi on 11 March, affecting several southern districts and causing isolated flooding. WFP and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) coordinated a rapid response. Thanks to prepositioned items, WFP quickly distributed 4,966 emergency kits to approximately 22,374 affected people. Each kit included soap, sanitary pads, utensils and fortified corn soya blend (CSB++). This complemented support from DoDMA and other partners, including maize, cash and other relief items. As part of the *El Niño* emergency response, WFP continues providing food assistance. So far, 34,552 mt of maize and USD 3,311,312 in cash have been distributed to 1.6 million people since September 2024.

**Refugees:** WFP continues providing critical cash-based transfers to refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka Refugee camp to purchase food. WFP has had to reduce monthly cash transfers for refugees since February. To prevent a complete suspension by July 2025, WFP is appealing for USD 8 million to restore full food rations through the end of the year.

**Nutrition:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WFP continues to deliver lifesaving Super Cereal Plus (CSB++) to combat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women and people living with HIV and tuberculosis across seven districts. Since September 2024, WFP has treated over 32,000 beneficiaries suffering from malnutrition.

**School Meals:** WFP has extended the Home-Grown School Feeding programme to Nkhosaka district thanks to a multiyear contribution from the Government of Iceland. This expansion will benefit approximately 10,000 school children and 1,200 farmers over three years. As part of the *El Niño* emergency response, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, continued providing nutritious daily meals to 256,000 learners in four districts until April.

**Livelihoods:** WFP is supporting 58,000 households in four districts with technical assistance for reforestation and gully control, helping restore land and manage ecosystems. In partnership with TNM, WFP successfully collected insurance premiums from farmers enrolled for the 2024/25 agricultural season. A total of 30,026 farmers have been registered for microinsurance. Additionally, an extra USD 300,000 has been committed to expand the SheCan project in Malawi. Through this initiative, WFP, in partnership with FIFAD and Vision Fund, is supporting village savings and loan groups with productive loans, focusing on women and youth empowerment.

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
57 m	38 m	21.2 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 and partners held a stakeholder meeting to align on key actions of the Value Chain Development Project. This project aims to help smallholder farmers to improve incomes, reduce losses and access better markets. As part of its support to parastatals, WFP shared findings from a recent Rapid Market and Viability Assessment with the Agricultural Development and Marketing Cooperation (ADMARC) to help improve market access for farmers.

**Health Supply Chain:** WFP and the Expanded Programme on Immunisation department visited 48 health centres to assess infrastructure and data quality gaps. To support a sustainable handover to the Ministry of Health, WFP also held a review conference on pharmacy supervision, focusing on best practices and areas for improvement. In addition, WFP supported routine updates to the Ministry's control tower dashboards for malaria, antirabies and antibiotics, and trained the Drug Theft and Investigation Unit (DTIU) on these tools to strengthen pharmacy oversight.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response:** Ahead of Tropical Cyclone Jude, WFP and DoDMA initiated emergency preparedness activities. WFP prepositioned critical relief items including food, emergency kits, and operational equipment such as search and rescue boats in key locations to enable a rapid response. WFP also supported DoDMA in establishing an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Blantyre, which was operational from 10-14 March. Besides cyclone response, WFP supported the UK international Search and Rescue Team to repair search and rescue equipment.

**Transport and Logistics Cluster** As part of Tropical Cyclone Jude response, WFP facilitated storage and transportation for humanitarian partners prior and after the cyclone, ensuring relief reaches affected communities efficiently. The response included the provision of 1,400 litres of fuel to districts, movement of 136 mt of cargo on behalf of four partners. As co-lead of the transport and logistics cluster, WFP is supporting the Government in transporting maize for the *El Niño* emergency response. So far, WFP has supported the Government with transportation of 20,481.40 mt of government maize.

**On demand services:** The Government of Malawi and WFP signed an agreement for WFP to procure, import and transport a total of 47,693 mt of on behalf of the Government for the *El Niño* response. As of end March 2025, a total of 10,418 mt has been received in country.

## Challenges

WFP faces a funding gap of USD 21.2 million for April to September 2025.

## Donors

Adaptation Fund, Canada, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Union International Partnerships, France, Germany, Government of Flanders, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Malawi, 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), United States Agency for International Development Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID BHA), and WFP's Emerging Donors Matching Fund (in alphabetical order).