



# MALAWI

IFRC network mid-year report, January – June 2023

19 December 2023

## IN SUPPORT OF THE MALAWI RED CROSS SOCIETY



**33**

National Society branches



**210**

National Society staff



**76,000**

National Society volunteers

## PEOPLE REACHED

Ongoing emergency operations



**723**

Climate and environment



**42,000**

Disasters and crises



**138,000**

Health and wellbeing



**4.1M**

Migration and displacement



**860**

Values, power and inclusion



**1,000**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*in Swiss francs (CHF)*

<b>Total</b>	Funding requirements	<b>21.7M</b>
<b>IFRC</b>	Emergency Operations	
	Funding requirements	<b>5.3M</b>
	Income	<b>247,000</b>
	Longer-term	
	Funding requirements	<b>5.1M</b>
	Income	<b>411,000</b>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	Funding requirements	<b>6M</b>
	Income	<b>1.4M</b>
<b>Host National Society other funding sources</b>	Funding requirements	<b>5.1M</b>

[Click here for more financial information](#)

Appeal number **MAAMW003**

## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRMW015 / Malawi / Tropical Storm Ana

EREd. Number of people (and households) provided with both cash / vouchers and in-kind assistance for repairs or construction (for material and/or labour) for transitional shelter that is safe and adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity	723
EREb. Number of people (and households) provided with cash / voucher only assistance for repairs or construction (for material and/or labour) for transitional shelter that is safe and adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity	558
People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	558
EREa. Number of people (and households) provided with transitional shelter that is safe and adequately enables essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity	165
People reached with shelter support	165

MDRMW017 / Malawi / Cholera

Volunteers trained as Red Cross or Red Crescent WASH (community health) Volunteers	28,000
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## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

	People reached with activities to address rising climate risks	42,000
<b>Climate</b>	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society is developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks	Yes
	People reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	138,000
	People reached with disaster risk reduction	42,000
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	People reached with livelihoods support	14,000
	People reached with shelter support	13,000
	Percentage of humanitarian assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	6%

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (CONT.)

	People reached with contextually appropriate health services	 4M
	People reached with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	 3M
	People reached with immunization services	 198,000
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	People trained in first aid	4,000
	People donating blood	3,000
	People reached with psychosocial and mental health services	237
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	860
	People reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	1,000
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	People reached by National Society educational programmes	693
	Community Engagement and Accountability is integrated and institutionalized in the National Society policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks)	Yes

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

	All volunteers are covered by health, accident and death compensation	Yes
<b>National Society Development</b>	One National Society Development plan is in place	Yes
	Youth engagement strategy is developed or in place	Yes
	PSEA Action Plan is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
<b>Accountability and agility</b>	PSEA policy is in place to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Multilateral Support	Bilateral Support			
		Climate	Values, power and inclusion	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing
American Red Cross	●				
Belgian Red Cross				●	●
British Red Cross	●				
Canadian Red Cross Society	●				
Danish Red Cross				●	
Finnish Red Cross		●	●	●	●
Icelandic Red Cross		●		●	
Italian Red Cross				●	
Japanese Red Cross Society	●				
Netherlands Red Cross				●	
Norwegian Red Cross	●				
Red Cross of Monaco	●				
Swedish Red Cross	●				
Swiss Red Cross					●

■ Planned

■ Supported

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

This report highlights progress on **Malawi Red Cross Society** interventions that were carried out in the first half of 2023. Malawi Red Cross in exercising its auxiliary mandate, provided communities with appropriate relief and development services, knowledge, and skills to support their wellbeing as well as building partnerships. The following Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners supported Malawi Red Cross in the reporting period: IFRC, ICRC, Danish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Italian Red Cross and Finnish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, Belgian Red Cross and Qatar Red Crescent. Malawi Red Cross also received support from the following non-Movement partners: UNICEF, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), ECHO, WFP, and USAID. Malawi Red Cross responded to Tropical Cyclone Freddy in 10 districts of Blantyre, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Mulanje, Phalombe, Mangochi, Machinga, Chiradzulu, and Balaka. Malawi Red Cross also made great strides in forming new partnerships whilst managing the existing ones.

This implementation period saw several policies being drafted, notably, Gender & Inclusion, Planning, Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (PMER) and Occupational Safety & Wellness. Malawi Red Cross received capacity building sessions following the institutional assessment under USAID Incubator Partnership which have prepared Malawi Red Cross to apply for USAID funding as a principal recipient unlike the previous experiences as a sub recipient. The first half of the year saw the Blantyre Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) construction coming to reality following the approval of matching grant by the Malawi Government to supplement the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) grant that was approved in 2022. Bidding documentations and pre-bidding processes were done with the support of engineers from the government. An independent consultant was hired to conduct a functional review exercise for the National Society which will be concluded in the next half of the year.

Malawi Red Cross, with support from the IFRC network, has embarked on a new ways of working (new WoW) journey which complements the Unified planning process. The new WoW will bring efficient delivery of humanitarian services to the communities whilst building effective partnerships with Government, other organisations and communities.

## Key achievements

Malawi Red Cross supported tree planting in fifteen districts where over 65,000 tree seedlings have been planted. Malawi Red Cross facilitated the climate screening and assessment report validation workshop in Salima District and a climate change adaptation proposal development commenced with support from IFRC. Capacity building for staff and volunteers was done through training both in-country and internationally where some Malawi Red Cross staff participated in the international training and workshops in non-communicable diseases in emergencies, climate change adaptation, anticipatory actions, food security and livelihood.

Malawi Red Cross supported early warning teams in Nkhotakota, Mchinji, and Phalombe districts. An estimated number of 3,395,555 people (1,731,733 female, 1,663,822 males) were reached with awareness raising and material support, the large number of people reached was primarily through the dissemination of the early warning messages.

Malawi Red Cross supported in the following ways:

- commissioning of a response boat equipped with a new engine
- induction of Search & Rescue teams in Chikwawa, Karonga and Nsanje districts
- a simulation of electronic contingency plans in Blantyre City, Thyolo, Chikwawa and Nsanje
- prepositioning non-food items (NFIs) in five disaster prone strategic sites of Chikwawa, Nsanje, Bangula, Blantyre and Mzuzu
- capacity building for the Restoring Family Links team who participated in post-deployment training in Lusaka, Zambia
- three Malawi Red Cross staff were trained in Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) management which was supported by OCHA

- Malawi Red Cross handed over 30 multi-hazard shelters constructed under the Tropical Storm Ana Emergency Appeal operation and 13 schools were rehabilitated with in-country support

During the reporting period, a Tropical Cyclone Freddy Emergency Appeal operation was also launched to support tropical cyclone survivors where at least 2,267,458 (1,110,639 male, 1,156,819 female) were affected of whom 659,278 (336,252 female, 323,026 male) were displaced.

Eleven districts of Blantyre, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Mulanje, Phalombe, Mangochi, Machinga, Chiradzulu, Zomba and Balaka were amongst the supported districts and 7,288 households were reached with cash transfers, while 14,284 households received food and non-food items (NFI's).

The overall reach of the operation is 21,572 households (118,646 people). This scale has been achieved with support from Movement partners and in-country donations. Prior to the support, a mass assessment of the impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy was conducted in 7 districts of Phalombe, Mulanje, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Thyolo and Mangochi to determine the needs. Eighty-one households were supported with materials for construction of multi-hazard houses in the districts of Chiradzulu (6), Zomba (30), and Phalombe (45) out of the 250 targeted in the Emergency Appeal operation.

Malawi Red Cross supported the decommissioning of camps under shelter clusters and only 26 camps remained out of the 794 that were established to host IDPs during the reporting period. Malawi Red Cross is finalizing the relief phase with distribution of cash to 5,141 households in Mulanje, Nsanje, Blantyre, Thyolo and Phalombe. The Emergency Appeal for Tropical Cyclone Freddy has just finalized its recovery plan which is also in line with the government National Recovery Framework (NRF).

### **Increased voluntary non-remunerated blood donation (VNRBD)**

Malawi Red Cross has contributed to sensitization activities on VNRBD reaching 172,504 people in 110 blood collection sessions by Malawi Blood Transfusion Services (MBTS) (quarterly target was 125,000 and 140 sessions). The increase in reach is attributed to increased scope of blood donor recruitment (BDR) interventions and the introduction of blood donor recruitment (BDR) activities in Integrated Community based Health Programme (ICBHP) and COMREP sensitization was also conducted in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu, Mzuzu and Salima with support from Swiss Red Cross; Mangochi, Chikwawa and Mwanza with support from COMREP consortium partners.

A total of 3,168 units were collected (target was 2,500 units) contributing 12% of the MBTS blood collections to date (against the target of 7%) with support from Swiss Red Cross through BDR project including mainstreaming of BDR in ICBHP and COMPREP projects.

### **Improved first aid services**

Malawi Red Cross has trained 5,544 people among staff, volunteers, and stakeholders in first aid (target was 2,500) with 600 being First Aid for First Responders through ECHO 6 project and 153 people were trained through Commercial First Aid (CFA).

Total of 63 people (out of the 153 people trained in CFA) were trained in Nurse Aid Training (Home based care). Commercial First Aid (CFA) raised a total of MK31,554,500.

### **National Society development**

Malawi Red Cross finalised a National Society Development (NSD) Plan that defines the development prospects of the organisation in short, medium and long term.

The first half of the year saw the approval of matching grant by the Government for Blantyre for an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) construction to supplement the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) grant that was approved in 2022. Malawi Red Cross has successfully applied for the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) bridge grant amounting to USD50,000. The idea is that after this, Malawi Red Cross would have a well-developed business plan and be ready to apply to NSIA for multi-year accelerator funding.

The application for NSIA Acceleration Funding was approved for CHF 1million by the NSIA Secretariat Office, to be administered in a consecutive period of 24 months. A consultative meeting will be held with the Economic Planning and Development (EP&D) Office of the Government for a matching grant. The Malawi Government approved 4.5 billion MK towards two projects (Blantyre EOC and Warehouse) and 1 billion MK was approved for the current financial year. A Steering Committee was put in place by the Board, chaired by a Vice President who will oversee the Blantyre office's

construction process. Staff at the Blantyre office were sensitised on plans to demolish the building and an alternative office building has been identified in Blantyre. Drawings and costing of bidding documentation have been finalised with the support of government and consultant engineers. A pre-bidding meeting in Blantyre attracted more than 20 contractors and a joint procurement review and selection meeting took place in Dowa. The process was supported by government engineers and Malawi Red Cross focused on administration, technical issues and costing.

An independent consultant was hired to conduct a functional review exercise for the National Society. The exercise will be concluded in the next quarter.

A liability taskforce, with the main responsibility of providing a management advisory role on reducing levels of liabilities as envisaged in the organizational development plan, was operationalized during the last quarter.

## IFRC NETWORK ACTION

### ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

<b>Emergency Operation</b>	MALAWI: TROPICAL STORM FREDDY FLOODS
<b>Appeal number</b>	MDRMW018
<b>Duration</b>	10 months (17 March 2023 – 31 December 2023)
<b>Target areas</b>	All 34 provinces in Afghanistan
<b>Funding requirement</b>	Through the IFRC Emergency Appeal: 5 million Swiss francs Federation-wide: 6 million Swiss francs
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Malawi Tropical Storm Freddy Floods Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to operational strategy</b>	<a href="#">Malawi Tropical Storm Freddy Floods 6 month Operations Update</a>

Malawi Red Cross launched a large operation responding to Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Ten districts of Blantyre, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Thyolo, Mulanje, Phalombe, Mangochi, Machinga, Chiradzulu, and Balaka were supported, and 7,288 households were reached with cash transfers, and 14,284 households received food and non-food items (NFI). Eighty-one households were supported with the construction of multi-hazard houses in the districts of Chiradzulu (6), Zomba (30), and Phalombe (45) out of the 250 targeted in the Emergency Appeal.

Towards the end of the quarter, the National Society resumed preparedness interventions in Chikwawa and Nsanje with training for canoe riders on safety, collection of tents and readiness for response. The department supported the decommissioning of camps under the shelter cluster.

The overall reach of the operation is 21,572 households (7,288 households with cash and 14, 284 households with food and non-food items). An assessment of the impact of Tropical Cyclone Freddy was conducted in 7 districts of Phalombe, Mulanje, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Thyolo and Mangochi which led to mass cash distribution to 7,288 household survivors of Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Malawi Red Cross will finalize the relief phase with distribution of cash to 5,141 households in Mulanje, Nsanje, Blantyre, Thyolo and Phalombe.

Malawi Red Cross conducted a detailed assessment in areas affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy, aimed at establishing the level of need, and on this basis, the type of support to be provided.

In response to Tropical Cyclone Freddy, cash transfers have been carried out with support from Danish Red Cross and ECHO, IFRC, British Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross, and IOM, and cumulatively a total of 13,869 households have been supported in the district of Thyolo, Phalombe, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mulanje, Blantyre and Mangochi.

Malawi Red Cross supported 522 mobile outreach clinic sessions through COMREP, Integrated community-based health programme (ICBHP) Swiss, Tropical Cyclone Freddy and ICBHP BMZ / Gesundes Afrika funded projects reaching 294,614 people against the target of 44,000 people. Introduction of clinics in Integrated community-based health programme (ICBHP) BMZ as well as Tropical Cyclone Freddy led to increased need for mobile outreach clinic services.

Malawi Red Cross constructed 216 temporary latrines and decommission sanitation facilities in CTU (latrines and bath shelters) and IDPs Camps for Tropical Cyclone Freddy in the following districts Balaka, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Mangochi, Nsanje, Phalombe, Thyolo and Mulanje.

Malawi Red Cross reached 5,772,945 people with hygiene promotion interventions in cholera hotspots and Tropical Cyclone Freddy affected areas (target was 2,000,000). The high number of people reached was due to intensified hygiene awareness interventions during Cholera and Tropical Cyclone Freddy response.

The National Society conducted engagement and planning meeting with Phalombe and Zomba district council authorities on shelter construction. Malawi Red Cross is constructing multi-hazard resilient shelters to households affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy whose homes had been destroyed or rendered inhabitable. Consultations included shelter designs, locations for the construction, artisans, materials to be used and security.

Community members in the target districts have increased their ownership through mainstreaming of community engagement and accountability (CEA). Vulnerability has been used as one of the key indicators in identifying people to be supported, this has enabled more women to be registered as compared to men. Communities are also aware of and have access to a variety of channels to provide feedback, which is then actively used to inform the planning of further activities always taking PGI into account. Malawi Red Cross will collect, analyse and act on feedback, and will align with the Inter-Agency Community Feedback Mechanism. Community leaders and camp committees have been engaged in project planning meetings and they in turn have been consulting with their wider community, including with vulnerable groups. In camp settings, communities have been consulted about their needs and kept informed of available services, including referral pathways. They will also be kept informed of risks, preventive measures and response actions through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) activities.

Teams in the response will share clear information about any delays, exit strategies, changes, selection criteria and distribution processes with communities through community meetings and door-to-door activities. There will be trainings/refreshers for volunteers and staff on CEA, including on community feedback mechanisms. On particularly sensitive issues raised by the community, district task forces (i.e., grievance redress committees and social mobilisation committees) have been engaged in addressing complaints. A total of 4 Project Development Movement (PDM) exercises have been done, this has assisted in assessing the level of satisfaction vis a vis the response.

Malawi Red Cross conducted community engagement meetings with the Area Development Committee and Area Civil Protection Committee in Nsanje, Chikwawa, Blantyre, Mulanje, Phalombe, Thyolo and Mangochi districts and Community Based Flood modelling project in Chikwawa District. Both projects were introduced at the community level and were accepted.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



### Climate and environment

Malawi Red Cross considers risk reduction and adaptation as integral components of comprehensive strategies for addressing climate change and its associated risks. To achieve this Malawi Red Cross collaborates with government through line ministries, communities, international organizations, and other humanitarian actors to develop and implement effective policies and actions that build resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate-related impacts.

With support from 510 Initiative, Malawi Red Cross has an Impact-based Forecast (IBF) which was developed and targets 26 GVHs and wards. The dashboard has gone through different co-design sessions and was tested by different stakeholders to ensure compliance to ensure effective decision making by authorities.

To validate the effectiveness of anticipatory action by Malawi Red Cross in the months after Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the National Society conducted a lessons learnt exercise with the aim of documenting best practices and gaps. Overall implementation of anticipatory action was achieved with success while some areas highlighted the need for improvement. Malawi Red Cross is still in the process of developing the Early Action Protocols (EAP) to enable the National Society to be self-sufficient and well prepared for future extreme events.

With support from IFRC, Malawi Red Cross has rolled out a project aimed at promoting locally led climate adaptation activities. During the reporting period, a climate screening and assessment and validation workshop was conducted. The projects also conducted capacity building for staff and volunteers which was done through training both in country and internationally where some members in the department participated in international training and workshops, training in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in emergencies, climate change adaptation, anticipatory actions, food security and livelihood.

By the close of the reporting period, Malawi Red Cross was orientated on climate action through the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate centre who facilitated the orientation with support from IFRC's country team. Amongst the stakeholders consulted on the climate action journey included, Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CCISONEC), Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), Ministry of Health-Climate Change section.

Malawi Red Cross:

- Conducted 14 manure promotional campaigns (target was 14), reaching 1,076 people in Ntcheu district supported (Swiss Red Cross)
- Trained 30 lead farmers (23 male, 7 female) on crop production, post-harvest handling and manure making in Ntcheu district (Swiss Red Cross)
- Trained 30 lead farmers (23 male, 7 female) on manure making (target: 30) in Ntcheu. (Swiss Red Cross)

Green solutions will be promoted through environmentally sustainable action where feasible, conducting tree planting and reforestation in consultation with communities. 65, 000 trees over the 64,000 targets were planted in 16 districts of Mwanza, Mangochi, Thyolo, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Zomba, Machinga, Chitipa, Ntchisi, Salima, Neno, Lilongwe, Dowa, Nsanje Ntcheu and Blantyre. Communities were oriented on the caring of trees in order to achieve a greater tree survival rate.



## Disasters and crises

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During the reporting period, Malawi Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC network achieved the following:

- In February, Malawi Red Cross facilitated community simulation exercises which aimed at checking the effectiveness of the electronic contingency plans amongst the early warning teams and also the functionality of different community-based structures in relation to the flood response in Chikwawa, Nsanje, Thyolo, Blantyre. Following the exercise, 310 (185 male, 125 female) were reached. Malawi Red Cross also participated in a tabletop simulation exercise at national level which was organized by UNDRR with focus on coordination and use of other coordination mechanisms at global and national level.
- In order to ensure the communities are aware of impending hazards, Malawi Red Cross conducted community sensitization and dissemination of contingency plans and dissemination of down-scaled seasonal forecasts which incorporated cholera awareness in 11 districts across central and southern region reaching a total of 12,537 (5,372 male, 7,165 female) people in various communities.
- Following an advisory on the implementation of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, Malawi Red Cross disseminated early warning and anticipatory actions (AA) ahead of time before the Tropical Cyclone had made a landfall, targeting Blantyre, Thyolo, Chikwawa and Nsanje in 26 GVHs/Wards where 12,873 (7, 800 female and 5, 073 male) were

reached in addition to other districts of Mangochi, Mwanza, Machinga, Zomba and Chiradzulu where 3,395,555 people were reached in total.

- As part of enhancing the communities' capacity in building back better, to better prepare and become resilient to crisis and disasters, the National Society conducted general awareness on shelter and settlements and supported 8 districts (Phalombe, Mangochi, Mulanje, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Chiradzulu and Nsanje) with a total reach of 49,023 people (21,645 male, 27,371 female).
- Malawi Red Cross, as a key shelter partner in the country, participated in a shelter design validation meeting at the Ministry of Lands where the Ministry engaged Habitat for Humanity and engineers to come up with different shelter designs. The approved designs will be shared for free with citizens (both rural and urban) to promote safe housing construction. Malawi Red Cross will continue to be engaged through the shelter coordinator and as a way forward, Malawi Red Cross will be part of supporting the dissemination of the designs to improve access by the citizens.
- Malawi Red Cross handed over 30 resilient, multi-hazard shelters to survivors of Tropical Storm Ana in the districts of Nsanje (10) and Chikwawa (20). During this period, the National Society has engaged in the construction of 88 multi-hazard houses with funds mobilized by the Goodwill Ambassadors and local donors in the country.
- In response to food insecurity, Malawi Red Cross distributed cash to 550 households in Ntcheu District in 3 monthly instalments of K25,000 (20.5 CHF). Total cash distributed stands at K41,250,000.00 (33,788 CHF).
- Malawi Red Cross was involved in food security and livelihood capacity and gaps mapping. The activity is still in progress and shows Malawi Red Cross having prioritized livelihood interventions in line with community needs.
- With support from the Swiss Red Cross, Malawi Red Cross distributed 2665 banana suckers, 533 bundles of sweet potato vines and 533 sachets of vegetable seeds to 533 food insecure households in Ntcheu District.
- Through Malawi Red Cross capacity strengthening for branches, Karonga division registered 85% profit in a self-driven rice selling small scale business amounting to MK1, 625,000 (CHF 1,331).



## Health and wellbeing

During the reporting period, Malawi Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC network, achieved the following:

- The number of people reached with health promotion messages in the form of Social Mobilization (Van Publicity, radio programs, Household Visits & Awareness Sessions) increased to 6,428,810 people (3,857,286M;2,571,524F) exceeding the target of 560,000 people. Partners include COMREP consortium partners, Swiss Red Cross, IFRC, UNICEF, GIZ, Africa CDC, Government Subvention and Gesundes Afrika
- Trained 27,606 staff, volunteers, and stakeholders (Target was 2,000) in COVID 19 and Cholera in 19 highly Cholera affected districts of Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Karonga, Nkhatabay, Nkhotakota, Neno, Rumphu, Mzimba North, Machinga, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Balaka, Salima, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Mulanje, and Dedza
- Completed construction of the Kapoli Health Post at Eswazini, TA Kampingo Sibande in Mzimba. The Ministry of Health is to conduct final monitoring/technical visit to handover the Khotekhote Volunteer Resource Unit in TA Khombedza in Salima linked to growth monitoring (Target was 2)
- Supported the development and finalization of the National Community Health Strategy (NCHS 2022-2030), in line with Health Sector Strategic Plan III with support from Government Subvention
- Participated and supported World Health Days (Community Health Day, World TB Day, World Epilepsy Day and preparations for World Maria Day), with support from Government Subvention, IFRC and COMREP Consortium partners
- Malawi Red Cross has contributed to sensitization activities on VNRBD reaching 172,504 people in 110 blood collection sessions by MBTS (quarterly target of 125,000 and 140 sessions). The increase in reach is attributed to increased scope of BDR interventions and the introduction of BDR activities in ICBHP and COMREP Sensitization was conducted in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu, Mzuzu and Salima with support from Swiss Red Cross; Mangochi, Chikwawa and Mwanza with support from COMREP consortium partners

- Total of 3,168 units were collected (target was 2,500 units) contributing 12% of the MBTS blood collections to date (against the target of 7%) with support from Swiss Red Cross through BDR project including mainstreaming of BDR in ICBHP and COMPREP project
- Malawi Red Cross has trained 5,544 people among staff, volunteers, and stakeholders in first aid (target was 2,500) with 600 being First Aid for First Responders through ECHO 6 project and 153 people were trained through Commercial First Aid (CFA)
- Total of 63 people (out of the 153 people trained in CFA) were trained in Nurse Aid Training (Home based care). Commercial First AID (CFA) raised a total of MK31,554,500

In water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), the following was achieved:

- Malawi Red Cross has drilled 3 boreholes in Tukombo (target was 5), reaching approximately 3,190 people in Nkhatabay
- Rehabilitation of 73 boreholes in Salima and Balaka has reached 6,329 people, 5 boreholes per district with support from UNICEF and IFRC reaching 75,308 people (35,204 male, 40,104 female)
- Total 1,755,593 people have been reached with safe water supply through household water treatment, exceeding the initial target of 468,396 due to intensified action under water treatment through cholera prevention efforts with support from IFRC, Norwegian Red Cross, IFRC, UNICEF, Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and GIZ in Cholera response implementation districts (Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Karonga, Nkhatabay, Nkhotakota, Neno, Rumphu, Mzimba North, Machinga, Nsanje Chikwawa, Balaka, Salima and Dedza)
- Malawi Red Cross conducted 6,357 water quality monitoring tests for households and sources using bacteriological H2S test kits. The project carried out 6,357 H2S tests representing 127% achievement against the total project target of 5,000 test kits. Malawi Red Cross exceeded targets through active collaboration with district health offices who provided the majority of the tests from their stocks. Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Karonga, Nkhatabay, Nkhotakota, Balaka, Rumphu, Mzimba North, Machinga, Chiradzulu, Dedza, Karonga, Phalombe, Thyolo, Neno and Mulanje. This resulted in the increase of people accessing safe water through household water treatment.



## Migration and displacement

Migrants have been supported through the Malawi Red Cross Restoring Family Links programme which provides services at the Dzaleka refugee camp in Dowa district and Karonga Transit shelter in Karonga District. The services offered include tracing requests, Red Cross Messages (RCM), free phone calls, free internet, registration and follow-up of unaccompanied minors, phone charging services. During the period under review the following numbers have been achieved on the services offered:

- Tracing requests - 25 (9 male, 16 female)
- Red Cross Messages (RC) - 26 (15 male, 11 female)
- Free phone calls - 848 (549 male, 299 female)
- Free internet - 42 (29 male, 13 female)
- Uncomplicated malaria follow up - 98 (51 male, 47 female)
- Phone charging services - 325 (185 male, 140 female)



## Values, power and inclusion

### Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

PGI policy development: National Societies in southern Africa were focused on developing or finalising policies in the first half of 2023. Malawi Red Cross developed a draft Child Safeguarding Policy and draft Gender and Diversity Policy.

Due to competing priorities, however, the team was unable to finalize the drafts, but set the deadline for completion by the end of Quarter 3 so the documents can be presented for approval at the next Board meeting.

Capacity building and peer learning: In April, the IFRC CEA Delegate secured funds from Icelandic Red Cross to support the PGI focal point to participate in a five-day training on Psychological First Aid funded by British Red Cross and delivered by facilitators from the IFRC Psychosocial Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

PGI Organizational Assessments: In late 2021, the IFRC Secretariat PGI team developed a Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) Organizational Assessment Toolkit (OAT) to enhance the institutionalization of PGI in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The PGI OAT was piloted from January 2022 to May 2023 by four National Societies in Africa, Malawi Red Cross, Sierra Leone Red Cross and Somali Red Crescent in a project funded by Icelandic Red Cross and coordinated by the IFRC PGI Africa team. It was envisaged that the project would contribute to:

1. Institutionalization of PGI in participating National Society policies, guidelines, work plans, processes and implementation
2. Increased knowledge of PGI among staff, volunteers, leadership and board members in National Society headquarters and branches

Six National Societies (Sierra Leone Red Cross, Malawi Red Cross, Somali Red Crescent (two coordination offices), Uganda Red Cross, South Sudan Red Cross and Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross) conducted a comprehensive PGI assessment as the first step to ensuring the National Society has the necessary institutional capacity, composition and commitment to address violence, discrimination and exclusion. Three of the six National Societies (Malawi Red Cross, Somali Red Crescent and Sierra Leone Red Cross) were funded by the Icelandic Red Cross as part of the pilot project under review in this report. The assessment process was tackled in three phases: (i) leadership buy-in sessions with senior leadership and members of the governing board, (ii) PGI capacity building, a headquarters level landscape review and branch-level assessment and, (iii) development and presentation of a National Society plan of action with timelines for implementation over 18 months from the end of the project in May 2023.

The three National Societies each mandated a PGI Task Force team to roll out a PGI assessment and develop a plan of action with clearly indicated actions related to balanced gender representation and application of the minimum standards for PGI in 2022. The teams were multidisciplinary, often including National Society human resources managers, technical team leaders, branch coordinators, finance managers, legal advisors, community engagement and accountability (CEA) focal points, communications officers, and resource mobilization officers, among other roles.

A team of four facilitators (three IFRC and one representative from Finnish Red Cross) provided technical support to the National Societies to conduct the assessment. On 26 and 27 April 2023, IFRC PGI team members from southern Africa and Africa Regional Office facilitated the final workshop in the project, the planning meeting. An Icelandic Red Cross representative also attended the workshop in Dowa, Malawi which was attended by 14 headquarters and branch level staff. The workshop brought together PGI Task Force members, senior leadership, in-country Participating National Societies and Governing board members to discuss key PGI actions following the assessments.

Additionally, Malawi Red Cross achieved the following:

- Supported 32 out of 32 targeted community based childcare centers with food supplements (Corn Soy Blend) during the lean season in Mangochi, Chikwawa and Mwanza districts
- Supported the establishment and training of over 180 Child Protection workers in safeguarding the rights of children and conducted outreach programs on child protection in Mangochi, Chikwawa and Mwanza districts
- Provided general schools support to 576 learners out of the 900 targeted (representing 64% achievement) based on government guidelines. The rest have graduated on the way i.e., in Malawi School Certificate of Education and Primary School Leaving Certificate examinations
- Conducted a Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) organization assessment at branch level which aimed at strengthening Malawi Red Cross' PGI capacities and gaps
- Through assessments, Malawi Red Cross has ensured the focus on vulnerable people, particularly women and female headed households. Malawi Red Cross trained enumerators prior to data collection to ensure that: prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding would be taken into consideration and all personnel engaged are required to sign a copy of the Code of Conduct and PSEA policy before being deployed

- Malawi Red Cross has ensured that all staff and volunteers are briefed on the Code of Conduct and on the PSEA. It will ensure that all National Societies, IFRC, Participating National Society staff and volunteers sign the Code of Conduct
- Information, education, communication (IEC) materials with key referral pathways for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) have been developed and distributed to all staff and volunteers and posters will be displayed in camps and in district buildings, in line with Protection Cluster guidance
- Developed a PGI action plan which focused on addressing issues that came from the findings of the PGI organization assessment. The issues range from strategic to operational level
- Drafted a Gender and Inclusion policy

### **Community engagement and accountability (CEA)**

The CEA Africa team continued to support National Societies to integrate CEA approaches in active emergency operations across the region, including in Malawi, where two CEA coordinators were deployed between February-April and May-June respectively for the cholera outbreak.

In Malawi, IFRC collaborated with UNICEF and WHO to support the work of the National Society on community feedback packages, including the setting up an inter-agency community mechanism database coding framework, liaising with the National Society to review their community feedback database and support them on information management (IM). IFRC trained National Society staff on the cleaning and coding frame, helped clean partners' qualitative research data, transposed it to the inter-agency database structure, and updated the dashboard. Further, over 18 partners were trained in social science for public health emergencies through collective service activities, in addition to the 16 partners trained to manage, analyse, and share data via data dashboards.

The National Society CEA colleagues were supported to develop a case study published in May 2023 documenting the KatiKati pilot project, which is an SMS based initiative for collecting community feedback. The case study was uploaded onto the Community Engagement Hub and advertised in the CEA Africa newsletter in June.

Malawi Red Cross has a system in place to ensure accountability to beneficiaries that recognizes community ownership and protects its voice in actions that affect them. Accountability has been proven to increase programme impact and CEA builds trust and acceptance, which in turn improves the quality of programming and the safety of frontline staff. CEA strengthens local structures that allow for greater community resilience and sustainability, and Malawi Red Cross will implement a feedback mechanism in affected districts giving them a platform to set their own agenda.

Malawi Red Cross shares clear information about response activities, selection criteria, and distribution processes with communities through community meetings and door-to-door activities, giving them the opportunity to participate in the response through meetings, surveys and assessments.

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross, with the support of the IFRC network achieved the following:

- Production of volunteer membership cards continued, and in total 13,870 cards have been printed and shared. This quarter alone 2610 cards have been printed, 1500 names are under design and there is no outstanding backlog
- In collaboration with the First Aid unit, supported the establishment of 56 Red Cross in-school clubs across the country in Mzuzu, Dowa, Balaka, Ntcheu, Mangochi and Chikwawa
- Established Malawi Red Cross clubs at 2 Tertiary institutions (Pentecostal Life University and Malawi Assemblies of God University (MAGU). In total reached out to 50 students
- Malawi Red Cross Board advised a follow up of Lilongwe Vice chairperson's resignation, inactiveness of the Division Treasurer and claims of funds mismanagement through the taskforce. A report was submitted to the Board for action
- Distributed Japanese blanket for Africa (JBAC) blankets to 15 Divisions, Nkhotakota, Salima, Kasungu, Lilongwe Bua, Dedza, Mangochi, Machinga, Zomba, Phalombe, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje 1, Mwanza, Mzimba and Likoma. Each division received 400 blankets and a total of 16, 200 blankets were received through JBAC support
- Supported youth leader coordination meeting in Chikwawa with support from COMREP project

- Supported youth regional meetings in the southern and central region. All the youth chairpersons attended and shared experiences and skills, supported by COMREP
- Supported girl group camp preparation to be hosted by Mwanza in August 2023. 115 girls will participate from Mangochi, Mwanza and Chikwawa with the theme "Among the thorns I can, struggles are my strength."
- 2 (1 male, 1 female) youths participated in international youth leadership academy in Denmark in May 2023
- Conducted division by-elections for the vacant positions to enhance division operations
- Conducted meetings with Scout Association of Malawi (SAM) for possible partnership with Malawi Red Cross. Completed development of draft MOU which awaits signing
- Construction and renovation of division offices resumed in Chiradzulu and Mtakataka. Mchinji youth structure roofed. A proposal was submitted to Qatar Red Cross for the construction of Machinga Division office
- The President and Secretary General handed over a new motorcycle to Mtakataka Division for the emerging winner during last year's flag week collection
- The President conducted developmental meetings with the central region divisions, and these included Nkhotakota, Salima, Dowa, Mtakataka and Dedza. Issues shared with the subdivisions include abiding to volunteer management policy and code of conduct and promotion of resource mobilization initiatives
- Malawi Red Cross provided schools support to 576 learners out of the 900 targeted (representing 64% achievement) based on government guidelines. The rest have graduated on the way i.e., written MSCE exams and primary school leaving examination last year
- Provided safe boarding facilities for secondary school girls in Mangochi, Chikwawa and Mwanza districts. This includes food, housing, bedding and sanitary materials to 64 girls out of the 75 targeted girls (85%). Seven girls graduated while 4 dropped out due to different reasons including early marriage.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



### Strategic and operational coordination

As auxiliary to the public authorities, the Malawi Red Cross Society has been working closely with different government line Ministries and departments as well as international organisations as follows:

- WFP and UNICEF - collaborated in Cholera and Tropical Cyclone response through the provision of food to households displaced by Tropical Cyclone Freddy and the implementation of cholera prevention and control interventions respectively
- Malawi Red Cross worked with different government departments and such as Department of Disaster Management Affairs on Disaster Issues, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Lands and Housing, Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services as well as Ministry of Gender and Community Services and collaborated with them on national level monitoring visits to operational districts, technical working groups, Cluster meetings, developing national level response, recovery and other strategies and policies, as well as participated in local and international coordination meetings, supported district level coordination meetings across all the districts, conducted national and district level projects inception and exit meetings
- In terms of inter-agency coordination, Malawi Red Cross is a member of the Humanitarian Country Team which guides the humanitarian actions in the country. It also sits on the Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) which coordinates humanitarian activities and has been participating in Cluster meetings during the implementation of Tropical Cyclones Ana and Freddy as well as during the recent cholera outbreak
- Malawi Red Cross collaborated during the Tropical Cyclone Freddy response with banks, mobile money service providers, academia, non-governmental organisations, faith-based organisations and individuals who partnered

with Malawi Red Cross in the distribution of food and non-food items to people affected by the disaster. In terms of long-term projects, Malawi Red Cross also worked with different community structures to effectively deliver its services through the different district councils as coordinating units

- The German government provided funding to Malawi Red Cross

### **IFRC membership coordination**

IFRC continued to coordinate with Participating National Society's through the three Emergency Appeals of Tropical Cyclone Ana and Freddy and the Cholera Appeal which is being supported by a consortium led by the Danish Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross and the IFRC.

Malawi Red Cross, IFRC and partners have agreed on the geographic areas to support within a coordination framework. In line with this framework the IFRC technically supports all districts where Malawi Red Cross is responding to ensure a one Malawi Red Cross response.

### **Movement coordination and cooperation**

During the reporting period the National Society conducted two Movement Coordination meetings which brought together IFRC, ICRC and Participating National Society's to update them on the progress of the Malawi Red Cross programmes, share updates on emerging issues including new policy guidelines and the financial situation of the National Society. The coordination and cooperation meetings also discussed how the National Society planned to approach the different emergencies which the country faces, and the approaches being used for implementing response.

### **Resource mobilization (domestic fundraising and international support)**

The National Society intensified its drive for resource mobilization to support its normal developmental programmes as well as to support the different disasters which have affected the country during the reporting period. Local resource mobilisation towards Tropical Cyclone Freddy response broke records of resource mobilisation for the National Society. The Malawi Government, Movement partners, UN agencies, the German government, academia and the private sector were key contributors to the National Society in the reporting period. Malawi Red Cross employed a number of strategies such as raffle draws, strategic partnership meetings with the corporate world and partners, review of office rentals in all the offices, production of volunteer membership cards, flag week and public appeals through newspapers and social media.

### **Ongoing emergency operation**

During the reporting period, Malawi Red Cross supported three emergencies through a Federation-Wide Emergency Appeal as follows:

**Coordination and Partnerships:** Malawi Red Cross coordinated with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and the Ministry of Health in the implementation of its activities. The Malawi Red Cross response plans were aligned to contribute to the response plans of the two government institutions, Malawi Red Cross also worked in partnership with both local and international institutions to address the needs of the affected people. Key notable partners include Consortium of Red Cross Partners (Danish, Iceland, Italian and Finnish Red Cross), Swiss Red Cross, UNICEF, GIZ, the ICRC, WFP, private sector entities such as Banks, mobile service providers, academia, families and individuals.

**Shelter Cluster Coordination:** Malawi Red Cross is a co-lead in the Shelter Cluster in Malawi which is chaired by the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development. IFRC provided surge profiles for Shelter Cluster coordination as well as information management for Tropical Cyclone Freddy's Shelter Cluster. The two roles helped Malawi Red Cross to effectively support the Ministry of Land, Housing and Development and it was seen as one of the strongest clusters which was much appreciated by the government, UN agencies as well as OCHA.

### **Engagement with external partners**

In its role as auxiliary to government, Malawi Red Cross will strengthen and add value to coordination at the national and district levels with various government and local government Ministries, and with UNICEF, WHO, MSF and other international organizations.

Activities will further facilitate engagement and coordination with Participating National Society's in the design of the response, leveraging expertise and resources available through the 'Red Pillar' approach and ensuring alignment with external actors, including with government policies and programmes with development actors and UN agencies and NGOs.

Malawi Red Cross is a member of the National Emergency Operations Centre chaired by DODMA.



## National Society Development

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### Operational support services

Support has been put in place for human resources, logistics and supply chain; Information Technology (IT) support; communications; security; PMER; partnerships and resource development; and finance and administration; support for Federation-wide plans for National Society capacity strengthening in emergency response and resilience building initiatives.

### National Society Development

Currently the IFRC network is supporting the development of a new Strategic Plan and has developed a comprehensive National Society Development (NSD) Framework outlining key priorities for Malawi Red Cross, which will be supported through this Emergency Appeal.

### National Society preparedness and response capacity

NSD will be embedded in coordination and operations support; branch development will be supported through training and assessments. Actions will help Malawi Red Cross to develop response plans; capacity building for volunteers and communities on DRR including early warning systems; capacity development on cash and voucher assistance (CVA), Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation, Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), psychosocial support (PSS) and SGBV prevention, including PSEA; strengthen capacity on preparedness, response and recovery in strategically located branches, for volunteers and youth.

### National Society auxiliary role

Malawi Red Cross is an auxiliary to government, and in this role, coordinates at the national and district levels with MOH, DODMA, Ministry of Water and Sanitation (MOWS) and Ministry of Local Government, alongside UNICEF, WHO, MSF and other international organizations. It is part of national disaster management mechanisms and sits on the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee (NDPRC), which is comprised of principal secretaries of all line ministries and departments. It is also co-chair of the Search & Rescue and the Shelter clusters as well as being a key member of the Incident Management Team, Health Cluster and WASH Cluster.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC network joint support is one of the key entities which supported the Malawi Red Cross to come up with response plans and appeals for all the three emergencies in the reporting period. The network also provided human and material resources to support the National Society in its response.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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Humanitarian diplomacy is a complementary part of Malawi Red Cross programming. Humanitarian diplomacy has been used both to remove barriers to implementation and to address structural issues that cannot be addressed directly by the programs. This has supported Malawi Red Cross to achieve its strategic ambition of becoming a strong player in humanitarian diplomacy in Malawi.

The humanitarian diplomacy approach has been “bottom-up”, i.e., creating change at the local levels and then use this for scaling up to district and subsequently, national level.

Malawi Red Cross has partnered with external partners as a way of adding value to the cross-cutting humanitarian diplomacy interventions.

The tools which have been used include: community mobilisation; documenting and analysing the root causes of relevant problems to use as evidence base for future advocacy initiatives; understanding of existing power structures and potential conflict issues to avoid exacerbating inequalities or creating conflict in the communities, identification of key stakeholders and their needs/interest, formal and informal meetings with decision makers and donors, mapping

their priorities and trying to develop a common understanding of problems and solutions, and, creating greater public awareness of the issues.



## **Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)**

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Malawi Red Cross developed an M&E framework to monitor its work, and Malawi Red Cross and partners will routinely carry out a self-assessment against indicators to make sure that the operations are on track, that products and services meet the minimum quality standards, and that the operations remain relevant to the beneficiaries.

The monitoring system will also check whether the accountability systems that have been set up are working effectively. Regular feedback mechanisms, post-distribution and beneficiary satisfaction surveys are being carried out regularly to solicit feedback and complaints from specific groups amongst the crisis-affected population, and as part of a formal complaints' mechanism. All complaints and feedback received are being followed up.

The operations staff have worked hard to ensure that safeguarding measures are in place and that Malawi Red Cross staff and stakeholders conform to PSEA and Child Safeguarding, this includes completing the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis; having in place screening, briefing, and reporting systems, mapping and testing referral pathways, ensuring community feedback mechanisms and child-friendly information and participation.



**The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** is the world's largest humanitarian network, with 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and around 15 million volunteers. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

## DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2023. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)
- [Evaluations database](#)

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