

## CONTEXT

- Shocks like drought, floods, and storms continue to adversely affect agricultural livelihoods and reduce food availability in Malawi, creating widespread food insecurity and compounding other humanitarian needs. Tropical Cyclone Freddy—which made landfall in Malawi’s Southern Region on March 12—and subsequent floods resulted in 679 deaths and 537 people missing, displaced more than 659,200 individuals, and negatively affected nearly 506,200 acres of agricultural land as of April, according to the Government of Malawi (GoM). Moreover, the cyclone worsened conditions among communities still recovering from Tropical Cyclones Ana and Gombe in early 2022. The adverse effects of the cyclone and flooding on health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure also exacerbated a countrywide cholera outbreak that began in March 2022. As of June 10, the GoM had recorded more than 58,800 cholera cases, including 1,761 cholera-related fatalities, resulting in a case fatality rate of nearly 3 percent. Given the widespread increase in humanitarian needs following Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the UN issued an amended Flash Appeal in March, calling for \$115.9 million in 2023 to meet cholera- and flooding-related humanitarian needs for 4.8 million people.
- More than 3.8 million people in Malawi may have faced Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity from October 2022 to March 2023 during the lean season, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).<sup>1</sup> The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) expects the scale of acute food insecurity to decrease during the April-to-September harvest season. However, up to 3 million people will likely require food assistance by December 2023, representing an increase in needs compared to the five-year average for December, FEWS NET reports. Cyclonic disruptions to the harvest season resulted in crop losses—estimated from 30 to 90 percent—with onerous effects on food stocks and livelihoods in severely affected areas, according to FEWS NET. High staple food prices also continue to exacerbate food insecurity, particularly in Southern Region. Cyclonic impacts have worsened malnutrition risks for many children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers in southern Malawi by reducing household food consumption and disrupting proper child-feeding practices and access to nutrition services.
- Approximately 51,000 refugees—primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda—were residing in Malawi as of May 22, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. Relief actors have expressed concern about the GoM’s operation to relocate approximately 8,000 refugees and asylum seekers living in host communities to Central Region’s Dzaleka refugee camp; originally designed to accommodate only 12,000 people, the camp is already overcrowded and lacks adequate resources to assist new arrivals.



<sup>1</sup> The IPC is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

## ASSISTANCE

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is working with partners to address acute food insecurity and its drivers throughout Malawi. USAID/BHA has supported the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide emergency food assistance to cyclone-affected and food-insecure populations, support livelihoods in vulnerable communities, and increase resilience to future food security shocks. At Dzaleka refugee camp, USAID/BHA supports WFP to provide critical cash transfers for food, meeting 75 percent of refugees’ monthly food assistance needs. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP had also provided food rations to approximately 344,000 people in Southern Region affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy, in addition to transporting 710 metric tons of food assistance by air to hard-to-reach areas as of May 25.
- USAID/BHA partner CARE has delivered critical assistance to households displaced by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in Southern Region. As of May 3, CARE had distributed approximately 950 WASH kits comprising basins, buckets, cups, disinfection supplies, and soap; 500 shelter kits, including blankets, mats, shelter construction supplies, and solar-powered lamps; and 500 hygiene kits, consisting of menstrual pads and dignity wraps.
- With USAID/BHA support, CARE also continues to implement Titukulane, a five-year, multi-sector food security and resilience program in Southern Region’s Mangochi and Zomba districts, assisting nearly 300,000 people between September 2019 and April 2023. CARE has assisted at least 5,500 farmers in obtaining seeds through microfinance, conducted business management training for approximately 500 youth, and collaborated with local educational institutions to train at least 120 community animal health workers in the same period. Additionally, CARE has supported nearly 20,000 pregnant and lactating women and children ages two years and younger with cash transfers to support the purchase of nutritious foods.
- USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) provides lifesaving WASH services via delivery of safe drinking water and emergency WASH supplies, increasing access to health care facilities and climate-resilient water supply services in vulnerable communities. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, UNICEF provided safe drinking water and infection prevention and control supplies to more than 1.2 million people across nearly 30 districts of Malawi between January 1 and March 15, in addition to reaching an estimated 148,200 people through educational events on cholera prevention.



A woman cooks with a pot from a relief commodity kit distributed by a USAID/BHA partner in Matelekera Camp in Southern Region’s Chikwawa District. *Photo Credit: USAID/Garret Dellwo*

USAID/BHA Funding in Malawi <sup>2</sup>			
	Emergency	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2022	\$10,597,127	\$2,000,000	\$12,597,127
FY 2023	\$5,940,550	\$1,077,871	\$16,018,421

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 23, 2023.