



Malawi

Malawi is currently experiencing its worst food security crisis in over a decade. Some 2.8 million people,¹ including 1.5 million children, are currently affected. This situation follows the late rains and prolonged dry spells that impacted crop production in 2014–2015, as well as the severe flooding that took place in early 2015 and left more than 230,000 people seeking refuge in displacement sites.² The El Niño weather phenomenon is expected to contribute to erratic rainfall patterns in 2016, including with the likelihood of above normal rainfall. Given the devastating 2015 flood season, Malawi also remains extremely vulnerable to flooding. In some parts of the country, below normal rainfall amounts are expected at the end of the rainy season, which will further exacerbate levels of vulnerability. With more than 42.4 per cent of all children in Malawi already stunted,³ there are concerns of increased malnutrition rates and a higher likelihood of water-borne diseases, such as cholera, to which two thirds of Malawi's districts are prone. These threats will negatively impact the health and survival of children, as exposure to violence, abuse and exploitation, including early marriage, may increase. Poor coping mechanisms in response to shocks also affect school attendance.

Humanitarian strategy

Together with partners, in 2016, UNICEF will focus on responding to populations at risk, addressing malnutrition and preventing disease outbreaks, including cholera. UNICEF will also continue to ensure that minimum preparedness measures and response capacities are in place to meet the immediate needs of affected populations, especially in areas impacted by floods and nutritional emergencies. Multi-sectoral interventions in health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, education and child protection will employ integrated approaches and will address cross-cutting themes, including HIV and AIDS and Communication for Development. To break the vicious cycle related to the impact of seasonal disasters, UNICEF will strengthen government capacity in disaster risk management at national and decentralized levels and will work with partners to develop a longer-term approach that builds the resilience of families and communities. UNICEF will ensure that agreements with existing partners operating in disaster-prone districts include an emergency response component to facilitate fast and effective response in times of emergency. UNICEF will also continue to play a key role in emergency coordination as the sector co-lead agency for the nutrition, education, WASH and child protection clusters, while also playing a major role in the health cluster and the gender-based violence area of responsibility.

Results from 2015

As of 31 October 2015, UNICEF had received 33 per cent (US\$4.15 million) of the US\$14,245,000 appeal, in addition to US\$124,000 carried forward from 2014. With agreement from donors, US\$3.59 million was reprogrammed to the response from regular and other resources, which contributed to the achievement of most of the planned results. UNICEF's role in supporting the supervision of health workers, the provision of supplies and coordination contributed to achievement of above 75 per cent recovery rates for the 20,830 severely malnourished children enrolled in therapeutic feeding programmes. UNICEF surpassed its target for improved sanitation by 19 per cent and achieved 90 per cent of the safe water supply target through effective partnership coordination. UNICEF also enabled 72,750 children to access routine immunization and basic health care and 268,835 women (84 per cent of the target) to receive key health care and health promotion messages. UNICEF supported the Government to respond effectively to protection issues, enabling 9,860 men and 9,650 women to receive protection promotion messages, and 56,490 children to benefit from psychosocial support services. The continuation of teaching and learning was ensured for 193,920 children, surpassing the 2015 target by 85 per cent after additional funding for education was secured. Due to funding constraints, UNICEF was unable to reach its target for survival kits, leaving 5,780 families affected by floods without access to a number of essential household items. Due to inadequate funding, UNICEF's planned support to the Government's Social Cash Transfer Programme, which would have helped 350,000 most-vulnerable and labour-constrained families meet their daily basic needs, was not realized in 2015.

Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

Total affected population: 2.8 million
Total affected children (under 18): 1.5 million

Total people to be reached in 2016: 882,000
Total children to be reached in 2016: 453,500

2016 programme targets

Nutrition

- 34,000 children under 5 years with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) enrolled in therapeutic feeding programmes
- 453,500 children aged 6 to 59 months provided with micronutrient supplementation

Health

- 453,500 children aged 6 to 59 months immunized against measles
- 96,330 children provided with access to life-saving curative interventions

WASH

- 400,000 people benefitted from hygiene promotion campaigns
- 100,000 people provided with access to sanitation/temporary latrines
- 50,000 internally displaced persons and host community members provided with safe water as per agreed standards

Child protection

- 250 child protection cases recorded and referred to appropriate services
- 10,000 vulnerable women and children reached with protection messages to expand knowledge on protection services and service points

Education

- 50,000 children received school supplies, psychosocial support, care and stand-by teaching from 200 volunteer teachers
- 5,000 girls and boys that are in and out of school accessed livelihood skills, literacy and social services

HIV and AIDS

- 10,000 emergency-affected women retained on HIV treatment
- 100,000 emergency-affected adolescents provided with HIV-related information and access to services

	Cluster 2015 target	Cluster total results	UNICEF 2015 target	UNICEF total results
NUTRITION				
Children aged 6 to 59 months with SAM enrolled in outpatient therapeutic feeding programmes (OTPs) and nutrition rehabilitation unit (NRU) programmes	26,400	20,830 (10,090 males; 10,740 females)	26,400	20,830 (10,090 males; 10,740 females)
Recovery rate for children with SAM	75%	93% for OTP 82% for NRU	75%	93% for OTP 82% for NRU
HEALTH				
Children and women with access to essential health services, including immunizations			72,000	72,750
Disaster-affected households provided with survival kits			8,000	2,220*
Disaster-affected women of child-bearing age receive key health education			320,000	268,840
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE				
Disaster-affected people and host community members provided with safe water	600,000	449,620	235,000	212,060
Emergency-affected people provided with access to sanitation/temporary latrines as per agreed standards	600,000	395,370	235,000	280,240
CHILD PROTECTION				
Children and caregivers benefiting from psychosocial support	50,000	56,490	50,000	56,490
Districts with prevention and response plans to address major child protection risks established	15	10	15	10
EDUCATION				
Disaster-affected schoolchildren benefitting from temporary school structures and supplies (School-in-a-Box and recreation kits)	262,000	193,920	105,000	193,920
HIV AND AIDS				
HIV-positive pregnant women continuing to receive antiretroviral treatment for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV			1,500 90%	860 77%
Emergency-affected people provided with HIV prevention information			100,000	210,850
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Children in most-vulnerable and labour-constrained households enabled to meet their daily basic needs in the most drought-affected districts			350,000	0**
Most-vulnerable and labour-constrained households made aware of effective emergency preparedness and response measures in most drought-affected districts			120,000	0**

Results are through 31 October 2015 unless otherwise noted.

*Due to inadequate funding, UNICEF was unable reach its target for survival kit distribution in 2015.

**The Cash Transfer Programme for 350,000 most-vulnerable and labour-constrained families, introduced as a programme strategy in September 2015, was not realized due to funding constraints in 2015.

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Funding requirements

In line with the inter-agency drought response plan, UNICEF is requesting US\$13,035,000 to meet the humanitarian needs of children in Malawi in 2016. Without additional funding, UNICEF will not be able to contribute to the national response to the ongoing food and nutrition insecurity crisis, which will increase the likelihood of high malnutrition rates and vulnerability to disease among children.

Sector	2016 requirements (US\$)
Nutrition	7,130,000
Health	1,500,000
Water, sanitation and hygiene	1,200,000
Child protection	600,000
Education	1,875,000
HIV and AIDS	200,000
Cluster/sector coordination	530,000
Total	13,035,000

¹ International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 'Malawi: Food Insecurity Emergency Appeal Operation Update No. 2 (MDRMWO2)', 26 October 2015, <reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-food-insecurity-emergency-appeal-operation-update-no-2-mdrmw012>, accessed 25 November 2015.

² United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination, UNDAC Assessment Report: Floods Malawi', 6 February 2015, <www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/system/files/documents/files/Malawi_UNDAC_Assessment_Report_6Feb2015.pdf>, accessed 27 December 2015.

³ National Statistical Office of Malawi, 'Malawi MDG Endline Survey 2014', June 2015, <www.nsomalawi.mw/latest-publications/mdg-endline-survey-2014.html>, accessed 27 December 2015.

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