

COUNTRY PROGRAMME MALAWI 200287 (2012–2016)
Talking points for the November EB
Second Regular Session

Mr. President,

Excellencies and Distinguished members of the Board,

Background

As you all know, in the 2001/02 and 2005/06 growing seasons, Malawi experienced severe food insecurity that required large-scale food aid interventions. But in the past five growing seasons, Malawi has produced surplus maize, mainly as a result of the Government's input-support programme and unusually favorable weather. Annual economic growth averaging 8.6 percent since 2007¹ has reduced the proportion of Malawians living below the poverty line from 52 percent in 2005 to 39 percent in 2009². The Government has therefore shifted its focus from emergency response to social protection, economic development and disaster preparedness.

Recognizing the gradual shift of focus in the national development priorities, in 2009 WFP carried out an Evaluation of its' Country Portfolio; a Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) in 2010 and the same year embarked on a wide consultative

¹ Government of Malawi. 2010. Annual Economic Report 2010. Budget Document no. 2. Lilongwe.

² National Statistic Office. 2009. Welfare Monitoring Survey Report. Zomba.

and participatory process to develop its Country Strategy; which included the Government of Malawi, Donor community, sister UN agencies, NGO's and other stakeholders.

The new Country Strategy (2012-2016) identified the need for WFP to adapt to the new realities on the ground by designing a Country Programme which includes capacity development to facilitate hand-over, while on the other hand maintaining WFP's ability to adequately respond to emergencies.

The Country Programme that is presented today was informed by these processes as well as a joint appraisal mission (2011); and it builds on the lessons learned from a school meals development project as well as a protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO).

Country Situation

Of the population of 13.1 million³, 85 percent live in rural areas; 15 percent of the population is ultra-poor and unable to meet basic needs. Reasonable food security at the national level has been attained, but household food and nutrition security remains a challenge: access to food is undermined by chronic poverty, limited

³ National Statistics Office. 2008. Population and Housing Census. Zomba.

access to arable land, recurrent weather shocks, low levels of education and population growth.

Malawi has nearly achieved universal access to primary education, but attendance and completion rates are low and repetition rates are high. Despite declining levels of acute malnutrition at 4% and moderate prevalence of underweight children at 13%; the national average for stunting is critical at 47 percent. Food use and dietary diversity are generally poor. 1 million people are living with HIV.

The Country Programme – strategic focus and objectives

Mr. President,

The Country Programme aims to contribute to sustainable economic development, social development, social support, disaster risk management and cross-cutting issues, guided by the next National Development Plan known as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, MGDS II (2012-2016), as well as other relevant national policy frameworks.

It will contribute to outcomes 1 (Sustainable and Equitable Growth and Food Security), 2 (Equitable and Quality basic social and Protection services) and 3 (Social Development) of the United Nations

Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Malawi (2012–2016)
and Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

The **objectives of the Country Programme** are to enhance national capacity to improve primary education outcomes, reduce malnutrition among vulnerable groups, increase food security and build resilience to shocks at the household and community levels. The CP supports WFP Strategic Objectives 2, 4 and 5 and is in line with WFP's Enhanced Commitments to Women.

The Programme has three components:

- i) **Support to education**: will contribute to increasing the proportion of boys and girls accessing and completing pre-primary and primary education and enhance the capacity of Govt to design and implement a sustainable school meals programme;
- ii) **Nutrition support**: will contribute to national efforts to reduce malnutrition among children, women with focus on the prevention, the 1000 Special Days. (Malawi Govt Committed and the 1st Country to launch the SUN Movement);
- iii) **DRR for food security and climate change adaptation**: will contribute to increased and sustained food security of communities living in disaster prone areas through investment in disaster preparedness, prevention and mitigation measures.

Key cross-cutting issues for the design and implementation of this CP are:

- **All components will be supported by P4P with attention to promoting the local agricultural and food production and providing market opportunities for small holder farmers.**
- **The CP will promote interactions among its components and with the programmes of United Nations agencies and NGOs in the UNDAF. Creation of assets under DRR and the food security component, for example, will benefit social protection target groups through school gardens, school and community woodlots and reforestation.**
- **Use of Cash Transfers or food aid or a combination of the two as appropriate;**
- **Development of sustainable and cost effective interventions;**
- **Promotion of capacity development and hand-over;**
- **Collaboration/Partnerships with Govt, UN agencies and others:**
 - HGSF-WITH FAO/UNICEF**
 - DRR- FAO/UNDP**
 - NUTRITION- FAO/UNICEF**

DONORS CONSULTATIONS

The country office has explained WFP's new Country Programme to resident donors and received positive feedback.

Mr. President,

Distinguished Members of the Board,

Before concluding, I would like thank you for your kind attention and look forward to your guidance and support to translate into reality our vision of Malawi that "has a well nourished, educated and resilient population, with equitable and adequate food availability and access".