WFP Malawi Country Brief
April 2021

Operational Context
Malawi is 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, in particular prolonged dry spells and flash floods.

Malawi’s challenges are compounded by a volatile economy, high rates of HIV/AIDS infection (at 9.6 percent), a low primary school completion rate (at 51 percent), and a high level of stunting (at 37 percent for children under five). Given these challenges, WFP’s operations support the Government in attaining a food- and nutrition-secure and resilient future, which is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with a particular emphasis on achieving zero hunger (SDG 2)

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.

Population: 17.5 million
Income Level: Low
Stunting: 37% of children aged 6-59 months old
2020 Human Development Index: 174 out of 189 countries

In Numbers
745 active cases of COVID-19 in Malawi (30 April 2021)
USD 3.0 million six-month (May - October 2021) net funding requirements
11,000 refugee households assisted with food and cash distributions

Strategic Outcome 1
- **Refugees:** 11,000 refugee households received double distributions of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) and cash-based transfers for the food basket (comprising of cereal, pulses and oil) for the months of March and April. From May, distributions will be conducted monthly, owing to the consistently low number cases of COVID-19 over the past two months.
- Furthermore, 5,000 households are receiving debit cards from WFP’s financial service provider — MyBucks — to use to access their cash transfers as e-payments.
- **COVID-19 Cash Response:** Thanks to support from the Government of Norway, from December 2020 to March 2021, WFP provided cash assistance to 12,000 households in seven bomas in response to the economic impacts of COVID-19 on urban areas.
- **Rural Lean Season Cash Response:** WFP, in support of the Government of Malawi, completed its distributions under the 2020/2021 lean season response, providing cash assistance to 488,000 people who faced severe food insecurity in Malawi.
- **Support to Government’s In-Kind Rural Response:** With technical assistance from WFP, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA) completed distribution of 16,000 mt of food to 541,000 people.

Strategic Outcome 2
- **School Feeding:** In April, WFP rolled out take-home ration distributions for the 600,000 learners under its school feeding programme in the country. The adaptation of the school feeding programme to take-home rations is in line with the Ministry of Education’s guidance to partners during the pandemic.
- **Social Protection:** In collaboration with the Government and UNICEF, an After-Action Review workshop of the lean season response is planned to be conducted in May 2021. The review will include the use of the social protection system jointly supported by UNICEF and WFP for targeting and delivery of lean season assistance where the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) was used for targeting beneficiaries on the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP).
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>629.7 m</td>
<td>225.5 m</td>
<td>3.0 m</td>
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**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 1: Shock-affected people vulnerable to seasonal and climatic shocks and refugees in Malawi have access to all year long.**

**Focus area: Crisis Response**

**Activity 1:** Provide cash and/or food transfers to refugees, malnourished people and the most vulnerable populations affected by seasonal shocks.

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable populations in food-insecure communities, benefit from strengthened shock-responsive social protection systems and efficient supply chains to ensure access to safe, nutritious food all year round.**

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activity 2:** Support national social protection systems to become increasingly shock-responsive and hunger- and nutrition-sensitive.

**Activity 3:** Provide nutritious meals to schoolchildren in food-insecure areas.

**Strategic Result 2: End Malnutrition**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Targeted populations, especially children under 5, adolescents, PLWG, and TB & HIV/AIDS clients, in Malawi, have improved nutritional status in line with national targets.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activity 4:** Provide chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency prevention services to at-risk populations in targeted areas.

**Strategic Result 4: Sustainable Food Systems**

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Smallholder producers in Malawi have enhanced resilience, through diversified livelihoods, increased marketable surpluses and access to well-functioning food systems and efficient supply chains by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activity 5:** Provide resilience-building support, education and systems-strengthening services to smallholder farmers and value chain actors.

**Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening**

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National and local institutions, agencies and enterprises in Malawi have increased capacity and improved supply chain systems to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activity 6:** Provide capacity strengthening, skills transfer, partnership activities and logistics and procurement services to national and local institutions and private-sector enterprises involved in food security, nutrition, food safety, disaster risk management and emergency response.

**Strategic Result 6: Common Services**

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Humanitarian and development partners in Malawi have access to increased emergency services throughout the crisis.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activity 7:** Provide services through the Logistics Cluster to National Disaster Management Offices and other relevant partners to improve emergency logistics coordination, access to services and supply chain management.

**Activity 8:** Provide on-demand services to humanitarian and other relevant partners to ensure effective emergency assistance.

**Strategic Outcome 3**

- **Malnutrition Prevention:** The implementation of the Neno Investment in Nutrition project supported by the Government of Ireland through WFP in Malawi is ongoing. So far, a Trainer of Trainers workshop for the project was organised with the Department of Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (DNHA) which is the key technical partner of the project at national level. The DNHA and WFP consolidated a hybrid training package drawn from the existing nutrition training packages of Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) and Investing in Early Years.

- **A website** for Scaling up Nutrition (SUN) Business Network (SBN) has been developed. This will serve as a platform where WFP and partners can showcase progress on the nation’s nutrition development agenda and share successes. Additionally, it is expected to generate more interest towards nutrition in Malawi.

**Strategic Outcome 4**

- **Livelihoods:** WFP’s Food-Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) programme is supporting 128,000 households in eight districts with land resource management, irrigation, crop and livestock production, and/or reforestation. Activities in April focused on irrigation farming and planning for the next phase (2021 cycle), including validation of village action plans.

- Meanwhile, about 66,000 farming households were enrolled for crop insurance for the 2020/2021 growing season. These households will be compensated in case of crop failure.

**Strategic Outcome 5**

- **Food Security Analysis:** WFP continued to collect availability and price information for both food and non-food commodities from traders and households across the country to better understand how COVID-19 and its associated mitigating measures are impacting market access and food security, as well as to help inform response modality discussions. These analysis bulletins have been disseminated to stakeholders through the bi-weekly Minimum Expenditure Basket bulletin and the monthly COVID-19 Household Food Security Monitoring bulletin.

**Strategic Outcome 6**

- **Emergency Supply Chain Support to the COVID-19 Response:** As co-lead of the Logistics Cluster, WFP (with funding from the Government of Iceland) supported UNHCR with the deployment and installation of 3 mobile storage unit (MSU) tents at the Dzaleka Refugee Camp for the COVID-19 vaccination campaign at the camp.

- The cluster also supported the Blantyre Adventist Hospital with the installation of a 16m x 10m MSU tent to be used for isolation at the facility.

**Donors**

Adaptation Fund, Flanders, ECHO, European Union (INTPA), FEED, Flanders, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Mastercard, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Russia, SDG Fund, Swiss Development Cooperation, UK (FCDO), USAID.