



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Malawi Country Brief September 2020



## 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**

2018 Human Development Index: **172 out of 189 countries**

Income Level: **Low**

Stunting: **37% of children aged 6-59 months old**

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Cover picture: Participants in irrigation farming. Credit: WFP/Badre Bahaji

## In Numbers

**5,783 confirmed cases** of COVID-19 in Malawi (as 05 October 2020)

**USD 59.4 million** six-month (October 2020–March 2021) net funding requirements

**41,000 refugees** assisted with food and cash distributions



### Strategic Outcome 1

- **Refugees:** To limit exposure for beneficiaries and staff, WFP has moved to bi-monthly food distributions to the 41,000 beneficiaries in Dzaleka Camp. Food items (beans and vegetable oil) were distributed while cash-based transfers for the cereal component of the food basket were done through bank transfers via MyBucks, a financial service provider in the camp, which can be accessed/withdrawn at each participant's own convenience.
- **Lean Season Response:** The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) [report](#) for the 2020/2021 lean season was officially endorsed by the Government in September and is now available for dissemination. A total of 2.6 million people are projected to be in need of food assistance as early as November 2020. All the analysed cities (Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Zomba), along with the three rural districts of Nsanje, Neno and Balaka, will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while the remaining areas are likely to be in Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

### Strategic Outcome 2

- **School Feeding:** Schools have been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19. As such, 600,000 learners have been missing out on daily school meals provided by WFP. In response, in May 2020, WFP started providing take-home rations to some 550,000 learners in seven districts. As of 07 September, schools started to reopen gradually, with students in their final years resuming classes to sit for their exams before all classes can resume on 12 October. WFP will continue to provide take-home rations for school meals for the remainder of 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within schools, following the advice by the Ministry of Education to partners implementing school feeding programmes.
- **Social Protection:** WFP is continuing its technical support to the Government to strengthen the social protection system in responding to shocks – both COVID-19 and the lean season.

### Strategic Outcome 3

- **Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment:** WFP continued to support the implementation of nutrition activities using various media channels such as radio programmes and jingles, social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) talking walls, drama sessions, mobile vans, and public address systems. Messages on maternal and infant and young child nutrition in the context of COVID-19 in seven districts reached an estimated 2.7 million people. COVID-19 and food safety awareness raising was also extended to markets through the SUN Business Network (SBN). WFP supported orientations on COVID-19 prevention and food safety to market focal points, while SBN provided personal protective equipment (PPEs) and hygiene materials to selected health facilities and markets in six districts.

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
<b>621.1 m</b>	<b>166.7 m</b>	<b>59.4 m</b>

## 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 8: 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 4

- **Livelihoods:** Food-Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) initiatives were rolled out with a focus on land resources activities (compost making, deep trenches, swales for water conservation).
- Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) Training of Trainers took place in eight targeted districts in preparation for the scale-up in October 2020.
- Over 19,000 beneficiaries in six districts were reached via radio messaging on COVID-19 prevention, and climate and agriculture advice facilitated by WFP in collaboration with Farm Radio Trust.

## Strategic Outcome 5

- Since mid-April, WFP has been collecting 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

- Following the announcement by the Government on lifting the suspension of commercial air travel in September, WFP Aviation coordinated its last humanitarian passenger flight after facilitating weekly flights in and out of Malawi since June 2020.
- In support of the Government's COVID-19 preventive measures, WFP erected mobile storage units at the Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe for health screening of passengers.
- WFP has facilitated the reception and transportation of approximately 130m<sup>3</sup> of various humanitarian cargo on behalf of the Malawi Government from Direct Relief, Last Mile Health, Malawian Red Cross and the Government of Egypt.
- To boost information sharing and operational planning, a [dedicated logistics website](#) has been set up for the National Logistics Cluster. Currently, over 45 Information Management products have been published and disseminated by WFP.



Implementation of livelihoods activities in Malawi is underway while ensuring that adherence to COVID-19 prevention measures is enforced for all participants. Photo: WFP/ Badre Bahaji

## Donors

Adaptation Fund, Flanders, ECHO, European Union, FEED, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Mastercard, National Postcode Lottery Netherlands (NPL), Norway, Russia, SDG Fund, Swiss Development Cooperation, UK (FCDO), USAID.