



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

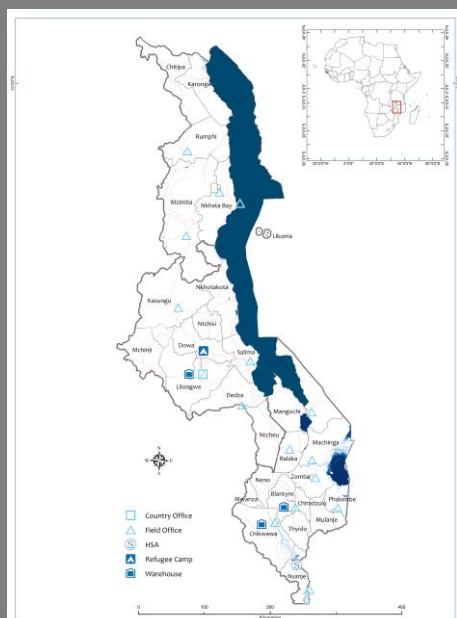
# WFP Malawi Country Brief May 2025



## 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

## In Numbers

**38,534.7 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 38.6 million** six-month net funding requirements (June to November 2025) representing 60 percent of total requirements

## Operational Updates

**Emergency Response:** In response to the *El Niño* emergency, WFP, together with the Government of Malawi, distributed 38,534.72 metric tonnes of maize and USD 3,311,312 in cash to 1.6 million food insecure people between September 2024 to May 2025. WFP continues collaborating with the Government of Malawi in conducting food security analyses to ensure critical support reaches those who need it the most.

**Refugees:** WFP continues providing critical cash-based transfers to refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka Refugee camp to purchase food. Since February, WFP has reduced monthly cash transfers for refugees from 75 to 50 percent of daily needs. To prevent a complete suspension by October 2025, WFP is appealing for USD 11.5 million to restore full food rations through the end of the year.

**Nutrition:** The Ministry of Health's recent Nutrition SMART survey reveals that malnutrition rates doubled from 4.4 to 7.1 percent during the past lean season. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WFP and UNICEF remain committed to combating acute malnutrition by providing lifesaving Super Cereal Plus (CSB++) to children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and individuals living with HIV and tuberculosis. Since September 2024, WFP has treated over 48,034 beneficiaries suffering from malnutrition to improve health and well-being.

**School Meals:** WFP continues working with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education to provide nutritious meals to children to increase school attendance and ultimately their health and wellbeing. WFP supports over 800,000 learners through the Home-Grown School Feeding model in 788 schools and 140 Early Childhood Development Centres across 12 districts. However, approximately 270,000 learners, who were previously supported through emergency school feeding in four districts between January and March 2025, will stop receiving this assistance unless more funding is secured.

**Livelihoods:** WFP is implementing a joint School Feeding and Resilience Building Project in Chikwawa District. The goal is to improve school attendance, enhance nutrition, and strengthen community resilience to shocks.

WFP is further supporting the Government of Malawi in increasing financial literacy of community savings and lending groups in districts where WFP implements its Resilience Programmes.

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Cover photo: Home Grown School Feeding Malawi © WFP/Badre Bahaji

## Country Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Total Requirement (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in US\$)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$)
79.5 m	53.7 m	38.6 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.

**Food Systems:** WFP continues to support the Government's efforts in strengthening its Food Agencies systems to become sustainable and resilient. To this effect, WFP is upgrading eight Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) weighbridges in the country. Charterland and Liwonde ADMARC depot weighbridges have now been fully digitized and are awaiting certification by Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS). To improve food safety measures, WFP will train 96 MBS staff on laboratory proficiency.

**Health Supply Chain:** With support from its partners, WFP is supporting the Ministry of Health with the design and implementation of dashboards covering malaria, antirabies, antibiotics, and district-level overviews. This initiative aims to strengthen cold chain visibility and improve vaccine stock tracking, ultimately enhancing coordination and planning for immunization services across the country.

**Emergency Preparedness and Response:** To strengthen logistics preparedness and emergency response coordination, WFP is working with the government and District Disaster Risk Management Officers to collect GPS data assessing accessibility of existing Final Distribution Points (FDPs) during both dry and rainy seasons. The goal is to integrate all information into an interactive map, accessible to district councils, Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) staff and WFP, to support more informed and efficient logistics decision-making.

**Transport and Logistics Cluster** As co-lead of the transport and logistics cluster, WFP is supporting the Government of Malawi in transporting maize for the *El Niño* emergency response. So far, this lean season, WFP has supported the Government with transportation of 23,956.55 mt of maize.

WFP continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in strengthening logistics support mechanisms and ensuring more effective, timely, and coordinated responses during emergency operations.

**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 maize on behalf of the Government for the *El Niño* response. A total of 33,478 mt has been dispatched from Tanzania, and a total of 30,880 mt has been received in country. WFP remains committed to ensuring food assistance reaches the people who need it the most.

## Challenges

WFP faces a funding gap of USD 38.6 million between June and November 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).