

Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund Project Document

Implementing Organization(s) general information

Name of participant organization(s)	UN World Food Programme (WFP)
Other implementing organization(s)	Ministry of Homeland Security Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) MyBucks Banking Corporation
Name/Title/Organization of the <u>technical focal point/s</u> responsible for project implementation	Nicole Carn WFP Head of Programme WFP Malawi
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PROJECT DOCUMENT

1. **Project Name:** Cash assistance and livelihoods support to refugees in Malawi

2. **Overview**

2.1 General Information

Implementing Organizations: WFP

Government Counterparts: Ministry of Homeland Security

Project duration: 6 months

Starting date: 01 January 2022 Ending Date: 30 June 2022

Window of the Fund:
Humanitarian Window

Geographic Scope:

Dowa District, Dzaleka Refugee Camp

		Beneficiaries Numbers		
		≥ 18 Years	<18 Years	Total
Male		10,802	13,531	25,333
Female		9,779	13,098	21,877
TOTAL		19,581	27,629	47,210

2.2 Budget

Total Budget: USD 4.5 million¹

Forecasted resources for 2022: USD 3.1 million²

UN MPTF: USD 180,000

Matching funds: USD 2.8 million

Leverage: USD 500,000³

2.3 Executive summary

Political instability and social unrest in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions have resulted in a flow of refugees into Malawi for over two decades. Currently, WFP food assistance is the most reliable source of food and nutrition for most refugees in Malawi. Under this project, WFP will continue providing cash transfers to support 47,210 refugees⁴ living in Dzaleka refugee camp. E-payments will be used to disburse cash to beneficiaries through MyBucks Bank, which is already operating in the camp as WFP's financial service provider. WFP will also support the creation of income-generating activities to increase self-reliance of the refugees as well as the host community and explore opportunities to promote sustainable refugee livelihoods.

WFP will continue engaging with key partners to advance Malawi's agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment. Social behaviour change communication (SBCC) will be used to sensitise on

¹ Funding needs for cash assistance to refugees in 2022.

² There are high-forecast resources from traditional donors but since funds have not yet been confirmed for 2022, donors have asked WFP to avoid mentioning their upcoming contributions.

³ This is an estimate of the resources mobilised by other partners to contribute to other sector of assistance to refugees, particularly livelihoods and income-generating activities.

⁴ 47,210 refugees are currently enrolled for food assistance as of November 2021, the numbers are dynamic and will be adjusted based on the evolution of the demographics in the camp.

gender and protection issues during distributions. WFP will continue supporting the Government of Malawi in rolling out the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRFF) within the national development plan⁵ and its cooperation agreements with the United Nations.

2.4 Project General Objective

The project will aim to meet urgent food gaps of refugees living in Dzaleka refugee camp while also enhancing their livelihoods. Overall, the objective is to prevent households from sliding further into severe vulnerabilities and to contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger.

2.5 Names and signatures of participant organizations and counterparts

Participating Organizations	Government Counterparts
World Food Programme Paul Turnbull <i>Signature: _____</i>	Name of the counterpart <i>Name of the representative</i> <i>Signature: _____</i> <i>Date and stamp</i>
Name of the organization <i>Name of the representative</i> <i>Signature: _____</i> <i>Date and stamp</i>	Name of the counterpart <i>Name of the representative</i> <i>Signature: _____</i> <i>Date and stamp</i>
Name of the organization <i>Name of the representative</i> <i>Signature: _____</i> <i>Date and stamp</i>	Name of the counterpart <i>Name of the representative</i> <i>Signature: _____</i> <i>Date and stamp</i>

3. Situation analysis (problem)

Recent surges in conflicts in neighbouring countries, civil unrest, as well as political and economic instability continue to drive refugee influxes into Malawi and make the prospects for return very challenging. This includes ongoing instability in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions.

As of June 2021, about 50,000 refugees are registered with UNHCR in Malawi.⁶ The country has hosted refugees for over two decades, with the number of refugees registered doubling since 2015. Most of the new arrivals are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), fleeing an upsurge of violence in the

⁵ Government of Malawi (2021), Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1). National Planning Commission, Lilongwe, Malawi. <https://npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/MIP-1-WEb-Version-8-November-2021-Fast-view.pdf>.

⁶ Some refugees and asylum seekers have registered with UNHCR but do not live within the camp. Therefore, they are not enlisted to receive food assistance. This explains the difference between the refugees living in Malawi (50,000) and those targeted by WFP's food assistance (47,210).

country and who rely on external assistance for their survival. A profiling assessment conducted jointly in March 2020 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP revealed that 67 percent of the population can be classified as ‘highly vulnerable’ and fully dependent on food assistance while another 26 percent are considered ‘moderately food insecure’. Due to funding shortfalls, WFP Malawi has provided a reduced ration (50 percent or 75 percent) to all refugee households since May 2019, leaving an food needs gap and resulting in a stagnant (non-improving) food security situation, with many households resorting to negative coping strategies to meet their basic food requirements.

For most refugee households, food assistance requirements have been increasing since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic due to limited movements and subsequent limited access to livelihoods activities. Current funding levels do not cover a full food ration, making refugees particularly vulnerable to the prevailing hardships (food and non-food inflation) due to COVID-19.

4. Theory of Change

The theory of change is based on WFP’s Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023) overall theory of change.

If beneficiaries have an integrated package of support to meet immediate food and nutrition needs, then this will reduce hunger and malnutrition because of the timely assistance and enabling conditions for economic empowerment of men and women refugees, as well as host communities.

5. Participating and implementing organizations

Organization	Role	Added Value	Capacities and experience
MyBucks Bank	Cash distribution	Major financial service provider present in the camp	The bank has been working with WFP since 2020 and has already made investments to roll-out e-payments with the provision of 11,000 ATM cards to all refugee households.
Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)	Livelihoods and income generating activities	WFP and UNHCR are jointly working with a local non-governmental organization (NGO), CARD, which is working with 800 participants currently involved in income-generating activities.	The project supports participants with solar-powered irrigation farming of high-value vegetable crops and has also provided livestock and livestock production inputs for meat processing, mushroom production, mask fabrication and soap making, among others. These interventions in Dzaleka camp are of benefit to both the host community and refugees (people of concern) at a ratio of 40 and 60 percent respectively, promoting peaceful co-existence between refugees and the host community.

6. Coordination and Management

From an operational perspective, WFP will be working closely with UNHCR, the Ministry of Homeland Security, Dowa District Council and the Dzaleka Refugee Camp Administration. WFP will have full oversight of the project in strong coordination with UNHCR, the financial provider (for cash assistance) and the cooperating partner (for livelihoods). Regular interaction will take place with camp administration, district stakeholders, local developmental structures and the refugee and host committees. WFP has consulted the camp population on their needs and priorities for livelihood opportunities to make the planned transition to self-reliance.

Project logic of intervention

Under the strong leadership of the Government of Malawi, WFP, together with UNHCR, has been supporting refugees based in the Dzaleka camp, Dowa District, less than 50 km from the capital city of Lilongwe. The provision of food assistance to refugees living within the camp is paramount to ensure household access to food for the refugees and asylum seekers.

Under the proposed action, WFP will provide targeted food assistance (in the form of cash) to registered refugees and asylum seekers to support food and nutrition security and protect the safety, dignity and integrity of the most vulnerable. The project also includes livelihoods-based activities to build their self-reliance and reduce dependence on external assistance to meet food needs. By involving the host community itself, the livelihood and income-generating activities will be an avenue to focus on social cohesion and improve the environment within and surrounding the camp.

WFP will continue to seek equal representation of genders and ages across activities, as well as strive for maximum inclusion of those living with disabilities. WFP will also continue its efforts to reduce protection risks across its interventions, particularly for negative coping mechanisms such as child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse and transactional sex, among others.

7. Results Sustainability

7.1 Project entry strategy

The Government of Malawi's Vision 2063⁷ envisions a youth-centric inclusive wealth creating and self-reliant nation by 2063. WFP's approach to durable solutions for refugees and the emphasis on social cohesion with host communities supports the Vision 2063, particularly the enabler 5 "developing human capital".

WFP, as a key member of Malawi's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2019–2023), supported the Government's national priorities for food and nutrition security across the humanitarian-development nexus, and transferring knowledge and skills to strengthen existing systems.

⁷ <https://npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/MW2063-VISION-FINAL-VERSION.pdf>

To enable a shift towards more targeted actions that build self-reliance, WFP has developed a comprehensive strategy via a phased approach in line with the Government's Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Against the backdrop of a renewed commitment from states to 'leave no one behind' in the SDGs, durable solutions for refugees are crucial. WFP and partners will continue supporting the Government of Malawi in achieving its commitment to rolling out the CRRF. Additionally, together with key partners such as UNHCR, WFP will continue to advocate for the full implementation of the legal framework status within the scope of the WFP and UNHCR Joint Strategy for Enhancing Self-Reliance and Nutrition in a Protracted Refugee Situation.

8.2 Project exit strategy

WFP developed a comprehensive strategy to revise its refugee interventions moving forward in-line with the Government's CRRF. This includes a gradual shift to cash-based transfers as well as the provision of targeted assistance to solely those households classified as most vulnerable, while others identified as able-bodied but vulnerable would benefit from livelihoods-based interventions to eventually build their self-reliance.

Based on the key findings from the household profiling exercise, WFP is planning to provide targeted assistance (in the form of cash) based on each individual household's food security and wealth status. By providing differing assistance packages, not only will those most in-need receive the assistance they require but it will result in overall cost savings and gradual phase out of assistance to refugees solely based on status.

The livelihood and income-generating activities are a key opportunity to gradually encourage refugees to enhance their self-reliance and eventually lessen their dependence on donor funding. It is crucial to invest in livelihoods activities to compensate for the loss of alternative livelihoods due to COVID-19 movement restrictions and to create opportunities for refugees to progressively sustain themselves.

In a protracted refugee situation such as in Dzaleka, the emphasis needs to shift towards more strategic forms of assistance which address immediate needs while building the self-reliance of households and reduce dependency. WFP will scale up its advocacy efforts with the Government and UNHCR towards building durable solutions for refugees and reduce dependency on donor-funded food assistance.

8. Geographic Scope

Dowa District, Dzaleka Refugee camp and catchment area (host communities and surrounding villages).

9. Beneficiaries

		<i>Beneficiaries Numbers</i>		
		≥ 18 Years	<18 Years	Total
Male		10,802	13,531	25,333
Female		9,779	13,098	21,877
TOTAL		19,581	27,629	47,210

10. Results Framework and Budget

The Results Framework must contain a hierarchy of the effects of the fund, indicators, baselines and goals. The indicators must be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, in a time frame and with a deadline). This hierarchy must be reflected in the following table.

Indicate to which indicator(s) of the UNSDCF the initiative aims. Likewise, propose the indicators and goals that allow their measurement according to the project activities. Secondary indicators should be outcome or impact. As much as possible the indicators demonstrate the change that the project is seeking to address. Choose indicators that you can measure and from which you can report AGGREGATED progress quarterly. Note that at least one gender indicator should be included.

Window 1: Proposal Outcome					Outcome Total Budget USD
	Improved food security				USD 180,000
		Baseline	Target	Means of verification	Responsible Organisation
Outcome Indicator	1.1a Percentage of households-who have an acceptable or borderline food consumption score (FCS)	90%	>95%	Annual Outcome monitoring survey	WFP
	1.1b Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index, reduced CSI	15.2	12	Annual Outcome monitoring survey	WFP
	1.1c Households not engaging in negative livelihoods-based coping strategies	40%	>50%	Annual Outcome monitoring survey	WFP
	1.1d Percentage of households with total monthly expenditure above the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) threshold	29%	40%	Annual Outcome monitoring survey; VAM data	WFP
	Economic capacity to meet essential needs	27	≥40	WFP Survey	WFP
Proposal Outputs	1.1.1 Cash transfers to refugees and asylum seekers				
	1.2.1 Livelihoods and income generating activities				
Proposal Output Indicators	1.1.1a Number of people receiving cash-based transfers, disaggregated by gender and age	46,000	46,000	Partner reports	WFP
	1.2.1a Number of people involved in income generating activities	800	800	Partner reports	WFP

SDG Targets and Indicators

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) [select max 3 goals]			
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 1 (No poverty)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SDG 2 (Zero hunger)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 3 (Good health & well-being)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 4 (Quality education)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 5 (Gender equality)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 13 (Climate action)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 14 (Life below water)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 7 (Sustainable energy)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 15 (Life on land)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 8 (Decent work & Economic Growth)	<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 16 (Peace, justice & strong institutions)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)		
Relevant SDG Targets and Indicators			
Target		Indicator # and Description	Estimated % Budget allocated
Target 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round		Indicator 2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	100 percent

OVERALL BUDGET

Project Budget		
Category	Total (USD)	Comments
Staff and other personnel costs	6,975	Local (national) staff overseeing the operation (cost sharing).
Supplies, commodities and materials	-	
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	-	
Contractual Services	4,430	Contractual services for the Cooperating Partner (involved in the livelihoods component) and Financial Service Provider (the bank services used for cash transfers).
Travel	2,135	Cost-sharing on travel expenses.
Transfer and Grants to counterparts	145,434	Transfer value going directly to beneficiaries (81 percent of the total) of cash assistance.
General operating and other costs	10,040	Operating cost at WFP country office level such as office rent, security, and monitoring costs (post distribution monitoring).
Training	-	
Total programmable cost	169,014	
Indirect costs (6.5% of Programmable amount)	10,986	Headquarters and Regional Bureau standard fee.
Total pass-through Amount	180,000	

15 Crosscutting approaches

15.1 Gender Equality

WFP will continue to seek equal representation of genders and ages across activities as well as the inclusion of those living with disabilities. WFP will also continue its efforts to reduce protection risks across its interventions, particularly for negative coping mechanisms, sexual exploitation and abuse and transactional sex, among others. Messaging on gender awareness will be integrated across all components of this proposal. WFP's monitoring and evaluation team will collect gender-disaggregated data to monitor and evaluate outcome indicators for each activity.

WFP will encourage the participation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in activities, while being mindful of the cultural norms pertaining to division of labour. Targeting of women and youth groups will be prioritized. WFP will also advocate for the inclusion of women, youth and vulnerable groups in leadership positions and related committees to contribute to transforming attitudes and mindsets about their respective roles in economic activities.

Concretely, priority in distributions is given to people living with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Distributions to refugees take place in accessible central locations, all in the presence of food management committees, protection officers and camp police and are monitored by WFP's cooperating partner as well as WFP staff. In terms of protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), awareness-raising sessions with communities on safeguarding issues are regularly done through pre-distribution talks, community feedback sessions and focus group discussions. In addition, WFP includes a PSEA commitment for implementing partners in its agreements.

The community feedback and response mechanisms (CFRM) that are in place also provide a framework for handling concerns through a confidential process, describing the role of WFP and partners. Feedback is received through multiple channels including help desks (manned by both MyBucks as well as WFP's cooperating partner), suggestion boxes, and a toll-free line (to be reinstated in early 2022). The referral of protection cases includes community-based third parties such as district police and social welfare and protection response service points. Community and feedback networks include gender and protection officers from WFP and cooperating partners.

- ☒ The situation analysis includes a differential approach, identifying the different ways in which the problem affects women and girls.
- ☒ The theory of change includes and promotes gender equality.
- ☒ The logic of intervention addresses gender inequalities in its results and expected impact.
- ☒ The indicators measure the differential impact between women, men, girls and boys.
- ☒ The budget includes specific provisions for gender equality activities (at least 30 percent of the budget).
- ☒ The strategic objective of the programme is to advance towards gender equality.

Auto-evaluate the programme gender marker, as:

0 ☐

1 ☐

2a ☒

2b ☐

Total USD 54,000 (30 percent)

Activity and its relation to the results framework (to which product/result it corresponds)	Effect in gender equality	Budget Line	Amount
<i>Cash transfers</i>	Boost female-headed food security because the cash entitlement holder is in the name of the female household head to the extent possible.	<i>Output 1</i>	<i>50,000</i>
<i>Livelihoods</i>	WFP will encourage the participation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in activities, while being mindful of the cultural norms of the division of labour.	<i>Output 2</i>	<i>4,000</i>

16 Monitoring and Evaluation

16.2 Monitoring

WFP will follow the Fund Secretariat's reporting obligations by submitting regular quarterly reports that demonstrate implementation progress and focus on results.

On-site monitoring (the camp is located a 45-minute drive from Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, where WFP has its main office) will assess the quality of project implementation. Process monitoring will be instrumental in informing project design and enabling timely adjustments. For outcome-level indicators, baseline data from the previous year's annual outcome-level assessment will be used, with subsequent outcome-level surveys conducting yearly. Key food security indicators from post-distribution monitoring will measure food consumption, dietary diversity and stress levels of beneficiary and host community households, as well as gender and protection issues. Periodic joint monitoring visits will be carried out by WFP and government representatives to provide real-time feedback on operations.

16.3 Evaluation

UN joint programmes follow the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) standards for quality and independence. No evaluation will be conducted, but knowledge products from the evidence generated will be shared.

17 Risks Matrix

Risk	Associated to the Result #	Classification			¿How will the risk be mitigated?
		Impact	Likelihood	Risk degree	
Unfavourable political environment may cause delays in the implementation of durable solutions for refugees	Government's position on the CRRF				The risk is largely beyond the project's control. However, the impact on project performance will be minimised by developing and maintaining advocacy efforts with the Government.
Social cohesion within the targeted communities could be affected by limited opportunities to enrol in the livelihoods activities	Limited information about targeting criteria				Monitoring of targeting and registration process for livelihoods' activities at the start of the project will ensure fairness and transparency and address any shortcomings in a timely manner. Verification will be carried out jointly with partners to establish the robustness of household targeting.
Cash misappropriation by service providers, implementing partners etc.	Use of e-payment				Standard operating procedures on operational issues and contractual obligations are already in place. Use of e-payment as well as regular spot-checks will mitigate the risk.