



# WFP Malawi Country Brief

## Highlights

- The Government of Malawi has activated the Food Security Cluster to plan for a response which will target 837,000 people believed to be in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 or worse from December 2017 to March 2018.
- WFP is working with the Government to finalise the Malawi National Social Support Policy framework which will have a strong focus on resilience and effective social protection systems.
- WFP continues to invest in long-term hunger solutions through the scale up of productive asset creation, building capacity of smallholder farmers, and ensuring educational and nutrition safety nets for the most vulnerable.

### WFP Assistance

Country Programme	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
DEV 200287 (March 2012 –December 2018)	200 m	136 m (68%)	16.8 m

\*October 2017 – March 2018

**DEV 200287:** WFP assists one million people through this Development Programme (DEV). Under the Support to Education component, WFP provides school meals through Centralized Model (CM) and Home Grown School Meals (HGSM) to 954,669 primary and 24,577 pre-primary students in 14 food insecure districts. With earmarked funding, WFP rolled out an emergency school meals project from November 2016 to April 2017 in the context of widespread acute food insecurity in 2016/17. Through Nutrition Support component, WFP provides treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) to children, pregnant/breastfeeding women and people on HIV/Tuberculosis (TB) treatment. For people on HIV/TB treatment, WFP also provides treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM). The capacity development related to Disaster Risk Reduction component focuses on strengthening national capacity to prepare for, respond to and mitigate disasters – this final component is linked to field-level asset creation under Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200692. The three components are complemented by WFP’s support to agricultural markets and smallholder farmers through the Purchase for Progress and a Prevention of Stunting pilot.

However, due to less than anticipated levels of instability, the actual number of refugees was lower than projected. The most recent budget review has extended operations until June 2019 in alignment with the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) process as well as to adjust the projected figures downwards to 35,000.

Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience to Restore Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200692 (Dec 2014 – Dec, 2017)	561 m	407 m (72 %)	47 m

\*August 2017 – Jan. 2018

**PRRO 200692:** This PRRO provides a seamless transition between relief response and resilience-building efforts. The project is the vehicle for WFP’s relief response to the effects of El Niño and in 2016/17 lean season food insecurity, targeting six million people beginning January 2017. The relief component is implemented through a mixture of food, cash/ voucher transfers and benefits from working with partners to deliver complementary recovery activities to pave the way for a gradual transition to conditional assistance. The recovery component concentrates on multi-sector and multi-year resilience activities that involve nutrition-sensitive productive asset creation and several innovations in risk management and reduction.

Food assistance to Refugees in Malawi	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200460** (June 2013 – May 2017)	27 m	13 m (48 %)	2.3 m

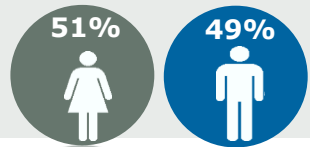
\*August 2017 – January 2018 \*

**PRRO 200460:** To date, the population of camp-based asylum seekers and refugees is 32,300 people. The goal is to contribute to achieving and maintaining food security among refugees and asylum seekers through in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers. The project also seeks to support host communities with productive asset creation activities. This operation was extended in 2016 until May 2017 in order to cater for a refugee population that was originally projected to reach over 87,000, with continued arrivals primarily from Mozambique, DRC and Burundi.

## In Numbers

- 878,452** assisted with school meals
- 105,245** treated for malnutrition
- 44,710** people supported with food assistance for assets
- 31,917** refugees/asylum seekers assisted

**People Assisted**  
September 2017



**Main Photo** Caption: WFP continues to provide nutrition support to children, women, adolescents and adults in 561 sites across the country. Credit: Cheulekene Mita, WFP



**September 2017**

## Operational Updates

**Food Security:** Results of the 2017/18 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) market assessment has recommended that humanitarian assistance to the 836,766 food-insecure people who are in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) phase 3 or worse should be in the form of cash transfers based on market conditions. In preparation for the upcoming response Government has activated the food security cluster and will be bringing together key players to map out the response plan, contingency plan and adopt the new Joint Emergency Food Aid Programme (JEFAP) which will guide beneficiary targeting in the upcoming response planned for December 2017 to March 2018.

**Food Assistance for Assets (FFA):** FFA implementation continued across 10 districts targeting 132,000 households, as FFA now reaches the peak of the season, which runs from June to December. As part of the FFA activities, beneficiaries receive food or cash assistance as part of their entitlements. The ration per month comprises of 30 kg maize, 8 kg of supercereal, 1.1 kg of oil and 6 kg of pulses per household or its cash equivalent.

**Purchase for Progress (P4P):** In partnership with GrainPro-Kenya, P4P rolled out community based training on post-harvest handling for cereals and pulses using Super Grain hermetic bags. The plan is to train 60,000 smallholder farmers in 59 farmer organizations across the country.

**Climate Services:** About 4,000 farmer mobile contacts were mobilized in Mangochi and Zomba districts and registered into a data base to enable farmers receive weather and climate information through SMS. The radio show on weather, climate information and agro-advisories resumed broadcasting on 8th September 2017 on Zodiak Radio Station, a national radio station, enabling farmers to access climate information for their farming decision making.

**Social Protection:** WFP advanced implementation of its shock sensitive social protection model, linking forecasting to triggers for seasonal activities with beneficiaries, and defining contingency financing thresholds for the upcoming humanitarian response. Discussion began on testing a 'vertical expansion' mechanism for social cash transfer mechanism for the upcoming humanitarian response with UNICEF and the Government. WFP supported UNICEF to send the Government of Malawi officials to Brussels for a conference on 'social protection in fragile contexts'.

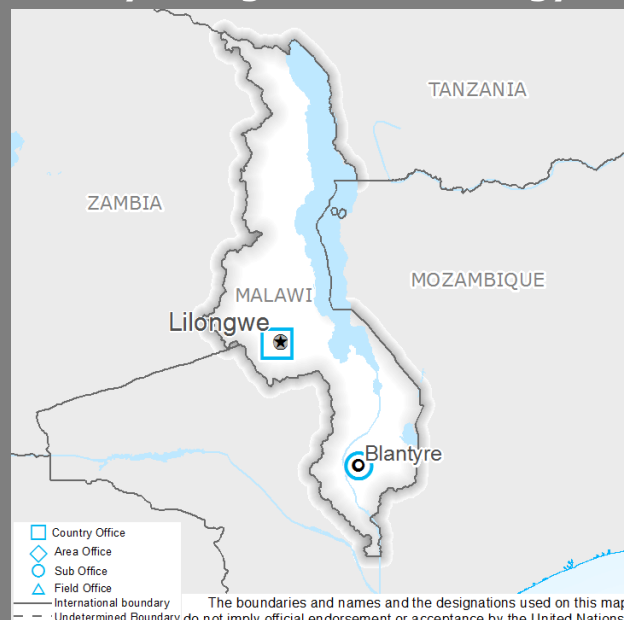
**School Meals:** At the start of a new academic year school meals resumed for over 900,000 students in 13 districts across the country. Meanwhile, WFP supported two government officials participation in the Global Child Nutrition Forum in Canada from 17 to 21 September 2017 where they showcased the Malawi School Meals programme. A plan of action is being developed to implement lessons learnt.

**Nutrition:** Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) continued reaching 72,112 children and pregnant and lactating women under the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) and 33,133 adolescents and adults under the Nutrition Care Support Treatment (NCST) programme for both moderate and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) beneficiaries.

**Refugees:** Conflict in the DRC Kasai region has forced a refugee inflow of 500 people monthly at the Karonga transit centre. As of end September the UN refugee agency UNHCR reported 33,950 asylum seekers in Malawi.

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## Country Background & Strategy



Malawi, a small landlocked country in sub-Saharan Africa, is a UNFPA global population hotspot with a population expanding rapidly at 3 percent per year. Despite significant investments in development, a quarter of Malawians live in extreme poverty. With the majority of livelihoods dependent on agriculture, the population is highly vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. For the past two consecutive growing seasons, the country has seen major drops in year-on-year maize production, leaving significant proportions of the population without enough food, thereby necessitating large-scale and nearly year-round humanitarian responses to food insecurity. However in the 2016/17 growing season the country realized a better crop production an increase of 37 percent compared to the same round last year. With the good cereal output, headline inflation is now in single digits (at 9.3 percent) for the first time in nearly six years.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by a volatile economy, high rates of HIV infection (at 8.8 percent), school drop-out (at 15 percent) and chronic undernutrition (at 37 percent for children under five). According to the Cost of Hunger in Africa study in Malawi, the annual costs of child undernutrition are some USD 597 million, equivalent to 10.3 percent of GDP. Given these challenges, WFP's operations work to support the Government in attaining a food and nutrition secure and resilient future, which is guided by the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals with a particular emphasis on reaching zero hunger (SDG 2).

WFP has been present in Malawi since 1965.

Population: **17 million**

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

Income Level: **Low**

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

## Donors

Australia, ECHO, Egypt, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Lithuania, Malawi, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, World Bank, UK, UN CERF, USDA, USAID, Belgium, Private Donors (CIFF)

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