



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP MALAWI

COUNTRY BRIEF  
March 2026

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- WFP urgently requires USD 13.3 million to cover six-month net funding needs (March 2026–August 2026), representing 38 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.
- WFP assisted 1.23 million people with food and nutrition assistance in February, distributing 18,292 mt of food and USD 2.4 million through cash based transfers.

## IN NUMBERS



**1.23 M** people assisted in February 2026



**508,282**  
Male



**762,423**  
Female



**18,292 mt** food distributed



**USD 2,427,675** cash transferred



**USD 13.3M** (March – August 2026) net funding requirements

**Photo Caption & Credit:** A woman carries a bag of maize after receiving food assistance at WFP's lean season distribution. WFP/Francis Thawani

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

- The Lean Season Food Insecurity Response Programme (LS-FIRP) was launched in November 2025 with food and cash transfers currently ongoing across the country.
- Based on the Integrated Phase Classification food insecurity report, food gap months spanned October 2025 to March 2026. However, due to the delayed start of the response, distributions will extend beyond March.
- 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.

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Food Assistance

- Since November 2025, WFP in collaboration with the Government has reached over 823,000 people across four districts: Mulanje, Phalombe, Blantyre Rural, and Chikwawa, where IPC food insecurity is most severe. While resources secured covered two rounds of support, the targeted districts are experiencing five to six months of food gaps. Implementation balances have allowed WFP to add a third round in Blantyre Rural. By February 2026, Mulanje and Phalombe had completed round two, Blantyre Rural was implementing round three, and Chikwawa was finalising round one and starting round two. All distributions are planned for completion by 31 March 2026.

## Refugees

- Over 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka Camp rely on WFP's cash assistance to buy food. Donor support has enabled families to cope despite unstable funding that reduced rations to between 50 and 75 percent of daily needs. Currently, only 60 percent is provided and with no funding secured beyond June 2026, assistance will stop. Families risk hunger, malnutrition, and increased protection concerns.

## Nutrition

- WFP continues to support the Ministry of Health in providing Moderate Acute Malnutrition treatment in seven districts through the distribution of Corn Soya Blend Plus. In February, 21,286 beneficiaries were reached with a recovery rate of 89 percent. Thanks to donor contributions, WFP can sustain this programme until June 2026, but beyond this date no funding is secured, putting at risk the continuation of life-saving nutrition support.

## School Meals

- WFP supports the Government's goal of universal school feeding, currently at 44 percent coverage, by reaching over 338,000 learners in 278 schools across four districts with daily Corn Soya Blend porridge. However, Malawi's school feeding initiative faces a severe funding shortfall from September 2026; without funding, over 450,000 learners will lose meals, undermining both nutrition and education outcomes.

## Food Systems

- WFP trained 24 Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) technicians in the determination of food safety contaminants with the goal of strengthening Malawi's national capacity to ensure food quality, safety, and compliance with international market standards. WFP requires USD 5 million to continue building national institutional capacity, strengthening post-harvest and quality assurance infrastructure.

## Resilience and Livelihood Support

- Under the Zero Hunger Village initiative – a community-led pathway to end hunger and build lasting resilience through agriculture, nutrition, education and financial inclusion – WFP trained 626 farmers on improved agricultural practices. Additionally, 9,905 households (44,573 people, 60 percent women) contributed MWK30,977,000 (approx. USD18,600) of premiums for

microinsurance to strengthen resilience against climate and production shocks.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

- WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs met with Malawi's private sector to strengthen coordination between government and private sector in disaster preparedness and response. Companies aligned with national mechanisms and committed to supporting operations through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, logistics, enhancing Malawi's overall emergency readiness.

## Anticipatory Action

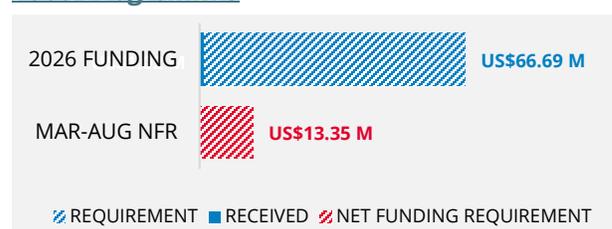
- Approximately 60 percent of the current Anticipatory Action beneficiaries (recipients of seed, fertiliser and multi-purpose cash assistance) relied on lean season support in the previous (2024/25) season. With this support, many households have moved from recurrent reliance to self-sustenance. Looking ahead, WFP will focus on identifying households within the Malawi Social Registry with land and labour capacity to produce and reduce future needs.

## 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 27,538 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).