



WFP MALAWI

COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Severe flooding in March 2026 has affected at least 310,896 people (69,088 households) across 23 district and city councils.
- WFP reached nearly 1.4 million people in March, distributing 4,425 metric tons of food and USD 3.65 million through cash-based transfers

IN NUMBERS



1.4 M people assisted in March 2026



664,57
Male



725,236
Female



4,425 MT food distributed



USD 3,651,907 cash transferred



23,302 people have been treated for moderate acute malnutrition



27,815 MT of Government maize transported for the 2025/2026 Lean Season Response



USD 16M (April – September 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: A collapsed house of one of the affected households by the recent flooding in Chikwawa. WFP/Francis Thawani

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Fuel prices have increased by almost 40 percent, exerting pressure on transport and food costs.
- The Government has released the minimum farm-gate prices with maize (the country's staple) at MWK 900 per kilogram (USD 0.52/kg).
- Following the severe flooding in March 2026 that affected parts of Blantyre and Chikwawa, emergency lean season distributions in these districts have been extended beyond March and will conclude by 30 April 2026.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Update on recent heavy rains and flooding

- Severe flooding in March 2026 has affected over 368,000 people (81,842 households) across 23 district and city councils, resulting in 37 deaths, 233 injuries and 26,213 people (5,825 households) displaced into 84 evacuation camps (Department of Disaster Management Affairs, 2026) In response, WFP has assisted 9,735 households (43,808 people) in the most affected areas with 12.5 kg of corn soya blend (CSB+) per household and relief items such as buckets, soap and eating utensils.

Refugees

- Refugee assistance is at risk of suspension and without additional funding, support will be halted by September 2026. More than 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Dzaleka Camp depend on WFP's cash assistance to meet their daily food needs. Due to funding shortfalls, WFP's assistance is meeting only 60 percent of daily caloric needs.

- To sustain 60 percent rations from September until December 2026, WFP urgently requires USD 4.3 million. Restoring 100 percent of daily caloric needs, requires USD 7.2 million.

Nutrition

- WFP supports the Ministry of Health in managing moderate acute malnutrition across seven districts, reaching 23,302 beneficiaries in March with an 89 percent recovery rate. WFP is also advocating for nutrition integration in Malawi's Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 for TB and HIV, building on proven interventions that reduced mortality from 8–10 percent to below 3 percent. Recent severe flooding has heightened malnutrition risks for 56,000 children under five and pregnant and breastfeeding women, prompting WFP and partners to coordinate a targeted nutrition response in affected areas.

School Meals

- Malawi's school feeding programme risks disruption starting September 2026. Without additional funding, nearly 594,000 learners (WFP is supporting 769,150 learners) will lose meals, undermining both nutrition and education outcomes. WFP remains committed to supporting the Government's goal of universal school feeding, but with coverage currently at only 44 percent, the funding gap threatens to significantly set back progress. WFP requires USD 11 million to continue providing school meals to 594,000 learners throughout the next academic year beginning in September 2026.

Food Systems

- WFP launched the [IGNITE Malawi Innovation Challenge](#), convening government, partners, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and innovators to co-create climate-smart, market-driven solutions that strengthen food systems. The initiative aims to boost farmer incomes, reduce postharvest losses, and expand SME participation in rural value chains. WFP requires USD 5 million to effectively support farmers, strengthen market systems, and drive lasting progress toward food security and Zero Hunger.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- WFP delivered a one-off cash transfers to 6,115 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) participants in Nsanje District. Each targeted household received MWK 114,000 (around USD 66) aimed to help meet immediate food needs during the peak of the lean season while they continue to engage in

the maintenance of productive community assets under the FFA initiative. A total of USD 8 million is needed to continue resilience activities in Malawi until December 2026.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- WFP, alongside national and United Kingdom search and rescue teams, delivered flood response training to frontline responders from high-risk districts. The training focused on power boat operations to strengthen local emergency response capacity. WFP joined SADC and partners in a workshop to review disaster preparedness and response frameworks. Discussions emphasised early warning, telecommunications and logistics to reinforce collective readiness across Southern Africa.

Anticipatory Action

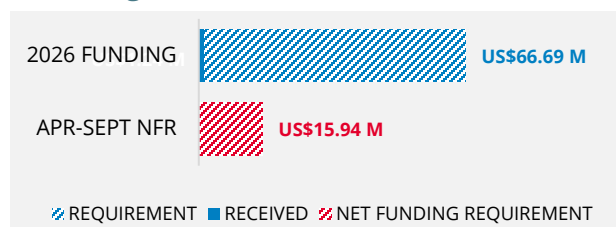
- Anticipatory Action (AA) beneficiaries who received seed, fertiliser and multi-purpose cash assistance showed a sharp reduction in negative coping strategies during the lean season, according to preliminary analysis. Before the assistance, 16 percent of households resorted to emergency level coping strategies, but by peak lean season this fell to 1 percent. These harmful strategies included selling land, selling of livestock or begging. The data indicates a reduced risk of food insecurity as households transition from recurrent reliance to self-sustenance.

Transport and Logistics Cluster

- As co-lead of the Transport and Logistics Cluster, WFP supports the Government in moving maize for the 2025/2026 Lean Season Response, having transported 27,815 metric tons to districts to date.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

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



Donors:

Denmark, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, European Union International Partnerships, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Malawi, Multilateral Funds, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United States of America and WFP's Emerging Donors Matching Fund (in alphabetical order).