



USAID | MALAWI

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SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Key Message

Supporting sustainable livelihoods by addressing climate change, agriculture development, nutrition, and trade.

Funding (FY2013)

\$17.2 million (Feed the Future)

\$10.5 million (Food for Peace)

\$7.6 million (Climate Change)

TOTAL: \$35.3 million

Partners

Development Alternatives Inc.
Catholic Relief Services
International Food Policy
Research Institute
FHI 360

Major Geographic Focus

Country-wide

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Background

The Government of Malawi (GoM) has made agricultural development and nutrition top priorities. Under President Banda's Presidential Initiative on Hunger and Poverty Reduction as well as the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach, the GoM is unlocking latent private sector investment and opening export markets for smallholders. USAID is collaborating with the GoM to seize these opportunities while addressing challenges in agriculture-led economic growth.

Agriculture accounts for more than 80% of Malawi's employment. Smallholder farmers cultivate 90% of Malawi's arable land, but they face many challenges such as declining soil fertility, erratic rainfall, land constraints, and poor institutional support. With limited access to credit, inputs and price information, the typical farmer struggles to support a family of six on only one hectare. Women are particularly disadvantaged. They constitute 70% of the agricultural labor force and produce 80% of household food, but have even poorer access to inputs and extension services than men. More than one third of Malawians consume less than the required daily calories and typically lack dietary diversity. Malnutrition particularly affects children: among those under the age of five, 47% are stunted and 63% are anemic.

Program Elements

Through USAID's flagship Feed the Future project, entitled, "Integrating Nutrition in Value Chains", 275,000 smallholder farmers received assistance to increase agriculture productivity and incomes and improve household nutritional status.

Food Aid activities reached over 353,000 children under five years of age in 2013. Interventions included the Care Group model of community-based health care services and child health days administered by District Health Officers. Activities in 2014 will increase men's involvement in ensuring their families' health outcomes.

USAID promotes private sector engagement in the agriculture sector by helping develop an action plan that became operational with the establishment of the Malawi Investment and Trade Center. USAID support dovetails with the European Union, the development partner lead for the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, to assist the GoM in implementing its New Alliance Cooperation Framework.

Together with other development partners, USAID assists the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS) in implementing the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach (ASWAp). USAID provides \$2.5 million for commercialization of agriculture under the ASWAp Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF). Managed by the World Bank, the MDTF pools six donors' contributions at a value of \$120 million. With USAID assistance, MoAFS and the National Statistical Office also created a Strategic Master Plan to improve the generation and supply of agriculture statistics.