



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Malawi, Republic of (MW)

Responding to Humanitarian Needs and Strengthening Resilience

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200692
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	2,806,000
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	1,924,131
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	1,969,920

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	November 12, 2014
Planned Start Date	December 01, 2014
Actual Start Date	December 01, 2014
Project End Date	March 31, 2017
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	139,777,214
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	346,000
Direct Support Costs	19,305,401
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	45,705,165
Indirect Support Costs	14,359,365
Total	219,493,144

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	103,491
Actual Commodities 2015	76,556
Total Approved Commodities	220,843

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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

This Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200692 was designed to support government efforts to respond to food insecurity in times of crisis and to rebuild livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to frequent and intense shocks in the long run. Key to these efforts and part of WFP's strategic shift towards resilience in Malawi, where structural drivers of hunger prevail, was delivering assistance in an integrated manner that facilitated a seamless transition between relief, recovery efforts and resilience-building activities.

The relief part of this PRRO became WFP's primary vehicle for the provision of life-saving food assistance in 2015 as the country faced multiple extreme weather-induced shocks – leading to what became the worst food insecurity in a decade by the end of the year. The most devastating floods in living memory hit central and southern Malawi in early January, which prompted the President of Malawi to declare a state of national disaster across 15 of the country's 28 districts. The floods came at a time when many Malawians were already enduring 2014/15 lean season food insecurity, and the impact of the floods more than doubled the number of food insecure people immediately requiring WFP assistance.

By March 2015, an El Nino event had started across the southern Africa region and the country faced intense dry spells that offered no support to the already damaged harvest. For the first year since 2005, the country faced a national food deficit (defined by production of maize, the staple) and by mid-year high demand and low supply of maize drove food prices to levels unmatched in recent years. The Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) assessment conducted in June 2015 found that 2.83 million people across 25 districts would experience food insecurity for three to six months (October 2015 – March 2016), with the peak time of need beginning in January 2016.

Due to the various shocks and levels of acute food insecurity during the year, the relief component of this PRRO had two primary periods of implementation: January to July 2015, which continued to address 2014/15 lean season food insecurity caused by erratic weather in the previous growing season, but then was expanded to address the impact of the floods; and October to December 2015, which addressed 2015/16 lean season food insecurity caused by a combination of the protracted effects of the floods, intense dry spells and high food prices. Given that the base values of this PRRO were established in late 2014 at the start of the 2014/15 lean season food insecurity response, the 2015 results (apart from those in the beneficiary, targeting and distribution section) are from the first period of 2015 relief assistance only. Results of relief assistance provided under the 2015/16 lean season response will be reported on in 2016 as it is part of an ongoing response planned to end in March 2016.

Given the context, WFP upheld its humanitarian imperative under this PRRO in 2015, in line with WFP Strategic Objective 1: "to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies" and sought to prevent moderate acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, which are known to contribute to stunting, through the inclusion of fortified blended food in the relief response.

The recovery and prevention component of this operation began in 2015, building on disaster risk reduction activities undertaken under WFP's Country Programme 200287 in 2014 (which were then transferred into this PRRO from January 2015), and grew in relevance as the year of huge shocks underlined the importance of multi-sectoral resilience-building to address the myriad of challenges that chronically food insecure, shock-prone households face in Malawi. This involved the implementation of multi-sectoral, nutrition-sensitive Food Assistance for Asset (FFA) activities in four chronically food insecure districts, in line with WFP Strategic Objectives 2 and 3. The FFA programme was complemented by two climate smart pilots in one district: the R4 Rural Resilience initiative, which introduced weather-indexed insurance and village savings and loans associations for FFA participants, and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GCFS) Adaptation programme, that localized climate service information which enables communities to plan accordingly for farming. While SO2 activities were not initially planned for 2015, they were identified and implemented as part of flood early recovery response and lean season complementary activities supporting beneficiaries under SO1.

PRRO 200692 support was complemented by WFP's IR-EMOP 200685 and SO 200685, which offered immediate surge support to the flood response in 2015, as well as by Country Programme 200287 which provided additional social protection support (primarily through school meals and nutrition support) and had a focus on building national DRR capacity.

This PRRO is aligned with the National Social Support Programme (NSSP) and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (2011-2016), the United Nations Development Framework 2012-16 as well as the newly endorsed UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

In 2015, WFP met the urgent food needs of more than 1.96 million people with food or cash assistance, comprised of approximately 1.92 million relief beneficiaries reached with general food distribution (GFD) and cash-based transfers (CBT), and some 40,481 reached under recovery activities with Food Assistance for Assets (FFA).

While there is perceived slight over achievement for relief beneficiaries reached with GFD, at 101 percent of planned, variation was primarily caused by a difference in household size between the average 5.5 used for planning purposes, and actual household sizes. The average household size of 5.5 has been used by the humanitarian community for response in Malawi for the past recent years, based on the latest available data. In late 2015, for the first time, however, WFP also introduced individual targeting as a learning pilot, whereby household food rations were provided on the basis of the actual number of household members to some 20,730 beneficiaries in two affected areas of Lilongwe district. Learning and results from this targeting pilot will be analysed in 2016 to inform targeting practices in the future.

The number of relief beneficiaries who received assistance under this PRRO were determined by the Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) to be food insecure as a result of adverse weather conditions, and considered by their communities to be the most vulnerable. Beneficiaries included mainly female-headed households, elderly-headed households, households hosting orphans and chronically ill patients, and households that had lost their main income earner due to chronic illness.

Of the total 1.92 million relief beneficiaries, some 87,000 who were in greatest need started receiving assistance in December 2014 at the start of the 2014/15 lean season. In early 2015, WFP extended assistance to about 440,000 people as per MVAC recommendations, by quickly scaling up operations in response to the sudden onset floods in January. Within 72 hours of the declaration of a flood disaster, WFP was able to respond to the worst hit by reprioritizing food stocks from the lean season response that were then later replenished by other contributions. Ready-to-eat immediate food assistance to the flood affected people was also provided through IR-EMOP 200810. An MVAC food security assessment conducted in February found 616,000 people across 17 districts were expected to be food insecure until July 2015, when winter harvests were expected to improve food security for some. By April, as per the assessment recommendations, WFP was reaching about 1 million food insecure people, combining both the floods and the 2014/15 lean season response.

Despite occurring in some of the same districts, the 2014/15 lean season response and floods response targeted largely different affected populations with only about 4 percent of those receiving lean season food assistance also affected by floods. A primary reason for the minimal overlap is that the two responses targeted different segments of the population. The poorest and most vulnerable households in Malawi (who are targeted in the lean season food insecurity response) tend to be chronically drought-affected households found in the upland areas of the affected districts without access to irrigation, while those most affected by the floods primarily reside in the low-lying areas which are prone to flooding.

An assessment carried out in December 2014 by the MVAC recommended the extension of lean season assistance by one month from March to the end of April due to delayed onset rainfall for the planting season. Due to funding constraints, WFP was unable to deliver in-kind food assistance in April which contributed to distributing less food than planned. With earmarked funding for cash-based transfers however, WFP was able to meet the needs of cash beneficiaries in April, albeit at half ration due to insufficient funding.

While WFP assistance continued for designated flood victims through July, the food security gains made from the first few months of assistance began to erode as national harvest yields were down due to the floods which devastated and washed away crops, followed by intense dry spells at a time when El Nino had started to affect the region. A June MVAC assessment recommended that flood affected people in the four hardest hit districts receive continued assistance through September, due to the poor harvest. They furthermore would be added to a large scale response for the 2015/16 lean season. Based on MVAC findings of more than 2.83 million people in need of food assistance for the 2015/16 lean season (October to March), WFP again scaled up assistance from October reaching a total of 1.92 million Malawians with relief food and cash assistance by the end of the year.

Chosen transfer modalities took into consideration functionality of the markets, food availability, local production deficits and distances to the markets. Monthly in-kind household rations included maize (50 kgs), pulses (10 kgs) and fortified vegetable oil (1.84 kgs) to improve food security. The value of the cash transfer was based on the prevailing local retail prices of the WFP food basket and therefore aimed to meet the same percentage of the daily

kcal requirements as the in-kind food.

Due to delayed funding and pipeline challenges, WFP only managed five rounds of food distributions for the first seven months of the year. Correspondingly, with limited funds available, WFP was forced to reduce rations for pulses from October onwards. Both of these factors substantially affected the commodities distributed versus planned in this PRRO, and meanwhile meant that people were receiving less than the 70 percent daily kcal requirement.

A market assessment conducted in April 2015 provided an analysis of market functionality and the viability of CBT transfer modalities in the flood-affected areas. Findings recommended that 57 percent of the beneficiaries receive food while 43 percent receive cash transfers. Some 46,852 households received a cash ration (dependent on funds availability) in May, with a gradual scaling down through June and July. Although WFP intensified its advocacy efforts to secure new sources of funding, this was hindered by the fact that the results of the MVAC Food Security Monitoring Exercise were only released in late March as well as the fact that April also marked the scale-up of the floods response from 368,000 to 616,000 beneficiaries. A new contribution for cash transfers enabled WFP to extend its cash response through the end of April with half entitlements. The distribution of cash entitlements were delayed due to several reasons including the delay in arriving at a final agreement on the split of beneficiary caseload between WFP and the INGO consortium, slow confirmation of donor funds needed to begin contracting the financial service provider and contractual delays experienced in securing a reliable financial service provider.

To prevent stunting and micronutrient deficiencies, WFP also provided some 22,000 pregnant and lactating women and 32,000 children under two with monthly rations of fortified blended foods that have been documented to prevent deterioration in micronutrient status for vulnerable groups. Following nutritional guidelines, pregnant or lactating women received Super Cereal (6 kgs), while children under two received Super Cereal Plus (6 kgs) for the first 4 months of this PRRO. Super Cereal Plus is an advanced corn-soya blend formula that, as evidence shows, facilitates a higher recovery rate than any other fortified blended food. By October, late funding and need to procure the commodity internationally meant that all PLW and children under two had to receive Super Cereal.

In addition, for the first time in Malawi, WFP piloted the use of nutrition vouchers in two districts (Blantyre and Lilongwe) which entitled 2,778 pregnant and lactating women and children under two to exchange the voucher in a nearby market for 6 kgs of locally produced Super Cereal per month. Due to categorization technicalities in internal systems, planned and actual voucher figures are misrepresented in the table below. Of an operational planned amount of some USD 123,000 worth of vouchers, WFP was able to achieve 98 percent of distribution.

Relief beneficiaries were provided with complementary assistance to support the rebuilding of livelihoods. This arrangement saw WFP working with partners to link the provision of food assistance with relevant services to help lift affected populations to the substance level required for re-engaging in recovery and development processes. Complementary assistance aimed to provide a link to resilience-building and social support activities through relevant development activities, including livelihood support, to complement agricultural labour requirements and/or attendance to social behavioural change communication (SBCC) sessions providing messages on nutrition, wash, agriculture, gender and protection.

FFA activities were implemented as part of WFP's strategic shift towards resilience in Malawi, building on new methods such as WFP's three-pronged approach (3PA). The three-pronged approach relies on new and innovative tools including an Integrated Context Analysis (ICA), Seasonal Livelihood Programming (SLP), and Community-based Participatory Planning (CBPP). The ICA looks at the bigger picture combining historical trends of food security, shocks and other relevant information to identify priority areas of intervention. Through the FFA programme, food or cash is provided to communities in exchange for their work on community assets, as well as income generating activities and skills trainings. The goal is to build resilience over the long term by improving the capacity of food insecure households to increase their own food production and maximize food utilization, as well as reduce risk through an area based approach. The CBPP also contributes to decisions of the transfer modality. In 2015 all FFA assistance was through in-kind food assistance. WFP overachieved in the FFA component of this PRRO to reach 245 percent of planned beneficiaries in four districts (Balaka, Zomba, Karonga, Phalombe) because the plan was based on available funding late 2014 and carried over into 2015, and WFP managed to mobilize more resources in 2015.

The PRRO also implemented the R4 Rural resilience initiative in 2015. R4 is an integrated risk management programme that enables vulnerable households to manage the multiple risks they face through four interconnected interventions – asset creation, villages savings and loans, credit and index based insurance. Towards the end of 2015 WFP used radio and ICTs to reach out to farmers with agro-climatic information. WFP reached out directly to 4,980 farmers in Balaka district through the Community Radio Listening Hubs, and 2,140 farmers were reached out with agro-climatic information through SMS as part of Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). GFCS links with FFA and the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative programmes to ensure continuity, cost effectiveness and sustainability. The majority of the FFA and R4 participants benefit from GFCS project by accessing agro-climatic

services through the project, helping them make farming and livelihood decisions to maximize their choice set and productivity. FFA and R4 participants form part of the Radio Listening Hubs, which provide an opportunity to farmers to listen to radio show in groups and provide feedback to climate service providers through SMS. 84 Radio Listening Hubs have been established across Balaka district. Through the pilot R4 rural resilience project—risk reduction, risk transfer, prudent risk taking and risk reserves— WFP helped create 117 village savings and loan groups with a membership of some 2,374 from 500 beneficiary households that have purchased an insurance policy against drought in exchange for their labour to restoring or creating community or individual assets.

To monitor the 2015/2016 lean season and El Nino effects, WFP launched the mVAM – mobile technology for food security surveys – to monitor food prices and coping strategies as proxy indicators for food security in November 2015.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Beneficiaries	935,128	989,003	1,924,131	957,382	1,012,538	1,969,920	102.4%	102.4%	102.4%
By Age-group:									
Children (under 5 years)	173,172	177,020	350,192	177,293	181,233	358,526	102.4%	102.4%	102.4%
Children (5-18 years)	342,495	348,268	690,763	350,646	356,556	707,202	102.4%	102.4%	102.4%
Adults (18 years plus)	419,461	463,715	883,176	429,443	474,749	904,192	102.4%	102.4%	102.4%
By Residence status:									
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	152,426	161,208	313,634	131,161	138,718	269,879	86.0%	86.0%	86.0%
Residents	782,702	827,795	1,610,497	826,220	873,821	1,700,041	105.6%	105.6%	105.6%

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
General Distribution (GD)	1,675,070	232,561	1,907,631	1,670,961	258,478	1,929,439	99.8%	111.1%	101.1%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	16,500	-	16,500	40,481	-	40,481	245.3%	-	245.3%

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
General Distribution (GD)									
People participating in general distributions	187,295	159,547	346,842	170,493	180,314	350,807	91.0%	113.0%	101.1%
Total participants	187,295	159,547	346,842	170,493	180,314	350,807	91.0%	113.0%	101.1%
Total beneficiaries	927,109	980,522	1,907,631	937,708	991,731	1,929,439	101.1%	101.1%	101.1%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets									
People participating in asset-creation activities	1,470	1,530	3,000	3,736	3,950	7,686	254.1%	258.2%	256.2%

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total participants	1,470	1,530	3,000	3,736	3,950	7,686	254.1%	258.2%	256.2%
Total beneficiaries	8,019	8,481	16,500	19,674	20,807	40,481	245.3%	245.3%	245.3%

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.

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Beans	-	79	-
Corn Soya Blend	7,423	3,373	45.4%
Maize	77,624	58,401	75.2%
Maize Meal	-	3,414	-
Peas	15,624	7,458	47.7%
Split Peas	-	1,749	-
Vegetable Oil	2,819	2,082	73.8%
Total	103,491	76,556	74.0%

Cash-Based Transfer	Planned Distribution USD	Actual Distribution USD	% Actual v. Planned
Cash	11,373,665	6,327,137	55.6%
Voucher	64,079	-	-
Total	11,437,744	6,327,137	55.3%

Story Worth Telling

Sosola Village was one of the worst hit areas in Mangochi when the floods struck Malawi in 2015. The swelling of two rivers led to flooding for days at a time. "All our fields were completely washed away," says Joseph Gustino, a smallholder farmer whose livelihood was destroyed in the floodwater.

"The little food I had kept in the house was all soaked, and really life had no meaning. There was nowhere to turn for support to my family," recalls Joseph.

In response to the disaster and resulting food insecurity, WFP, in partnership with local NGO Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), provided life-saving relief assistance to 600 flood-affected families in Sosola village – one of which was the Gustino family.

The despair felt in Sosola village was lifted as families received enough food to meet their basic needs, while hope was also restored as WFP and CADECOM joined forces to link the in-kind food assistance with targeted recovery support to relief beneficiaries. This included supporting communities with shovels, watering cans, early maturing vegetable seeds and sweet potato vines so that the Gustino family and others could take advantage of residual moisture to plant these crops.

With WFP's food assistance and tools to help them recover, Joseph and his family had enough energy to stay productive and were able to start afresh. Joseph's most successful recovery endeavor was a tomato garden which produced a sizeable harvest, thanks to high quality seeds and tools. Some of the tomatoes were eaten at home, while others were sold to cushion the shock to his livelihood. Joseph's wife also joined a village savings and loans group, which enabled the family to save and earn interest on their tomato proceeds and will help protect them from future shocks as well.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Cultural norms in Malawi mean that women have unequal access to productive assets, land and education, and thus are among the most vulnerable to food insecurity. The targeting criteria for relief assistance under this PRRO ensured that female-headed households, which are most at risk of discrimination, were included. The operation is coded with gender marker 2A, which indicates that gender is fully mainstreamed throughout and has the potential to contribute significantly towards gender equality.

As this PRRO was only in operation for one month in 2014, the gender indicators were collected in 2015 for the first time and hence serve as base value for the PRRO. The data has been taken from a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise conducted in May 2015 for both the relief and recovery components.

Under both components of this PRRO, WFP and cooperating partners carried out awareness-raising activities that sought to contribute towards an enhanced perception of gender inequality and encourage greater participation of women. The main communication channel was sensitization meetings with communities, which were complemented by efforts to improve awareness around the importance of joint decision-making in 2015 by broadcasting radio jingles around the topic, as well as on protection and other food and nutrition security related issues, on three national radio stations. The messages were developed in collaboration with the national protection cluster, which also covers gender issues.

Under the relief component, women were found to be the primary decision-makers in more than half (53 percent) of benefitting households under the relief component, while a near equal percentage of sampled households (about 39 percent) under the recovery component reported decisions made jointly or by women. For both components, few households reported men making the decisions. In the Malawian context, these results are considered an important stride towards gender equality in decision making and control over assistance, given that men generally are the decision-makers as de facto heads of household.

While joint decision-making exceeded the target for the FFA programme, it fell short of the target for the general relief distributions with only about 29 percent of benefitting households reporting that decisions over assistance were made jointly. However, the percentage does mark a marginal improvement from the previous relief response of 2013/14 (covered by EMOP 200608), when only 26 percent of households reported joint decision making.

Despite sensitization efforts, women held on average 40 percent of leadership positions on project management committees in both the relief response and the FFA programme, and on average 56 percent of women committee members were trained on assistance modalities. Neither of these indicators met the target when measured in the PDM in May 2015.

With the hiring of a dedicated gender focal person within the CO in mid-2015 and a renewed focus on SBCC (after the May PDM), WFP was able to take strides to improve the gender sensitivity of the relief component of this PRRO during the latter half of the year. Partnerships with UNICEF and UN Women were revived to increase trainings of communities and cooperating partner staff, while a local NGO who specializes in Theatre for Development as a tool for SBCC was engaged to support affected communities in the critical reflection of gender dynamics and other sociocultural issues that have an impact on food and nutrition security.

In 2015, WFP also worked to uplift women's voices and enhance their participation through the 3PA processes that were community-driven and ensured by design the inclusion of all vulnerable groups (including women) across all socioeconomic levels. Through the four community-based participatory planning (CBPP) sessions completed in 2015 (in addition to the 11 CBPPs conducted in 2014), gender-specific activities were incorporated into village action plans that addressed gender-based violence as well as economic opportunities for women and other vulnerable groups.

Through other aspects of the 3PA, including the SLPs that were conducted in the aftermath of the floods, which uses a gender lens throughout the process, gender sensitive recovery and resilience activities emerged, such as creation of energy saving stoves which lessen women's time and labour burden and frees up women's time to dedicate to other responsibilities, as well as limits their exposure to violence as they do not have to travel far distances in search of firewood.

In collaboration with the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), WFP entered into the second phase of a gender mainstreaming partnership that leverages expertise from IDS and participatory, operational research through WFP operations to enhance and document gender mainstreaming. One of the phase two priorities is to research the role FFA and other risk management strategies under the R4 Rural Resilience pilot may have in dynamics of change towards gender equality in assisted households and communities, and how the dynamics may be influencing women's empowerment in social and economic spheres in both private and public life.

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, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=40.00	39.20		
Proportion of households where females and males together make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=40.00	28.75		
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=30.00	39.10		
Proportion of households where females make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=30.00	52.85		
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=30.00	21.70		
Proportion of households where males make decisions over the use of cash, voucher or food				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=30.00	18.40		
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	>50.00	38.64		
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	>50.00	42.00		
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06</i>	>60.00	58.48		
Proportion of women project management committee members trained on modalities of food, cash, or voucher distribution				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	>60.00	53.74		

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Measures put in place in 2014 under the relief component of this PRRO to ensure that assistance was provided in safe and dignified manner yielded good results for protection and accountability in 2015.

Among measures taken, monthly distributions took place in the morning hours to ensure travel to and from the distribution sites in daylight, when risk of insecurity is lower. Sites had also been established through participatory mapping carried out with communities including women, the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups, and in consultation with area development and civil protection committees, which continued to ensure that distribution points were sufficiently close together so that they could be reached relatively quickly and easily.

These measures resulted in the vast majority of relief beneficiaries (at 97.6 percent) not experiencing any safety issues. Security incidents were overall very low and affected slightly more men than women. The few incidents were mainly related to once-off food theft and bullying. WFP handled these few incidents and other grievances using the complaint mechanisms in place, including a complaints desk and/or a suggestion box present during distributions, and referring them to local authorities as necessary. Food Management Committee members work with Village Civil Protection Committees to manage the complaints process with support from WFP and cooperating partner staff.

At the same time, partners continued to host community sensitizations in affected areas to ensure the populations were well informed about the relief programme and the humanitarian nature of assistance. These sessions were conducted in the local language and often used dramas to communicate the information in simple ways, aiming to reach all people in communities regardless of education levels. Despite these efforts, nearly 77 percent of relief beneficiaries (with no major difference between the portion of women and men) reported being informed about the relief assistance programme overall, with people generally being most informed of the criteria for selection and least informed of the complaints procedures and what people were meant to receive. This falls short of the 80 percent target which could be a result of significant pipeline challenges for this component of the PRRO that caused distribution delays throughout the year, and potentially some confusion over what was meant to be received when. WFP will continue to work with partners to ensure they are adequately informing the affected communities in frequent sensitization meetings in which programme details and where/how to provide feedback are explained.

In further partnership with IDS to generate operational research for gender mainstreaming, WFP is seeking to make accountability, complaints and feedback mechanisms more effective, efficient and gender sensitive in the Malawian context by documenting what already exists, what works well and the areas that need further improvement. The generated evidence will be the basis for improving context based-complaints and feedback mechanisms for future response, and aims to ensure a greater number of beneficiaries are aware of the programme (i.e. who's included, what they receive, and where they complain).

For the relief response which began under this PRRO in the second half of 2015 for the 2015/16 lean season, WFP had already taken strides to improve protection and accountability by teaming up with partners of the protection cluster to ensure that partner staff were trained in the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual and Gender Based Violence and were equipped with skills that would help them manage any related incident. The efforts towards SBCC also allowed for the more effective and participatory communication around issues of protection, including SGBV, to communities, aiming to mitigate violence and ease tensions – which usually run high at times of food insecurity.

Under the FFA programme, zero safety incidents were experienced by participants. The recovery and resilience interventions were designed in a way that participants have flexible work hours to complete their tasks and only take part in the creation and maintenance of assets within their locality. Food distributions also took place nearby participants' households. This ensured that beneficiaries could avoid walking long distances which may have otherwise increased their exposure to possible safety issues.

Use of community monitoring champions (CMCs) to manage activities and provide feedback to communities, WFP and its partners, helped to instil a high level of community ownership and resulted in 86 percent of FFA participants being informed of the programme particulars, exceeding the target and with little difference between the proportion of informed men and informed women making up the total. This included knowing the criteria for eligibility, the food entitlement, and where and how to lodge complaints.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=80.00	83.30		
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=80.00	78.00		
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=90.00	100.00		
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=90.00	97.15		
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=80.00	88.90		
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=80.00	76.70		
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=90.00	100.00		
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=90.00	98.10		
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=80.00	86.10		
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05</i>	=80.00	77.35		

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05	=90.00	100.00		
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.05	=90.00	97.63		

Outputs

As part of WFP's strategic shift towards stronger resilience programming, efforts were made to help address some of the structural causes of chronic hunger in Malawi, exacerbated by annual food shortages. One way of doing this was through the communication of key complementary messages on nutrition and health to ensure that gains in food security provided by WFP food assistance were reinforced by gains in nutrition and health. The messages were aligned with the government-led Scaling-Up Nutrition (SUN) movement with a special focus on the first 1,000 days of life during which it is crucial for children to receive adequate nutrients and care. The four primary themes covered were issues of diet diversification, maternal health, infant and young child feeding, and water, sanitation and hygiene. Illustrations of good nutrition and health practices were also displayed on colourful posters to reinforce the messages at food distribution sites. WFP and partners also sought to pass these important messages through existing community structures, such as village civil protection committees and mothers' groups, with a view to reaching entire communities.

On average about 70 percent of ration card holders (or the people who actually collect their family's food/cash entitlement) reported receiving nutrition counselling and messaging. This is less than planned because of the conventional practice of delivering sensitizations and messaging before the food is distributed at a distribution site. With some ration card holders arriving late to a distribution, they can miss the exposure to important messaging and counselling. Other mechanisms such as posters and radio messages have been employed to try to address the gap; however, a key lesson learned from the 2014-2015 relief response was the utilization of drama groups to engage beneficiaries throughout the distribution, as a strategy to highlight important themes and increase overall retention of the messages.

Noting that social behaviour change is a generational process, WFP laid the groundwork for a new partnership with a local NGO – Art & Global Health Center Africa (AGHCA), which implements arts-based programmes that inspire and mobilize communities – to optimize efforts to communicate key messages to communities as the queue for relief assistance. The main objective of the partnership was to contribute to social behaviour change by enhancing awareness and knowledge, motivating change and working with community in practicing trial behaviour change. In January 2016, AGHCA will train all cooperating partners in methodologies to make their typical communication channels more engaging and participatory, including an SBCC method known as Theatre for Development (TfD). The intention is to critically engage communities and instigate reflection about food and nutrition-related behaviours to spur eventual change.

In addition to enhance SBCC, WFP learned from past relief operations that efforts must be taken to bridge the humanitarian and development divide with a view to breaking the cycle of annual response. A key of doing this is through enhanced linkages and complementary assistance during the relief response. For the first time in 2015, WFP deliberately planned these linkages with partners at the design stage and put in place a cloud-based monitoring mechanism to track partners' outputs.

By the end of 2015 FFA activities were scaled up to four districts. Out of the four districts, Balaka registered higher outputs than planned. WFP exceeded its target for fish ponds constructed as communities identified more suitable areas than originally planned. The target was also exceeded for number of community members trained in asset management and sustainability. A total of 1,284 people were trained, including about half who were members of newly established village savings and loans (VSL) groups and half who were member of pre-existing VSL groups. WFP also managed to facilitate 21 training sessions in nutrition as planned, where partners conducted cooking demonstrations and prepared food displays to inform the community of the importance of a diversified diet and that nutritious meals can be prepared using locally-procured foods.

In the remaining districts, Karonga, Phalombe and Zomba, implementation of activities started very well but achieved outputs were lower than the targets. Under-achievements were registered for the number of tree seedlings planned, number of community nutrition groups formed and the number of hectares of cultivated land where conservation agriculture was practiced, due in large part to the fact that resources had not been fully mobilized when the targets for these activities were set, which affected the timeline for procurement of inputs. Additionally, in some cases, communities were unable to match inputs, which also affected progress against the planned targets.

Achievement was also affected by the floods which temporarily disrupted parts of the FFA work. However, thanks to the 3PA process, which, in consultation with the government and other partners, puts together seasonal calendars for appropriate activities during normal or adverse years, WFP was able to swiftly adjust the programme design to take into account the floods and incorporate immediate recovery activities like rehabilitation of damaged assets and roads.

Seventy-one partners (including government extension workers, NGO staff) were also trained in Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) approach in Balaka district as part of WFP's Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) work. This training built the capacity of extension workers in the district to deliver locally relevant weather and climate information to farmers in a way that the farmers can use it. These efforts contribute to building resilient households.

WFP's resilience work through the FFA programme has also increased efforts to foster linkages with nutrition. WFP and partners delivered a set of nutrition sensitive activities to participating households in 2015, including improved latrine construction, hand washing facilities, backyard gardens and borehole maintenance. In total, more than 1,000 households created nearly 570 hand washing facilities, constructed 40 improved toilets, maintained nine boreholes, attended ten cooking demonstrations and established more than 550 backyard gardens.

Additionally, the schedule for completion of FFA activities was designed to be flexible so that women have a more equitable opportunity to participate, while also delivering on their responsibilities as wives and mothers, farmers and caretakers.

No output results are available related to SO2 as activities under this component were not implemented with limited funds available. Planned figures also could not be set as these are established through consultative processes with district level partners and communities as part of implementation activities, and, hence, no indicators appear in the table below.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO1: General Distribution (GD)				
Number of men exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	98,032	70,328	71.7
Number of men receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP	individual	98,032	70,328	71.7
Number of people exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	199,425	140,918	70.7
Number of people receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP	individual	199,425	140,918	70.7
Number of women exposed to nutrition messaging supported by WFP	individual	101,393	70,590	69.6
Number of women receiving nutrition counseling supported by WFP	individual	101,393	70,590	69.6
SO3: Food-Assistance-for-Assets				
Hectares (ha) of cultivated land treated with both physical soil and water conservation measures and biological stabilization or agro forestry techniques	Ha	500	377	75.4
Number of community groups formed and registered	individual	48	38	79.2

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Number of community members trained in asset management and sustainability	individual	1,000	1,284	128.4
Number of fish ponds constructed (FFA) and maintained (self-help)	fish pond	8	12	150.0
Number of training sessions for beneficiaries carried out (health and nutrition)	training session	21	21	100.0
Number of tree seedlings produced	tree seedling	178,000	132,000	74.2

Outcomes

WFP humanitarian assistance and resilience-building activities in 2015 successfully contributed toward positive outcomes for food security and diet diversity.

Baseline values for food security indicators under Strategic Objective 1 (to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies) were established through a WFP survey carried out at the start of the last lean season, in December 2014. The latest follow-up was through a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise conducted around the time of the annual harvest, in May 2015.

Results show significant improvement in food consumption patterns, with a 71 percent decrease in the proportion of households with poor food consumption from 38 percent at the start to 11 percent at the end of the response. Poor food consumption means that only cereals and vegetables were eaten on a daily basis. By comparison, an estimated 14 percent of non-beneficiary households – who are typically more food secure than those identified by communities to receive WFP's assistance – had poor consumption.

The coping strategy index (CSI) for food and cash beneficiaries further signalled an improved food security situation in 2015, decreasing from 19.6 at the baseline to 12.7, indicating that beneficiaries were adopting fewer consumption-based coping mechanisms to feed their families – for instance, reducing the number or sizes of meals per day. Similarly, diet diversity scores remained stable for female-headed households and improved slightly for male-headed households, with beneficiaries eating between four and five food groups per week (generally cereals and vegetables on a daily basis, complemented by oils, animal products and pulses between two and three days per week).

Recognizing the need to address the underlying drivers of food insecurity in order to break the hunger cycle, WFP supported the development of behaviour change communications (BCC) for this response with a special focus on nutrition information, such as diet diversity and proper infant and young child feeding practices, at all distributions. All partners were oriented on the implementation of the food assistance programme, including gender and nutrition-sensitive BCC messages to disseminate at distribution sites during community sensitizations, and were encouraged to mobilize community-based theatre groups to convey such messages in creative ways. By the end of the response, 60 percent of beneficiaries were able to identify key messages on nutrition and were twice as likely to be able to as non-beneficiaries.

Targeting of Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus to pregnant and nursing mothers and children under two, respectively, was also essential for a Minimum Acceptable Diet for these vulnerable groups. However, the calculation modules for FCS and dietary diversity scores do not factor in these blended foods, which would have otherwise contributed to further improved food security outcomes.

Outcome indicators for Strategic Objective 3 (to reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs) were taken from the district of Balaka, where WFP has taken an integrated approach to resilience-building through the simultaneous implementation of FFA and two climate-smart pilots (the R4 Rural Resilience initiative and GFCS). Early results show this approach is already making a powerful difference in the food security outlook of beneficiary households, with all households having borderline (7 percent) to acceptable (93 percent) food consumption at the time of the December 2015 PDM, far exceeding targets. This impressive achievement is attributable to a combination of monthly food assistance from WFP (comprised of commodities from three primary food groups) and nutrition-sensitive asset creation such as backyard gardens and provision of small livestock which made animal source foods, vegetables and fruits available for the majority of the year as well. In comparison, only 11 percent of households had acceptable food consumption at the time of the FFA baseline assessment in December 2014. Diet diversity also improved for both female and male-headed households over this period, with the average household consuming food from five food groups (namely cereals, fruits, vegetables, oil and pulses) most days of the week.

The percentage of households with a reduced or stabilized Coping Strategy Index (CSI) was measured through a direct comparison of households from the baseline assessment, conducted in June 2015 shortly after the annual harvest, to a PDM conducted in December 2015. This CSI calculation is different from that of SO1 results, which looks at changes to the absolute value of CSI, as it focuses on percentage of households who were registering lower or stabilized coping levels when compared to coping levels during the baseline assessment. The baseline assessment therefore collected the mean CSI for all households for future comparison and shows a base value of zero percent as there was no point of comparison at that stage. Results from the PDM show that 61 percent and 57 percent of households were employing consumption- and livelihood-based coping strategies below the mean CSI collected at baseline (9.31 for consumption-based CSI and 2.36 for livelihood-based CSI), respectively. This is particularly significant given that follow-up data was collected during the peak of the 2015/16 lean season, when household food supplies were more likely to have been depleted. The livelihood-based coping strategy index is used to capture the longer-term coping capacity of households, taking into account such behaviours as the selling off of household and productive assets.

WFP was not able to collect information for the percentage of communities with an increased asset score this year because the qualitative component required for calculating the indicator was not incorporated in the June baseline or the December 2015 PDM. No outcome results were achieved related to SO2 due to insufficient funding that prevented the implementation of activities under this component.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO1 Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies				
Stabilized or improved food consumption over assistance period for targeted households and/or individuals				
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 Household interviews , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey Household interviews , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 WFP survey</i>	=7.76	38.80	-	10.95
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 WFP survey</i>	=8.50	42.50	-	12.20
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 WFP survey</i>	=7.02	35.10	-	9.70
Diet Diversity Score				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 Joint survey</i>	>4.56	4.56	-	4.64
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 WFP survey</i>	>4.45	4.45	-	4.63
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 WFP survey</i>	>4.64	4.64	-	4.64
CSI (Food): Coping Strategy Index (average)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.05 WFP survey</i>	<19.64	19.64	-	12.70

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Adequate food consumption reached or maintained over assistance period for targeted households				
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<10.00		-	-
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interview</i>	<47.60		-	-
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<10.00		-	-
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<10.00		-	-
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<45.10		-	-
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<50.30		-	-
Diet Diversity Score				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	>5.35		-	-
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	>5.20		-	-
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household surveys</i>	>5.50		-	-
CSI (Food): Coping Strategy Index (average)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<25.70		-	-
Improved access to assets and/or basic services, including community and market infrastructure				
CAS: Community Asset Score (average)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	<23.70		-	-
Stabilized or reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children				
Proportion of eligible population who participate in programme (coverage)				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	>70.00		-	-
Proportion of children who consume a minimum acceptable diet				
<i>MALAWI , Project End Target: 2017.03 household interviews</i>	>70.00		-	-

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO3 Reduce risk and enable people, communities and countries to meet their own food and nutrition needs				
Improved access to livelihood assets has contributed to enhanced resilience and reduced risks from disaster and shocks faced by targeted food-insecure communities and households				
CAS: percentage of communities with an increased Asset Score				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.05 Joint survey</i>	=80.00	14.00	-	-
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	<10.00	41.10	-	0.00
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	<47.60	47.60	-	7.10
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	<10.00	42.00	-	0.00
FCS: percentage of households with poor Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	<10.00	40.80	-	0.00
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (female-headed)				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	<45.10	45.10	-	8.50
FCS: percentage of households with borderline Food Consumption Score (male-headed)				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	<50.30	50.30	-	6.80
Diet Diversity Score				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	>5.42	5.42	-	5.54
Diet Diversity Score (female-headed households)				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	>5.22	5.22	-	5.60
Diet Diversity Score (male-headed households)				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2014.12 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	>5.50	5.50	-	5.53
CSI (Food): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	=100.00	0.00	-	59.43

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	=100.00	0.00	-	57.27
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	=100.00	0.00	-	66.67
CSI (Asset Depletion): Percentage of male-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	=100.00	0.00	-	54.55
CSI (Food): Percentage of households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	=100.00	0.00	-	60.81
CSI (Food): Percentage of female-headed households with reduced/stabilized Coping Strategy Index				
<i>SOUTHERN REGION , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Base value: 2015.06 WFP survey , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12 WFP survey</i>	=100.00	0.00	-	65.96

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Through a combination of technical support, training and close collaboration, WFP helped to strengthen government systems, processes and tools at all stages of the relief to resilience-building continuum under this PRRO. WFP continued to support MVAC to assess the food and nutrition security situation in the country and make recommendations regarding the extent of the relief responses. This included assistance in fundraising to MVAC to conduct a rapid food security assessment in the immediate aftermath of the floods, enabling quick identification of areas requiring emergency food assistance. With WFP funds, some 25 members of MVAC's data collection teams were able to attend refresher courses on data collection, ensuring accurate use of tools and adherence to field protocols.

WFP's support continued post-disaster. The floods of January 2015 represented the first sudden onset disaster of such a magnitude to hit Malawi in at least two decades. Through close partnership at both the national and district level on the floods response, WFP and the government were able to share challenges and learn together, thereby strengthening national capacities to prepare for and respond to future potential disasters. For example, as co-chair of Malawi's food security and logistics clusters, WFP worked hand-in-hand with the government through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and the Ministry of Transport and Public Works to coordinate the national food security response and ensure open access for the humanitarian community to all flood-affected areas.

These efforts were complemented by WFP's ongoing efforts to build national Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacity through CP 200287, which focused on support to the national Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policy in 2015.

In the recovery stage, WFP helped empower local officials and communities to drive development in their areas through its three-pronged approach (3PA) to resilience building. This included supporting district councils in areas worst affected by floods to bring together stakeholders for rapid seasonal livelihood planning (RSLP) exercises. In 2015, WFP also brought together over 110 community planners from four communities, representing a range of socio-economic groups, to contribute to their village's development agenda through community-based planning activities. The products resulting from these processes have continued to feed into existing or newly drafted district development and village action plans, to be used as a basis for evidence-based resilience programming under this

PRRO.

Since 2012, Malawi has partnered with the African Union to support Malawi in the African Risk Capacity (ARC) initiative, which aims to establish a multi-partner insurance fund to help the Government of Malawi, and other African governments, better kick-start emergency responses in the future, contributing to a more immediate, nationally-owned response. In late 2015, the government announced its first purchase of drought insurance through the ARC, which may result in a pay-out of up to USD 30 million for the 2015/16 farming season and result in substantial resources for a nationally run relief response.

FFA activities implemented under this PRRO further facilitated sustainability, with communities providing local resources – coupled with other non-food items provided by WFP and partners – to contribute to their collective productive asset base. In 2015, WFP held trainings for district officials in all four districts implementing FFA activities on monitoring and evaluation, financial management, and accountability regarding the implementation of resilience projects. As a result of the trainings, WFP observed improvements in terms of timeliness of financial reporting and strength of learning and information sharing. Over the long run, WFP aims to shift FFA farmers from food insecurity to surplus production, at which point they can be linked to the Purchase for Progress (P4P) initiative.

Innovative pilots in resilience-building launched in 2015 also helped build national capacity to cope with adverse climatic events. Under the GFCS initiative, WFP trained 42 government agricultural extension workers across Balaka district to be able to communicate locally relevant weather and climate information to farmers in a way that the farmers can use it. By December, over 1,600 farmers had been reached through this initiative. Eight members of the Balaka District Council also participated alongside cooperating partners in a training of trainers (ToT) as part of WFP's R4 Rural Resilience initiative. The ToT focused on improving understanding of the index insurance process while also sharing tips for community engagement, thereby equipping participants with the knowledge they needed to be able to respond to the questions and concerns of participating farmers as they arose.

Several steps were taken this year to align WFP's social protection initiatives with national priorities and frameworks, in line with the joint social protection road map developed in late 2014. This included linking the FFA beneficiary targeting process under the UN Joint Phalombe Resilience Project with the government's "hotspot" maps of areas especially affected by environmental degradation. Going forward, WFP plans to move towards an even more holistic approach to social protection, including integrating insurance, climate services and early warning systems into FFA, and improving linkages to other government social support mechanisms such as public works and social cash transfers.

Inputs

Resource Inputs

This operation benefitted from both in-kind and cash contributions in 2015 that resulted in relatively good levels of funding. However delays in receiving funding often resulted in pipeline challenges especially under the relief component. The government was particularly supportive of the relief response with a contribution of close to 56,400 mt of maize from its Strategic Grain Reserves to help meet emergency food needs of the food-insecure population. WFP also successfully advocated for the associated (twinning) costs of the government in-kind donation. Twinning arrangements have been playing an expanding role in enabling WFP food assistance by allowing it to match donor funds with in-kind contributions from host governments to cover costs for transport and distribution. For the recovery component of this PRRO, WFP continued to receive tranches of multi-year contributions (2014-2017), which remained essential to ensure sustainability and impact level results for building resilience in vulnerable communities.

NGO cooperating partners participated in cost sharing through staffing and other administrative costs, such as office rentals and vehicles, as well as for the first time in 2015 complementary funds for non-food items and materials to support complementary activities for relief beneficiaries.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Brazil	407	0	0
Germany	0	745	745

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Japan	0	2,777	2,777
Malawi	56,384	0	56,389
MULTILATERAL	0	7,329	1,718
Norway	0	0	431
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	0	13,188	11,844
USA	15,080	6,273	12,698
Total	71,872	30,313	86,603

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

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

Nearly 70 percent of food commodities for this operation in 2015 were received locally, either as an in-kind contribution of maize from the Government of Malawi or as a local purchase. Just over 10 percent of commodities were purchased through WFP's partnership with the Agricultural Commodity Exchange for Africa (ACE), which seeks to build smallholder friendly markets that the country relies on for sustained economic development. Through ACE, approximately 1,040 mt of maize and pulses were purchased from small-scale traders, injecting more than USD340,000 into the local economy.

The balance of food commodities were received internationally (either as in-kind international contributions due to donor preference or as international purchases of Super Cereal Plus and fortified vegetable oil meeting quality standards, as they are available locally or regionally), or as purchase from the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF) - 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.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Corn Soya Blend	0	0	359	3,154
Lentils	0	0	2,180	0
Maize	56,782	0	0	11,406
Maize Meal	1,100	0	0	0
Peas	3,492	0	0	2,947
Split Peas	0	0	4,376	0
Vegetable Oil	0	0	3,464	348
Total	61,374	0	10,378	17,854

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Beginning in 2015, WFP introduced a new system of calculating transport rates based on actual distances travelled while carrying WFP cargo, as opposed to a flat rate based on district of destination, which resulted in overall cost savings in food transport and delivery.

Food commodities sourced from overseas and other countries were delivered to WFP central warehouses and then delivered to final distribution points (FDP) or preposition sites. Food sourced from local suppliers was either directly delivered to final distribution and preposition sites or was delivered to WFP central warehouses for consolidation before delivery to FDPs. In both cases, contracted commercial transporters delivered 95 percent of the food

commodities within Malawi while the other 5 percent was delivered using WFP's all-weather fleet of 4x4 owned trucks. In areas that were entirely cut off from ground access during the floods disaster, this PRRO was complemented by IR-EMOP 200810 and SO 200685 which both cover air operations during the first few months of the year.

In advance of the 2015/16 rainy season, WFP successfully planned and began to preposition food stocks as far as funding would allow to ensure stocks would remain sufficient in areas that usually become impassable due to heavy rains.

Post-Delivery Losses

Post-delivery losses were low in 2015. This was achieved through strict adherence to good warehouse and commodity management practices, and improved capacity of implementing partners through training of staff managing stocks at EDPs and prepositioning locations. The losses registered are attributed to transport losses that were recovered from transporter invoices.

Management

Partnerships

Partnerships with the Government of Malawi, cooperating NGO partners and complementary partners, including UN sister agencies and NGOs, remained critical to the implementation of this PRRO in 2015.

For the relief component, some 46 complementary partners existed. This included WFP's primary government partners – the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) – which led and coordinated national planning for the relief response under this PRRO. The relief response was coordinated by DoDMA through the Humanitarian Response Committee at the national level. At the district level, the response is being coordinated by the District Councils through the District Executive Committees. At the operational level, implementation is being coordinated through the Food Security Cluster (i.e. sector coordination group), which is chaired led by DoDMA and co-chaired by WFP. The Food Security Cluster is comprised of NGO partners that have worked with WFP for more than a decade in Malawi. In 2015, WFP and DoDMA initiated regular cluster meetings to ensure a high level of communication and joint decision-making, which was key to a coordinated response to the sudden onset floods disaster and to facilitate complementary assistance and linkages throughout the year. WFP also reintroduced regular cross cluster meetings with the nutrition and agriculture clusters in particular and actively participated in the protection cluster as well.

In addition to DoDMA, seven other government ministries of various sectors supported WFP's relief response in working towards common objectives. Twenty district councils also provided complementary support, including local authorities and Civil Protection Committees playing a crucial role in targeting beneficiaries and implementation at local level.

A total of 15 NGO partners (five local, ten international) distributed in-kind food or cash-based transfers at designated distribution sites, and also provided complementary recovery activity alongside the food assistance to help affected populations quickly recover and get back on the path of resilience. In the first part of 2015, in response to the food insecurity of the 2014/15 lean season and the floods, NGO partners reported that these efforts resulted in more than 200,000 beneficiaries under this operation linked to development and resilience building activities. Livelihood and nutrition activities were prioritized in close consultation with beneficiaries and local authorities. These included activities such as distribution of small livestock, trainings in conservation agriculture, irrigation, agribusiness and marketing; energy efficient stoves; participation in village savings and loan associations and related income generating activities; and reforestation schemes.

WFP maintained most of these partners for the response to 2015/16 lean season food insecurity, following a comprehensive partnership performance review conducted in quarter three of 2015. Partners were selected based on their capacity to facilitate implementation of in-kind food and/or cash-based assistance, as well as their ability to deliver complementary activities on the basis of their demonstrated capacities and value additions, determined by a capacity and performance exercise. The assessment also took into account staffing levels and gender balance, thematic areas of expertise (such as resilience-building activities) and experience in implementing gender- and nutrition-sensitive activities such as behavioural change communications. This is part of WFP's commitment to more strategically planning linkages with partners to ensure beneficiaries are linked to longer-term recovery and resilience building programs. A renewed focus on complementary activities as part of efforts to respond differently resulted in

NGO partners committing nearly USD 1.5 million of complementary funds to support recovery efforts during response.

By the end of 2015, these complementary partnerships – as well as WFP’s partnership with AGHCA – resulted in more than 19,000 households receiving agricultural inputs; revamping and creating over 85 village savings and loans groups; training of more than 1,000 families in irrigation; distributing 20,000 tree seedlings; maintaining over 370 km of feeder road; cooking demonstrations to promote diet diversity; and the facilitation of several participatory community-led dramas around food and nutrition security issues, amongst others. These activities were designed to be non-labour intensive and not to distract people from core agricultural activities, aiming to support a return of sustainable livelihoods and a systematic transition from humanitarian relief to recovery and development activities.

Under the recovery component of this PRRO, WFP had 21 complementary partners supporting its resilience-building programmes. In addition to four cooperating partners delivering actual assistance to targeted beneficiaries in the four supported districts (these four partners were also delivering relief assistance and so are not counted twice in the tables below), four district councils, six organizations and private sector companies and seven government entities provided complementary support.

Of particular note is the government’s Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), which provided the downscaled seasonal forecast for Balaka district and weekly weather alerts tailored to Balaka district. This climate information was disseminated to farmers in Balaka district through radio show (supported also by local partner Farm Radio Trust), integrated SMS feedback, and intermediaries for the farmers to make crop, livestock and livelihood options for the 2015/2016 growing season. Messages on the radio show also covered risk mitigation, risk copying and risk reduction.

WFP also partnered with NICO General Insurance, the leading insurance company in Malawi and an important member of a grouping of Insurance Market players in Malawi who make key decisions in the insurance market (Insurance Association of Malawi), to roll out the weather-indexed insurance component of the R4 pilot that complements the FFA programme. Linking up with the private sector is key for sustainability efforts as WFP support the creation of service provision, such as micro-insurance to farmers, which can endure beyond the project cycle. Another partner CUMO Microfinance enabled the smooth implementation of the VSL and laid the groundwork for the credit component of the R4 pilot in 2015. CUMO has been an active player in the financial services industry offering pro-poor microfinance services to Malawi.

WFP’s resilience-building work in Phalombe district was further part of a UN joint resilience programme that brought WFP, UNDP, UNICEF, FAO and the government into the same locations to complement each other’s investments. A key achievement of this was the joint targeting of participants that enabling the automatic linking of FFA participant to farmer field schools and social cash transfer support.

The recovery component of this PRRO benefit from nearly USD 180,000 in complementary funds, primarily from its four cooperating partners in the four districts of implementation.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total	5	10		1

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
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, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100,000.00	177,976.50
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, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=170,000.00	1,496,392.50
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=27.00	27.00

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=46.00	46.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>MALAWI, Food-Assistance-for-Assets , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	10.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>MALAWI, General Distribution (GD) , Project End Target: 2017.03 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

Lessons Learned

As the relief and recovery components were merged under the PRRO in 2015, WFP was able to continue its strategic shift towards resilience, focusing on addressing the structural causes of hunger to reinforce resilience whilst providing lifesaving food assistance.

Prepositioning of food was successfully done on time, with nearly all areas with access challenges during rainy season reached with prepositioned food by mid-December 2014. Two factors enabled this success, namely: a swift logistics assessment carried out immediately after the release of the MVAC findings and early donor contributions to the food-based response. Effective prepositioning meant that food insecure populations in hard-to-reach areas continued to receive food assistance during peak rainy season when food insecurity is at its peak and when main access routes are severely compromised by the rains. Prepositioning further facilitated fast action to a rapid-onset floods emergency in January 2015, when WFP was able to use prepositioned stocks in districts also affected by floods to respond within the first 72 hours of the President's disaster declaration.

The distribution of cash transfers was delayed due to several reasons, namely: late receipt of donor funds needed to begin contract negotiations with a financial service provider (FSP), and contractual delays experienced in securing a reliable FSP. While different FSPs offer varying degrees of innovation, it should be underlined that the primary objective of cash-based assistance is to protect food security. As co-lead of the government-led Food Security Cluster, WFP is enhancing coordination of cash-based food assistance to minimize future delays, and will seek to establish long term partnerships with FSPs.

Recognizing both the importance and opportunity for value-addition through partnerships, WFP revamped its partnership selection process for the 2015/16 lean season response so that it triangulated information sources to assess and recommend NGO partners including: technical capacity, financial capacity, and past partnership performance. This thorough review contributed to more systematic linkages and complementary assistance, as well as complementary funds from NGO partners.

Given the context in Malawi, relief responses must continue to build on successful efforts to deliver a holistic and more nimble approach that aims at gradually minimizing the need for annual humanitarian responses over time. This involves systematically supporting national programmes and policies to simultaneously respond, rebuild and reduce risk and underlying vulnerabilities.

To fast-track early recovery of the acutely food insecure beneficiaries, complementary activities were implemented across all the districts with financial support from partners. It is important to implement such activities based on a resource-based plan with a clear definition of targets within the implementation period. Efforts to contribute towards social behaviour change communication (SBCC) were also expanded in 2015, trialling new approaches and aiming to learn which communication channels are most viable for influencing knowledge, attitudes and practices related to food and nutrition security during a relatively short term intervention. Following the end of the 2015/16 lean season in 2016, WFP will take stock of lessons learned from the piloted approaches and use the learning to try to systematize and scale up SBCC efforts in future responses.

For its resilience work, WFP conducted FFA project review meetings post-2014 implementation with district councils and cooperating NGOs to understand challenges, successes and lessons learnt. This included innovative 'Rapid Seasonal Livelihood planning (SLP) processes post-floods in March/April 2015 to enable district and community consultation to start recovery activities mapped against the seasonal calendar. Feedback and decisions resulting from these meetings were incorporated into FFA project coordination and implementation in 2015. Despite the positive progress made under its resilience initiatives, WFP noticed challenges in tracking of progress, monitoring and reporting needs to be enhanced to better showcase the programme's outcomes. Therefore, looking forward in 2016, WFP will increase M&E coordination and reporting to ensure availability of evidence-based results that can then inform programming.

Recognizing the importance of tailored and accurate weather information for FFA farmers, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) with WFP's support under the GFCS project was for the first time able to generate downscaled seasonal forecasts to district level by analysing historical climate information for Balaka district, then provided to communities through extension worker training also under GFCS. This innovation was complemented by a radio show launched by WFP's partner Farm Radio Trust that disseminated agro-climatic advice intended to aid farmers' in their planting decisions. Mobile messages and extension worker staff trained under the GFCS helped to further spread the 2015/16 seasonal forecasts to farmers in Balaka. Overall this initiative demonstrated the value of national and global partners working in collaboration to deliver comprehensive, district-specific climate services to beneficiaries.

Overall, WFP saw great willingness and enthusiasm of the beneficiaries and partners around these resilience initiatives. For example, when awareness raising was done for Insurance For Assets, participants showed great interest in working additional days for the insurance offered under WFP's R4 Resilience initiative. WFP will build off this as well as other lessons learnt as it plans scale up its resilience work in 2016 to three new districts in 2016.

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
General Distribution (GD)	304,558	42,284	346,842	303,811	46,996	350,807	99.8%	111.1%	101.1%
Food-Assistance-for-Assets	3,000	-	3,000	7,686	-	7,686	256.2%	-	256.2%

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Brazil	BRA-C-00114-01	Beans	407	0	0
Germany	GER-C-00404-01	Maize	0	612	612
Germany	GER-C-00404-01	Peas	0	133	133
Japan	JPN-C-00379-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	1,106	1,106
Japan	JPN-C-00379-01	Maize	0	841	841
Japan	JPN-C-00379-01	Peas	0	830	830
Malawi	MLW-C-00016-01	Maize	5,000	0	5,000
Malawi	MLW-C-00017-01	Maize	1,782	0	1,782
Malawi	MLW-C-00018-01	Maize	4,531	0	4,537
Malawi	MLW-C-00019-01	Maize	2,687	0	2,686
Malawi	MLW-C-00020-02	Maize	710	0	710
Malawi	MLW-C-00020-03	Maize	3,565	0	3,565
Malawi	MLW-C-00021-01	Maize	233	0	233

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Malawi	MLW-C-00022-01	Maize	209	0	209
Malawi	MLW-C-00023-01	Maize	163	0	163
Malawi	MLW-C-00024-01	Maize	180	0	180
Malawi	MLW-C-00025-01	Maize	1,197	0	1,197
Malawi	MLW-C-00026-01	Maize	3,096	0	3,096
Malawi	MLW-C-00027-01	Maize	23	0	23
Malawi	MLW-C-00028-01	Maize	375	0	375
Malawi	MLW-C-00029-01	Maize	3,812	0	3,812
Malawi	MLW-C-00032-01	Maize	22,566	0	22,566
Malawi	MLW-C-00033-01	Maize	6,255	0	6,255
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Beans	0	1,246	0
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Corn Soya Blend	0	2,220	359
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Maize	0	2,321	336
MULTILATERAL	MULTILATERAL	Peas	0	1,542	1,023
Norway	NOR-C-00226-01	Peas	0	0	431
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01169-01	Maize	0	927	928
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01169-01	Peas	0	172	172
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01204-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	1,242	1,242
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01204-01	Peas	0	615	615
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01204-01	Vegetable Oil	0	232	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01217-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	323	323
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01217-01	Maize	0	36	36
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01217-01	Peas	0	1,034	1,034
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01217-01	Vegetable Oil	0	115	0
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01326-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	401	197
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01326-01	Peas	0	1,235	1,235
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01341-01	Corn Soya Blend	0	473	287

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01341-01	Maize	0	6,376	5,778
UN CERF Common Funds and Agencies	001-C-01376-01	High Energy Biscuits	0	8	0
USA		Lentils	0	0	2,180
USA		Split Peas	0	0	2,357
USA		Vegetable Oil	0	0	1,018
USA	USA-C-01059-02	Maize	0	0	150
USA	USA-C-01059-03	Split Peas	450	0	0
USA	USA-C-01059-03	Vegetable Oil	430	0	0
USA	USA-C-01059-04	Maize	0	1,456	1,456
USA	USA-C-01059-04	Maize Meal	0	1,100	1,100
USA	USA-C-01059-04	Peas	0	472	472
USA	USA-C-01059-05	Split Peas	1,190	0	540
USA	USA-C-01059-05	Vegetable Oil	260	0	260
USA	USA-C-01059-07	Lentils	3,500	0	0
USA	USA-C-01059-07	Split Peas	2,750	0	1,009
USA	USA-C-01059-07	Vegetable Oil	2,730	0	0
USA	USA-C-01059-08	Split Peas	3,770	0	0
USA	USA-C-01059-09	Beans	0	439	0
USA	USA-C-01059-09	Peas	0	650	0
USA	USA-C-01103-01	Maize	0	1,661	1,661
USA	USA-C-01103-01	Peas	0	495	495
Total			71,872	30,313	86,603