



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Malawi, Republic of (MW)

Country Programme-Malawi(2012-2016)

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200287
Project Category	Country Programme

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	February 14, 2012
Planned Start Date	March 01, 2012
Actual Start Date	March 01, 2012
Project End Date	December 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	86,851,050
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	1,304,362
Direct Support Costs	20,004,182
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	2,475,030
Indirect Support Costs	7,744,438
Total	118,379,062

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	32,055
Actual Commodities 2015	10,433
Total Approved Commodities	120,432

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COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

Malawi, a small and landlocked sub-Saharan African country, is a UNFPA global population hotspot with a population rapidly expanding at 3 percent per year. Despite significant investments in development, Malawi ranks 173 out of 188 countries in the 2015 Human Development Index.

Poverty is predominantly rural, with female-headed households experiencing higher poverty than those headed by men. Some 51 percent of female-headed households are afflicted by severe food insecurity compared to 38 percent of male-headed households, according to Malawi's latest Integrated Household Panel Survey report (NSO/IHPS 2014). Gender inequality in Malawi continues to be among the worst in the world, ranking fifteenth lowest on the gender inequality index (2015 UNDP Human Development Report). Although the country was on track to partially achieve half of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the end of 2015, MDG1 – halving extreme poverty and hunger – was not realized.

Since 2012, economic shocks such as devaluation of the local currency by 34 percent, its subsequent depreciation by 60 percent compared to the US dollar (much of which took place in the last half of 2015) and inflation of nearly 25 percent have contributed to high living costs. Average incomes were lowest globally for 2015, with a GNI per capita of just USD 250 (World Bank 2015). The worsening economic situation has hit Malawi's poor especially hard, negatively affecting their ability to access wage-earning work or food. Donor budgetary aid also continued to be suspended to Malawi in the wake of the 2013/14 "cashgate" scandal, further destabilizing the economy and public services. This is particularly concerning given that, among the poorest Malawians, half of young women aged 15-24 and a third of young men are illiterate (NSO/IHPS 2014).

Malawi's landholdings are generally small and densely cultivated, causing overuse and degradation of marginally productive agricultural land. The country's quickly-growing population has placed intense pressure on farm-holdings of an average 0.24 hectares, compared with the sub-Saharan African average of 0.40 (World Bank, 2012). At the same time, smallholder farmers contribute to 70 percent of the overall national agricultural sector, and most produce maize on a subsistence basis (Government of Malawi, 2014). This makes most of the population highly vulnerable to the effects of the frequent and intense natural disasters, such as recurrent seasonal dry spells and flooding. In 2015, for example, Malawians have had to cope with the dual impact of the most severe floods disaster in living memory followed by prolonged dry spells in the first half of 2015 – resulting in the worst food insecurity in a decade, further deepened by the second strongest El Niño on the record since 1900. According to an integrated context analysis conducted by WFP, nearly half of Malawi's 28 districts have experienced at least four major shocks in the last decade.

The challenges in the country are compounded by the high HIV infection rate at 10 percent (UNAIDS, 2014), the ninth highest rate in the world. Nutrition insecurity also remains high, linked to, among other factors, poor dietary diversity, a high disease burden and persistent annual food shortages. Some 42 percent of children aged under five are stunted (MICS 2014). According to the 2015 Cost of Hunger in Africa study in Malawi, the annual costs of child undernutrition – which is associated with 23 percent of child mortality cases in the country – are estimated at USD 597 million, equivalent to 10.3 percent of its GDP.

Since 1990, Malawi has hosted a steady influx of refugees, mainly from the Great Lakes Region and more recently from Mozambique. Some 24,300 refugees and asylum seekers were living in Malawi as of 2015.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

In line with the government's priorities and policies and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2012-2016 and which will be extended an additional two years), WFP works to achieve a food and nutrition secure and resilient Malawi. This is operationalised through a 2012-2016 country strategy and five operations in 2015 that prioritised social and nutritional support for vulnerable groups, resilience building and agricultural market support to small-scale farmers, and provision of emergency food assistance and logistical augmentation in times of crisis. WFP has continued its strategic shift towards resilience in Malawi and worked to address the structural drivers of hunger by simultaneously preparing for and responding to shocks, restoring and rebuilding lives and livelihoods, and reducing vulnerability to build lasting resilience.

2015 was a year of unprecedented humanitarian need in Malawi – with devastating floods and dry spells, followed by the driest planting season (from October-December 2015) in 35 years. Coupled with the difficult macroeconomic environment and poor previous growing season, the situation escalated into the country's worst food insecurity in a decade. WFP responded to the emergency needs of Malawi's most vulnerable who were unable to meet their annual food requirements. At the request of the government, WFP provided food or cash transfers to some 1.98 million food insecure people in 2015 under PRRO 200692 and IR-EMOP 200810. Through SO 200865 and IR-EMOP 200810, WFP also provided logistics services on behalf of the humanitarian community in the aftermath of the 2015 floods disaster in order to re-open access to cut-off communities. WFP worked closely with the government, building its capacity to eventually fully operate its national emergency response.

Through PRRO 200460, some 24,300 refugees in Malawi – the highest refugee population in a decade – also received relief assistance from WFP, as one step towards recovery from the conditions of forced migration.

The poorest in Malawi live in highly degraded environments and suffer from the cumulative impact of recurrent shocks. To facilitate the rebuilding of lives and livelihoods following crisis, WFP ensured that many of those receiving emergency assistance were supported with complementary activities to help them recover. Along with partners who have expertise in behavior change communication, WFP worked to enhance knowledge, attitudes and practices around diet diversification, gender equality and agricultural production.

To address chronic food insecurity, WFP scaled-up Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities under PRRO 200692 to build the resilience of 44,000 participants in four districts in 2015. WFP also continued to strengthen smallholder-friendly agricultural markets, which the country relies on for sustained economic development, by investing in the agricultural capacities of 71,000 smallholder farmers as part of the Purchase for Progress initiative. Through new climate-smart innovations such as weather-indexed micro-insurance, WFP helped shock-prone farmers to mitigate risk and build resilience.

The above early recovery and resilience-building activities were systematically planned with partners and local authorities, informed by a joint national integrated context analysis of vulnerabilities across the country, as well as multi-sectoral seasonal livelihood calendars and community-owned development action plans completed in four districts.

In response to prevailing high levels of malnutrition and social vulnerabilities, including high rates of student absenteeism and drop-out, WFP provided social support under Country Programme 200287 that helped reduce vulnerabilities. Some 857,000 schoolchildren received at least one nutritious meal per day, including some 89,000 who received diverse, locally sourced foods through WFP's home-grown school feeding programme. Additionally, nearly 140,000 women and children benefited from nutritional supplements that prevented and treated malnutrition. Through the Prevention of Stunting initiative in Malawi, WFP scaled-up nutrition interventions in the critical window of opportunity from a child's birth to second birthday where evidence shows greatest prevention potential. In its second year of operation, this pilot was awarded WFP's 2015 High Impact Innovation Award for pioneering an adaptive near-real-time monitoring and evaluation system in a stunting prevention project.

Recognizing the vital role that women have in promoting lasting solutions to food insecurity and undernutrition, WFP, in line with its Gender Policy (2015-2020), continued to create an enabling environment for gender equality and women's empowerment in Malawi by mainstreaming gender across its work. WFP also worked to ensure accountability to and create a safe environment for women, men, girls and boys by promptly and proactively addressing protection concerns.

WFP's assistance in Malawi supported the government's efforts to attain all eight MDGs, as well as the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) going forward, with a particular emphasis on the Zero Hunger Challenge (SDG2).

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	191,315	197,138	388,453
Children (5-18 years)	673,809	678,826	1,352,635
Adults (18 years plus)	377,245	448,767	826,012
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	1,242,369	1,324,731	2,567,100

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Country Programme	507	0	0	9,926	0	10,433
Single Country IR-EMOP	0	0	0	77	0	77
Single Country PRRO	64,055	2,185	9,549	3,604	0	79,393
Total Food Distributed in 2015	64,561	2,185	9,549	13,607	0	89,902

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Country Programme 200287 continues to support the Government of Malawi in improving the food and nutrition security for all in Malawi, specifically through aiming to meet immediate food needs, as well as to foster longer term development, for school children and those suffering from malnutrition. This Country Programme seeks to achieve this through two main components: Support to Education, including various models of school meal support to improve primary education outcomes, and Nutrition Support, including treatment of moderate acute malnutrition among vulnerable groups to support healthy and productive lives.

In 2015, the Country Programme activities were carried out in a challenging country context, namely the worst floods in living memory, followed by intense dry spells and tough economic conditions that collectively pushed the country into the worst food insecurity in a decade and necessitated WFP to provide emergency relief assistance under its PRRO 200692 for the entire year. In times of such crisis, maintaining and strengthening social support and safety nets such as those under this Country Programme take on life-saving importance, and therefore a key operation objective of this programme in 2015 was to support uninterrupted access to education and malnutrition treatment for the most vulnerable.

A third component was also part of the Country Programme in 2015, focused on building national capacity in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) for food security. However, given the focus on emergency response throughout the year, as well as changing government leadership, key steps were taken but only token achievements were made under this component. Meanwhile, WFP was still able to greatly contribute to DRR efforts through PRRO 200692 which complemented this Country Programme and involved activities to build community and household resilience, and which pursued capacity development as a cross-cutting objective.

WFP's innovations continued to support the government in designing sustainable solutions to achieve zero hunger, including through scaling up the provision of locally grown school meals under the Home Grown School Feeding model and advancing complementary support through two projects that are financed by Trust Funds outside of this Country Programme. These two projects were the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative that builds the capacity and supports the livelihoods of smallholder farmers, and the Prevention of Stunting pilot initiative that continued to intervene in children's first 1,000 days of life with comprehensive nutrition support, aiming to reduce stunting and build evidence around its prevention.

Country Programme activities support WFP Strategic Objectives 3 and 4, in line with the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan. All components are aligned with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II 2012-2016, the National Social Support Programme, and continued to build on progress towards the outcomes under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2012-2016).

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

In 2015, WFP continued to target the most vulnerable populations through the provision of daily meals in schools and nutrition support. Some 983,000 beneficiaries in primary and pre-school schools and health centres in the most vulnerable areas of Malawi were reached, as determined by high food insecurity and malnutrition levels, poverty, gender disparities, and education outcomes.

WFP continued to be the largest provider of school feeding in Malawi in 2015, providing over 842,700 primary schoolchildren and over 14,800 pre-primary students with a daily mid-morning meal of either porridge made from Super Cereal, or a diverse meal of locally grown foods. In the context of widespread food insecurity, where nearly 17 percent of Malawi's population required emergency food assistance in 2015, school meals aimed to prevent short-term hunger and to encourage regular attendance and attentiveness in class, thereby helping to protect education gains. Due to funding constraints in 2015, WFP was forced to reduce daily portions of Super Cereal porridge from 100g per child per day to 60g per child per day for most of latter half of 2015 in order to increase the number of feeding days as far as food stocks would allow. Some pipeline breaks were also experienced while waiting for the in-kind commodity arrivals. These issues resulted in less than 50 percent of planned Super Cereal distributed in 2015. Nonetheless, WFP continued to provide the food and cash transfers to schools for daily meals,

as well as overall project management, supervision and technical support. School committees and community members managed and implemented onsite school meals on a daily basis.

Of particular note was WFP's support to early childhood development (ECD) in 2015, which reached more than double the number of pre-school students with daily school meals when compared to last year. In addition to the standard goals of the schools meal programme, the ECD support also aimed at stimulating early learning, reducing under-age enrolment and strengthening children's transition into primary schools. The 2015 increase in benefitting pre-school students was attributable to the completion of school feeding structures at additional pre-schools which allowed for commencement of school meals at these new sites. Still, WFP remained below its end-of-project target for pre-primary students as a gradual scale-up has been planned, aiming to reach a total of 169 pre-schools by the end of 2016, pending adequate funds.

Prior to 2015, WFP worked with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the Ministry of Gender to select districts, primary schools and pre-schools for support, based on poor education indicators that included high dropout, repetition and absenteeism rates, as well as schools' access to water, storage capacity and accessibility.

Of the 842,700 primary school children, just over five percent (45,756 students) were assisted through the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) model, whereby WFP provided cash transfers to supported schools which were then used by school management committees to procure a diversity of locally available food such as sweet potatoes, fruits, soya beans and goat meat, from smallholder farmers. The majority of HGSF took place as part of WFP's contribution to the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE), which adopted a phased approach for HGSF implementation and only aimed to reach the planned number of students with HGSF by mid-2016. Those not assisted through the HGSF model, instead received traditional school meals through the provision of in-kind Super Cereal. This resulted in the number of students reached with HGSF (denoted as CBT school feeding in below table) achieving less than the overall planned figure, and lead to a significant underachievement of cash transfers when compared to planned. Still, there was a significant increase in students receiving HGSF from 2014, when only some 10,000 students benefitted.

The farmers who supplied food under HGSF were also supported by WFP's Purchase for Progress (P4P) programme, which helped build the capacity of smallholder farmers to increase production, reduce post-harvest losses and engage in new markets, including by selling to WFP to support other programmes. In 2015, WFP supported over 71,000 smallholder farmers in a total of 60 farmer organizations (FOs) through trainings on a variety of topics including increased market access and post-harvest handling skills. This more than doubled the number of P4P farmers supported by WFP in 2014 due to the increasing demand for farmers from new HGSF schools in 2015.

Recognizing their particular vulnerability to dropping out of school, WFP provided take home rations (THR) of 10 kg of maize or the cash equivalent to families of some 9,800 girls and orphaned boys from Standard 5-8 during the peak lean season (January – March), subject to an 80 percent monthly attendance rate.

Cash take home rations carried out in 2015 were a first for WFP Malawi and were implemented as part of WFP's work through the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education. The schools selected for cash-based THRs were chosen based on market assessment findings. In order to mitigate potential risks related to cash-based THRs transfer values were adjusted monthly to match market prices and trainings on financial management were conducted for district officials and schools. These trainings supported the overall effectiveness of this modality, but also took more time than planned to complete, causing the roll-out of cash-based THRs to be slower than planned, and hence, less cash being transferred than planned.

Overall, due to severe funding constraints and some pipeline challenges, WFP was only able to reach a total of about 9 percent of all assisted primary schools (and only in five districts, including the two districts targeted for cash THR) rather than the planned 100 percent of assisted schools across the 13 districts. The selected districts were those where education outcomes were the most threatened by the sudden onset of floods in early 2015. This resulted in reaching fewer beneficiaries reached with THRs, and the distribution of only a fraction of the maize that was planned under the education component of this Country Programme.

Under the nutrition component, WFP reached some 122,300 malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children with supplementary feeding to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), representing just over 100 percent of planned beneficiaries. The programme continued to operate within the national Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme, and thus included treatment to malnourished children up to 12 years old in line with government CMAM guidelines. WFP exceeded its targets for children assisted between the ages of 24 months and 18 years and missed its targets for children 6-23 months old and patients who were 18 years old or older primarily due to planned figures that were based on general demographic trends for MAM treatment. In operational terms, WFP reached all eligible children and women who presented themselves for treatment at health facilities supported by the supplementary feeding programme in 2015.

Super Cereal Plus was given to beneficiaries on a fortnightly basis to enable recovery at the highest rate possible. Mothers and caregivers of malnourished children further benefited from nutrition education on infant and young child

feeding practices, sanitation and hygiene, dietary diversity and disease prevention provided at health facilities.

In four targeted districts, WFP also treated over 3,800 malnourished male and female adolescents and adults living with tuberculosis (TB), most of whom were also HIV infected, to help them to overcome MAM through the provision of Super Cereal. More patients were treated than planned because patients on average underwent treatment for less than the maximum treatment time (which is used for planning), freeing up stocks of Super Cereal to treat additional patients. However, with limited funds available in 2015, WFP was unable to provide vegetable oil as planned to TB patients, resulting in no actual distribution of this commodity in 2015.

The nutrition component of this Country Programme was complemented by WFP's prevention of stunting initiative, which continued to target all children aged 6-23 months with monthly provisions of lipid-based nutritional supplements (LNS) in Ntchisi district and reached 12,200 children in 2015. In addition, 18,300 pregnant and lactating women participated in care groups supported by the prevention of stunting initiative, which provided improved knowledge on infant and young child feeding practices, including breastfeeding. As this pilot is financed by the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) outside of this Country Programme, its beneficiaries are not represented in the tables below.

While associated capacity development activities remained active under this Country Programme's disaster risk reduction (DRR) in 2015, actual implementation of all DRR field activities were transitioned into PRRO 200692. Direct beneficiaries were therefore neither planned nor reached under component 3 of this Country Programme in 2015.

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Beneficiaries	446,058	553,068	999,126	470,340	512,998	983,338	105.4%	92.8%	98.4%
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.1-Support to Education)	405,265	473,835	879,100	427,952	429,669	857,621	105.6%	90.7%	97.6%
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.2-Nutrition Support)	40,793	79,233	120,026	42,388	83,329	125,717	103.9%	105.2%	104.7%
Total Beneficiaries (Comp.3-Disaster Risk Reduction for Food)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Comp.1-Support to Education									
By Age-group:									
Children (24-59 months)	7,033	7,033	14,066	3,430	4,288	7,718	48.8%	61.0%	54.9%
Children (5-18 years)	398,232	466,802	865,034	424,522	425,381	849,903	106.6%	91.1%	98.3%
By Residence status:									
Residents	405,265	473,835	879,100	427,953	429,668	857,621	105.6%	90.7%	97.6%
Comp.2-Nutrition Support									
By Age-group:									
Children (6-23 months)	13,754	14,379	28,133	14,630	15,295	29,925	106.4%	106.4%	106.4%
Children (24-59 months)	22,976	23,913	46,889	24,438	25,438	49,876	106.4%	106.4%	106.4%
Children (5-18 years)	1,563	1,563	3,126	1,662	1,662	3,324	106.3%	106.3%	106.3%
Adults (18 years plus)	2,500	39,378	41,878	1,658	40,934	42,592	66.3%	104.0%	101.7%
By Residence status:									

Table 1: Overview of Project Beneficiary Information									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Residents	40,793	79,233	120,026	42,388	83,329	125,717	103.9%	105.2%	104.7%
Comp.3-Disaster Risk Reduction for Food									
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Children (5-18 years)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adults (18 years plus)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
By Residence status:									
Residents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Beneficiaries by Activity and Modality									
Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
Comp.1-Support to Education									
School Feeding (on-site)	789,713	89,387	879,100	816,617	41,274	857,621	103.4%	46.2%	97.6%
School Feeding (take-home rations)	126,258	8,991	126,258	9,817	5,385	9,817	7.8%	59.9%	7.8%
Comp.2-Nutrition Support									
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	116,928	-	116,928	122,334	-	122,334	104.6%	-	104.6%
HIV/TB: Care&Treatment	3,098	-	3,098	3,383	-	3,383	109.2%	-	109.2%

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Comp.1-Support to Education									
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in pre-primary schools	10,840	11,282	22,122	7,287	7,585	14,872	67.2%	67.2%	67.2%
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	419,919	437,059	856,978	412,947	429,802	842,749	98.3%	98.3%	98.3%
Total participants	430,759	448,341	879,100	420,234	437,387	857,621	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%
Total beneficiaries	430,759	448,341	879,100	420,234	437,387	857,621	97.6%	97.6%	97.6%
School Feeding (take-home rations)									
Children receiving take-home rations in primary schools	30,302	95,956	126,258	2,356	7,461	9,817	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%

Table 3: Participants and Beneficiaries by Activity (excluding nutrition)									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total participants	30,302	95,956	126,258	2,356	7,461	9,817	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
Total beneficiaries	30,302	95,956	126,258	2,356	7,461	9,817	7.8%	7.8%	7.8%
Comp.2-Nutrition Support									
HIV/TB: Care&Treatment									
TB Clients receiving food assistance	1,518	1,580	3,098	1,658	1,725	3,383	109.2%	109.2%	109.2%
Total participants	1,518	1,580	3,098	1,658	1,725	3,383	109.2%	109.2%	109.2%
Total beneficiaries	1,518	1,580	3,098	1,658	1,725	3,383	109.2%	109.2%	109.2%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Table 4: Nutrition Beneficiaries									
Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Comp.2-Nutrition Support									
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition									
Children (6-23 months)	13,994	14,630	28,624	14,630	15,295	29,925	104.5%	104.5%	104.5%
Children (24-59 months)	23,376	24,331	47,707	24,438	25,437	49,875	104.5%	104.5%	104.5%
Children (5-18 years)	1,590	1,590	3,180	1,662	1,662	3,324	104.5%	104.5%	104.5%
Pregnant and lactating women (18 plus)	-	37,417	37,417	-	39,210	39,210	-	104.8%	104.8%
Total beneficiaries	38,960	77,968	116,928	40,730	81,604	122,334	104.5%	104.7%	104.6%

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Comp.1-Support to Education			
Corn Soya Blend	16,831	7,727	45.9%
Maize	12,288	507	4.1%
Sum	29,119	8,233	28.3%
Comp.2-Nutrition Support			
Corn Soya Blend	2,918	2,199	75.4%
Vegetable Oil	18	-	-
Sum	2,936	2,199	74.9%
Total	32,055	10,433	32.5%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution USD	Actual Distribution USD	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	1,844,290	200,522	10.9%
Voucher	-	-	-
Total	1,844,290	200,522	10.9%

Story Worth Telling

When Wycliff met Mphatso, a young mother living in his community in Ntchisi district, she was deeply concerned about her son's deteriorating weight. At six months old, her son, Kingsley, should have been growing quickly, but Mphatso was not been able to produce enough milk to nourish him.

As a care group leader supported by WFP through its Prevention of Stunting pilot initiative, Wycliff had been trained to recognize malnutrition warning signs and quickly referred Mphatso to Khuwi Health Centre.

When Mphatso arrived at the health centre in September 2015, Kingsley's MUAC (Middle Upper Arm Circumference – the primary screening indicator for child malnutrition) measured just 8.9 cm, a clear sign of severe acute malnourishment. Kingsley was admitted on the spot for outpatient therapeutic feeding until his condition stabilized enough to be transferred to WFP's Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP).

Since that critical time, Mphatso has been bringing Kingsley for routine follow-ups under SFP and to collect his monthly rations of Super Cereal Plus. Wycliff from the community care group has also increased the frequency of his visits to the household to ensure Mphatso gets all the information she needs to improve her son's nutrition.

By the end of 2015, things were thankfully looking up for Kingsley. His health had greatly improved while receiving supplementary feeding; with a significantly improved MUAC of 12.9 cm, he will still need to be monitored but is well on his way to recovery. Moreover, once discharged from the SFP, Kingsley continued to receive an enhanced nutrient supplement known as Nutributter as part of WFP's Prevention of Stunting pilot initiative, which targets all children aged 6-23 months in Ntchisi district, while his mother continued to receive lessons on breastfeeding and complementary feeding from her community care group, ensuring Kingsley has everything he needs to stay healthy and avoid malnutrition and stunting for the long run.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Gender equality between women and men continues to be a major challenge in Malawi. Cultural norms tend to be rooted in patriarchy, with high levels of child marriages, lack of land rights and lack of access to justice or protection against sexual and other forms of gender-based violence (SGBV) for women. Correspondingly, evidence has shown that greater food security can be achieved if women have access to the necessary assets and resources, as well as a stronger voice in decision-making, and thus WFP has continued to mainstream gender throughout this Country Programme.

In 2015, WFP continued to track equality in decision-making over food assistance under the Country Programme. In sampled beneficiary families benefiting from Take Home Rations in the school meals programme, as well as in families receiving nutrition treatment under the supplementary feeding programme, women were the primary decision-makers and exceeded the target in both cases. In line with previous trends, fewer percentages of families made decisions over food assistance jointly and even fewer families reported men as the sole decision-makers. While these results did not align with WFP's corporate targets, it is still an achievement that women made the majority of decisions over the assistance in the Malawian context where traditional norms of male control over resources prevail. However, efforts towards sensitisation will continue to be made,

As part of community management of the school meals programme, women continued to hold more than 50 percent of leadership positions in the project management committees. In 2015, fewer women on management committees were trained than planned due to a slight drop in overall female participation in these committees. Trainings were also focused in the schools adopting cash-based THRs – as it was an entirely new modality – and hence this indicator is not necessarily representative of the programme at large. An independent case study of the school meals programme in 2015 found that communities highly valued the importance of equal participation of men and women in the programme, and on this basis WFP will continue to advocate for gender parity in these committees and the training provided to them.

While tracking these indicators, WFP is also taking strides towards a more transformational gender approach in the Country Programme. Building on the previous phase of a gender mainstreaming partnership with the Institute of

Development Studies (IDS), WFP entered into the second phase of the partnership in 2015 which will continue to build a stronger body of evidence of good practice to address gender issues.

As part of this partnership, WFP continued efforts to recognize, reduce and redistribute the unpaid work primarily borne by women volunteer cooks who prepare daily school meals. In addition to the ongoing low-cost, high-impact activities, such as appreciation ceremonies, to recognize women's contribution WFP is undertaking participatory research to assess the effectiveness of offering incentives to volunteer cooks and understanding how this may affect gender parity amongst the school cooks and gender relations in community.

Recognizing that the vast majority of nutrition decisions are made by women under this Country Programme, WFP also continued to encourage greater male participation in household decision-making around nutrition and childcare – as often men control family financial resources. This is done through key messaging during education sessions at health clinics, as well as through care groups and Social Behaviour Change Communication under WFP's Prevention of Stunting pilot initiative. In 2016, WFP is undertaking research to better understand how male participation can best contribute the achievement of sustained nutrition outcomes.

Through the P4P programme in 2015, nearly 330 smallholder farmers (57 percent of whom were women) received comprehensive and participatory trainings on gender equality and leadership skills, which, coupled with advocacy for women's participation and equal access to productive resources from cooperating partners, has also advanced WFP's transformative gender agenda. WFP also adopted a gender specific initiative within P4P in 2015 which promoted the creation and use of energy saving stoves, conservation smart agriculture and backyard woodlots. These activities were aimed at reducing the burden of labour and time spent on food preparation among farmers and for women in particular, who often are solely responsible for collecting firewood and preparing meals, while also having additional household and family responsibilities. All these efforts have contributed to a steady increase of women farmers participating in P4P as well as female leaders, which now stand at their highest since P4P inception in Malawi with 49 percent of P4P farmers' organisation member and 53 percent (535 members) of the elected leaders.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Support to Education				
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding (take-home rations) , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.07 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=40.00	21.80		21.00
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding (take-home rations) , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.07 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=30.00	69.20		67.90
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding (take-home rations) , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.07 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=30.00	9.00		11.10
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.07 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	>50.00	62.00		55.60
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.07 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	>60.00	58.00		55.10
Comp.2-Nutrition Support				

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.06</i>	=40.00	10.40		7.13
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.06</i>	=30.00	82.90		88.94
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.06</i>	=30.00	6.80		3.93

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In 2015, WFP aimed to deliver assistance under this Country Programme in a safe, accountable and dignified manner by sensitizing communities about the assistance and by putting in place measures, such as starting distributions during the morning hours when the risk of violence is lower, and encouraging beneficiaries to travel in groups.

WFP's efforts resulted in some 99 percent of beneficiaries experiencing no safety problems traveling to or from WFP distribution points in the supplementary feeding component of the Country Programme. The few incidents recorded were related to once-off food theft and bullying occurring on the way home from distribution points and complaints were handled appropriately through in-place reporting and redress systems with local authorities.

High percentages of nutrition beneficiaries continued to be aware of the supplementary feeding programme, surpassing the target of 90 percent. This included knowing the criteria for eligibility, the food entitlement, and in-place complaints mechanisms, and resulted from high community participation in frequent sensitization meetings at health facilities, as well as a strong partnership with the Ministry of Health that ensured health centre staff were trained on programme implementation and, in turn, could adequately and correctly inform beneficiaries.

In 2015, for the first time WFP collected the protection indicator on safety problems experienced by schoolchildren attending WFP-assisted primary schools. Data was collected by independent researchers who interviewed households with children that were benefiting from traditional school meals, HGSF, and/or both food and cash-based THRs in 2015. Over 99 percent of schoolchildren did not experience safety challenges while travelling to, from and/or at schools. The two most common safety challenges that did occur were due to overflowed rivers and flooding during the unprecedented rainy season and floods disaster in 2015 that made accessing school hazardous for their children, as well as a couple incidences of bullying by people they encountered on their walk to and from school.

Parental participation in school meals improved in 2015, thanks to enhanced efforts towards community mobilization and sensitization through district and community networks, as well as through WFP's partner efforts. Nearly 98 percent of parents were informed about the assistance, including eligibility, entitlement and where to lodge complaints, exceeding the target of 90 percent.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Support to Education				
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	96.44		

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	96.14		
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.07 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	>90.00	79.10		77.90
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	96.27		
Comp.2-Nutrition Support				
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.06</i>	=100.00	95.00		96.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.06</i>	=100.00	98.40		99.48
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	100.00		97.96
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.06</i>	=100.00	96.70		99.26

Outputs

Through WFP trainings in 2015, a combined total of 786 government partner staff were trained in six technical areas of assistance across the education and nutrition components of this Country Programme. These areas included providing expertise in institutional strengthening in policy development, in developing nutrition guidelines and standards (for example, the guidelines for nutrition care support and treatment), and in nutrition-sensitive project design and management; advocacy for sustainable models of school meals; management and coordination of technical stakeholders; south-south learning and exchange, among others. Male participants were generally over-represented in these trainings. This is due to the skewed gender composition of government departments. WFP will continue to advocate for gender parity with its government counterparts and partner organisations. Slightly less government staff were trained than planned under the school meals component, as fewer teachers presented themselves at trainings than those targeted.

As part of WFP's efforts to build DRR capacity, which focused solely on trainings and technical support in 2015, 1,709 community members were trained in cash crop production and village savings and loans groups to enhance community preparedness and climate adaptation.

This Country Programme continued to support and complement the National Social Support Programme (NSSP), which is one of the key national framework for social protection programming in Malawi, by directly supporting two of the five NSSP pillars including school meals and village savings and loans associations. The other three components are: social cash transfers; microfinance; and public works programmes (including food/cash for work).

WFP's school meals intervention continued to support the maintenance of the nascent national school feeding programme through technical assistance, and meanwhile reached some students in 748 primary schools in 2015, an increase of nearly 5 percent from 2014 primarily due to the scale-up of schools under the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education, across 13 food insecure districts. Of these, 45 schools in four districts were served by the HGSF model. As part of the HGSF model and to strengthen national capacity for an eventual larger scale-up of sustainable school meals, WFP facilitated 64 trainings for farmer organisations (that were also supported by the P4P programme) covering crop management, irrigation, marketing, warehousing and post-harvest handling – all areas that will improve the quality of food they can supply to schools. Four more trainings took place than planned due to the increased demand from the HGSF schools that spurred the involvement of additional farmer organisations.

As part of WFP's contribution to the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education, WFP worked in partnership with a local NGO – the Creative Centre for Community Mobilization (CRECCOM) – in communities near ten assisted primary schools with a gender initiative. This included mobilizing communities to select 'Star Circle Facilitators' who are responsible for generating discussion and engaging others around the challenges to girls' education. Some of the commonly raised issues included harmful cultural practices (such as early marriage), lack of equal rights of women and girls, and teen pregnancy. Thanks to the 60 Star Circle Facilitators who were selected and trained, 4,665 community members participated in girls' education discussions. In some communities, these efforts resulted in the adoption of community by-laws that supported the readmission of girls that had dropped out.

In view of a gradual scale-up to 169 pre-schools by 2016, WFP successfully expanded its school meals assistance from 35 pre-schools in 2013/14 to 93 in 2015, as planned. While the 58 additional pre-schools were supported with preparatory activities such as initiating community mobilization and training of the school staff and community on programme implementation in 2014, actual provision of school meals began in 2015.

WFP provided 134 fuel efficient stoves to some primary schools and pre-schools that did not already have clean cook stoves as planned in 2015. This was provided by the distributions of more than 87,000 cooking/serving utensils and oven gloves. While enabling daily implementation of school meals, provision of these materials continued to be part of WFP's gender-sensitive approach to school feeding as the stoves minimized the time required to prepare daily porridge and to fetch firewood, which are tasks almost exclusively done by women who are also the main volunteer cooks, and as the utensils with long handles and oven gloves protected cooks from the heat of the porridge. By reducing meal preparation time, women were able to focus their attention on other important responsibilities, such as child care or income-generating activities. The stoves also reduced unhealthy smoke and particle emissions that are otherwise regularly inhaled by volunteer cooks.

A total of 92 school feeding structures were built in 2015 in primary schools in Salima, Mangochi and Dedza districts and in pre-schools in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts to support a safe area for children to eat their meals and for the food commodities to be stored and prepared. One structure planned to be completed in 2015 was not completed by the end of the year as it required further refurbishment. WFP did not distribute any of the 18 planned computers in 2015 as measures to manage any associated risk with the donation had not yet been completed.

In 2015, WFP maintained its high coverage of the Supplementary Feeding Programme at 561 health facilities, which is 88 percent of all facilities in the country. This was the second consecutive year when WFP scaled up this nutrition support (some 530 facilities were served in 2014) due to another year of widespread acute food insecurity brought on primarily by weather-induced shocks and which trends show leads to an increased level of moderate acute malnutrition. At supported facilities, 100 percent of male and female patients totalling to 122,334 people (and accompanying caregivers) received nutrition counselling and messaging that included key information of water, hygiene and sanitation; dietary diversity; good health practices; and what kinds of complementary livelihood activities were available in the surrounding areas – which aimed at lessening the likelihood that the patients would fall back into malnutrition in the future.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Comp.1-Support to Education				
SO4: Capacity Development - Strengthening National Capacities				

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of technical assistance projects conducted by WFP to strengthen the national capacity	project	60	64	106.7
SO4: School Feeding (on-site)				
Girls' Education: Number of WFP-assisted schools with gender-targeted programmes or initiatives	school	10	10	100.0
Number of government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (technical/strategic/managerial)	individual	712	686	96.3
Number of kitchens or food storage rooms rehabilitated or constructed	kitchen/food storage room	93	92	98.9
Number of national programmes developed with WFP support (nutrition, school feeding, safety net)	national programme	1	1	100.0
Number of pre-schools assisted by WFP	school	93	93	100.0
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	748	748	100.0
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	5	5	100.0
Quantity of equipment (computers, furniture) distributed	item	18	0	0
Quantity of fuel efficiency stoves distributed	item	134	134	100.0
Quantity of kitchen utensils distributed (plates, spoons, cooking pots etc.)	tool	87,337	87,337	100.0
Comp.2-Nutrition Support				
SO4: Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition				
Number of female government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (technical)	individual	29	29	100.0
Number of health centres/sites assisted	centre/site	561	561	100.0
Number of male government staff trained by WFP in nutrition programme design, implementation and other nutrition related areas (technical)	individual	71	71	100.0
Number of men exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	40,730	40,730	100.0
Number of men receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP	individual	40,730	40,730	100.0
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	1	1	100.0
Number of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	81,604	81,604	100.0

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of women receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP	individual	81,604	81,604	100.0
Comp.3-Disaster Risk Reduction for Food				
SO3: Capacity Development - Emergency Preparedness				
Number of community members trained in asset management and sustainability	individual	1,709	1,709	100.0
Number of people trained	individual	1,709	1,709	100.0

Outcomes

In 2015, WFP achieved positive outcomes through its support to education and nutrition, as well as through its investment in policy support and technical assistance that helped to keep these two development areas high on the national agenda.

The school meals programme helped to advance education across Malawi through improved retention rates seen among both boys and girls in WFP-assisted primary schools. Retention of students has surpassed target rates for two years in a row, exemplifying the impact of the support in incentivizing students to stay in school throughout the academic year. Correspondingly, dropout rates in primary schools decreased amongst both female and male students, and for the first time since 2013, exceeded the target rate with less than five percent of students dropping out.

Attendance rates in WFP-assisted primary schools – while increasing from last year – continued to miss the target of 95 percent. Similarly, while 2015 still saw positive enrolment in WFP-assisted primary schools, the enrolment rate did not meet the corporate target. These unmet targets could be due to a number of external factors that also affect school attendance and enrollment such as poor teacher attendance or lack of personal materials, especially for girls. In 2015, Malawi was also hit by the worst flooding in some 50 years, followed by dry spells that led to the highest levels of acute food insecurity in a decade. These shocks interrupted education to various extents; in some cases, school infrastructure was damaged or was used as temporary shelters for displaced communities, or students were temporarily pulled from school to help their families cope during the months of crisis, likely jeopardizing the ability to meet enrolment and daily attendance targets. Given this context, however, it is noteworthy that attendance rates still increased from last year's rate, underscoring the importance of school meals in supporting continued education in times of crisis.

In WFP-assisted pre-schools, there was a significant increase in enrolment of both boys and girls during the year with rates that hugely surpassed targets, which was primarily caused by the creation of district and community networks that greatly improved community mobilization and sensitization around the importance of early childhood education, as well as efforts by WFP's partners to train caregivers and improve the quality of education at pre-schools. The improved quality enabled smoother transitions for children going on to primary school, and thus convinced more parents of the benefits of early childhood education and motivated them to enrol their children in WFP-assisted pre-schools. For purposes of comparison, this indicator compares the rate of change in enrolment only at the 35 pre-schools that have received WFP support for the past few years. Rate of change in enrolment in all 93 assisted pre-schools (which includes the 58 newly assisted pre-schools for 2015) will be done in 2016.

In line with previous trends, girls' attendance continued to be just above boys' attendance, while girls were slightly less likely to complete the school year with higher drop out and lower retention rates than boys in 2015. This can be explained by the prevailing cultural perception that girls can provide greater inputs of domestic labour to the household and have lower future earning potential, which makes it more likely for parents to withdraw their daughters, rather than sons, from school. Notably, the gender gap for these two indicators narrowed from 2014 to 2015, suggesting that WFP's community outreach and advocacy for girls' education may have started to shift mindsets towards greater gender equality. To continue closing the gap between boys and girls education outcomes, WFP will continue to learn best practices through its participation in the UN Joint Programme on Girls Education, a collective initiative between UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP that works to address challenges faced by girls in 79 targeted primary schools in attaining quality education.

Additionally, WFP continued to support smallholder farmers through its P4P initiative throughout 2015, and because of the scale-up of HGSP, was able to increase linkages between P4P and HGSP as more farmers were needed to provide a reliable market to supply various food commodities to the schools. In total, WFP trained over 32,200 new smallholder farmers on business and harvesting skills. To this end, WFP purchased 45 percent of all food under this

Country Programme locally from smallholder aggregation systems, up from only some 22 percent last year. This was in large part due to the fact that throughout the year, WFP continued to stimulate market activities by partnering with the Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE) and making purchases through its online commodity marketing platform to help build smallholder-friendly agricultural markets that the country relies on for sustained economic development. This partnership continued to allow farmers throughout the country to access real-time information about sales to WFP and place competitive bids for purchase of their produce to be used in school feeding.

WFP's Supplementary Feeding Programme continued to function under the national CMAM framework that links treatment of malnutrition to community outreach, thereby helping to ensure early identification, early treatment and decreased likelihood of cases deteriorating into severe acute malnutrition. Rates of recovery of malnutrition, default, mortality and non-response rates all outperformed set targets for the second consecutive year, which is significant considering record-setting food insecurity in 2015 in Malawi that made people more vulnerable to malnutrition. Maintaining high standards in the face of widespread food insecurity has been supported by the fact that the CMAM framework has a robust monitoring and evaluation system, which enables the Ministry of Health and stakeholders like WFP to monitor implementation on a regular basis and quickly make any adjustments to address challenges and immediately improve service delivery.

WFP in 2015 was able to treat over eighty percent of malnourished children and pregnant and/or lactating women in the country, signifying a ten percent increase of those accessing the programme from 2014. This exceeded the target mainly due to enhanced community outreach and linkages to district-run care groups. The portion of the eligible population participating in the Supplementary Feeding Programme was determined by a desk review, which compares the estimated population of the targeted beneficiary groups and latest data on MAM prevalence with the number of beneficiaries enrolled in the programme.

Additionally, the Prevention of Stunting project continued to make strides towards achieving its 2017 target of a 5-10 percent reduction in stunting in Ntchisi district. Findings from the initiative's 2015 midline impact evaluation reveal that the programme is on track to meet its target with WFP support successfully having improved indicators of child nutritional status (such as wasting, underweight and MAM), dietary diversity, and reduced the risk of diarrhea and high fever, among other positive outcomes. An innovative monitoring tool also continued to support high attendance as it tracked participation in real-time, enabling health workers to trace absent mothers and children and remobilize them to participate.

Throughout 2015 WFP continued to support national advancement of education and nutrition through national capacity building including provision of technical assistance and policy development. The School Feeding National Capacity Index (NCI) increased due to WFP's continued work to advance education at the national level and provide technical assistance, such as finalizing national school feeding guidelines that ensure an appropriate balance between feeding and learning time. The NCI also rose due to the ministerial and cabinet approval of the WFP-supported national School Health and Nutrition Strategy in 2015. While continuing support on strategy implementation, WFP is also working with the government to finalize national frameworks to manage and nationally run the schools meals programme in the future. To support reaching the NCI target for education in 2016, WFP will enhance ongoing advocacy to increase the national budget allocation to school meals— as one of the key sustainable solutions to meeting the Zero Hunger Challenge.

In 2015, the NCI for nutrition remained stable and above target at 16. With maintained momentum, WFP successfully supported the government to finalize its National Nutrition Policy, which when passed will provide policy guidelines to promote adequate nutrition in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, as well as to launch the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study for Malawi that proved to be an unmatched tool for national advocacy for increased multisectoral investment in nutrition. As chair of the Donor Nutrition Group, WFP also supported strong institutional structures for national coordination of nutrition amongst the government and other development partners. Sustained high-level engagement was further complemented by trainings of health workers at the district and community level and continued promotion of the community-based care group model for increased district and local capacity to manage nutrition.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Support to Education				
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Increased equitable access to and utilization of education				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Retention rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=90.00	87.25	93.85	96.17
Retention rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 Ministry of Education Management Information System (EMIS) , Base value: 2011.12 WFP survey Ministry of Education Management Information System (EMIS) , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey Fdrop out reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Drop Out reports	>90.00	85.70	92.80	95.94
Retention rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 Ministry of Education Management Information System (EMIS) , Base value: 2012.12 WFP programme monitoring School records and Ministry of education Management Information System , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey Dropout reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Dropout reports	>90.00	88.80	94.90	96.39
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey output reporting , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=6.00	4.00	1.50	0.95
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 School output reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring School output reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=6.00	4.00	2.00	0.95
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 Output reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Output monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=6.00	4.00	1.00	0.95
Attendance rate in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP programme monitoring attendance reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Attendance reports	=95.00	90.00	86.80	89.19

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Attendance rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 School attendance reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring School attendance reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP programme monitoring Attendance reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Attendance reports	=94.00	90.00	87.80	89.48
Drop-out rate (girls) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 Ministry of Education management Information System (EMIS) , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Ministry of Education Management Information System (EMIS) , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey Dropout reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Dropout reports	<5.00	14.30	7.20	4.06
Drop-out rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
13 DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS , Project End Target: 2016.12 Ministry of Education Management Information System (EMIS) , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Ministry of education management Information System (EMIS) , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey Dropout reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring dropout reports	<5.00	11.20	5.20	3.61
Attendance rate (boys) in WFP-assisted primary schools				
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2016.12 School drop out reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring School attendance reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP programme monitoring Termly attendace reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Termly attendance reports	=96.00	90.00	85.80	88.92
Enrolment: Average annual rate of change in number of children enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools				
NSANJE AND CHIKHWAWA DISTRICTS , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.05 WFP programme monitoring , Previous Follow-up: 2014.07 WFP survey output reporting , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=6.00	3.00	1.27	11.75
Enrolment (girls): Average annual rate of change in number of girls enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools				
NSANJE AND CHIKHWAWA DISTRICTS , Project End Target: 2016.12 School outut reports , Base value: 2014.05 WFP programme monitoring School output reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=6.00	3.00	2.50	14.16
Enrolment (boys): Average annual rate of change in number of boys enrolled in WFP-assisted pre-schools				
NSANJE AND CHIKHWAWA DISTRICTS , Project End Target: 2016.12 School out put reports , Base value: 2014.05 WFP programme monitoring School output reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output monitoring , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring	=6.00	3.00	0.03	9.05
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
NCI: School Feeding National Capacity Index				
CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2012.12 WFP programme monitoring Key Stakeholder Workshop , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Key Informant Interview , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Key Informant Interview	>15.00	11.00	14.00	14.50
Comp.2-Nutrition Support				
SO4 Reduce undernutrition and break the intergenerational cycle of hunger				
Reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6-59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children				
MAM treatment recovery rate (%)				
MALAWI , Project End Target: 2016.12 Output reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Output report , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.10 WFP programme monitoring Output reports	>75.00	76.00	86.26	88.53
MAM treatment mortality rate (%)				
MALAWI , Project End Target: 2016.12 Output reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.10 WFP programme monitoring Output reports	<3.00	2.00	0.65	0.35
MAM treatment default rate (%)				
MALAWI , Project End Target: 2016.12 Output reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.10 WFP programme monitoring Output reports	<15.00	11.00	5.81	8.37
MAM treatment non-response rate (%)				
MALAWI , Project End Target: 2016.12 Output reports , Base value: 2011.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Output reports , Latest Follow-up: 2015.10 WFP programme monitoring Output reports	<15.00	1.00	3.83	2.75
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
MALAWI , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Base value: 2014.05 WFP programme monitoring Desk review , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Desk review , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Desk review	>50.00	71.00	71.00	81.10
Ownership and capacity strengthened to reduce undernutrition and increase access to education at regional, national and community levels				
NCI: Nutrition programmes National Capacity Index				
NATION WIDE (NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS) , Project End Target: 2016.12 Key Informant Interviews , Base value: 2013.12 WFP programme monitoring Programme monitoring workshop or KII , Previous Follow-up: 2014.12 WFP programme monitoring Programme monitoring KI interviews , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring Programme monitoring KI interviews	>15.00	15.00	16.00	16.00

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

In 2015, WFP continued to focus on capacity development under this Country Programme in 2015 as a key element to increasing national ownership of hunger solutions and creating government systems to ensure accountability in working towards zero hunger.

The Government of Malawi, which named school meals as one of five priority areas of investment under the National Social Support Programme, worked in partnership with WFP to strengthen government policies in support of the school meals programme. For example, in 2015 WFP supported the government through its technical advice in both the School Meals Development Partners Group and the School Health and Nutrition Technical Working Group.

WFP also supported government officials to attend the the African Union Specialized Technical Committee of Ministers of Education, Science and Technology, as well as two high ranking officials from the Ministry to attend the 2015 Global Child and Nutrition Forum (GCNF) in 2015. At the GCNF, conference leaders recognized home-grown school feeding as an innovative solution to immediate hunger in schools while providing possibilities of support to rural families through increased demand for local production. In line with this, WFP supported the government in its development of homegrown school feeding guidelines in 2015, which will be critical to ensure quality and standardization as more schools transition from traditional school meals to homegrown school feeding as the more sustainable option.

WFP supported the final consultation and validation workshops with the government to finalize the national School Health and Nutrition (SHN) Policy (2013-2018), which was initiated with support from the Brazil-based WFP Centre of Excellence and officials from the Government of Brazil in 2013 as part of WFP's work to advance south-south cooperation. The final policy will provide the first overall framework for sustainable, coordinated and comprehensive health and nutrition programmes in the country's schools, which will support the scale up of school meals in support of the government's goal to reach universal coverage. The final version of the policy is set to be signed and enacted in April 2016.

Despite WFP's continued advocacy for higher national investment in school feeding, lack of sufficient resources, among other challenges, hindered WFP's plan to successfully hand over a portion of schools to the government in 2015. Anticipating future challenges in achieving a handover target of 15 percent of schools by the end of 2016, WFP is working with the government to enhance its capacity development and amend the handover strategy, thereby ensuring a realistic and gradual transition to government ownership can take place.

In light of recurrent food insecurity and stretched government resources, it remained essential for WFP to continue its support to nutrition treatment. Unable to directly handover the programme, WFP increased its efforts throughout the year to build skills of health workers in programme management to increase the sustainability of the programme in the long run. As a viable more short-term exit strategy for nutrition support, WFP is working with development partners to integrate the treatment of MAM into partners' "impact areas" – building off the successful model of the Prevention of Stunting pilot innovative. Impact areas are areas where one partner focuses their investments to achieve the highest impact through mutually reinforcing prevention initiatives.

At the same time, WFP continued to advocate to the government for the inclusion of MAM treatment supplies in the national 'essential drugs' list, which would ensure a ring-fenced government budget line for support to nutrition and hugely assist in expanding government capacity to run the supplementary feeding programme in the future. WFP's role as chair of the Donor Nutrition Group for the country also supported advocacy efforts for increasing financing to treatment services.

The government showed a willingness to invest in nutrition initiatives through its high level engagement with WFP and partners in the launch of the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study for Malawi in 2015. The COHA involved an extensive consultative process led by a team of government officials, national academia and UN partners, which culminated in strong national ownership of the study, especially amongst parliamentarians who have been using the study findings to support development initiatives in their constituencies. The study's findings underscored that adequate nutrition is critical for one's physical and intellectual development and work productivity, and provided a number of key recommendations that the government and partners will take forward to address the pressing national issue of high rates of child undernutrition (stunting).

Through the Prevention of Stunting pilot initiative, WFP built national capacity to tackle stunting and continued to strengthen the government's decentralised approach under the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement. A key element of this is WFP's support to the District Nutrition Coordination Committee in Ntchisi district, which is chaired by the District Commissioner (the top government official at district level) and which convenes all nutrition stakeholders and coordinates reinforcing nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive actions in the district. The success of this model in 2015 prompted peer-to-peer learning visits of government officials from other districts so that the government-led coordination structure can be replicated in additional areas.

In early 2015, the National Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policy received cabinet approval, which provided a foundation for WFP's capacity building efforts under the DRR component of this CP. Previously, WFP had provided technical support in reviewing the draft DRM policy as well. With the approval of the policy, WFP and Malawi's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) developed a support framework for the various ways that WFP expertise can assist DoDMA in spearheading policy implementation. Key areas included: strengthening disaster management coordination structures, promoting disaster preparedness and prevention through simulation exercises, documenting successful DRR activities for scale up, and supporting the government in scaling up food security and nutrition-related safety nets (such as the other activities in this CP) and social protection systems.

While establishing this support framework was a key step, change of leadership in DoDMA three times in 2015 meant that further action stalled. In 2016, WFP will continue to refine its strategy to build national DRR capacity and work with the government and partners to take the plans forward. Meanwhile, efforts to enhance DRR at district and community levels were ongoing in 2015 through WFP's PRRO 200692 food assistance for assets activities.

Inputs

Resource Inputs

The Country Programme was financed through cash contributions in 2015, while school meals also benefited from in-kind donations. Funding notably improved at the start of 2015 when WFP successfully advocated for additional funds to ensure that school meals and supplementary feeding could continue during the sudden onset of flooding. The government remained the primary cooperating partner for all components of the Country Programme, and provided critical human resource staff to coordinate and implement these programme and build capacity at national and district levels.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Iceland	0	135	0
Japan	0	238	212
MULTILATERAL	0	2,003	1,210
Private Donors	0	1,448	865
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	0	4,760	2,875
USA	3,500	0	3,690
Total	3,500	8,584	8,852

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

In 2015, 41 percent of food commodities for this Country Programme were received internationally, either as an international in-kind contribution of Super Cereal as part of a specific donor programme for school meals, or as international purchases of Super Cereal Plus as it is not locally or regionally produced. The rest of the commodities were purchased either in Malawi (32 percent) or Zambia (4 percent) from commercial suppliers or through the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) (23 percent), formerly known as the Forward Purchasing Facility, which is an innovative program that allows WFP to make advance purchases of cereals and other food items at favourable prices to provide for future food aid needs.

Maize, which is the only commodity under this Country Programme which could have been bought through the Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE), in support of efforts to procure food from smallholder farmers through the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative, was instead purchased through the GCMF due to the fact that the facility had readily available prepositioned stocks, and, hence, no food purchases under this Country Programme directly supported smallholder farmers in 2015.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Corn Soya Blend	2,981	374	3,903	1,168
Maize	0	0	0	974
Total	2,981	374	3,903	2,142

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Commercial transporters delivered 85 percent of food to final delivery points (FDPs) from WFP central warehouses in Blantyre and in Lilongwe. The remaining 15 percent was delivered using WFP's fleet of all-weather trucks because some delivery points were inaccessible for commercial transporters due to devastating floods in 2015 that damaged roads and bridges. In some of the hard-to-reach areas, WFP had planned to preposition food stocks but this was not possible in 2015 due to pipeline challenges and thus there were some delays in deliveries, especially during the rainy season.

Post-Delivery Losses

Overall post-delivery losses remained minimal in this Country Programme due to continued good handling practices by all WFP warehouse staff and implementing partners. The tonnage lost was mainly as a result of warehousing challenges during the rainy season that resulted in a small amount of water damage. To prevent such challenges going forward, WFP is sourcing an alternative warehouse to ensure the safe storage of all commodities.

Management

Partnerships

The Government of Malawi continued to be WFP's primary partner for all activities under this Country Programme in 2015. The Ministries of Education and Health were key for the delivery of school meals and nutrition support, while the Ministry of Gender coordinated the provision of complementary education and childcare services in WFP-assisted pre-primary schools and the Ministry of Agriculture complemented the HGSF school meals model. The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) remained WFP's main partner for building national DRR capacity.

Under this Country Programme in 2015, 100 percent of all activities were implemented with the engagement of various complementary partners, while six cooperating partnerships existed (including two local NGOs, two international NGOs and two UN partnerships), all of which supported the education component of programme.

The two UN partnerships continued with UNICEF and UNFPA under the UN Joint Girls Education Programme, which provides a comprehensive approach to improve access and quality education for girls. Notably, the joint programme has so far led to more than 640 girls who had previously dropped out of school to re-enroll, among other achievements. While UNICEF and WFP also continued to coordinate efforts at 35 pre-schools, WFP's second year of partnership with two local NGOs – the Association of Early Childhood Development (AECD) and CRECCOM – yielded good results with enhanced community mobilization and greater awareness around the benefits of early childhood education.

WFP's infrastructure development at schools continued in 2015 in partnership with Plan International and the International Committee for the Development of People (CISP), as well as with support from Dutch private company PostNL, which funded the completion of nearly 58 structures at pre-primary schools in Nsanje and Chikwawa districts in 2015.

In addition to the four ministries and six cooperating partners, WFP worked with an additional six partners that provided complementary inputs and services towards the maintenance and scale up of HGSF and P4P in 2015, including FAO, Malawi Lake Basin Programme/We Effect, and four District Councils. WFP's partnership with FAO, as well as with the Ministries of Education and Agriculture, is part of the Purchase from Africans for Africa programme (PAA Africa), which was inspired by lessons learned from Brazil's Zero Hunger initiative to eradicate

hunger and supports the HGSP model through directly procuring crops from smallholder farmers to improve school feeding, family farmer's livelihoods and local food markets.

Key partnerships under the P4P programme continued with the Agriculture Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE), as well as with local NGOs that provided labour-saving technology and other supply side support to FOs and with National Small Holder Farmers' Association of Malawi, through which WFP was able to complete construction of six warehouses in 2015. These warehouses will be integrated into the Warehouse Receipt System (WRS) in 2016, which will improve rural storage and farmer livelihoods and provide one of the only systematic way that farmers, especially women, can access finance in Malawi.

The Supplementary Feeding Programme benefitted from partnerships with eight organization providing complementary support in 2015. UNICEF complemented treatment of MAM with its treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and both treatment services were provided in 88 percent of the country's health facilities in 2015. Nutrition services were further enhanced by the Ministry of Health, which, in collaboration other partners, provided vitamin-A supplementation, iron tablets and de-worming tablets to treat other infections and diseases. The Ministry also provided other nutrition-sensitive health services like family planning, malaria treatment and diarrheal disease prevention, which were critical and complementary to WFP's treatment MAM. Additional partnerships with IFAD, FAO, WHO, the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), Valid International and the Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (Fanta) further supported WFP's provision of treatment, contributions to technical guidance for managing acute malnutrition and HIV and implementing nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities, as well as technical assistance to the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study for Malawi.

In collaboration with the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development's Planning and Coordinating Agency, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and Malawi's Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, WFP launched in early 2015 the Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) study for Malawi – which mobilized partners across government sectors, academia and civil society to take action to tackle undernutrition. The COHA report showed that nearly USD 600 million is lost every year as a result of child undernutrition, equivalent to 10.3 percent of the country's GDP. This is the second highest cost of the six African countries that have been surveyed in the COHA study. The study has since become an important advocacy tool to partners and government for enhanced cross-sectoral investment in nutrition.

The Prevention of Stunting pilot continued to be implemented in partnership with the district government and World Vision International, while it was also complemented by the World Bank's Support for Nutrition Improvement Component (SNIC) project that focuses on nutrition sensitive livelihood activities.

Partnerships that provided complementary support to WFP's efforts to build national DRR came from three UN partners (UNICEF, UNDP, UN Habitat) worked with DoDMA to support disaster contingency planning and risk reduction capacity at national and district levels, as well as safe housing procedures in the event of flooding. The World Bank also complemented DRR efforts through its investments in disaster mitigation in its 2015 Malawi Floods Emergency Recovery Project. These partnerships focused solely on complementary support to trainings and technical support as all DRR field activities were transferred to PRRO 200692.

This Country Programme benefitted from complementary funds in all activities, including a non-WFP budget of nearly USD 8.6 million dedicated to education, nutrition and DRR in total under the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in 2015.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	2	2		2

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Comp.1-Support to Education		
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=1,895,012.00	3,694,979.50
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=16.00	16.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>MALAWI, School Feeding , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00
Comp.2-Nutrition Support		
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=6,136,000.00	1,798,696.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=8.00	8.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>MALAWI, Nutrition , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00
Comp.3-Disaster Risk Reduction for Food		
Amount of complementary funds provided to the project by partners (including NGOs, civil society, private sector organizations, international financial institutions and regional development banks)		
<i>MALAWI, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=1,521,000.00	3,098,665.00
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>MALAWI, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=4.00	4.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>MALAWI, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2016.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

Lessons Learned

WFP's successful implementation of its school meals and nutrition programmes continued to draw on key lessons learned from previous years as it worked towards reducing the prevalence of malnutrition and improving education outcomes countrywide.

Recommendations were made and actions taken following the 2014 mid-implementation evaluation of this CP, such as enhancing linkages between pilot initiatives which occurred, for example between P4P and HGSF in 2015 through the mutually-reinforcing scale up of both activities. WFP also worked towards greater integration of nutrition and school meals in 2015 by finalizing processes related to National School Health and Nutrition Policy (NHSNP).

A key operational recommendation of the mid-implementation evaluation was to improve the timeliness and consistency of food deliveries, which WFP acted on accordingly in 2015 with a revised payment mode to transporters and a revised roster of transporters that maintains only those with consistent sufficient capacity. These changes have resulted in a more efficient supply chain and improved timeliness of food deliveries.

Additionally, WFP oversaw the formation of and served as interim chair of a partners group comprised of school meal implementers. The group met quarterly in order to promote information sharing and coordination, and allowed for joint advocacy to government with a unified voice as it called for efforts to enhance government capacity for an eventual take over and scale up the school meals programme to reach its aim of universal school meals.

WFP was able to successfully scale up to reach all 79 primary schools, 35 of which started implementing the HGSF model as planned, under the UN Joint Girls Education Programme in 2015. This was significant as the growing demand for education necessitates other improvements in education supply and quality, such as increased access to water and sanitation, more learning materials and improved teacher to pupil ratios – which the joint programme continued to address. The interconnectivity of the support to the schools under the joint programme demonstrated the importance of linkages to a school meals programme in order to better effect and improve education outcomes. WFP will continue to capitalize on opportunities to work with other UN agencies, the government and NGOs to deliver a comprehensive approach to school meals.

The use of cash for Take Home Rations (THR) was a first for WFP in Malawi in 2015. Anecdotal evidence reveals that students and their families are using the cash transfers to buy food, as well as other school material like notebooks and uniforms. This highlights a need to strengthen empirical evidence building in order to better understand expenditure and beneficiary needs. Plans are in place to conduct a review in 2016.

Looking forward, WFP will continue to focus on government and community capacity building for the long term sustainability of the programme and for supporting a smooth eventual transition from WFP to government ownership of school meals. A milestone in this regard was the progress made in advancing the NSHNP and in continued advocacy for adequate investment in school meals and sustainable models of it to top government officials throughout the year.

WFP's effective management of acute malnutrition under the Supplementary Feeding Programme resulted in levels of wasting that continued to be below emergency-threshold in Malawi, despite widespread food insecurity in 2015. Under the prevention of stunting pilot, WFP was able to enhance its holistic approach to tackling undernutrition through improved linkages to partner and community-based activities. Undernutrition also received national attention that was unmatched in recent years due to WFP's launch of the COHA study with the government, which will continue to serve an important advocacy tool and evidence based for future policy development.

2015 was the first year that the primary DRR activities (such as Food Assistance for Asset Creation) were transitioned from this Country Programme into WFP's PRRO 200692, which enabled a more seamless transition between relief response, early recovery and resilience-building as all activities were under one operation. The maintenance of DRR capacity building with a focus on contingency planning and emergency preparedness under this Country Programme remained however, as the recurrent shocks risk disrupting ongoing development processes (such as those in this Programme and wiping out their gains).

While important steps were taken to support and enhance the government's capacity in DRR, progress stalled due to frequent turnover of government counterparts. Progress towards building national DRR capacity will require continued government commitment, strong partnerships and the pursuit of more initiatives that mainstream DRR as an integral component of programme success.

Endnotes

Note that the School Feeding National Capacity Index methodology is based on the first version of the SF-NCI. The revised module divides the overall total by the five policy goals scores. Therefore, under this new methodology, the 2015 SF-NCI would be 2.9 against a project target of >3.

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
Comp.1-Support to Education									
School Feeding (on-site)	789,713	89,387	879,100	816,347	41,274	857,621	103.4%	46.2%	97.6%
School Feeding (take-home rations)	126,258	8,991	126,258	9,817	5,385	9,817	7.8%	59.9%	7.8%
Comp.2-Nutrition Support									
Nutrition: Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition	116,928	-	116,928	122,334	-	122,334	104.6%	-	104.6%
HIV/TB: Care&Treatment	3,098	-	3,098	3,383	-	3,383	109.2%	-	109.2%

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Iceland	ICE-C-00038-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	135	0
Japan	JPN-C-00378-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	238	212
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend	0	2,003	1,210
Private Donors	WPD-C-02766-03	Corn Soya Blend	0	52	52
Private Donors	WPD-C-02766-04	Corn Soya Blend	0	156	139
Private Donors	WPD-C-03011-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	634	600
Private Donors	WPD-C-03019-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	24	24
Private Donors	WPD-C-03038-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	19	20
Private Donors	WPD-C-03259-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	204	0
Private Donors	WPD-C-03279-03	Corn Soya Blend	0	266	30
Private Donors	WPD-C-03335-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	92	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01091-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	561	561
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01091-01	Maize	0	0	550
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01170-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	462	428
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01188-02	Corn Soya Blend	0	544	544
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01215-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	264	236
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01216-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	134	134
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01302-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	447	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01302-01	Maize	0	424	424
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01327-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	305	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01340-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	1,612	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01340-01	Vegetable Oil	0	9	0
USA		Corn Soya Blend	0	0	2,073
USA	USA-C-00979-04	Corn Soya Blend	3,500	0	1,617
Total			3,500	8,584	8,852