

## IN SUPPORT OF THE MALAWI RED CROSS SOCIETY



## PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency  
Operations



**162,075**

Climate and  
environment



**162,075**

Disasters  
and crises



**162,075**

Health and  
wellbeing



**1,106,622**

Migration and  
displacement



**34,774**

Values, power  
and inclusion



**70,800**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Malawi Red Cross Society	
<b>Overview</b>	<b>Funding Sources</b>
Funding	958,000
Expenditure	459,000
	IFRC Secretariat
	Not reported
	Participating National Societies
	Not reported
	HNS other funding sources
	958,000

IFRC network		
Country	Funding Requirement	18.8M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	8.4M
	Funding	1.6M
	Expenditure	937,000
Emergency Operations	Funding Requirement	Not reported
	Funding	2.9M
	Expenditure	2.2M
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	2.4M
	Funding	2.0M
	Expenditure	1.1M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	7.9M
	Funding	958,000

Appeal number **MAAMW003**

\*Information on data scope and limitations is available on the back page

# ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRS1005 / Tropical Cyclone Chido

<b>Accountability and agility</b>	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors	Yes
<b>Climate and environment</b>	Number of people reached by activities addressing rising climate risks	162,000
	Number of people reached by activities addressing environmental problems	162,000
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
<b>Disasters and crises</b>	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	162,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support	26,000
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	20,000
	Number of people reached with emergency response and early recovery programmes	20,000
	Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	65%
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	14,000
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	12,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	998

	Number of people receiving training in first aid	300
<b>Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
<b>Migration and displacement</b>	Migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	25,000
	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	National Society has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
<b>National Society development</b>	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	Yes
	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
<b>Strategic and operational coordination</b>	Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	6
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the National Society is part of	2
<b>Values, power and inclusion</b>	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	16,000
	Percentage of those surveyed report receiving useful and actionable information	100%
	National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan	Yes

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

Number of people reached with activities addressing



Environmental problems

● 162,000



Rising climate risks

● 162,000

### THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change
- implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions
- implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)



## Disasters and crises

Number of people reached with



Livelihood support

● 20,000



Disaster risk reduction

● 162,000



Emergency response and early recovery programmes

● 44,000



Shelter support

● 20,000



65%

assistance delivered using cash and vouchers



## Health and wellbeing

Number of people reached by the National Society with

	Training in first aid	1,000
	Psychosocial and mental health services	27,000



375

Number of people donating blood



## Migration and displacement

	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	1
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- has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move

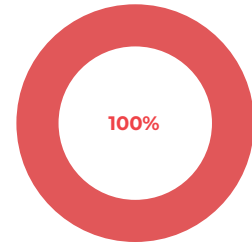
- has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move



## Values, power and inclusion

Number of people

	Whose access to education is facilitated through National Society's programming	• <b>71,000</b>
	Reached by the National Society's educational programmes	• <b>71,000</b>
	Reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	• <b>17,000</b>



100% of those surveyed report receiving useful and actionable information

### THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

- has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS



### Strategic and operational coordination

**6**

Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the National Society is part of

**36**

Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of



### National Society development

✓ National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers

✓ National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies

✓ National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role

✓ There is a National Society Development plan in place



### Humanitarian diplomacy

✓ National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies

✓ National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns



### Accountability and agility

✓ National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors

✓ National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors

✓ National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism

✓ National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy

# IFRC NETWORK BILATERAL-SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

National Society	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
Belgian Red Cross	246,000						
Danish Red Cross	1.6M		●	●			
Swiss Red Cross	49,000						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 2.0M**

# Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

## Context

Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, is geographically divided by the Great Rift Valley and Lake Malawi, one of the continent's largest lakes known for its rich biodiversity. Despite its small land area of 118,480 km<sup>2</sup>, Malawi's elongated shape presents logistical and accessibility challenges. With a rapidly growing population of over 21 million, projected to double by 2038, the country faces increasing demographic pressures. Politically, Malawi remains a peaceful democracy with regular elections since the end of one-party rule in 1993.

However, Malawi continues to grapple with deep-rooted development challenges. Ranked among the world's poorest nations, its economy is heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, leaving the predominantly rural population highly vulnerable to climatic shocks, food insecurity and malnutrition.

During the first half of 2025, Malawi grappled with a series of challenges, including natural disasters, economic strain, and the spillover effects of political unrest in neighbouring Mozambique. The 2024/2025 farming season began with prolonged dry spells, worsening food insecurity and macroeconomic instability across several districts. Tropical Cyclone Chido struck on 15 December 2024, affecting over 46,000 people and damaging more than 10,000 houses across 23 councils in the Central and Southern Regions. Soon after, political unrest in Mozambique following contested elections led to a significant influx of asylum seekers into Malawi, with over 7,000 Mozambicans seeking refuge in Nsanje and surrounding districts by February 2025. The situation was further exacerbated by Tropical Cyclone Jude in March, which displaced over 1,000 households and impacted more than 20,000 people in 11 districts, including Nsanje, Blantyre, Mulanje, and Phalombe.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

During the first half of 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society prioritized environmental sustainability and climate risk reduction by integrating these themes into disaster preparedness and public education campaigns. Tree planting efforts rehabilitated degraded land and protected riverbanks across multiple districts, while communities actively participated in sustainable practices. The National Society also prepared to implement safe shelter awareness sessions that promote environmentally conscious construction methods.

### Disasters and crises

During the first half of 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society strengthened disaster preparedness and response with support from key partners, delivering cash assistance, shelter, and health services to communities affected by Tropical Cyclones Chido and Jude. Recovery efforts included house rehabilitation, epidemic preparedness training, and large-scale tree planting to mitigate climate risks. Public awareness campaigns, vaccination drives, and coordination with national and regional stakeholders further enhanced resilience and emergency response capacity across the country.

### Health and wellbeing

The Malawi Red Cross Society reached over 943,000 people with health promotion and essential services through outreach clinics, mental health support, first aid training, and blood donation campaigns. It also implemented hygiene and nutrition initiatives in schools, improved water access and supported vulnerable households through food and cash assistance. Strong coordination with partners and government agencies enhanced community health programming and response efforts across multiple districts.

### Migration and Displacement

In 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported displaced populations affected by unrest in Mozambique and Cyclone Jude through cash assistance, essential non-food items, shelter, and health services. Despite a shift in project scope following voluntary repatriation, the National Society improved camp conditions, conducted hygiene awareness

campaigns and trained volunteers in psychosocial support and risk communication. Ongoing monitoring and feedback sessions ensured responsive programming and strengthened protection and inclusion efforts.

### **Values, power and inclusion**

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society integrated Community Engagement and Accountability across its programs to ensure inclusive decision-making and transparency. Volunteers and staff were trained in risk communication, protection, and gender inclusion, while communities were actively involved through feedback mechanisms and sensitization efforts. These initiatives promoted dignity, equity, and trust, with targeted support for women and girls, including menstrual hygiene kit distribution.

### **Enabling local actors**

In 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society invested in institutional leadership, decentralizing operations and empowering communities through branch development and youth engagement. It improved financial systems, advanced infrastructure projects and strengthened accountability through robust feedback mechanisms. The National Society also positioned itself as a credible humanitarian diplomacy actor by using community-driven advocacy and forging strategic partnerships. These efforts supported long-term sustainability and reinforced the National Society's readiness to lead and localize humanitarian action.

## **Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS**

During the first half of 2025, Malawi grappled with a series of challenges, including natural disasters, economic strain, and the spillover effects of political unrest in neighbouring Mozambique. The 2024/2025 farming season began with prolonged dry spells, worsening food insecurity and macroeconomic instability across several districts. Tropical Cyclone Chido struck on 15 December 2024, affecting over 46,000 people and damaging more than 10,000 houses across 23 councils in the Central and Southern Regions. Soon after, political unrest in Mozambique following contested elections led to a significant influx of asylum seekers into Malawi, with over 7,000 Mozambicans seeking refuge in Nsanje and surrounding districts by February 2025. The situation was further exacerbated by Tropical Cyclone Jude in March, which displaced over 1,000 households and impacted more than 20,000 people in 11 districts, including Nsanje, Blantyre, Mulanje, and Phalombe.

Amid these challenges, the Malawi Red Cross Society saw its operational capacity reduced due to the termination of two major USAID-funded projects: the Locally Led Climate Adaptation Project and the Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness Program (CP3). These terminations affected program continuity and outreach, particularly in disaster preparedness, climate resilience, and health strengthening. As a result, the Malawi Red Cross Society was forced to scale back or reallocate resources, limiting the implementation of planned interventions. The cumulative impact of these events strained the National Society's ability to respond effectively to growing humanitarian needs and disrupted the momentum of ongoing initiatives.

# Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Malawi](#).

<b>Name</b>	Tropical Cyclone Chido
<b>Appeal number</b>	<a href="#">MDRS1005</a>
<b>Duration</b>	12 months (March 2025 to December 2025)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total IFRC funding requirement through the Appeal: CHF 6 million Total Federation-wide funding requirements: CHF 10 million
<b>Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Operational Strategy</a>
<b>Latest operation update</b>	<a href="#">Operational Update</a>

Tropical Cyclone Chido made landfall in Malawi on 15 December 2024, affecting approximately 46,017 people (10,036 households) and causing extensive damage, with 10,349 houses partially or completely destroyed. Tragically, 15 lives were lost, 29 people were injured, and many were displaced. The cyclone's impact was widespread, affecting 23 councils across the Southern and Central Regions, including Mangochi, Mangochi Municipal, Machinga, Zomba, Zomba City, Balaka, Ntcheu, Dedza, Lilongwe, Lilongwe City, Mchinji, Kasungu, Kasungu Municipal, Dowa, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Mulanje, Thyolo, Blantyre, Blantyre City, Neno, and Mwanza.

With financial support from the IFRC and partners such as the Danish Red Cross, the Malawi Red Cross Society launched an [Emergency Appeal](#) targeted response in the most severely affected districts of Kasungu, Balaka, Zomba, Blantyre, and Phalombe.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The primary goal was to support over 26,000 people (5,200 households) in meeting essential needs safely and with dignity, facilitate recovery, and strengthen resilience to future shocks. The response was later expanded to include Mulanje and Phalombe districts, which were also impacted by Cyclone Jude.

In response to the national disaster declaration, the Malawi Red Cross Society launched an appeal through the IFRC, which attracted funding from various partners including the IFRC and the Danish Red Cross.

The appeal aimed to address immediate needs, support recovery, improve coordination and document lessons learned. A recovery plan and budget were finalized. With support from WSR Emergency, the Malawi Red Cross Society conducted a hygiene promotion study in four districts, integrating its findings into the recovery plan. Additionally, two solar-powered water systems were installed in schools in Phalombe and Chikwawa, benefiting over 21,700 people. The highlights of this assistance are:

### Shelter, housing and settlements

During the reporting period, 972 households received essential household items such as tarpaulins, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, and blankets. In addition, 1,961 households benefited from construction materials or cash and voucher assistance to help repair or rebuild their shelters. To strengthen local capacity, 300 staff and volunteers were trained in safe shelter practices, including emergency shelter management and the use of household items. Also, 9,760 people were reached through training and awareness-raising sessions on safe shelter.

## **Livelihoods**

The affected populations were supported with multipurpose cash transfers to help meet their basic needs and restore livelihoods. To promote effective and appropriate use of cash assistance, community awareness and sensitization sessions on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) were conducted across all supported districts. These sessions aimed to ensure that recipients understood the purpose of the support and were encouraged to utilize the funds in ways that would strengthen their household resilience and improve livelihood recovery.

## **Health and care**

A total of 12,225 people were reached with health promotion and awareness activities aimed at preventing disease and promoting healthy behaviours. In addition, 998 individuals received psychosocial and mental health support to help them cope with the emotional and psychological impacts of the disaster. Basic health services were provided to 4,154 people across affected communities. To strengthen community-based health response, 270 volunteers were trained in Epidemic Control for Volunteers equipping them with the knowledge and skills to detect, prevent, and respond to disease outbreaks.

## **Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**

A total of 13,794 people were reached through hygiene promotion activities, including the distribution of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to encourage safe hygiene practices. To enhance access to safe water, 4,500 households were supported with chlorine for water treatment. Additionally, 1,000 households were provided with hygiene kits to support improved sanitation and personal hygiene at the household level.

## **Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)**

A total of 15,875 people were reached with protection, gender, and inclusion programming, which aimed to ensure dignity, safety, and equal access to services for all, particularly vulnerable groups. To support menstrual hygiene management, 1,000 women and girls received menstrual hygiene kits. Additionally, 270 staff and volunteers were trained in PGI, including referral mechanisms, to strengthen their capacity to identify and respond to protection concerns within communities.

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

A total of 270 volunteers were trained Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre to enhance effective two-way communication with affected communities. 20 community feedback meetings were conducted to address community concerns and close the feedback loop. During distributions of both cash and non-food items (NFIs), communities were encouraged to provide feedback either in person or through designated suggestion boxes placed on site. Furthermore, communities were actively involved in the response process, with the beneficiary selection criteria clearly communicated and explained prior to the registration exercise to promote transparency and trust.

## **Environmental Sustainability**

The Malawi Red Cross Society recognizes that risk reduction and climate change adaptation are critical components of a sustainable response to climate-related risks. As such, it works in close collaboration with government line ministries, local communities, international organizations, and other humanitarian actors to promote the development and implementation of policies and actions that enhance community resilience and reduce environmental vulnerability. As part of its ongoing efforts, the National Society is planning to conduct Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) sessions, which will incorporate messaging and discussions on environmental protection to encourage eco-friendly practices at the community level.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society placed strong emphasis on environmental sustainability and climate risk reduction, integrating these priorities into its disaster preparedness and resilience-building initiatives. Through Public Awareness and Public Education (PAPE) campaigns on disaster risk reduction, the Malawi Red Cross Society reached a total of 162,075 people, highlighting the connections between environmental degradation, climate change, and increased disaster risk. These efforts helped promote sustainable environmental practices and improved community preparedness for climate-related hazards.

Tree planting was a key activity during this period, with the Malawi Red Cross Society facilitating the planting of 160,789 trees across multiple districts. Notable achievements included 51,633 trees planted in Phalombe under the Climate Change Adaptation project and 18,500 in Nsanje, both aimed at rehabilitating degraded land and protecting riverbanks. An additional 11,050 trees, planted earlier in areas such as Mchinji, Dedza, Zomba, and Lilongwe, are being maintained with an average survival rate of 75 per cent. The National Society planted 12,986 trees in Chikwawa, while communities in Phalombe and Blantyre voluntarily planted another 6,620 trees.

Moreover, the Malawi Red Cross Society is preparing to implement Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) sessions that incorporate environmental conservation and sustainable building practices. Collectively, these interventions have strengthened environmental stewardship and climate adaptation at the community level, contributing to long-term resilience and ecological sustainability.

### IFRC network joint support

The **IFRC** assisted the Malawi Red Cross Society in promotion of community-led solutions to address climate-related challenges, improve behaviours and promote climate action.

The **Danish Red Cross** also supported the National Society in implementing a range of initiatives aimed at reforestation, biodiversity protection, and climate risk awareness.



## Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Malawi](#).

In 2024, one IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Funds ([IFRC-DREF](#)) was approved for flooding in Malawi.

<b>NAME OF THE OPERATION</b>	<a href="#">Malawi Population Movement</a>
<b>MDR-CODE</b>	<a href="#">MDRMW022</a>
<b>DURATION</b>	7 months (11 February 2025 to 30 November 2025)
<b>FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>	CHF 499,942
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	14,877 people

The DREF allocation of CHF 499,942 in February 2025 supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in assisting 14,877 people affected by the population movement. Following the October 2024 elections in Mozambique, thousands of asylum seekers fled to Malawi, with most eventually repatriated despite challenging conditions. The influx strained local resources, damaged water infrastructure, and overwhelmed schools and health services in host communities. With humanitarian support now withdrawn and the camp closed, urgent action is needed to restore essential services and strengthen community resilience against future displacement.

## Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the first half of 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society enhanced its disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts across Malawi, supported by partners including IFRC, ECHO, Danish Red Cross, FICAP, CREWS, and WFP. Following Tropical Cyclone Chido, which affected over 46,017 people in 23 districts, the Malawi Red Cross Society provided multipurpose cash assistance to 8,875 households: 1,961 households received MK80,000 each through IFRC, 2,050 households received MK100,000 each from the Danish Red Cross, and 3,500 households supported by WFP were mainly asylum seekers in Nsanje. Additionally, anticipatory cash was distributed to 1,028 households in Phalombe and Blantyre ahead of Cyclone Jude, which later affected over 20,000 people in March 2025.

To aid recovery, the Malawi Red Cross Society rehabilitated 57 houses for persons with disabilities under the ECHO-DRIMMIA project using local materials. Disaster preparedness was further strengthened by training 65 Disaster Risk Management Committee members in Restoring Family Links and Search and Rescue, and 100 volunteers in epidemic preparedness. Early warning messages reached over 1.1 million people, while over 160,000 trees were planted to mitigate climate-related disasters. The Malawi Red Cross Society also prepositioned 300 shelter kits in high-risk areas and coordinated with shelter partners for emergency stock.

Public awareness campaigns reached 162,075 people, and 14,891 children were immunized through targeted measles-rubella vaccination efforts. Blood drives collected 375 units of blood to support emergency health needs. The Malawi Red Cross Society also engaged in national and regional coordination exercises with key stakeholders to improve disaster response capacity, thereby addressing immediate needs and building community resilience for future crises.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in strengthening its efforts in disaster preparedness, response and recovery across the country.



## Health and wellbeing

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society reached over 943,000 people with health promotion messages, largely through van publicity, household visits, and awareness sessions. Outreach clinics were conducted in targeted districts, providing more than 5,500 people with essential services such as immunizations, growth monitoring, and mental health screening. This included mobile outreach support to 35 health facilities across Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Mzimba North under the Saving Lives and Livelihoods project, targeting nearly 385,000 people. The Malawi Red Cross Society also prioritized mental wellbeing, especially in response to Cyclones Chido and Jude, reaching over 25,625 individuals through house-to-house visits, community sensitization, and outreach screening. A total of 573 individuals, including volunteers, staff, and media personnel, were trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), while 998 people received direct services.

In the area of First Aid, the Malawi Red Cross Society trained 831 volunteers in Basic First Aid and conducted 77 coverage sessions in the first quarter. In the second quarter, 13 First Aid training sessions were held across 10 divisions, reaching 386 people, and 49 public event coverages reached an additional 582 individuals. The school First Aid programme expanded to 364 school clubs, engaging 12,000 learners. On blood donation, the Malawi Red Cross Society collected 375 units of blood in collaboration with the Malawi Blood Transfusion Service, with 311 units collected during a campaign in Blantyre under the FICAP project and 64 during World Blood Donor Day in Lilongwe. Sensitization meetings were also held in Kasungu and Mchinji to promote voluntary blood donation.

Under the UNICEF-funded El Niño Response Project, over 80,000 people were reached with integrated hygiene and nutrition messaging. School sanitation improved with the construction of 12 VIP latrines, benefiting approximately 18,000 learners with funding from FCDO and other partners. Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society secured MK88.5 million from NBS/FAM to install a solar-powered water reticulation system at a health facility in Balaka. Through the Ntchisi OVC project, nutritional and educational support was delivered via food, farm inputs, and bursaries, while the School Meals Project in Chitipa supported food distribution and essential utensils in collaboration with local stakeholders.

Institutional coordination was strengthened as the Malawi Red Cross Society participated in 36 national and district-level meetings and technical taskforces related to Health, WASH, and Nutrition. Memoranda of Understanding were drafted

with the District Health Offices in Mangochi and Chikwawa to support integrated outreach. The Malawi Red Cross Society also hosted visits from the AMREF Global Health Security team and Mastercard Foundation to assess outreach progress and participated in planning sessions with Africa CDC on the future of community health programming.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the Malawi Red Cross support in identifying community-led solutions for [epidemics and pandemics](#). The IFRC also supported the National Society's participation in cholera response activities through training and cholera hotspot mapping exercises.



Malawi Red Cross Society volunteer discusses cholera prevention at a home in Mangochi (Photo: IFRC)



## Migration and displacement

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society, under the Population Movement DREF, supported displaced populations affected by unrest in Mozambique, although the scope of the intervention was adjusted following the voluntary repatriation of most asylum seekers. Out of the originally targeted 7,456 individuals, only 756 remained under the Malawi Red Cross Society's support by mid-March 2025. The response included the distribution of multipurpose cash (MK70,000) and essential non-food items such as kitchen sets, solar lamps, buckets, sleeping mats, blankets, and hygiene kits to 336 households. To improve living conditions at Nyamithuthu camp, the Malawi Red Cross Society installed 10 public solar lamps, erected five communal tents, and constructed 18 latrines. Additionally, 3,500 households received 25 kg of maize and MK25,000 each as part of food security efforts.

[WASH](#) and [Protection, Gender, and Inclusion \(PGI\)](#) activities included the distribution of 500 20-litre buckets, 1,200 hygiene kits, and 100 kitchen sets, along with the installation of 10 floodlights for safety. Hygiene and environmental management awareness campaigns reached 5,260 people within and around the camp. Thirty volunteers were trained in risk communication, community engagement, and Psychosocial First Aid. Overall, food and cash assistance reached all 3,836 households (7,456 individuals) before the shift in project scope, with 3,500 households supported with cash through WFP and 336 households through IFRC.

In addition, the Malawi Red Cross Society conducted regular monitoring of host communities and feedback sessions to address evolving needs and ensure effective protection and inclusion. In response to Cyclone Jude, which affected 20,646 people across 11 districts, the Malawi Red Cross Society provided emergency support to 4,883 displaced

individuals (1,019 households), including multipurpose cash distributions, temporary shelter assistance, and health and psychosocial support.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC in collaboration with the participating National Societies, assisted the Malawi Red Cross Society in resource mobilization and monitored implementation of all operations.



## **Values, power and inclusion**

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

The Malawi Red Cross Society incorporated [Community Engagement and Accountability \(CEA\)](#) approaches across its programs to ensure that affected populations were meaningfully involved in decision-making and that their voices informed implementation. A total of 270 volunteers were trained in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), strengthening their capacity to facilitate inclusive and participatory processes. Before beneficiary registration and aid distribution, communities were sensitized on selection criteria and encouraged to share feedback, both in person and through strategically placed suggestion boxes.

To ensure transparency and responsiveness, 20 community feedback meetings were conducted, providing a platform for discussing concerns and closing feedback loops. The Malawi Red Cross Society emphasized two-way communication, particularly during cash and non-food item distributions, where real-time questions and clarifications were addressed to build trust and accountability. Additionally, under Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), 270 staff and volunteers were trained, including on referral pathways, and 15,875 people were reached with PGI-related messaging. Specific efforts to support women and girls included the distribution of menstrual hygiene kits to 1,000 beneficiaries. These integrated efforts ensured that Malawi Red Cross Society programs promoted equity, safety, dignity, and inclusion while remaining accountable to the people they serve.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC provided the necessary financial and technical support to the Malawi Red Cross for the effective implementation of its programmes and activities.

## **ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS**



## **Strategic and operational coordination**

### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

IFRC membership coordination involves working with National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, agree on common priorities and jointly develop common strategies. This includes addressing issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian acceptance and access, mobilizing funding and other resources, clarifying consistent public messaging, and monitoring progress. It also entails ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action while linking with development assistance and contribute to reinforcing National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.

The Malawi Red Cross is part of the four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) focusing on [Tree Planting and Care](#); [Zero Hunger](#); [Red Ready](#) and [National Society Development](#).

The Malawi Red Cross collaborates with IFRC Reference Centres and hubs, including the Red Cross Red Crescent [Climate Centre](#), IFRC [Livelihood Centre](#), [Global First Aid Reference Centre](#), the 510 initiative of the Netherlands Red Cross, the [Cash Hub](#) and the Anticipation Hub. These partnerships provide the Malawi Red Cross with specialized knowledge and resources, strengthening its operational capacity and ensuring effective, community-driven programmes.

The Malawi Red Cross is also being supported by a consortium of in-country participating National Societies. It is led by the **Danish Red Cross**, which works alongside the **Finnish Red Cross**, the **Icelandic Red Cross** and the **Italian Red Cross**. The consortium supports the National Society with shelter initiatives, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) projects and flood recovery support. Other National Societies supporting the Malawi Red Cross include the **Belgian Red Cross**, the **Kuwait Red Crescent**, the **Netherlands Red Cross**, the **Qatar Red Crescent**, and the **Swiss Red Cross**. Specific areas of support include:

The **Finnish Red Cross** has given its support specifically on the election response and [first aid](#).

The **Icelandic Red Cross** has focused on community resilience projects.

The **Swiss Red Cross** has supported work on health, [WASH](#) and blood donor recruitment.

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society received significant support through bilateral and multilateral partnerships from several participating National Societies. These actors funded emergency and recovery operations including the Cholera response, El Niño preparedness and Community Resilience Programmes (COMREP III and FICAP).

In-country participating National Societies coordinated closely under the IFRC network. Joint planning and harmonization of geographic areas of intervention ensured effective resource allocation and avoided duplication. Regular coordination meetings facilitated information sharing and strategic alignment.

### **Movement coordination**

The Malawi Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. During the reporting period, two Movement Coordination meetings brought together the Malawi Red Cross Society, the IFRC, the ICRC and participating National Societies to discuss strategic priorities, operational progress, financial updates and emergency response models. A shared response framework for Tropical Cyclone Freddy and Cholera ensured cohesive technical support and implementation across districts. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

**The ICRC** has no permanent presence in Malawi but makes regular visits to support restoring family links ([RFL](#)) services in emergencies.

### **External coordination**

Throughout 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society reinforced its auxiliary role to public authorities and expanded its coordination with key stakeholders to deliver humanitarian assistance effectively. The Malawi Red Cross Society worked closely with government agencies, the IFRC network, UN bodies, INGOs, academic institutions and private sector actors to strengthen disaster response and resilience initiatives.

The Malawi Red Cross Society maintained strong collaboration with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and the Ministry of Health, actively participating in national response platforms including the Humanitarian Country Team and Cluster coordination meetings (health, WASH, protection, shelter and disaster risk reduction). The National Society contributed to joint planning, assessments and implementation of emergency responses for Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the Cholera outbreak and El Niño impacts. The Malawi Red Cross Society also supported the government in launching national frameworks, including Malawi's Suicide Prevention Strategy and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support ([MHPSS](#)) Guidelines.

The Malawi Red Cross Society, the IFRC, and Movement partners continued active engagement in inter-agency platforms such as the UN Humanitarian Coordination Team and the National Protection Cluster. These collaborations ensured harmonized humanitarian responses, with the Malawi Red Cross Society acting as a key local implementer and contributor to joint needs assessments and anticipatory action planning.

The Malawi Red Cross Society partnered with international organizations including UNICEF, WHO, USAID, Africa CDC, ECHO and UNHCR. These partnerships supported multi-sectoral interventions in health, [WASH](#), protection, and disaster risk reduction. USAID's Partnership Incubator supported the Malawi Red Cross Society institutional strengthening, preparing the National Society for future direct funding. A USAID field visit in September confirmed its administrative and financial readiness, with final recommendations under implementation.

The Malawi Red Cross Society collaborated with local NGOs, faith-based organizations, community-based structures and private sector partners to implement grassroots initiatives. It worked with academic institutions on research, evaluations and training, particularly in MHPSS, climate resilience and anticipatory action. Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society strengthened community systems through WASH committees, local volunteer networks and public-school partnerships.

The Malawi Red Cross Society mobilized resources through both international donors and domestic fundraising efforts. International support included funding from IFRC Emergency Appeals, DREF, bilateral agreements and multilateral consortia. Domestically, the Malawi Red Cross Society pursued partnerships with private sector actors and initiated community-level fundraising activities. Institutional fundraising capacity was further strengthened through policy updates and staff training.

Under the Tropical Cyclone Freddy Response Operation, the Malawi Red Cross Society coordinated closely with DoDMA, UN agencies and Movement partners. The IFRC surge mechanism supported the National Society in all operational districts, aligning with a joint response framework. For the El Niño response, the Malawi Red Cross Society implemented anticipatory actions in coordination with the government and humanitarian partners. The multipurpose cash assistance was delivered through the Danish Red Cross funding, targeting over 700 households. These coordinated efforts across sectors and stakeholders have significantly enhanced the National Society's capacity to deliver timely, localized and people-centred humanitarian action.



## National Society development

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society continued to strengthen its institutional capacity through a range of National Society Development initiatives aligned with its development plan, focusing on leadership, volunteer management, branch strengthening, and resource mobilization. Leadership and governance were enhanced through regular planning and review meetings, while collaboration with district structures and stakeholders such as District Councils, Health Offices, and Disaster Risk Management Committees reinforced its auxiliary role.

Volunteer capacity was built through training 750 volunteers in integrated cholera management across 15 districts, as well as targeted training in First Aid, Psychosocial Support, Risk Communication, and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI). Over 270 volunteers received training in community engagement and PGI, improving frontline service delivery. School-based programming expanded to 364 First Aid clubs, engaging 12,288 learners nationwide.

To improve financial sustainability, the Malawi Red Cross Society advanced the construction of its Blantyre office to support long-term resource mobilization. External coordination was strengthened through new MoUs with District Health Offices, supporting integrated outreach clinics. Participation in regional and global events further promoted peer learning and exchange.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC, along with the **Danish Red Cross** and **Belgian Red Cross**, supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in strengthening institutional capacity, with a focus on leadership development, volunteer management, and branch coordination. The IFRC also provided technical assistance in finance, logistics, and disaster preparedness. Collaboration with District Health Offices in Mangochi and Chikwawa enhanced outreach health services, while the Malawi Red Cross Society also engaged in regional learning platforms.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society enhanced its visibility and public engagement through targeted communication and advocacy activities, using both digital and traditional media to share key health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), disaster preparedness and response messages with broad audiences. The National Society leveraged events such

as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, World Blood Donor Day and disaster response missions to highlight its humanitarian work and mobilize public support.

Media personnel were trained in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to ensure responsible reporting during emergencies, and partnerships with media houses and journalists were strengthened, especially during responses to Cyclones Chido and Jude and the El Niño response.

On advocacy, the National Society participated in national and regional platforms to influence policy on community health, climate change, and disaster risk reduction, and collaborated with partners such as UNICEF, IFRC, Africa CDC, AMREF, and various ministries to reinforce its auxiliary role.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC**, together with the **Danish Red Cross** and **Belgian Red Cross**, supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in enhancing its visibility and public engagement through joint communication efforts, training, and the development of visibility materials. Partnerships with UNICEF, Africa CDC and AMREF further strengthened advocacy around community health, climate change, and disaster risk reduction. Strategic media collaborations and trained journalists amplified the Malawi Red Cross Society's messaging during major emergencies such as Cyclones Chido and Jude. These efforts boosted public trust, donor confidence and recognition of the National Society's humanitarian mandate.



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

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### **Progress by the National Society against objectives**

During the first half of 2025, the Malawi Red Cross Society strengthened institutional accountability and operational agility. Key achievements included training 573 staff, volunteers, and media personnel in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), emphasizing staff well-being and safety during disaster responses like cyclones Chido and Jude. Transparent financial management enabled the effective delivery of multipurpose cash assistance to over 8,000 households.

The National Society enhanced planning, monitoring, and reporting through timely submissions, participation in regional exercises, and national coordination meetings. Risk management was improved by prepositioning shelter and WASH supplies and digitizing contingency plans and disaster risk maps. Supply chain capacity was strengthened with warehouse management and prepositioned relief stocks, especially in Blantyre.

Innovation was embedded in community interventions, such as solar-powered water systems and hybrid public engagement strategies. Environmental sustainability was promoted through tree planting and school-based climate education.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided support to the Malawi Red Cross Society in enhancing its institutional accountability and agility through targeted capacity building in mental health and psychosocial support, transparent cash assistance to over 8,000 households, and strengthened financial and risk management systems. The IFRC also played a key role in supporting contingency planning, improving supply chain readiness, and advancing the digitalization of disaster management tools.

## **Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)**

*See cover pages*

## **Q5. PARTICIPATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR AFFECTED PEOPLE – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

*See Strategic Priority on 'Values, power and inclusion' under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION*

## **Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

*This information is not available in Mid-Year Reports*

## **Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

*See Strategic Priorities or Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION*

## **Q8. LESSONS LEARNED**

The Malawi Red Cross Society identified several key lessons to inform future programming. Early engagement and coordination with local governance structures proved essential for building community trust and ensuring smooth implementation, while formal agreements with District Health Offices helped integrate health and WASH activities with government systems and avoid duplication. Flexibility in resource allocation and cross-sectoral programming during cyclone and displacement responses enabled more holistic support, prompting the National Society to adopt this integrated approach in future emergency planning. However, delays in funding and logistics highlighted the need to decentralize operations and preposition supplies at the district level. The phase-out of major USAID-funded projects underscored the risks of overreliance on donor funding, leading the Malawi Red Cross Society to prioritize local resource mobilization and diversify funding, including private sector partnerships. School-based initiatives, such as First Aid clubs and feeding programmes, demonstrated strong impacts on health and resilience, encouraging deeper collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Regular feedback sessions with communities and staff improved adaptive programming, and the National Society plans to enhance post-distribution monitoring and beneficiary feedback, including digital tools. Ongoing evaluations, including reviews of cyclone responses and unsuccessful proposals, will inform the new National Society Development Plan and future strategies.

## SUCCESS STORIES



1

### Locally Led Anticipatory Interventions In Blantyre

Communities whose areas are disaster-prone in Blantyre have hailed the Malawi Red Cross Society initiative to empower them and think about how to reduce the impacts of disasters through the implementation of activities suitable for the area's needs.

In Ndirande, Blantyre city, Umodzi and Mzati groups clear waterways by disposing of wastes, and also cover houses at risk of collapsing, with plastic paper, as a way of preparedness in case of disasters. 190 houses have this far been covered, where beneficiaries have thanked the Red Cross. "Our house was at the verge of collapsing; my family and I were very worried until Mzati group from Red Cross covered our house. We are humbled, we just as if they can think beyond this by constructing a new and strong house that could last for years" said 55-year-old Frackson Mbiya as 40-year-old Adines Funsani also thanked Red Cross for this initiative.

Community leaders like village head Gamulani say his subjects are well prepared to prevent disasters. "This past Tropical Cyclone Jude spared us in this area. We used to have incidences of houses collapsing but now it is history, as many houses were protected by covering with the black sheet paper," said Gamulani.

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs through its Deputy Director Responsible for Disaster Preparedness, Fedson Chikuse, has since asked for an increase in the number of areas once the pilot phase is done. "This initiative by Red Cross needs to cover a wider target, Phalombe and Blantyre are part of those key disaster-prone areas, and lessons learnt in this pilot phase would ably help on next steps forward to ensure more are benefiting", said Chikuse, while thanking Red Cross for the locally-led solutions on Anticipatory action activities.

## 2

### **Saving Lives And Livelihood Project Creating More Demand - Volunteers Playing A Role**

In the most remote and hard-to-reach Chibvala Health Centre in Blantyre, more and more community members are showing up to get vaccination. This is through a Saving Lives and Livelihood Project that Malawi Red Cross Society is implementing with financial and technical support from Africa CDC and the MasterCard Foundation in partnership with the Ministry of Health, AMREF, UNICEF and other stakeholders through the IFRC.



# ANNEX 1. IFRC APPLICATION OF THE 8+3 REPORTING TEMPLATE

The IFRC network structures its result-based management along five Strategic priorities and four Enabling functions, developed based on the IFRC network's [Strategy 2030](#):

IFRC network Strategic Priorities	IFRC network Enabling Functions
SP 1 - Climate and environment	EF 1- Strategic and operational coordination
SP 2 - Disasters and crises	EF 2 - National Society development
SP 3 - Health and wellbeing	EF 3 - Humanitarian diplomacy
SP 4 - Migration and displacement	EF 4 - Accountability and agility
SP 5 - Values, power and inclusion	

The Federation-wide results matrix provides a standard way for the IFRC network to measure its progress towards Strategy 2030 implementation and supports consistent quality of the IFRC network planning, monitoring and reporting. To further advance coherence in monitoring across the IFRC network, a [Federation-wide Indicator Bank](#) has been developed and integrated into the Federation-wide monitoring systems for emergencies and longer-term work, structured along the Federation-wide results matrix as well. Signatory of the Grand Bargain Agreement, the IFRC has committed to its monitoring and reporting standards through integration of the [8+3 reporting template](#) contents into its results-based management approach. The following mapping demonstrate the way in which this report aligns with 8+3 reporting:

8+3 template	IFRC network Mid-Year Report (with variance in structure in red)
<b>Core Questions</b>	
1. Overall Performance	Overall Performance
2. Changes and Amendments	Changes and amendments
3. Measuring Results	Measuring Results
4. Affected Persons	Cover pages with indicators values
5. Participation & AAP	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 5: Values, power and inclusion – Community Engagement and Accountability
6. Risk management	Risk management
7. Exit Strategy and Sustainability	Under Q3 sub-sections by Strategic Priority/Enabling Function where relevant
8. Lessons Learned	Lessons learned
<b>Additional Questions</b>	
1. Value for Money/ Cost Effectiveness	Not included in mid-year reports
2. Visibility	Not included in mid-year reports
3. Coordination	Under Q3 Enabling Function 1: Strategic and operational coordination
4. Implementing Partners	Cross-cutting, with a focus on support to localization through the Q3 Enabling Functions 1 to 4
5. Activities or Steps Towards implementation	Cross-cutting in Q3 Strategic Priorities and Enabling Functions
6. Environment	Under Q3 Strategic Priority 1: Climate and environment



## **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 2025. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2025 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
  - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
  - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
  - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- **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) 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.
- **Definitions:**
  - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
  - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [MW\\_Malawi MYR Financials](#) (Note: For emergencies for which a financial report is not yet available, see [MDRS1005](#) and [MDRMW022](#))
- [IFRC network country plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [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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