



World Food Programme

WFP Malawi Country Brief

April 2018

Operational Context

Malawi, a small landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa with a population expanding rapidly at 3 percent per year. With the majority of livelihoods dependent on agriculture, the population is highly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by a volatile economy, high rates of HIV infection (at 8.8 percent), low primary school completion rate (at 51 percent) and chronic under-nutrition (at 37 percent for children under five). Given these challenges, WFP's operations work to support the Government in attaining a food and nutrition secure and resilient future, which is guided by the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals with a particular emphasis on reaching zero hunger (SDG 2).

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.



Population: **17 million**

2017 Human Development Index: **170 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Stunting Rate: **37% of children under 5**

In Numbers

34,829 refugees benefited from general food distribution in Luwani and Dzaleka camps

7,347 farmers insured under the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative received a payout valued at USD 500,000

994,000 children are benefiting from school meals in 13 food insecure districts

88,000 people suffering from acute malnutrition received nutrition treatment

Operational Updates

Refugee Programme:

- The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) projects an additional influx of asylum seekers of approximately 10,000 people into Malawi in 2018. In April, a total of 34,829 refugees benefited from the general food distribution and over 2,000 children were provided with additional nutrition support in both Luwani and Dzaleka camps. Thanks to USAID's support, refugees benefited from full rations in April 2018. However, the programme still requires USD 1.2 million to provide the required food assistance from September to December 2018.

Resilience Programme:

- The insurance of the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) triggered a payout due to prolonged dry spells for 7,347 farmers in the districts of Balaka, Zomba, and Blantyre valued at USD 500,000. The same farmers also benefited from climate services and the other components of R4 to help them manage the impact of the dry spells. Climate Services offered advice on Fall Armyworm, as it was another major threat to farmers this year. Other advisory under climate services covered post-harvest handling and winter production.
- 132,000 households participating in Food for Assets (FFA) activities completed their work and final transfers were made. Specifically, between December 2017 and April 2018, programme participants worked mainly on wet season appropriate assets, such as plantation of assorted tree and fruit seedlings in degraded areas and around public institutions. Planning for the dry season activities has begun with irrigation systems and land resource management, among others.
- The Purchase for Progress project (P4P) conducted an After Action Review (AAR) on the pro-smallholder procurement modalities implemented during the 2017 marketing season to inform the procurement plan for 2018. Some 10 smallholder farmer organizations sold 2,888 metric tonnes of maize worth (USD 500,000) to WFP through six food supply agreements and one conditional tender.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Badre Bahaji
Caption: Namangale Farmers organisation, Zomba District. Building the capacity of farmers in Malawi gives them the tools to become business entities.

Contact info: lauren.webber@wfp.org
Country Director: Benoit Thiry
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/malawi

Lean Season Response:

- The lean season response was completed in March 2018. Following the Government's request for support, WFP has reached 416,850 beneficiaries in the form of cash-based transfers in 7 districts while the INGO consortium reached 290,800 people, through the end of the lean season response in March. The remainder of food insecure households were reached by the Government of Malawi (DODMA) with a donation of 3,270 mt of rice by the People's Republic of China.
- A post-distribution assessment has been conducted and the report will be shared in May. WFP is also supporting the Government to carry out a Joint Emergency Food Assistance Programme (JEFAP) targeting learning exercise to understand communities' perceptions of the new guidelines that were rolled out during the 2017/18 Lean Season Response.

School Meals Programme:

- WFP provides school meals through the Centralised Model (CM) and Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM) to 994,000 primary and pre-primary students in 13 food insecure districts.
- The UN Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE) is implemented in 81 schools in three districts of Malawi with support from the Government of Norway.
- On 10 April, the Norwegian Minister of International Development, Nicolai Astrup, visited a Primary School in Salima District supported by the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education.
- Through the various capacity development activities, government is taking greater ownership to develop strategies to scale up the School Meals Programme. A joint work plan has been developed to facilitate government engagement and efficient implementation.
- WFP supported the placement of a technical person to support the Government in the implementation of strategic activities such as the review of the National School Health and Nutrition strategy.

Nutrition programme:

- In April 2018, WFP's support to the management of moderate acute malnutrition continued, reaching 50,401 children and pregnant and lactating women under Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and 37,408 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition. The programme maintained the performance indicators above the SPHERE standards at a 93% recovery rate, 0.25% death rate, 2.4% default rate and 4.4% non-recovery rate.

Donors

Belgium, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, Private Donors (CIFF), Sweden, UK, USAID, USDA, World Bank

- In 2017, WFP supported the Ministry of Health to provide nutrition treatment to 126,859 people on Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) and Tuberculosis (TB) patients who were severely and moderately malnourished (SAM and MAM). The programme is funded by the United States President Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- Considering the high levels of poverty in Malawi, the gains of ART or TB treatments can be eroded if they suffer from malnutrition. Thus, acutely malnourished adolescents and adults need to be supported with nutrition supplementation to minimize progression towards illness and to ensure a productive life.
- The nutrition programme is facing a funding gap of USD 6 million for 2018 and timely support is urgently required to support these life-saving services.

Food Security Update

- Agriculture Production Estimates Survey (APES) results for the 2017/2018 agricultural season showed that maize production (Malawi's main staple) was projected to decrease from 3,4 million to 3,2 million metric tons, (representing 7.7 percent decrease in production) compared to the 2016/2017 final crop estimates.
- In addition, the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) has just completed a pre-harvest assessment and has highlighted that in the Centre and South, dry spells of 3-5 weeks were experienced, accompanied by unusually high temperatures, leading to poor crop establishment and loss of vigor to withstand pests and diseases.
- Approximately 270,180 hectares (ha) of crop belonging to 707,389 farming households have been severely affected by the dry spells. As of 08 March, the total hectares reported as affected by the Fall Armyworm in Malawi was around 292,000 ha.
- However, the current low maize prices and availability of stocks on the market (largely due to good production and carryover stocks from last year) will limit the negative impact in the most affected districts.
- The last week of April saw stable maize grain prices reach a new low at MK 87 per kilogram, the lowest since June last year. The current average price is 18 percent lower than the same time last month and 29 percent lower than the same time last year.

Financial update

DEV 200287 - 2018 Funding Gap

USD 1,3 million WFP funding shortfall for the school meals Programme in 2018

USD 6 million WFP funding shortfall for the nutrition Programme in 2018

PRRO 200460 - 2018 Funding Gap

USD 1,2 million WFP funding shortfall for the Refugee Programme in 2018