

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



The Integrated Risk Management Programme (IRMP)

LESSONS FROM MALAWI



Cover picture:

Estelle makes her own compost manure to fertilize her degraded land instead of buying and only using fertilizers

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In May 2018, **Benoit Thiry**, WFP Malawi Country Director, delivered a speech at weather-index insurance payout ceremony in Blantyre. This was the first time that a weather index insurance programme has directly delivered pay-outs at such a large scale in Malawi, breaking new ground in climate risk management.

Foreword

In recent decades, Malawi has been experiencing adverse climatic shocks as most rural farmers still heavily rely on rain-fed agriculture. People's livelihoods have been disrupted in the process fueling the vicious cycle of hunger.

The World Food Programme, with support from the Government of Flanders, is implementing an Integrated Risk Management Programme, reaching over 40,000 smallholder farmers with a wide range of climate-smart interventions.

When people have access to quality and timely agro-advisories, and have the ability to get a buffer against climate shocks with crop insurance or savings, they are building a healthier future for their families and communities.

This approach – when combined and integrated with other interventions – has the potential to be scaled up by the Government of Malawi to provide a pathway out of poverty and transitioning farmers away from subsistence agriculture to surplus producing.

Evidently, we cannot do it alone and we are grateful for the support of the Government of Flanders. Moving forward, WFP Malawi is committed to enhance synergies between programmes while increasing Government capacity and ownership to lead in the design, implementation, and monitoring of integrated resilience-building programmes.

Despite these trying times, we remain steadfast on our quest to achieve Zero Hunger, and dedicated to establish strong partnerships towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Malawi.



Benoit Thiry
WFP Malawi Country Director



Hastings James a member of Chigojo farmers group, which is also a radio listening club, and a VSL member. Thanks to the seasonal forecasts he was getting from the radio he planted early maturing maize variety which boosted his yield. In 2020, he is expected to harvest 50 bags of 50kg of maize compared to an average 20 bags before joining the programme.

Preface

The Government of Flanders has supported WFPs development projects and country programmes in Malawi since 2005.

In line with its priorities, the cooperation of Flanders has been directed towards long term food security and agriculture, health and combating HIV/AIDS, education, sustainable business and sustainable trade. In recent years, WFP could count concretely on Flanders valuable support to activities such addressing food insecurity, strengthening farmer organisations and financing mobile Vulnerability Assessment Monitoring (mVAM).

In 2016, Flanders decided to support the upscaling of the Integrated Risk Management Project that WFP was implementing in Malawi. The Government of Flanders considers that climate change is a factor that will increase inequality in the world. Therefore, it is committed to offer financial and technical support to developing countries to enhance their resilience to the consequences of climate change in their community with a specific focus on building resilience in the sectors of agriculture, job creation, disaster prevention and health.



Mary Hamilton is a IRMP beneficiary in Malawi. Since she joined, her life has dramatically changed. She has bought a new house, sells veggies at the market and bought bicycles. She is raising trees and building check dams with her community pairs.



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