



WFP Malawi

Working together for a better tomorrow,
food and nutrition security, education for all.



WFP Malawi Quarterly Bulletin
Issue 3, January—March 2013

Photo credits: Pamela Kuwali,
Thomas Debandt, and WFP Malawi



Note from the WFP Country Director



Mr. Baton Osmani, WFP Malawi Country Director a.i. serving WFP school meals

Welcome to the third issue of the WFP Malawi Quarterly Bulletin. We hope that through this and subsequent issues you will stay informed of the latest activities at WFP Malawi and see what we are doing in partnership with the government and other development partners to ensure food and nutrition security and education for all people in Malawi.

I have outlined a few of our first quarter highlights on the next page, including providing assistance to the Ministries of Education and Health for improved programming of their school meals and nutrition programmes, finalizing our new refugee operation, and hosting the US Ambassador to the UN Rome-based agencies, Mr. David Lane.

In this issue you will learn about how we are helping villages in Malawi adapt to climate change and how we are addressing food shortages through cash transfers. You will also see our plans for the next quarter as we implement our country programme, empower smallholder farmers and support refugees with food assistance.

I hope you will find this issue informative. For comments and queries, please contact our Programme Officer for Donor Relations and Public Information, Pamela Kuwali, whose contact details are indicated on the back of the bulletin.

Sincerely,

Baton Osmani, WFP Malawi Country Director a.i.

WFP in Numbers (January to March 2013)

- ⇒ Reached nearly 2 million people through the relief operation; 125,000 of whom received cash assistance to enable them to buy the type of food they needed the most
- ⇒ Assisted nearly 760,000 primary school children through on-site school meals; another 1,200 students were fed under the home grown school meals pilot programme
- ⇒ Provided nutrition interventions for 25,000 young children, pregnant and lactating women and TB patients
- ⇒ Provided life-saving food assistance to 16,000 refugees residing in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp
- ⇒ Empowered 14,000 small holder farmers through the Purchase for Progress programme

WFP Staff in Action



Duncan Ndhlovu, Programme Officer for Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergencies (in front, second from left with WFP cap) pictured with Michael Makonombera from the Ministry of Environment (in front, third from the left) and members of the Chakomanika village in the Chikhwawa district during a joint monitoring visit for the WFP Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP). The AAP programme is implemented in collaboration with UNDP, and with the government and NGOs as partners. The AAP programme is also heavily reliant on community participation for identification of projects to combat climate change. Government and community ownership are ensured through capacity building activities in all phases of the AAP interventions, from problem identification and planning to implementation and evaluation.

WFP First Quarter 2013 Highlights

Country Programme

Component 1: Support to Education

As part of national capacity building efforts, WFP provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education for development of the School Health and Nutrition Policy 2013-2018. The government requested this policy as a first line of action during its study tours to Brazil in 2012.

WFP received US\$ 7.8 million from the **British government's UKaid for its school meals programme**. Funding came at a critical time when WFP was facing an impending pipeline break for its school meals programme.

Enrolment at the Ching'ombe school in the Mangochi district increased by 14% following the start of the WFP home grown school meals pilot programme. With support from ICEIDA, WFP launched the home grown school meals pilot programme in 3 schools in the Mangochi district in November 2012.



Pupils at the Ching'ombe School eating goat meat, mangos and rice as part of the home grown school meals pilot programme

Component 2: Nutrition Support

In an effort to improve national efforts for nutrition support for HIV and/or TB-infected people, WFP hosted two regional workshops with the Ministry of Health to review its nutrition support programme for HIV and/or TB-infected people in view of future strategic decisions on nutrition programme approach and financing.

The Kingdom of Norway contributed US\$ 7.6 million to WFP for the supplementary feeding programme to treat moderate acute malnutrition in young children and pregnant and lactating women nationwide.

A formative study was completed to inform the design of communication messages to enhance behavioural changes for WFP's programme to prevent chronic malnutrition in the Ntchisi district.

As part of its nutrition support programme, WFP finalized distribution of 2,200 goats to 1,000 families as part of a joint WFP-FAO livestock project in two districts (Chikhwawa and Phalombe) to improve nutrition and livelihoods for people living with HIV and AIDS. Each household must provide their first 2 offspring to another household in an effort to double the number of goats in the communities.



Provision of goats for nutrition/livelihood support

Component 3: Disaster Risk Reduction

WFP assisted Balaka and Zomba districts to finalize proposal development for asset-creation activities. Pending immediate funding availability, these activities will support early recovery from droughts and floods in 2012/2013. DRR activities will address acute food insecurity through the provision food assistance for assets (FFA) activities which include either food or cash (depending on the season) in exchange for work as an incentive to create or rehabilitate productive communal assets for long-term food security.

Relief Operation

Although the relief operation was set to end in March 2013, WFP extended the operation to 31 June 2013. Those people affected by dry spells will receive assistance up to 31 May 2013, while people affected by floods will be supported until the end of June. The extension was required primarily for immediate procurement and distribution of maize following issues of damaged maize from the **government's strategic grain reserves (which meant that the government couldn't honor on its pledge to provide the remaining maize requirement for the response)**. Flood affected people are receiving support to cover their food needs before the next crop harvest from winter/irrigation cropping. WFP was able to secure 100% financing for the relief operation, thanks to support from the Malawi Government, USAID, UKaid, ECHO, the Kingdom of Norway, the Government of Canada, the Republic of South Africa, the Government of Switzerland, and multilateral contributions. WFP also finalized its cash transfer programme in March 2013, as originally planned. Initial feedback was positive, with these beneficiaries preferring cash as a way to purchase a variety of foods.

Refugees

WFP finalized discussions with UNHCR and the government on the refugee successor operation where WFP will target an increased refugee population estimated at 23,000 over the next 2 years due to a continued influx of refugees into the country. The composition of the food basket and ration size will be modified, when possible, to meet refugee preferences and nutrition needs of vulnerable groups. WFP will also support host communities during the lean season with FFA activities, such as reforestation and land conservation to mitigate the high level of environmental degradation in the area.

Purchase for Progress

To fill a critical skill gap, WFP trained 28 Agriculture Market Information Systems (AMIS) district supervisors on how to monitor local market prices. These supervisors are now equipped to supervise enumerators on collecting the market prices.

WFP sponsored representatives from 17 of its farmers organizations to receive training on how to conduct farmer field days. This is part of an effort with the Ministry of Agriculture to reach a wide audience of farmers with messages on how to improve agriculture productivity. **The theme for this year's farmer field days, which take place around the country during harvest time, is "Good Grain, Better Prices".**

WFP hosted the US Ambassador to the UN Rome-based agencies, Mr. David Lane. The Ambassador was pleased with **WFP's home-grown initiatives to address food insecurity in the country, and its work with small holder farmers to improve agriculture production.**



Ambassador David Lane; US Ambassador To Malawi, Ambassador Jeanine Jackson; USAID mission director to Malawi, Doug Arbuckle; WFP Country Director a.i. Baton Osmani, and members of the WFP-supported Kaso farmers organization.

Adapting to Climate Change: How One Village is Making it Happen

Background

Towering above the Malawi – Mozambique border, Mount Mulanje erupts in magnificent variance from the gently rolling hills of the countryside in south eastern Malawi. Although inevitably the centre of tourism in the area, Mulanje's beauty and unique habitats have been negatively affected by a number of natural and man-made disasters. The Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve decreased in area after encroachers occupied the area and began to indiscriminately cut trees for wood for fuel and charcoal production. These activities led to deforestation and consequently soil erosion, floods and landslides in the area.

Nessa, a small, picturesque village settled on a ridge of the towering Mulanje Massif and bordered by the Lichenya river was devastated when in March 2011, flood waters came crashing down the river bank, sweeping away hundreds of households, destroying over 52 hectares of farmland, killing 2 children and injuring many others. Following this, village leaders from Nessa approached the Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT), a local NGO, for help. Recognizing this as a possible climate change issue, the MMCT identified the WFP Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) as a funding source.

"Climate change is happening here. We are experiencing delayed but excessive rains which are causing a lot of damage through floods and soil erosion." - Lino Aaron, Secretary of the Village Committee, Nessa Village

As a result, in January 2012, WFP launched a climate change adaptation programme in the Nessa village. The programme was implemented through the MMCT, government ministries of environment, forestry, agriculture and community development (district councils) and private partners. The AAP programme sought to **enhance the community's resilience to shocks, such as severe floods, and other impacts associated with climate change.** WFP implements 31 AAP projects in 7 districts, aiming to identify the best practices for scale-up of climate change adaptation activities nationwide. The AAP is funded by the Government of Japan and the Flemish International Cooperation Agency.

During the project's needs assessment meeting in Nessa (this participatory approach is at the core of the AAP programme), the village identified a focus on tree planting as a way to prevent flooding in the future. However, WFP and partners complemented this with a package of interventions to optimize impact, and **provide livelihood and economic opportunities to add to the village's motivation.** A total of 300 households, out of 1,000 households in the area participated in the project, which was implemented through the Village Committee (VC) at the village level.



The Nessa Village community participating in the stabilization and conservation of Mt. Mulanje

The Intervention

Rehabilitation of Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve included tree planting along the Lichenya River, repatriation of encroachers from the Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve back to their original village farmlands, and establishment of a medicinal garden at the request of the Nessa village. Nessa has a strong network of traditional healers using herbs for their drugs; however they faced challenges of a scarcity of medicinal plants and were often forced to travel long distances in search for medicinal plants, most of which were already threatened to extinction. Of all the components of the project, the community cited afforestation as most important given the problems of erosion and flooding in the area.

Appropriate land husbandry focuses on land resource management activities, including vertiver grass planting, bamboo planting, agro-forestry technologies, composting, ridge alignment, gully reclamation and permaculture practices. These practices aimed at maximizing productivity and control of soil erosion.

Agricultural diversification focuses on introduction and promotion of new crops and distribution of several different types of improved fruit trees new to the area (apples, oranges, mangos, paw paw, and litches) and tea and macadamia tree seedlings for smallholder planting.

Awareness and education ensures that people in the village and the surrounding villages are made aware of the following messages: environmental and natural resources management; climate change and its impacts; disaster preparedness; HIV and AIDS and gender; village development planning and family planning.

Capacity building includes training on project management, roles and responsibilities. It involves training of trainers on permaculture design, agro-forestry technology and tree planting techniques.



The bare Lichenya riverbank after the 2011 flash floods. This is what caused the community to participate in the WFP AAP without asking for incentives.



Landscape change with vertiver grass and trees planted along the Lichenya riverbank by December 2012

Adapting to Climate Change: How One Village is Making it Happen

Key Achievements

Rehabilitation of Mulanje Mountain Forest Reserve

A total of 23,700 tree seedlings of indigenous species of *Albizia lebeck* and *Khaya anthotheca* were planted along the Lichenya River to maintain the riverbank and prevent erosion. This was 26 percent more than the target, or 5,000 more seedlings planted than planned. By December 2012, 80% of the trees had survived, surpassing the target of 70% survival rate. The trees also keep the water levels in the river sufficient enough to supply water to the villages, and serve as a source of forage, medicines and wood.

A total of .712ha of forest land was reclaimed from encroachment by December 2012. Progress is slower than anticipated mainly because of the sensitivity of this issue, but the activity is on-going and closely monitored. The village will plant another 31,000 trees to fill the previously encroached land where people have moved out.

Establishment of an herbal garden with 4,700 seedlings of 10 different kinds of trees planted for medicinal use by village herbalists. Traditional healers (herbalists) have been linked with the College of Medicine, assisting with analysis of the plants' healing properties, and as a measure to protect local knowledge.

There has been no flooding from the Lichenya river since the project started in the Nessa village; this is cited as the project's most significant achievement.

Appropriate land husbandry

14 tonnes of vertiver grass and 7 tonnes of guatemala grass were planted in Nessa village along the Lichenya River, and other fragile places. The roots of the grasses bind the soils together; preventing erosion and stabilizing the riverbank. An area of close to 0.5ha was planted with bamboo.



Lino Aaron from the Nessa village pictured with the vertiver grass that he helped plant



Once a deep gully, the village built these check dams to prevent further erosion along the fields

130 households have adopted permaculture and vertiver planting and have been exposed to conservation agriculture. This surpassed the target by 30 percent. Households were trained in permaculture by Panthunzi, a private institution. Many of these households now have vegetable gardens, which act as a source of nutrition. These practices also involve water harvesting (as an adaption measure to climate change), and gully reclamation.

Agricultural diversification

A total of 370 households have accessed agriculture diversification inputs with either macadamia or different types of fruit trees; another 194 households will receive tea seedlings in 2013/14 (1,000,000 tea seedlings are under production by Eastern Produce Limited tea estate and Tea Research Foundation). This is 364 more households than planned, surpassing the target by 182 percent. These trees also serve as a forest resource.

Awareness and education

A mass awareness campaign was carried out through dances, dramas and poetry readings with meaningful messages about the importance of protecting natural resources, recognizing climate change, and other key messages for HIV and AIDS and gender, and family and village planning. These activities were carried out as a competition with 4 surrounding villages to see who could communicate the most powerful messages. Over 3,000 people heard these messages, from the elderly to young children. Sign posts were also developed, communicating messages in the local language such as *tibzale ndi kusamala mitengo m'mbali mwa misinje* – Let's plant and take care of trees and the riverbanks.



The village dance competition (above) and sign posts (below) that communicated key messages on the need to protect natural resources.

Capacity building through training of the Village Committee



Capacity building

Members of the VC received 3 trainings by partners in leadership, conflict management and project management. Empowering the VC, and the community, was cited as key to the success of the project.

"We are very dedicated to the project. We have already seen the benefits of the project such as agroforestry, and reducing erosion after planting trees and vertiver grass. In the future we looking forward to see the economic benefits as well from the fruit trees and tea production." - Killy Phiri, Village Committee member

There were also positive, but unintended results of the project, such as formation of the Mt Mulanje Conservation Group (MMCG). A voluntary group of 20 members, the MMCG has the major objective of supporting conservation activities on Mt. Mulanje. Key activities include enforcement of the law against encroachment and awareness raising on natural resources management. The MMCG has also partnered with the Forestry Research Institute of Malawi on promotion of local seed collection, focusing on many endangered and valuable tree species.

Cash Transfers: Giving Choices to People in Need



Esterly's daughter Egnart buying maize for their household at the local market with cash supplied by WFP

Key Facts

Cash transfer implementation period:

November 2012 - March 2013

Beneficiaries: 125,000

Range of transfer values: MWK 8,300 (\$26)
in November 2012 to MWK 17,300 (\$47) in
March 2013

A new cash transfer programme by WFP Malawi aimed to address problems of access to food during the lean season this past year, and to allow beneficiaries to buy the type of food they needed the most. In 2012/2013 WFP sent cash to 125,000 people through monthly SMS messages that entitled them to collect cash from Airtel agents. Some beneficiaries received their cash through bank accounts. This was the **biggest emergency cash transfer programme in Malawi's** history, and was the first time that WFP delivered scalable financially-inclusive food assistance in Malawi on a large scale.

In Malawi, 84-year-old Esterly Lapken and 82-year old Eluby Chimwala were two of these people. These women, both grandmothers, have had to step in to help raise, feed and care for their grandchildren and other family members. But for the first time in her lives, they had money. Not a lot, but enough to buy previously unaffordable necessities like maize flour, *bonya* (small dried fish), cooking oil, and vegetables.

"I prefer to receive the cash instead of food," says Eluby, "I get to buy the food I like, when I like." Eluby is able to recite the exact amount of cash transfer she received every month from WFP and what she purchased with those amounts. **"Life was difficult before," she continues "I used to beg for maize and food from people. If they didn't give us maize they would give us maize bran (maize bran in Malawi is normally reserved for livestock) and we would survive on one meal a day. Sometimes my grandchildren would go to bed hungry and sleep on empty stomachs. I felt weak most of the time. But with the money received from WFP we could afford to eat three meals a day. We felt energetic."** Esterly further remarks **"receiving cash works out better for the whole family. My daughter goes to the market for me, she knows where to go and what to buy."**

Other beneficiaries expressed their excitement to use the **new technology**. **"Having a phone was something I dreamed of for a long time",** 64 year old Esnad Nkundi tells WFP, **"I now have technology!"** In addition to using the phone to receive money through the cash transfer programme, Esnad also used the cell phone to check the price of fertilizer, which she can now do without travelling to the main town, and discussed with friends the best price to sell their maize after this year's harvest.

The programme proved a reliable and effective way for WFP to provide food assistance to those most in need. For example, WFP reached 100% of beneficiary households on time as planned in both February and March 2013. WFP Malawi is considering use of cash and vouchers in all of its programmes where they have a comparative advantage over traditional in-kind food transfers.



Esterly receiving assistance from her daughter with the new technology

The cash transfer programme was implemented as part of **WFP's larger relief operation where another 1.8 million** people received traditional food assistance of maize, pulses, Supercereal (known locally as *Likuni Phala*) and vegetable oil. This number was 10 times larger than the usual years given the food crisis the country was experiencing. The cash transfers were prioritized in areas with functioning markets, and the value changed on a monthly basis depending on the prevailing market price of the WFP food basket. The cash transfer programme was funded by the British Government's UKaid.

"We welcome the use of cash instead of food distributions, where market conditions are still good, to enable beneficiaries to make their own decisions about what's most important during these difficult times", says Sarah Sanyahumbi, Head of DfID Malawi.

Looking Forward (April — June 2013)

Country Programme

Component 1: Support to Education

- ⇒ Scale-up the home grown school meals pilot programme to 2 additional schools in Mangochi and 5 schools in Phalombe with feeding expected to begin in the second quarter of 2013.
- ⇒ Finalize construction of kitchens and feeding shelters in the initial 35 community-based childcare centres that will receive WFP support for school meals, and launch the feeding programme at these schools. The communities have constructed temporary facilities in the interim so that feeding can commence in April 2013.
- ⇒ Finalize the Sustainable Nutrition Manual. The manual is a revision of the original 2005 “Low Input Food and Nutrition Security: Growing and Eating More Using Less” manual that aimed at creating an appropriate model for introducing food diversification in food insecure communities, families with chronically ill members, and students. Over 10,000 copies were printed of the original manual.

Component 2: Nutrition Support

- ⇒ (Acute Malnutrition) A review of the Ministry of Health/WFP supplementary feeding programme is taking place in April in all 28 districts of the country where the programme is being implemented. The review will identify areas of improvement for the programme and will complement findings of the review of the Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) programme at large. A draft report will be released in the second quarter of 2013.
- ⇒ (Chronic Malnutrition) Prior to programme implementation, expected to begin in September 2013, a number of activities have been planned. In line with the SUN roll-out for the prevention of stunting, WFP in partnership with nutrition stakeholders in the Ntchisi district, will conduct programme awareness on prevention of chronic malnutrition. It is anticipated that all forms of mass communication, including traditional leadership and community channels will be used. An estimated 12,000 children 6-24 months old and 18,000 pregnant and lactating women will enroll initially, and scale-up to 26,000 children and 43,000 women over the 3-year span of the programme.

Component 3: DRR for Food Security

- ⇒ Best practices by AAP will be captured and integrated into the overall government climate change programme and scaled-up to other areas of the country.
- ⇒ WFP will support the immediate livelihood recovery of households affected by prolonged dry spells during the 2011/2012 crop growing season in the Balaka and Zomba districts, pending funding availability.



A Ministry of Health, Health Surveillance Assistant giving lessons on nutrition through group discussions and singing with mothers participating in the WFP supplementary feeding programme

Refugee Assistance

- ⇒ WFP will start a new refugee operation (PRRO 200460), a successor to its refugee operations since 2002.
- ⇒ WFP will finalize construction of a community centre that will provide a space where women in particular can receive confidential counseling and where behaviour change workshops on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) can be carried out.

Relief Assistance

- ⇒ Since the operation is approaching the end, WFP has hired consultants to conduct an independent final evaluation of programme achievements for the entire operation (cash transfers and in-kind food assistance) as well as a special study on the impact of cash transfers on the local economy. The results for both evaluations are expected to be released in June 2013.

Urban Assistance

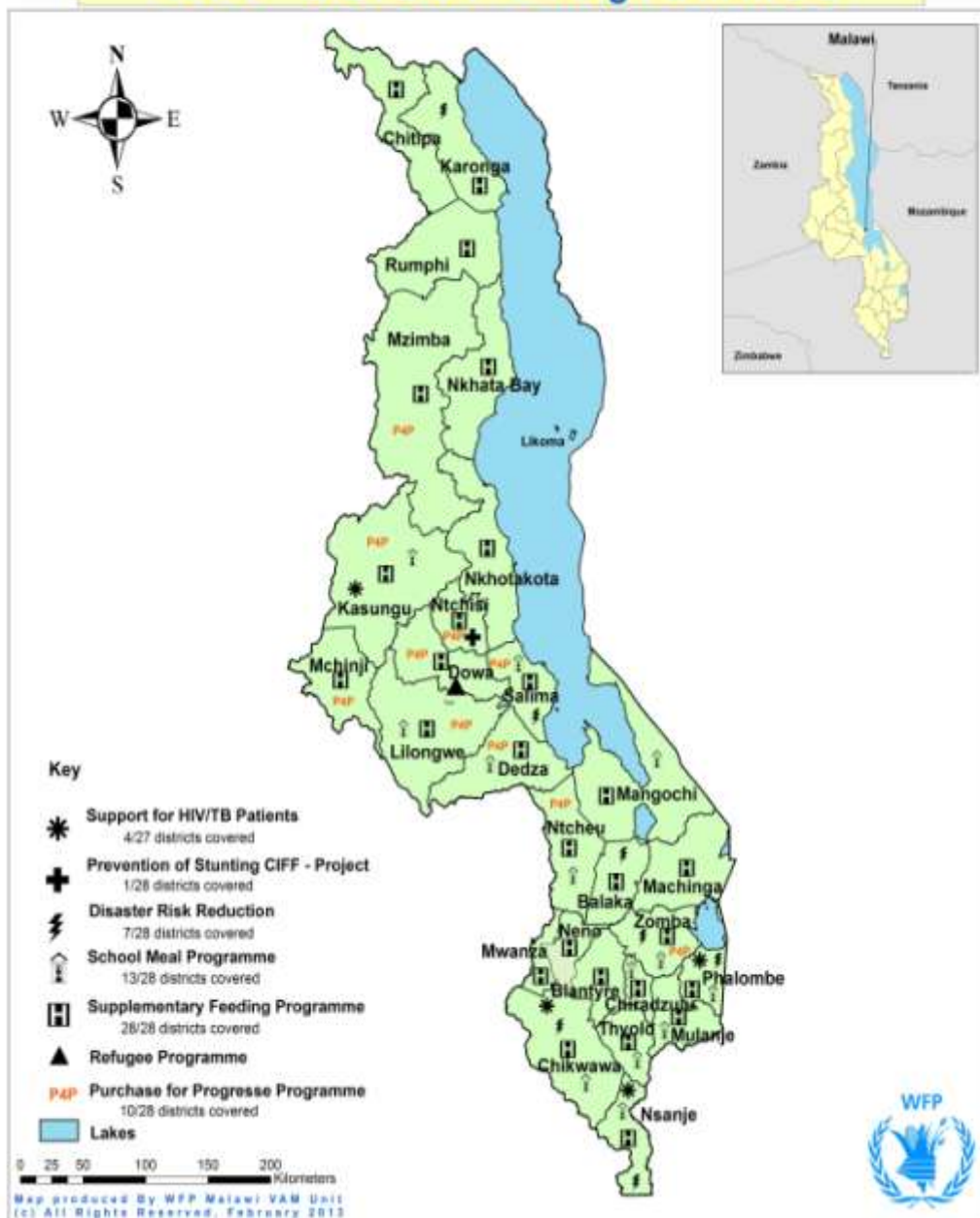
- ⇒ The urban assessment report is finalized and will be shared with donors. As of July 2012, more than 1.1 million people (90%) of the assessed urban and peri-urban residents were food insecure. Of these, over 680,000 were severely or moderately food insecure, meaning that they spent more than 65% of their incomes on food and had either significant consumption gaps or had to sell major assets in order to avert these consumption gaps.

Purchase for Progress

- ⇒ The P4P and school feeding units are working with external partners to progress on the implementation of the home grown school meals pilot, through which small holder farmers will access the demand created by school feeding, allowing them to increase their incomes while providing healthy school meals for children. WFP, in partnership with its NGO partner, the Malawi Lake Basin, is working with 6 farmer organizations in Mangochi and at least 12 farmer organizations in Phalombe to participate in the pilot programme. This will benefit 700 farmers.

WFP Malawi Overview

WFP Malawi Programmes



Number of Malawians served
3 million

Number of WFP staff
129 (108 national, 21 international)

Country Office
Lilongwe

Sub-Offices
Blantyre
Ntchisi

Satellite Offices
Kasungu
Salima
Ntcheu
Mangochi
Mulanje
Nsanje
Chikwawa

WFP Programmes (May 2013-April 2014)

Requirements

Shortfall

Country Programme

US\$ 25,407,179

US\$ 13,606,924

School Meals

US\$ 16,970,883

US\$ 10,556,288

Supplementary Feeding

US\$ 5,385,660

US\$ 0

DRR for Food Security

US\$ 3,050,636

US\$ 3,050,636

Refugees

US\$ 2,544,417

US\$ 2,245,825

For more information contact:

Baton Osmani, Country Director, a.i.

Pamela Kuwali, Programme Officer for Donor Relations and Public Information,

Pamela.kuwali@wfp.org

World Food Programme, Family Dental Clinic Compound, Area 14, City Centre, P.O. Box 30571

Lilongwe 3, Malawi

Tel: + 265 1 744 666 ext. 2402

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