



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP MALAWI

## COUNTRY BRIEF

February 2026

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP urgently requires USD 26.1 million to cover six-month net funding needs (February 2025–July 2026), representing 40 percent of requirements. Timely donor support is critical to sustain life-saving assistance, strengthen resilience, and protect vulnerable households from worsening food insecurity and health crises.

### IN NUMBERS



**1.33 M** people assisted in December 2025



**531,261**  
Male



**796,892**  
Female



**12,161 mt** food distributed



**USD 768,318** cash transferred



**USD 26.1M** (February – July 2026) net funding requirements

**Photo Caption & Credit:** A mother prepares a meal after receiving food assistance at WFP's lean season distribution. WFP/Zaithwa Chabvuta

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Malawi faces rising humanitarian needs shaped by weather shocks and health emergencies. Recent heavy rainfall has damaged roads and caused severe flooding in districts such as Nkhonkhotakota, affecting over 36,000 households.
- The country is experiencing concurrent cholera and polio outbreaks, heightening risks for children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and other vulnerable groups.
- WFP's interventions - ranging from emergency logistics and food assistance to nutrition support - directly address these challenges and contribute to Malawi's Strategic Outcomes on food security, resilience and health system strengthening.

### OPERATIONAL UPDATES

#### General Food Assistance

- The Lean Season Food Insecurity Response Programme (LS-FIRP) was launched in November 2025 with food and cash transfers currently ongoing across the country. WFP, in collaboration with the Government, has reached over 823,000 people across four districts: Mulanje, Phalombe, Blantyre and Chikwawa. To deliver a comprehensive emergency response from now until March 2026, WFP urgently requires USD 17 million.

## Refugees

- Dzaleka Refugee Camp hosts over 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers, supported by WFP's cash-based food assistance that enables families to buy the food they need. With donor support, we have increased rations from 50 percent to 60 percent since November 2025. However, from June 2026, this support is at risk of being suspended due to lack of funds, putting refugee families at risk of hunger and harmful coping strategies. Urgent support is needed to sustain assistance and safeguard lives.

## Nutrition

- In 2025, in WFP supported clinics, Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) admissions rose 33 percent, driven by food insecurity from poor harvests, rising maize and bean prices, and cross-border caseloads. In response, WFP in December supported the Ministry of Health in treating MAM, reaching 20,570 children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and people living with HIV and tuberculosis, with an 86 percent recovery rate. In January, WFP expanded nutrition treatment for people living with HIV to three additional districts.

## School Meals

- To support the Government's goal of achieving 100 percent coverage – currently at 44 percent – WFP continues to implement the school feeding programme. In December 2025, a key programme review meeting was convened with government, partners, and the impact evaluation team to assess progress and discuss sustainability plans.

## Food Systems

- WFP trained 42 government agricultural extension workers and supported 700 farmers to adopt aflatoxin control practices that improve food quality and safety. Also, WFP formalised a key partnership with International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) on climate resilient food systems and value chain development.

## Resilience and Livelihood Support

- Malawi's 2025 harvest remained far below what the country needs due to prolonged dry spells. Through its climate risk management initiatives, WFP facilitated USD 25,103 in crop insurance pay-outs to 1,519 smallholder farmers in Phalombe, Chikwawa, and Nsanje – providing

timely relief from crop losses and helping them recover from shocks.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

- WFP supported the development of the National Prepositioning Strategy, which is now guiding partner response plans for the current cyclone season. In addition, WFP assisted the Nkhotakota flood response by providing free transport services, enabling the delivery of relief commodities to nearly 11,000 affected households.

## Anticipatory Action

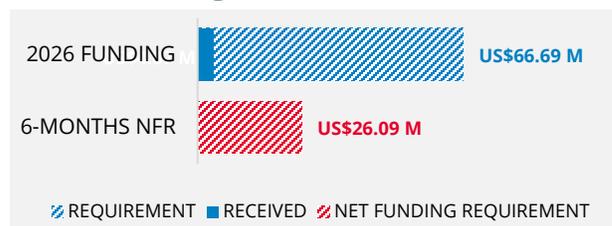
- The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) through [PRISM](#) – a real-time drought monitoring tool – forecasted drought in Zomba, Phalombe, and Nsanje during November–January and in Mangochi during January–March. To mitigate the impact, WFP partnered with the Government and stakeholders to deliver multipurpose cash assistance of USD 105 to 7,175 households. In addition, Early Warning Messages reached over 2.3 million people through multi-channel community outreach platforms.

## Transport and Logistics Cluster

- As co-lead of the Transport and Logistics Cluster, WFP is supporting the Government in moving maize for the 2025/2026 Lean Season Response, having transported 25,173 metric tons to districts to date.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW

### [Malawi country strategic plan \(2024–2028\) | World Food Programme](#)



## Donors:

Adaptation Fund, Canada, Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Union International Partnerships, France, Germany, Government of Flanders, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, 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 of America and WFP's Emerging Donors Matching Fund (in alphabetical order).