



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

School Feeding

Background

WFP's school feeding program has been successfully implemented in partnership with the Government of Malawi (GoM) in the most food insecure districts of Malawi since 1999. When linked to local food production, school meals programmes also have the potential to benefit local producers and economies while promoting long-term food security.

The benefits of school meals extend beyond the classroom, they are an investment in the child's future and a key safety net within the Government's Malawi National Social Support Policy (MNSSP). Daily school meal provides a strong incentive to send children to school and keep them there. School meals also support development so children can become healthy and productive adults.

School Feeding models

The Centralised Model: WFP distributes in-kind food commodities to provide daily nutrition meals of Corn Soya Blend Plus (CSB+) to reduce short-term hunger and improve attention span in class.

Home-Grown School Meals (HGSM): Through district councils, WFP partners with schools to purchase food locally. Participating schools sign contracts with farmer organisations to procure specific quantities of diversified foods. It empowers schools to be autonomous in managing their own funds for successful decentralisation.

Geographic Coverage

WFP's School Feeding Programme is currently targeting about 600,000 children in seven districts (Chikwawa, Dedza, Mangochi, Phalombe, Nsanje, Salima and Zomba).

The United Nations Joint Programme on Girls Education (JPGE)

JPGE is a collaborative effort implemented by the Government of Malawi with technical support from three United Nations agencies (WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA) and financial support by the Royal Norwegian Government. WFP is responsible for the provision of nutritious school meals and take-home rations. About 210,000 learners are currently benefiting from HGSM in 169 schools.

Linkages with other Programmes

WFP Malawi is committed to creating the most positive impact by enhancing synergies between WFP programmes. WFP focuses on districts showing high poverty rates and vulnerability, poor food security and nutrition indicators, and opportunities for linkages with nutrition and livelihoods interventions by WFP and other Development Partners.



Alice Chikaonda is a smallholder farmer supplying food to commodities the neighbouring school in Mangochi District. [Her full story here.](#)



Partnerships

Working with farmers: Through the Ministry of Agriculture at National and District levels, farmer organisations and cooperatives are identified, trained and linked to schools to supply diversified, locally produced food commodities for Home Grown school feeding through a competitive process. School feeding activities are integrated with WFP's livelihood intervention to enhance production and productivity capacities.

Working with Government: WFP works closely with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Gender. Our main responsibility is policy influencing and technical support for delivery of quality, sustainable and cost-efficient school meals.

Working with Development Partners: WFP is encouraging greater coherence between complementary interventions and produce better and bigger impact. WFP collaborates with school feeding partners through technical working groups to maximize synergies.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD



Read about how WFP's School Feeding Programme was maintained in the midst of COVID-19 and school closures. [Learn more here.](#)

In Numbers

- School feeding has high return on investment. For every USD 1 invested in school feeding, USD 20 are returned to education (through human capital) and to the local economy .
- WFP's school meals programme in Malawi has reduced absenteeism by 5% and dropout rates by 2.9% Attendance increased from 77% to 92%.
- Under the United Nations Joint Programme on Girls' Education, where diversified school meals are provided alongside other interventions, a sharp reduction in drop-out rates for girls from 15.6% to 5.2%.
- Evidence in Malawi also suggests positive impact of school feeding on literacy, dietary diversity, and health and nutrition.

Sustainability

The rich policy framework in Malawi is testament to the recognition of the value of school meals as a social protection measure. However, implementation is still too fragmented largely depending on external funding.

To ensure sustainability of the school meals programme, multi-sectoral partnerships will be crucial to adequately resource and deliver integrated packages of school meals and other school health and nutrition interventions which can be transitioned to fully owned national programmes.



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