



WFP Malawi Country Brief

Highlights

- WFP Malawi continued sharing with the general public food price data collected through the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) monitoring system via a new platform called Free Basics website on a Facebook page.
- A study on the Emergency School Meals was conducted in eight treatment and eight control schools in two targeted districts, which showed that in Emergency School Meals-supported schools, enrolment increased by seven percent.

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	129 m (64%)	-

*April 2017 – September 2017

DEV 200287: WFP assists one million people with this Development Programme (DEV). Under the **Support to Education component**, WFP provides school meals to primary and pre-primary students in 14 food insecure districts. With earmarked funding, WFP has rolled out an emergency school meals project given 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.

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 – June 2019)	17.9 m	11.5 m (64%)	2.9 m (74%)

*April 2017 – September 2017

PRRO 200460: This is a successor project to previous refugee operations, which has been active in Malawi since 2002. 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. However, this operation is chronically underfunded with frequent ration reductions. The asset creation and cash component have never received funding. This project

has been extended to June 2019 in order to cater for a refugee population and to align with the Country Strategic Plan (CSP) process.

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	400 m (71%)	24.8 m (111%)

*April 2017 – September 2017

PRRO 200692: This PRRO provides a seamless transition between relief response and resilience-building efforts. The project is the vehicle for WFP’s current relief response to the effects of El Niño and 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 also benefits from working with partners to deliver complementary recovery activities to pave 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.

In Numbers

5.3 million people received relief assistance

934,000 students received school meals

82,250 children, women and people living with HIV treated for malnutrition

People Assisted
March 2017



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Lauren Webber
Caption: WFP assisted individual in Balaka district displays her vegetable oil ration received through U.S



March 2017

Operational Updates

El Niño Relief Response (2016/17 lean season): To date, an estimated 5.3 million people of the targeted 6 million people have been reached with life-saving humanitarian assistance. This represents an 89 percent achievement. The remaining 700,000 beneficiaries will be reached in April 2017. Of the 5.3 million people assisted, all 683,000 people targeted under Cash Based Transfers (CBT) and maize vouchers have been reached, while approximately 4.6 million people under food distributions have been assisted.

Emergency School Meals: The six-months of DFID Emergency School Meals project (November 2016 – April 2017) has been implemented in 71 primary schools in Balaka, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Phalombe providing 3 kg of Corn Soy Blend (CSB) per learner as Take Home Rations (THR). From March to April, the Emergency School Meals Programme (SMP) assisted 61,892 learners.

Nutrition: WFP continued with the provision of life saving commodities to children, Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) and ART and TB patients. A total of 40,152 children, 20,140 PLW and 21,828 ART/TB patients were treated for acute malnutrition in March. There is a decline in the trends of new admissions for children, PLW and ART/TB patients between February and March.

According to the latest Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (MVAM) monitoring data, a 60 percent and 43 percent reduction is noted for moderately malnourished children and ART/TB patients respectively. This could signify an improvement in food consumption amidst stabilizing food security situation as households start consuming foods from their production.

A study for Emergency School Meals was conducted in eight treatment and eight control schools in two targeted districts, which showed that in Emergency School Meals-supported schools, enrolment increased by seven percent, however in unsupported schools, the enrolment rate decreased by three percent from pre-intervention enrolment figures (August 2016). Also attendance rate on average reached 93 percent (a 19 percent increase from pre-intervention) in the schools which implement SMP. On the other hand, attendance rate in schools which did not implement SMP is 69 percent (a 12 percent decrease) in February 2017.

WFP and partners continued advance discussions around the linkages between the social protection and humanitarian systems through finalizing operational trials and studies that will inform policy and programme options. WFP is also providing continued support to national policy and programme development, as a member of the taskforce drafting the National Resilience plan and 5-organization taskforce leading the multi-stakeholder consultation process to redesign Malawi's main social protection framework; both of which will be finalised by June 2017.

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 and food insecurity. For 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.

Malawi's challenges are compounded by a volatile economy with one of the highest inflation rates in the region (at 16 percent), 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 new 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**

2015 Human Development Index:
173 out of 188

Income Level: **Low**

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

Donors

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