



Management Response from WFP Malawi Country Office to the recommendations of the decentralized evaluation of the project ‘Adapting to Climate Change through Integrated Risk Management Strategies and Enhanced Market Opportunities for Resilient Food Security and Livelihoods’ in Malawi [DE/MWCO/2024/009] from 2020 to 2025

1. This document, finalized in January 2026, presents the management response to the recommendations of the final evaluation of the AF-funded project titled “Adapting to Climate Change through Integrated Risk Management Strategies and Enhanced Market Opportunities for Resilient Food Security and Livelihoods” in Malawi.
2. The evaluation, which was commissioned by WFP Malawi Country Office, covers all of the components funded by the AF: Improved access to insurance as a risk transfer mechanism for targeted farmers affected by climate change and food insecurity; Adopted climate-resilient agriculture practices among targeted farmers contributing to the integrated climate risk management approach; and Strengthened market access strategies and approaches for smallholder farmers. The evaluation served the dual purpose of accountability and learning aligned to determine the progress made towards achieving the AF project objectives of increased resilience/reduced vulnerability and synthesize experiences and lessons learned to provide feedback into the decision-making process to improve ongoing and future projects. The evaluation will be used by AF, WFP Malawi Country Office and Government of Malawi (Ministry of Agriculture) to design new projects and inform the refinement of government policies and adjustments in the implementation.
3. The evaluation made 4 key recommendations with 13 sub-recommendations. The matrix sets out whether WFP agrees, partially agrees or disagrees with the recommendations and sub-recommendations. It presents 16 planned actions, responsibilities and timelines.

Recommendations and related Sub-recommendations (Deadline)	Recommendation and Sub-Recommendation Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Management Response <i>[Is (sub-) recommendation Agreed, Partially agreed or Not agreed?]</i>	Actions to be taken	Action Lead (Supporting Offices/Divisions)	Action Deadline
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 1: Scale up and scale out the climate agriculture extension model in Malawi. The AF project demonstrated that an integrated, district-level agricultural extension model is both feasible and effective, and it is ready to move from “proof of concept” to “proof of scale”.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1 2027)</p>	<p>AF, WFP Malawi, and Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p> <p>[District Councils: frontline extension delivery WFP: technical support, scaling strategy, knowledge products]</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

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<p><i>Sub-recommendation 1.1</i></p> <p>The project has demonstrated proof of concept at district level. The next phase should expand its agriculture extension model component across Malawi</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1 2027))</p>	<p>AF, WFP Malawi, and Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p> <p>[District Councils: frontline extension delivery</p> <p>WFP: technical support, scaling strategy, knowledge products]</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p> <p>WFP will facilitate and Government will implement (The project is being implemented by MoAIWD,¹ guided by the National Agriculture Extension and Advisory Services Strategy).</p>	<p>1.1.1 Establish a national-level framework to capture lessons, track progress, and refine approaches, ensuring alignment with Malawi Vision 2063, the National Agricultural Policy, and resilience-building initiatives.</p> <p>1.1.2 Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders and local institutions by providing skills, tools, and participatory approaches that enable them to support farming communities effectively and promote sustainability, local ownership, and long-term impact.</p>	<p>WFP CO Resilience unit</p> <p>[Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services, Department of Land Resources, Department of Crops and Department of irrigation development]</p>	<p>March 2028</p>
<p><i>Sub-recommendation 1.2</i></p> <p>While market linkages and insurance results were modest, valuable learning was generated. These lessons (both successes and challenges) should be consolidated and inform design of Phase 2.</p>	<p>WFP Malawi CO</p> <p>[District Councils: frontline extension delivery</p> <p>WFP: technical support, scaling strategy, knowledge products]</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>1.2.1 Develop a strategic paper/report on key lessons learnt and challenges on insurance and marketing to inform the design of the second phase. The report will build upon and align with the existing Global Shield Gap Analysis in</p>	<p>WFP CO Resilience unit</p> <p>[Ministry of Agriculture under Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p>	<p>October 2026</p>

¹ Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development

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<p>Markets and insurance should be treated as complementary components to the extension model, with design refined based on Phase 1 learning, and delivered in partnership with specialized actors.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1 2027)</p>			<p>Malawi, as well as the feasibility study on agricultural insurance, to ensure greater coherence and alignment among stakeholders.</p>	<p>and Ministry of Trade and Industry, ESARO² and global HQ Climate risk insurance and disaster risk financing; SAMS³]</p>	
<p><i>Sub-recommendation 1.3</i> Similarly, future projects should complement government-led large-scale irrigation with simpler, community-based, small-scale irrigation initiatives, emphasizing governance and participation alongside infrastructure</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1 2027)</p>	<p>WFP Malawi CO</p> <p>[District Councils: frontline extension delivery</p> <p>WFP: technical support, scaling strategy, knowledge products]</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p> <p>The national irrigation master plan and investment framework recommend future designs prioritise large scale efficient irrigation system as a backbone of national transformation and agricultural commercialization aligning towards 2063 vision. It is against this background that the phase II project will</p>	<p>1.3.1 Promote community-based small-scale irrigation initiatives to complement large-scale efficient irrigation systems, strengthening household resilience and ensuring equitable access to water sources. These initiatives will be guided by a landscape/watershed approach/development that supports ecosystem restoration and strengthens hydrological stability.</p>	<p>WFP CO Resilience unit</p> <p>[Ministry of Agriculture under Department of Irrigation Development]</p>	<p>March 2027</p>

² WFP Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

³ Smallholder Agricultural Market Support

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		strengthen and expand community-led ecosystem restoration based small-scale irrigation to complement 2063 vision.			
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 2: Plan for government district-level staffing challenges in the next phase of the project. The AF project relied heavily on district-level government staff to deliver activities. While this ensured ownership and embedded capacity, it also exposed a structural weakness: district-level government face chronic staffing shortages and high turnover. These gaps slowed implementation and created inconsistencies in service delivery.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q2 2026)</p>	<p>WFP Malawi and Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p> <p>[District Councils: recruitment and deployment under the new functional review]</p>	Agreed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

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<p><i>Sub-recommendation 2.1:</i> Future designs should explicitly address government district-level turnover and staffing realities as an expected challenge and build in mitigation strategies (e.g., continuous training cycles, refresher courses, flexible recruitment budgets). (Deadline: Q2 2026)</p>	<p>WFP Malawi and Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p> <p>[District Councils: recruitment and deployment under the new functional review]</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>2.1.1 Incorporate risk assessment in the project II design that will include workforce assessment and mitigation measures to support design integration for the following areas: continuous training cycle of core functions; biannual refresher courses; flexible recruitment budgets and liaise for government dedicated staff</p>	<p>WFP CO Resilience unit [Ministry of Agriculture, ESARO, global HQ Climate Risk Insurance and Disaster Risk Financing]</p>	<p>July 2026</p>

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<p><i>Sub-recommendation 2.2:</i> Invest in cross-training and team-based capacity by training multiple staff within departments to reduce reliance on individuals. It is recommended that there is joint WFP-government planning and monitoring so that if one staff member leaves, institutional memory is retained.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q2 2026)</p>	<p>WFP Malawi and Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services</p> <p>[District Councils: recruitment and deployment under the new functional review]</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>2.2.1 WFP to strengthen on cross-training and team-based capacity by training multiple staff within departments to reduce reliance on individuals. Through the government's decentralised framework, WFP will develop team-based skills matrix and cross-training plan to support the following areas: structured cross-training cycles; Joint WFP–Government planning workshops; Joint Monitoring & Review (JMR) visits and knowledge repository and handover protocol to enhance capacity efforts towards retaining institutional knowledge, documentation, collective decision-making, and integration of district development plans.</p> <p>2.2.2 Strengthen cross-training and team-based capacity, promoting cross-training among multiple staff within relevant departments, reducing reliance on individual personnel. In</p>	<p>WFP Resilience unit [WFP Country Office Management, Ministry of Agriculture under Department of Agricultural Extension Services]</p>	<p>July 2026</p>

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			<p>collaboration with government counterparts and aligned with the decentralised framework, WFP will develop and apply a team-based skills matrix and structured cross-training approach, complemented by joint WFP–Government planning workshops, to enhance collective competencies, continuity of functions, and integration of district development plans</p> <p>2.2.3 Strengthen institutional knowledge management and joint learning processes, systematising Joint Monitoring and Review (JMR) missions, establishing a centralised knowledge repository, and implementing standardised handover and documentation protocols.</p>		
<p>Priority: Medium - High Recommendation 3: Ensure there is measurement of</p>	WFP Malawi	<i>Agreed</i>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

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<p>progress and learning related to indirect project results.</p> <p>Beyond outputs (e.g., numbers of farmers trained or insured), Phase 1 generated systemic and cross-cutting effects on gender & inclusion, local governance, extension service quality, and national readiness for climate finance. It is recommended that the following is done in Phase 2.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q2, 2026)</p>					
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p><i>Sub-recommendation 3.1:</i></p> <p>The project pioneered proactive approaches (e.g., gender transformative household visioning), but monitoring should better capture differentiated impacts at household, community, and system levels.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1, 2027)</p>	WFP Malawi	Agreed	3.1.1 Strengthen the design of the project phase 2 to include monitoring system and framework that are able to capture differentiated impacts at household, community and system levels beyond project specific result framework	WFP CO M & E [WFP CO Resilience Unit, ESARO, global HQ, Ministry of Agriculture under Department of Planning]	December 2026
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p><i>Sub-recommendation 3.2:</i></p>	WFP Malawi	Agreed	3.2.1 Ensure the design phase of future projects explicitly identifies and documents	WFP CO Resilience Unit	December 2026

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<p>Even though not an explicit output, the project contributed significantly to Malawi's readiness for national implementing entity (NIE) accreditation. Future projects should measure and document these systemic results.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1, 2027)</p>			<p>outputs that demonstrate the project's contribution to Malawi's readiness for National Implementing Entity (NIE) accreditation.</p> <p>3.2.2 During future project implementation, measure and document systemic results (funds allowing) for learning and accountability.</p>	<p>[WFP CO Resilience unit, and ESARO and global HQ] ministry of Agriculture under department of planning</p>	
<p>Priority: Medium</p> <p><i>Sub-recommendation 3.3:</i></p> <p>Produce accessible briefs and sector notes from Phase 1 rather than burying lessons in lengthy reports. These should highlight good practices in climate-smart agriculture, markets, and insurance components.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1, 2026)</p>	WFP Malawi	Agreed	3.3.3 WFP to work closely with the Government to systematically capture and document lessons in the first phase of the project in climate smart agriculture, markets and insurance to support the design of the second phase and inform strategic actions towards adaptation and resilience	WFP CO Resilience Unit [Ministry of Agriculture under Department of Planning]	December 2026
<p>Priority: High</p> <p><i>Sub-recommendation 3.4:</i></p> <p>Document WFP's contribution to government capacity strengthening. One of the core</p>	WFP Malawi	Agreed	3.4.1 WFP to integrate capacity-strengthening interventions into the design of future projects and to establish a systematic documentation framework that demonstrates government	WFP CO Resilience Unit [Ministry of Agriculture under Department of	December 2026

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<p>mandates of the Adaptation Fund is not only to deliver direct resilience outcomes but also to strengthen national systems so governments can lead and sustain adaptation. In the future, the project should systematically capture contributions to government capacity through its work within government structures to strengthen long-term institutional capacity at district and national levels. In Phase 1, contributions included improving government monitoring and evaluation practices, technical capacity, and sector coordination. These should be systematically recorded and recognized as part of Malawi's climate finance readiness journey.</p> <p>(Deadline: Q1, 2026)</p>			<p>readiness to sustain adaptation efforts, while reinforcing national reporting on climate and adaptation frameworks.</p>	<p>Planning, ESARO and global HQ (Climate risk insurance and disaster risk financing SAMS)]</p>	
<p>Priority: High</p> <p>Recommendation 4: Enhance coordination with other actors</p>	<p>WFP Malawi, Ministry of Agriculture, and Department of Climate Change and</p>	<p><i>Agreed</i></p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

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in Malawi's climate adaptation space (Deadline: Q1, 2026)	Meteorological Services.				
<i>Sub-recommendation 4.1:</i> Establish a structured national learning agenda through the National Agriculture insurance task force to systematically document and disseminate AF project and regional experiences lessons on harmonized payout triggers, product design, and integration with social protection programmes for government scale-up of insurance in agriculture. (Deadline: Q1, 2026)	WFP Malawi, Ministry of Agriculture, and Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services.	Agreed	4.1.1 WFP, working in collaboration with Government, to facilitate the establishment of a structured national learning platform and agenda through the National Agriculture Insurance Task Force. This platform will harmonize and integrate products within national systems, minimizing fragmentation and advancing a sustainable, scalable insurance model that is embedded in government structures.	WFP CO Resilience Unit [National Insurance Task Force, Ministry of Agriculture under Department of Planning, Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services and Ministry of finance]	December 2026
<i>Sub-recommendation 4.2:</i> Link AF aggregation centres to broader value chain programmes (e.g., contract farming, structured trade) to ensure infrastructure is fully used. (Deadline: Q1, 2026)	WFP Malawi, Ministry of Agriculture, and Department of agricultural extension services and ministry of trade and industry Services.	Agreed The phase I project initiatives included linking and collaborating with key government and other value chain programmes such AGRICOM and TRADE.	4.2.1 Phase 2 design to outline how WFP and government will support mapping and prioritize value chain linkages and to conduct a rapid market and stakeholder mapping to identify buyers, processors, traders, and value chain programmes (e.g. contract farming schemes, structured trade platforms,	WFP CO Resilience Unit [Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural Extension Services, Ministry of Trade and Industry	August 2026

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		These efforts will be ongoing in the second phase complementing to agriculture extension system and productivity.	warehouse receipt systems) within and beyond the catchment of each AF aggregation centre.	ESARO and global HQ (Climate Risk Insurance and Disaster Risk Financing, SAMS)]	
<p><i>Sub-recommendation 4.3:</i> Integrate AF lessons into the national climate services strategy so extension staff deliver consistent, harmonized messages. <i>(Deadline: Q1, 2026)</i></p>	WFP Malawi, Ministry of Agriculture, and Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services.	<i>Agreed</i>	4.3.1 Leveraging on the participation in the Donor Coordination on Environment and Climate Change, WFP to contribute to policy and strategic discussions related to the Malawi National Adaptation Plan, the Malawi National Climate Management Policy, and the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) with key AF lessons for use by extension staff	WFP Adaptation Fund project National Coordinator [Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services	August 2026
<p><i>Sub-recommendation 4.4:</i> Feed Phase 1 project results into government and donor coordination platforms (e.g., agriculture and climate working groups) to position the project within Malawi's resilience architecture. <i>(Deadline: Q1, 2026)</i></p>	WFP Malawi, Ministry of Agriculture, and Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services.	<i>Agreed</i>	4.4.1 WFP to ensure that Phase 1 project results are systematically fed into government and donor coordination platforms, including agriculture and climate working groups. Results will be positioned within Malawi's broader resilience architecture, reinforcing national priorities	WFP Adaptation Fund project National Coordinator [Ministry of Agriculture, Department of planning, National	August 2026

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			and strategies. WFP will work closely with government and partners to ensure findings inform ongoing policy dialogue, planning, and resource mobilization. This approach will strengthen alignment, enhance visibility of project outcomes, and contribute to Malawi's long-term resilience agenda.	Planning Commission (NPC).	