



MALAWI

2026-2028 IFRC network country plan



22 January 2026

In support of the Malawi Red Cross Society



33

National Society branches



2,150

National Society local units



272

National Society staff



85,600

National Society volunteers

People to be reached in 2026



600,000

Ongoing emergency operations



665,000

Climate and environment



1.7M

Disasters and crises



1.9M

Health and wellbeing



320,000

Migration and Displacement



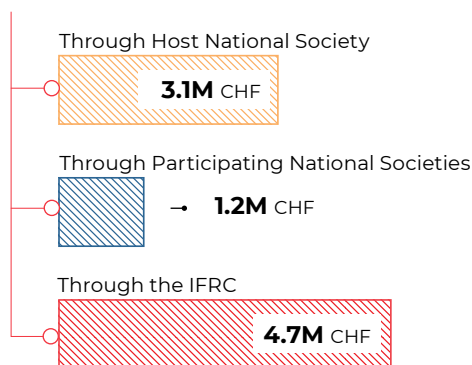
1.3M

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network Funding Requirements

2026

Total 9M CHF



2027

Total 14.5M CHF

2028

17.4M CHF

Projected funding requirements

Participating National Societies

- American Red Cross*
- Belgian Red Cross
- British Red Cross*
- Canadian Red Cross Society*
- Danish Red Cross
- Icelandic Red Cross
- Saudi Red Crescent Authority*
- Swedish Red Cross*

**National Societies which have contributed only multilaterally through the IFRC in 2025.*

IFRC Appeal codes

Emergency Appeal:

MDRS1005 (MDRMW021)

Tropical Cyclone Chido

Longer-term needs:

MAAMW003

Hazards



Tropical Storms



Disease Outbreak



Floods



Food Insecurity



Droughts

IFRC network multi-year focus

Emergency response

Tropical Cyclone

Longer term needs

- Disaster risk reduction and response
 - Food security and livelihoods
- Health, water, sanitation and hygiene
 - Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Volunteer management
- Resource mobilization

Key country data links

INFORM Severity rating

High

INFORM Climate Change Risk Index

Medium

Human Development Index rank

172

World Bank Population figure

21.7M

World Bank Population below poverty line

50.7%



Cyclone Freddy, economic shocks, and repeated kwacha devaluations have left over 4.4 million people in Malawi facing severe hunger (Photo: IFRC)

Detailed funding requirements

| | 2026 | | 2027 | | 2028 | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| | Host National Society | IFRC | Host National Society | IFRC | Host National Society | IFRC |
| Ongoing emergency | | NA | <i>(Note: Funding requirements for MDRS1005 (MDRMW021) is not available)</i> | | | |
| Longer-term needs | | | | | | |
| Climate and environment | | 1M | 2.5M | 1M | 3.3M | 1M |
| Disasters & crises | 934,000 | 1M | 2.5M | 1M | 3.3M | 1M |
| Health & wellbeing | 763,000 | 1M | 2.5M | 1M | 3.3M | 1M |
| Migration & displacement | 3,000 | 100,000 | | 100,000 | | 100,000 |
| Values, power & inclusion | | 700,000 | 720,000 | 700,000 | 936,000 | 9,000 |
| Enabling local actors | 1.4M | 863,000 | 2M | 800,000 | 1.9M | 700,000 |
| Total | 3.1M | 4.7M | 9.7M | 4.6M | 12.6M | 4.6M |

Participating National Societies bilateral support

| National Society | Year | Funding Requirement | Confirmed Funding | Climate and environment | Disasters and crises | Health and wellbeing | Migration and displacement | Values, power and inclusion | Enabling Functions |
|---------------------|------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Belgian Red Cross | 2026 | 70,000 | 70,000 | - | | | | | |
| Danish Red Cross | 2026 | 946,000 | 988,000 | - | - | - | | - | - |
| Icelandic Red Cross | 2026 | 174,000 | | | | 174,000 | | | |
| | 2027 | 182,000 | | | | 182,000 | | | |
| | 2028 | 200,000 | | | | 200,000 | | | |

See back page for explanatory note on funding requirements

IFRC NETWORK ACTION

JOINT SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Malawi is split by the Great Rift Valley in the North and the mass of Lake Malawi, with its amazing biodiversity running from North to South. The area of the country is 118,480 square kilometres; however, the length of the country makes access and logistics more difficult. The capital city is Lilongwe, and the other main cities include Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu. Malawi has a population of over 21 million people, ranking it 62nd out of 196 countries for population density. The total population is increasing by approximately three per cent per year due to a fertility rate of 3.7 births per woman. The population is expected to double by 2038.

Malawi is a peaceful country and has had stable governments since independence in 1964. One-party rule ended in Malawi in 1993, and since then, multi-party presidential and parliamentary elections have been held every five years. The most recent presidential elections were held in September 2025.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and is ranked 169 out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI), making it one of the world's least developed countries. This slower level of development is due in part to its landlocked position, poor utilization of natural resources, over reliance on rain-fed agriculture and low levels of social and technical innovation. Despite implementing significant economic and structural reforms to build economic growth (the country moved up by 45 per cent in the HDI ranking in the past 30 years), the economy remains heavily dependent on rain-fed agriculture. Between 80 per cent to 90 per cent of the population, primarily residing in rural areas, live on overcrowded plots and grow subsistence crops. This makes them extremely vulnerable to disasters, particularly climatic shocks and yield is low, with hunger and malnutrition widespread.

The economic situation has worsened, in part due to COVID-19, but also due to inflation rates which continue to rise in 2022 from 12 per cent in January to around 28 per cent as of August 2023. This is due to rising global commodity prices, fuel costs, the impact of the conflict in Ukraine, the depreciation of the kwacha and evolving economic conditions. This also means that food inflation has risen to 39 per cent as of July 2023 due to increases in maize prices and non-food inflation has risen to 16 per cent due to global commodity price increases.

Malawi is prone to disease outbreaks and faced a significant cholera outbreak in 2022 and 2023, which infected almost 27,000 people nationwide, killing 881. The country also faces major climate change and environmental challenges, and recent high temperatures and weather extremes are having a serious impact on environmental ecosystems. In March 2023, Tropical Storm Freddy struck southern Malawi, delivering 300-400mm of rainfall within the first 48 hours. This brought sudden, violent and destructive flash floods and landslides, causing severe devastation, the destruction of livelihoods and loss of life. Deforestation, limited water supply, old farming practices (that cause soil erosion and reduced yields) and declining fisheries create further challenges. There is also limited institutional capacity to manage Malawi's natural resources.

While the Government of Malawi is committed to making reforms that would advance the country's development, poverty remains a persistent challenger. The 2063 Vision, launched in 2021, has been developed through an inclusive and participatory multi-stakeholder consultative process at a time when the country has made progress in a number of areas, such as reduced maternal and child mortality rate, increased primary school enrolment ratio, reduced prevalence of HIV/AIDS, increased life expectancy and improved uptake of technology use, especially mobile phone technology.

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Emergency Appeal name | Africa – Cyclone Chido |
| IFRC Emergency Appeal code | MDRS1005 (MDRMW021) |
| People to be assisted | 600,000 |
| Duration | 18 months (6 December 2024 to 30 June 2026) |
| Funding requirements | Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 10 million IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 6 million |
| Link to Emergency Appeal | Africa Cyclone Chido Emergency Appeal |
| Link to Operational Strategy | Africa Cyclone Chido Operational Strategy |
| Link to Operational update | Operational Update No. 3 |

The Southwest Indian Ocean region faced an early and above-average cyclone season, marked by destructive systems that significantly impacted multiple countries. Tropical Cyclone Chido was the first major cyclone, intensifying into a category 4 equivalent on 11 December 2024 with sustained winds of 220 km/h and gusts up to 250 km/h. Across affected areas, Chido caused at least 142 confirmed deaths and over 3,300 injuries, including 13 fatalities in Malawi. In addition to cyclone damage, Malawi endured widespread flooding and heavy rains during the same period, affecting more than 41,900 households (approximately 188,540 people) and displacing thousands, particularly in Southern and Central districts. Flash floods in Karonga District in March further compounded the situation, leaving 39 people dead and 469 injured nationwide.

The humanitarian situation deteriorated when Tropical Cyclone Jude entered Malawi on 10 March 2025, striking 11 districts mainly in the Southern and Central regions, with Phalombe most affected. According to the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), Jude impacted 20,646 people and displaced 4,883 individuals, while additional reports indicate at least 32,692 people were affected, with 792 households displaced, two deaths, one missing person and ten injuries. Public infrastructure, including schools, health facilities, bridges and roads, sustained damage. The Government of Malawi, through DoDMA, coordinated relief efforts with UN agencies, the Malawi Red Cross Society and humanitarian partners, providing cash and in-kind support. These successive disasters exacerbated vulnerabilities and strained limited resources as communities were still recovering from Cyclone Chido.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The core of this Operational Strategy was to respond to the immediate devastation caused by successive Tropical Cyclones following Chido while building resilience for anticipated future

storms. This involved a two-pronged approach, of immediate relief and long-term preparedness. The immediate response targeted 168,200 people in Madagascar, Comoros, Mozambique and Malawi, focusing on Shelter, multi-purpose cash assistance, livelihoods, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). This included providing emergency shelter and essential household items (EHIs), first aid, clean water, hygiene kits and protection for vulnerable groups. Country specific plans were drafted to provide additional detail for the focus of each National Society.

For the period [16 December 2024 to 30 June 2025](#), the following assistance was provided by the Malawi Red Cross Society:

Shelter, housing and settlements

Essential household items and cash assistance were provided to affected communities.

Livelihoods

Multi-purpose cash assistance was provided to households affected by Tropical Cyclone Chido as well as Tropical Cyclone Jude.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Volunteers were trained in PGI and child safeguarding and relief items were distributed to vulnerable populations.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Feedback mechanisms were explained to communities that received cash and essential household items.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

The position of Malawi as a land-locked country in southern Africa, has made it particularly vulnerable to changing climate patterns and weather shocks. A scarcity of land resources, rampant poverty and a growing population are continuing to intensify the pressure on natural resources, while heavier but less predictable rains, hotter weather and extended dry periods are making planting and harvesting more difficult. In recent years, there has been a notable increase in deforestation, coupled with a growing scarcity of water resources for communities, affecting their ability to sustain both agricultural activities and daily life.

With most livelihoods dependent on agriculture, Malawians are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate-related shocks and stresses. Subsistence farming practices also contribute to soil erosion and diminish productivity of available farmland, resulting in decreased crop yields for subsistence farmers and increasing food insecurity. This has been exacerbated by recent recurring droughts followed by intense periods of flooding, both of which have affected communities' homes and crops. Malawi continues to experience increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, including floods, droughts and strong winds linked to tropical cyclones such as Idai (2019), Ana and Gombe (2022), Freddy (2023), Chido (2024) and Jude (2025).

Lake Malawi is a mainstay for the country and its economy. However, changing climate, over-fishing and pollution have led to declining fish stocks, which are projected to impact the biodiversity of the area and the livelihoods of the communities who are dependent on it. Relying on small parcels of densely cultivated land for their livelihoods, rural Malawians are highly affected by climate change. Episodes of drought as well as severe flooding are increasing in frequency, intensity and unpredictability, giving the most vulnerable households inadequate time to recover. The most recent severe event, Cyclone Freddy, affected over 2.2 million people and caused extensive displacement and loss of life.

Specifically, in the past few years, Malawi has been prone to several severe weather shocks from tropical storms and cyclones, associated with large scale flooding. Beyond their humanitarian impact (see under disasters and crisis section), the storms have had a major impact on the country's infrastructure, agricultural productivity and economy. In 2023, Cyclone Freddy caused significant economic losses estimated at about USD 500 million. Additionally, the cyclone exacerbated the cholera crisis in Malawi. The cumulative effect of these heavy storm seasons, projected to increase because of climate

change, heightens the likelihood of poverty and food insecurity while decreasing the resilience of the population. Consecutive shocks, including El Niño in 2024 and subsequent cyclones, continue to limit recovery efforts and increase vulnerability.

This ongoing climactic pressure cannot be managed by short-term humanitarian funding but requires longer-term environmental and infrastructure development and management. With around 18 per cent of Malawians now living in cities, there is growing pressure on the limited urban infrastructure and systems, with overpopulation and pollution putting pressure on urban areas. Rising temperatures and scarcity of water are expected to lead to deteriorating living conditions and sanitation within these impoverished urban environments.

Climate change and environmental sustainability are anchored in several frameworks in Malawi, such as the National Resilience Strategy, National Climate Change Environmental policy, Disaster Risk Management Policy and National Adaptation Plan. Transitioning to a green economy in Malawi presents significant challenges, threatening the environmental sustainability of the country and its ability to manage or adapt to climate challenges, thereby jeopardizing the sustainability of its land resources. The Government aims to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030, and 1.3 million hectares have been restored so far. The planting of 60 million trees in Malawi will be a giant step towards achieving this goal. The authorities are also developing the Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project, which aims to promote sustainable landscape management practices in priority watersheds and improve rural livelihoods. Malawi ranks among the most climate-vulnerable countries globally, with projections indicating increasing severity of future shocks and deepening impacts on vulnerable households.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malawi Red Cross Society is part of the IFRC Global Climate Resilience Programme, which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate-vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts

of climate change; (3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The Malawi Red Cross Society will seek to integrate climate risk management across all programmes, operations and advocacy. It works along the following high-level objectives:

- Engage an increased number of communities in sustainable environmental management and livelihood interventions
- Involve an increased number of households in climate smart agriculture practices and tree planting initiatives
- Improve biodiversity conservation through forest management and restoration
- Support the development and dissemination of national policies addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Support the government to implement climate resilient development addressing water, air and soil pollution and facilitating climate smart agriculture

Planned activities in 2026

- Promote crop diversification (drought tolerant and early maturing), agroforestry and use of manure
- Revamp irrigation scheme/clubs by lobbying for the construction and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes
- Promote irrigation farming including capacity building, rehabilitation of small irrigation schemes and provision of equipment such as water pumps
- Sensitize the communities about food budgeting and promote kitchen gardens

- Promote livestock production through pass on programme
- Lobby for the rehabilitation of roads to facilitate easy access to markets for agricultural produce
- Lobby for the construction of factories that maximize on the availability of fruits and other perishable foods such as tomato and mangoes
- Facilitate production of paper briquettes and use energy saving stoves
- Facilitate locally acceptable climate adaptation interventions and [nature-based solutions](#) e.g. training volunteers and communities in establishment of community woodlots; planting vetiver grass
- Train farm clubs, lead farmers and volunteers as trainers in [climate smart](#) agriculture/livelihoods/SHAPE

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will assist the Malawi Red Cross Society in promotion of community-led solutions to address climate-related challenges, improve behaviours and promote climate action. It will help the National Society get strategic partnerships that support sustainable environmental actions. The IFRC will support the National Society's programming to enable it to participate in the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care](#) initiative.

Participating National Societies will support the National Society with capacity building, funding and supervision.



Disasters and crises

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

Malawi continues to face the risk of both natural hazards and man-made disasters, particularly the growing impact of [storms, flooding and droughts](#). In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted economic activities and led to loss of many lives. The compounded effects have heavily impacted the lives and means of those already afflicted, weakening their ability to bounce back. Moreover, the hot and arid conditions, particularly during the lean season, have [heightened pressure](#) on regions already struggling with food insecurity. This includes increasing impacts from recurrent tropical cyclones and storms such as Idai (2019), Ana and Gombe (2022), Freddy (2023), Chido (2024) and Jude (2025), which have cumulatively eroded resilience.

Malawi is experiencing a growing humanitarian impact, particularly in areas affected by tropical cyclones and tropical storms. An estimated 975,000 people were affected by [Tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019](#). The major disaster event that followed was Tropical Storm Ana in January 2022 which passed through many districts of Southern Malawi, leaving devastation in its wake. According to the government's Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), [over 945,000 people](#) were affected and needed urgent, life-saving assistance, support for livelihoods restoration and to recover from heavy losses. Heavy rains and flooding caused damage to homes, farmland, and infrastructure, affecting [115,388 hectares](#) (including cropland), with more than 34,000 livestock injured or killed. The impact of tropical storm Ana also displaced around 6,500 people. This was followed by tropical storm Gombe, which hit the same regions in March, causing compounding to the damage and hardship of those already affected and recovering from Ana. In 2023, Tropical Storm Freddy made landfall, exacerbating the challenges faced by the already strained districts (see also under ongoing emergency response section). Subsequent events such as Tropical Cyclone Chido in 2024 and Tropical Cyclone Jude in 2025 further strained communities already struggling to recover from previous shocks. This series of adverse weather events weakened the resilience of vulnerable communities even further.

Other hazards include landslides, fires and epidemics, while political protests also pose a risk to the safety of the people who participate and nearby communities. The impact of such events is exacerbated in an environment where approximately half the population are living below the poverty line. Droughts and prolonged dry spells—linked to El Niño—are also becoming more frequent and severe, especially in districts such as Karonga, Salima, Zomba and the Shire Valley, further worsening food insecurity.

The Malawi Government established a National Disaster Risk Management Policy in 2015. This led to the establishment of the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and strengthened the country's readiness for disasters and

disaster risk management. To further reduce exposure to risk, the Government also maintains a National Contingency Plan, which includes plans to address the impacts of floods, dry spells, disease outbreaks, pest infestation, strong winds and stormy rains. The Government has emphasized the importance of transitioning from relief to resilience, while addressing the root causes of food insecurity, with the aim of scaling up interventions focused on integrated resilience. The Malawi Red Cross Society continues to align its disaster preparedness and response actions with Government frameworks, supporting implementation through its volunteer network and community-level engagement.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

In its position as an auxiliary to the public authorities, the Malawi Red Cross Society is a key responder to humanitarian emergencies. It has worked with the government to strengthen the legal and policy framework for [disaster risk management](#), which is critical to reducing disasters and climate risks, and building sustainable resilience.

The Malawi Red Cross Society will continue to focus on preparedness and readiness to respond to shocks, enhancing community risk reduction and resilience. This includes [early warning, early action](#) and anticipation to mitigate risks from multi-hazards affecting the lives, the livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard to reach communities.

It will prioritize the implementation of the following high-level objectives:

- Respond to and support recovery from crises and disasters
- Facilitate preparedness and capacity building processes such as preparedness for effective response ([PER](#)), [anticipatory actions](#) and the development of [early action protocols](#), multi-hazard contingency plans and cash preparedness and logistics
- Facilitate adoption of new legal instruments related to [disaster law](#)
- Provide [shelter](#) and urban strategies which include city-level coordination, partnerships with development actors and actionable municipal contingency and response plans

The Malawi Red Cross Society also aims to develop a more holistic approach to food security, in alignment with the [IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative](#). This aims to deliver rapid support for food and nutrition security and livelihoods,

alongside a long-term strategy that works towards zero hunger and more sustainable development.

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop and review of multi-hazard contingency plans and develop early action protocols (EAP)
- Support the access, understanding, dissemination and use of seasonal forecast at national, district and community level
- Facilitate dissemination of community weather forecast and [early warning](#) and [anticipatory action](#) activities
- Expand collaboration with community-based organizations for risk identification, mapping, [vulnerability, impact and capacity assessments](#) and mitigation
- Support affected people with essential household items and cash delivery through financial services providers
- Orient stakeholders, staff, volunteers and communities on disaster response, assessments and distribution processes and early warning systems, including simulations, participatory approach on safe shelter awareness ([PASSA](#)) and disaster response protocols
- Support the establishment and training of village savings and loan (VSL) groups, collaborate with community-based organizations for risk assessments, and support small-scale businesses to build local resilience
- Engage stakeholders on the [disaster risk management Act](#) and cash-based approaches and participate in coordination platforms such as cash technical working groups and shelter clusters
- Establish and train early warning teams, procure and distribute early warning systems equipment and create hazard maps using participatory geographic information systems (PGIS) approaches
- Support to participate in Cholera response activities through ORP trainings, participation at sub-national Cholera hotspot mapping exercises.

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

IFRC mechanisms such as the Disaster Response Emergency Fund ([IFRC-DREF](#)) and Emergency Appeals will be drawn on as needed for the National Society to respond to disasters and crises. In 2025, the IFRC provided DREF allocations for two emergencies and a simplified Early Action Protocol.

[IFRC-DREF Malawi Food Insecurity](#): the [DREF](#) allocation of CHF 999,910 in October 2025 is supporting the Malawi Red Cross Society to assist 45,000 people impacted by a severe food security crisis in the Southern Region of Malawi. The National Society is supporting the targeted people over a nine-month period through interventions such as distribution of agricultural inputs along with training in good agricultural practices, provision of cash assistance, community-based health and nutrition complemented by awareness sessions focused on hygiene.

The IFRC also approved a [DREF Pluvial Floods Simplified Early Action Protocol](#) in 2025, in support of the National Society. This will enable the National Society to utilize an immediate allocation of CHF 219,287 to implement early actions once triggers are met. The actions which include readiness and prepositioning of stocks are meant to support up to 12,500 people during an early action timeframe of three months. The protocol is meant to be in place for two years.

The IFRC, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will help the National Society design and support early warning and early action initiatives. It will also help National Society in implementing the IFRC Pan Africa Zero Hunger Initiative and build its capacity in cash and voucher assistance (CVA). The IFRC will provide guidance, training and tools to strengthen community early warning, preparedness and response plans.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Malawi Red Cross Society by strengthening early warning and early action systems, building capacity in cash and voucher assistance, and supporting community-led epidemic control efforts. They also help enhance preparedness and response planning through guidance, training, and tools, and contribute to cholera prevention and response initiatives alongside national and sub-national authorities.



Over 4.4 million people in Malawi face hunger as economic shocks and repeated kwacha devaluations drive up prices and worsen food insecurity (Photo:IFRC)



Over the last two decades, Malawi has made significant progress in improving its health indicators by focusing on the improved delivery of essential health services, achieving [Millennium Development Goal 4](#) on child survival and [reducing maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS infections](#) by 73 per cent and 41 per cent respectively since 2003. However, challenges persist, with HIV/AIDS affecting almost [9.6 per cent](#) of the population, high maternal mortality ratios (MMR) and [under five mortality rates](#). The country experienced a [Wild Polio outbreak in 2022](#) and undertook strong measures to re-immunize its child population. Malawi also experiences high levels of [malnutrition](#), particularly chronic malnutrition and stunting affecting 37 per cent of children under five. Despite progress, climate-related shocks—such as Cyclone Freddy in 2023 and Cyclone Chido in 2024—have disrupted health services and worsened outbreaks, including cholera and food insecurity.

Among key challenges facing Malawi, however, is the capacity and quality of its health infrastructure and systems marked by challenges such as inadequate qualified health workers and local health facilities. Addressing the health needs of marginalized groups, especially women and young people are a recognized priority, with a focus on family planning services, to mitigate [high fertility rates](#). The health system continues to face strain from recurrent emergencies, including recent mpox cases recorded in 2025.

With over one million people living with [HIV](#), Malawi faces approximately 34,000 new infections a year, disproportionately affecting women and leaving approximately 770,000 children orphaned. Initiatives including the emergency plan for AIDS relief (PEPFAR) aim to mitigate the social and economic impacts of the disease, particularly among vulnerable youth.

In February 2022, Malawi's Ministry of Health reported a confirmed case of [Type 1 wild poliovirus \(WPV1\)](#) in Lilongwe district, followed by a declaration of an emergency by the President. This was the first case of polio in Malawi since 1992 and the first detected case of WPV1 in Africa since 2016. In response to the polio outbreak, the Ministry of Health implemented strategies aligned with WHO guidelines, strengthening surveillance and immunization efforts. Despite previous success in eradicating polio, challenges persist due to population movement, climate change and economic factors, necessitating ongoing vaccination campaigns and surveillance interventions. Successive vaccination rounds have since been expanded nationwide to maintain high routine coverage and prevent further spread.

The burden of [non-communicable diseases](#) is significant in Malawi, with cardiovascular diseases being the leading cause of death among adults. According to a 2018 WHO report, 32 per cent of all deaths are attributed to cardiovascular diseases. In Malawi, rates of heart disease and diabetes are nine per cent and six per cent respectively and the prevalence

of hypertension, obesity and smoking are estimated at 16.7 per cent, 18.5 per cent and 21.7 per cent respectively. In 2021, the Ministry of Health established non-communicable diseases unit and clinics across the 29 districts of Malawi to address this challenge through prevention and management.

According to [UNICEF](#), 23 per cent of child deaths in Malawi are linked to under-nutrition, with four per cent of children under five suffering from acute malnutrition. Exclusive breastfeeding remains low (61 per cent), and only eight per cent of children aged 6–23 months meet minimum dietary requirements. Additionally, 37 per cent of children are stunted. The government, in partnership with stakeholders, is addressing nutrition challenges through policies and guidelines for both regular and emergency programs. Recent El Niño-related climatic shocks have further increased Severe Acute Malnutrition admissions across the country.

While 80 per cent of Malawians have access to improved drinking water, four million people still lack safe water. Access to safe water and sanitation has declined in 19 of 29 districts, increasing communicable disease outbreaks. In drought-prone areas, less than 67 per cent of water points function in the dry season, leaving over 495,000 people with unreliable water, sanitation and hygiene access, heightening risks of malnutrition and disease.

Malawi faces [frequent cholera outbreaks](#). Initially documented in [1973](#), Malawi has encountered a cholera outbreak almost every year since. The southern region has borne the brunt of the highest number of cases and most recurrent outbreaks. Typically, outbreaks coincide with the rainy season (November to March), in most districts, while areas surrounding Lake Chilwa may also witness outbreaks during the dry season. The current outbreak has recorded approximately [58,000 cases](#). In an ongoing effort to prevent and control the disease, the Government of Malawi and its partners developed a [National Cholera Prevention and Control Plan in April 2017](#), subject to annual revisions and updates tailored to address any outbreaks throughout the year. The Malawi Government is committed to the elimination of cholera in the medium to long term and to that end plans to develop a [Cholera Elimination Plan](#). The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Water and Sanitation have aligned and adapted the objectives, strategies and activities in this plan to the guidelines provided by [the global task force for cholera \(GTFCC\)](#) and also by [the Health Sector Strategic Plan III](#). The cholera epidemic preparedness and response plan is intended to contribute to the implementation of an effective, comprehensive, integrated system of cholera prevention and control in Malawi through:

- Effective leadership and coordination
- Improved surveillance system and reporting including improved laboratory and diagnosis capacity

- Health System strengthening to provide quality and equitable services for both prevention and response
- Improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) conditions
- Use of oral cholera vaccine
- Intensified communication and social mobilization
- Train 3,500 people in [first aid](#) and reach 15,000 people with first aid coverage
- Revamp community health structures in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and improve community health information dissemination
- Facilitate menstrual hygiene management efforts and design and implement distributions in ways that respond appropriately to the survivors of sexual and gender-based violence
- Facilitate establishment of reporting and referral systems including mobile courts and MHPSS services
- Drill boreholes, install gravity fed water systems or solar pumped boreholes with taps in water scarce communities and schools

Cholera cases remain persistent, with outbreaks continuing into 2024 and 2025 due to climate-related flooding and disruptions to WASH services.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malawi Red Cross Society works to ensure that all people have safe and equitable access to health, WASH and adequate living conditions by expanding integrated community-based health and first aid ([CBHFA](#)) as well as [WASH](#) programmes to address the unmet needs of vulnerable or marginalized groups.

The National Society invests in [epidemic and pandemic preparedness](#) to enable local actors, networks, volunteers and community-based responders to detect and respond to disease outbreaks and other health risks. The National Society will also continue to collaborate with the government in contributing towards the cholera preparedness and response plan through its network of volunteers and community actions.

Planned activities in 2026

- Develop a comprehensive health and WASH strategic plan
- Contribute to efforts to achieve and sustain national immunization targets and promote fair and equitable access to new vaccines (including future COVID-19 vaccines through the COVAX facility)
- Roll out the Child Resilience Programme for children affected by disasters and at risk of protection issues
- Reach out to 15,000 people with contextually appropriate health services
- Reach out to 60,000 people with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services
- Reach out to 16,000 people with mental health and psychosocial support ([MHPSS](#)) services

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will support the Malawi Red Cross Society by strengthening community-led solutions to prevent and control epidemics and pandemics, enhancing cholera response through training and hotspot mapping, and promoting good hygiene practices to reduce environmental health risks. It will also help the National Society connect with key regional and global health actors—including the Global Health Security Agenda, Africa CDC, WHO and the African Union—and engage with broader sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health platforms to improve public health outcomes.

The **Danish Red Cross** and **Icelandic Red Cross** will support the Malawi Red Cross Society by strengthening its connections with key health and development actors such as the Global Health Security Agenda, UNICEF, BMZ, WHO, the African Union and Partner National Societies, and by linking the Malawi Red Cross Society with broader sexual, reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health platforms. They will help promote good hygiene practices through health education and efforts to reduce environmental risks, while providing guidance, training and tools to reinforce community health and epidemic control. Support will also focus on enhancing epidemic response capacities through training and participation in regional forums, advancing climate-related health and water initiatives to build climate-resilient health systems, and scaling up non-communicable disease and mental health and psychosocial support interventions.



Political instability and social unrest in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions have resulted in a [continual flow of refugees into Malawi](#) for over two decades. Malawi is host to refugees and asylum seekers from countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Mozambique who flee their respective countries due to [wars and political unrest](#). The country is also a route for asylum seekers moving between countries across Southern Africa, with current trends showing increased flows of such migrants. Malawi hosts about 90,000 individuals who are seeking [asylum or are refugees](#). Of these 52,678 were registered as persons of concern (PoCs) by UNHCR in December 2021. By mid-2025, overall numbers remained high, with around 80,000–90,000 refugees and asylum seekers recorded, reflecting continued inflows.

Most of the refugees and asylum seekers live in the [Dzaleka refugee camp](#) in Dowa district, approximately 41 kilometres away from the capital city of Malawi. The camp was initially established to host up to 12,000 people but now hosts over 52,000 individuals. Dzaleka is a [protracted camp setting](#), receiving around 300 new arrivals every month (62 per cent from the DRC, 19 per cent from Burundi, seven per cent from Rwanda and two per cent from elsewhere). Recent trends show slightly higher arrivals of about 350 per month, mainly from the DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, placing further pressure on services. Of the identified persons of concern, 45 per cent are women and 48 per cent are children. Approximately 40 per cent of the overall population holds refugee status, while 60 per cent are classified as asylum seekers. Funding cuts have reduced essential services in the camp, with UNHCR operating at only 12 per cent of required resources and WFP reducing cash transfers to half of daily caloric needs, contributing to rising malnutrition. This composition extends the duration of the situation in the camp, heightening risks related to protection, disease, and food security/livelihoods for its residents. UNHCR and WFP continue to provide cash assistance and services to those in the camp, recognizing their dependence on humanitarian assistance.

The tropical storms and floods that affected Malawi in recent years have provoked significant internal displacement, often lasting several months. Families who had fled from neighbouring countries and found refuge in camps in Malawi were also affected. Climate-related disasters such as Cyclone Freddy in 2023 displaced over 126,000 households, and repeated flooding continues to heighten internal displacement risks across multiple districts.

Malawi serves as a transit route for migrants, primarily from Ethiopia, who use it to journey to South Africa. Additionally, there have been instances where traffickers were apprehended while attempting to transport children to South Africa. More recently, human trafficking has emerged as a significant concern along the borders of Malawi and Zambia, particularly

in Chipata. Trafficking networks have also been identified within refugee settings such as Dzaleka, prompting increased cooperation with law enforcement and agencies like UNODC. This situation highlights the need for enhanced migration services, coordination and advocacy between the two countries to effectively combat this practice.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malawi Red Cross Society focuses on ensuring that all people who migrate and are displaced are safe, are treated humanely and with dignity, and have the assistance and protection support they need to thrive in inclusive societies. To this effect, the National Society will implement the following:

- Conduct a migration and displacement needs assessment and integrate migration and displacement into their strategic planning
- Operate along main migratory routes and develop the capacity to access resources to establish humanitarian service points ([HSPs](#)), providing access to assistance, protection and integration support to migrants and displaced
- Respond to the needs of migrants and displaced populations using an integrated approach
- Support the government with provision of food and essential household items including tents and camp management

The Malawi Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the government, will provide restoring family links ([RFL](#)) services for the refugees, asylum seekers, returnees and internally displaced persons, to restore and maintain family links for the families separated by conflict or natural hazards and subsequent disasters. This includes restoring contact between family members through tracing, free phone calls, free internet, Red Cross messages for relatives and support for unaccompanied children. The National Society will also engage the police and prison authorities to explore the possibility of extending RFL services to detention centres so that those refugees and asylum seekers that are detained should have access to communication to allow them to contact their families.

Planned activities in 2026

- Support displaced communities with humanitarian assistance such as essential household items, food, dignity kits, RFL services and [shelter](#)
- Facilitate multiple channels of communication to share information with the targeted groups and to receive feedback from communities on health-related issues

- Act on feedback from targeted groups and use it to adapt activities and key messages
- Facilitate linkages and referral of migrants, displaced persons with other service providers
- Conduct awareness meetings with communities on negative impacts of human trafficking and support case reporting on human trafficking
- Conduct advocacy with authorities on the issue of people not being registered as refugees, thus ensuring that the rights of asylum seekers are respected as per the international law
- Support coordination meetings at different levels to track human trafficking in coordination with the relevant organizations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC, in collaboration with the participating National Societies, will assist the Malawi Red Cross Society in resource mobilization and monitor implementation of all operations. The IFRC will also link the National Society with other migration-related actors and platforms.

In 2025, the IFRC provided DREF allocation for one population movement emergency.

IFRC-DREF Malawi Population Movement: the DREF allocation of CHF 499,942 in February 2025 supported the Malawi Red Cross Society to assist 14,877 people impacted by the population movement from Mozambique in the Southern Region of Malawi. The National Society supported the targeted people over a seven-month period through interventions such as the provision of emergency shelter, essential household items and communal as well as family tents. Support also included the provision of multi-purpose cash assistance and mental health and psychosocial support services. Additionally, the assistance comprised of the provision of safe drinking water and dignity kits complemented by awareness-raising sessions focused on hygiene, to affected communities.



Values, power and inclusion

In Malawi, women make up 52 per cent of population and 80 per cent of the workforce, with 59 per cent of employed women working in the agricultural sector. The situation of women and girls in Malawi is less advanced than that of men and boys in terms of literacy, education, political participation, land ownership and other developmental indicators. While adequate legal frameworks exist, the support on the ground is under-resourced and inadequate. Women in Malawi have little control over land and lack access to economic resources. Female-headed households are particularly vulnerable with limited productivity, income and empowerment, making them more susceptible to poverty. Social cash transfers (SCTs) are among the social protection tools used in Malawi to assist the poorest people and have contributed to a decline in extreme poverty. Working to improve women's inclusion will improve poverty and food security levels. There is also a need for improved maternal and child healthcare, family planning and reproductive health services to support women and girls to develop and strengthen their economic empowerment. Women continue to shoulder disproportionate unpaid domestic and care work, accounting for 8.7 per cent of their time compared to 1.3 per cent for men, further limiting participation in public life.

Gender-based violence (GBV) also remains a serious challenge in Malawi. Malawi Demographic Health Survey reported that an estimated 14 per cent of women have been physically abused and 25 per cent sexually abused in 2016. Food insecurity is often linked to increases in GBV, with protection

risks spiking during the lean season, as food insecurity pushes women and girls to travel longer distances to seek food and water. Early marriages are also a challenge, as Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriage in the world (approximately 42 per cent of girls are married before 18 and nine per cent before 15). Early marriages also increase the risk of pregnancy complications, low birth weight and infant mortality. Other complications include urinary tract infections, pre-eclampsia and fistula. Early marriage is one of the more regressive practices which limits girls' education and sexual and reproductive health, especially in rural areas. This has links to poverty, with cases of young women being lured or sold into early marriages in exchange of food in food insecure districts. However, communities are being engaged in programmes to get girls back into education. Additionally, organizations such as UNICEF and UNDP are working with local community leaders to eliminate child marriage. Recent data indicates heightened risks: nearly one in three women in Malawi have experienced physical or sexual violence, and cases documented since 2021 exceed 15,800, with women and girls with disabilities facing even higher rates of exploitation.

The majority of the population of Malawi are youths (80 per cent are under 35 years of age and the median age is 17). This youthful population is one of Malawi's strongest assets. The youth in Malawi face several challenges in accessing health care, education, employment and participation. Only 51 per cent of children complete primary level education. The Malawi

2063 vision identifies youth development and empowerment as a key priority. However, school dropout rates have risen sharply, with over 227,000 primary school dropouts recorded in 2024, driven by poverty, early marriage, pregnancy and long distances to school, while Malawi Red Cross Society supports vulnerable learners through bursaries and learning materials.

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

The Malawi Red Cross Society will pivot on protecting and promoting a positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. The National Society priorities include the following:

- Reach out to the youth with skills- and values-based humanitarian education, through flagship programmes
- Ensure all operations, programmes and services provide dignity, access, participation and safety for all affected marginalized and excluded people
- Adopt innovative approaches to better understanding and engaging communities, so that it can enable them to address unhealthy and unsafe practices
- Continue to mainstream and institutionalize community engagement and accountability (CEA)
- Build Malawi Red Cross Society and partners' capacity to implement PGI standards, including safeguarding and survivor-centered approaches

The Malawi Red Cross Society will also encourage inclusion and equality among its volunteers.

Planned activities in 2026

- Support learners with education bursaries and learning materials
- Establish reporting and referral systems, including mobile courts and psychosocial support services
- Conduct training on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and response mechanisms

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC**, in collaboration with the participating National Societies, will assist the National Society with the development of community-based information, education and communication initiatives to ensure that all operations consider dignity, access, participation and safety. The IFRC will provide the necessary technical support to the Malawi Red Cross Society for institutionalization of community engagement and accountability (CEA). The IFRC will also support the engagement of the National Society with the education community.

The **Danish Red Cross** will support the National Society to develop community-based information, education, and communication initiatives and ensure that all operations consider dignity, access, participation, and safety.

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS

The Malawi Red Cross Society is committed to pursuing institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2013. The self-assessment is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities.

Aligned with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Strategy 2030, the Malawi Red Cross Society aims to modernize and strengthen its ways of working by operationalizing its National Society Development Plan, investing in organizational growth, and responding effectively to the needs of its members. The Malawi Red Cross Society will enhance quality programming through protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability, strengthen communication and visibility to support resource mobilization, and sustain transparency and openness in partnerships. It will diversify local resource mobilization, ensure efficient use of locally generated funds, expand engagement with the corporate sector in areas such as livelihoods, education and financial literacy, and promote its successes to broaden its support base.



Key Institutional Indicators

The National Society has put in place the following:

- Strategy to strengthen its auxiliary role
- National Society development plan
- Youth engagement strategy
- Health, accident and death compensation for volunteers
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) policy
- PSEA Action Plan



Strategic and operational coordination

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Define its auxiliary role with public authorities and position itself as the partner of choice in the humanitarian field
- Significantly expand participation and leadership in national and inter-agency coordination
- Implement investment plans to sustain the image of the organization as well as resource mobilization
- Diversify local resource mobilization strategies to sustain core business
- Explore prospects within the corporate sector, focusing on areas such as livelihood improvement, education and financial literacy, among others
- Implement strategies that will strengthen more visibility to the corporate partners and beyond

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC**, in collaboration with participating National Societies, will support the Malawi Red Cross Society with all the relevant documentation, tools and information to strengthen its auxiliary role. The IFRC will also support operationalization of the resource mobilization framework, in accordance with the National Society's implementation plan.

The **Danish Red Cross** supports the Malawi Red Cross Society by strengthening early warning and early action systems, enhancing preparedness for epidemics and public health emergencies, and building capacity in cash and voucher assistance and community-led solutions. It also helps the Malawi Red Cross Society engage with regional and global health platforms, supports climate-related health and water initiatives, and contributes to scaling up non-communicable disease and mental health and psychosocial support interventions across communities.



National Society development

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Strengthen governance, statutory, and legal frameworks to ensure accountability and compliance.
- Expand branch development and volunteer/youth programs to increase operational reach and community impact.
- Enhance financial sustainability and internal systems to support efficient and resilient operations

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The **IFRC** will ensure that the National Society development plan is aligned with the National Society priorities and in line with the Movement standards. The IFRC will support the National Society in implementing youth designed programmes and initiatives, and assist in aligning branch development with the priorities of the National Society



Humanitarian diplomacy

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Develop communication and public advocacy resources along with guidance to enhance impact, build public trust and improve understanding of its role and activities
- Unpack the humanitarian diplomacy guidance notes
- Conduct humanitarian diplomacy initial and refresher training for staff

- Strengthen community-driven communication and public advocacy through clear, multisector messaging and improved visibility of Malawi Red Cross Society activities.
- Expand and systematize community engagement and accountability to reinforce trust, transparency and two-way communication with affected communities.
- Enhance humanitarian diplomacy by applying guidance notes and adopting a bottom-up, evidence-driven

approach to influence policies from community to national levels.

- Build internal capacity through initial and refresher humanitarian diplomacy trainings, including skills in advocacy, policy analysis and stakeholder engagement.
- Leverage diverse media platforms and public awareness campaigns to improve understanding of the Malawi Red Cross Society's auxiliary role and humanitarian impact.
- Strengthen strategic partnerships with government, donors, private sector and civil society to amplify advocacy efforts and support systemic humanitarian change

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC provides long-term support to the Malawi Red Cross Society by strengthening its communication, advocacy

and humanitarian diplomacy capacities. This includes developing communication and public advocacy resources, improving public trust and understanding of the Malawi Red Cross Society's role, and offering both initial and refresher humanitarian diplomacy training. It also helps unpack and apply humanitarian diplomacy guidance, supports institutionalizing community engagement and accountability, and enhances the clarity and reach of public messaging.

In addition, the IFRC facilitates access to peer support networks, technical expertise and strategic partnerships that reinforce a bottom-up humanitarian diplomacy approach. Through ongoing coordination with regional and country offices, it enables the Malawi Red Cross Society to influence policy more effectively, strengthen its auxiliary role and address systemic humanitarian challenges through evidence-based advocacy and inclusive engagement with communities and decision-makers.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Multi-year high level objectives of the National Society

- Integrate a functional risk and accountability framework, based on the recently conducted high-level risk assessment and developed organizational-wide risk register
- Develop a security risk register and mitigation measures aimed to reduce prevailing risk to an acceptable level
- Extend awareness and training of staff and volunteers on the Code of Conduct, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and safeguarding-child protection
- Develop and disseminate data protection policy and conduct data protection training
- Foster innovation by promoting transformational leadership, encouraging experimentation, enabling local innovation, and establishing strategic partnerships.
- Integrate environmental and sustainability considerations, gender diversity, and inclusion into all programmes to ensure long-term resilience and equity.
- Advance digital transformation by improving digital maturity and data literacy, expanding data-driven humanitarian services, and integrating digital solutions into core programs to improve efficiency and inclusiveness

Longer-term support from the IFRC network

The IFRC will provide the National Society with financial training and internal controls including security assessment training, knowledge sharing and better direct support through coaching on a case-by-case basis. The IFRC will also assist the Malawi Red Cross Society in the development of a security risk register and mitigation measures, aimed at reducing risks to an acceptable level.

IFRC, together with the **Belgian Red Cross, Danish Red Cross** and **Icelandic Red Cross**, will provide sustained technical and financial support to advance digital transformation within the Malawi Red Cross Society, including capacity building in digital skills, systems and infrastructure. They will strengthen financial management, accountability and integrity systems, enhance staff safety through training in security assessment, risk management and safeguarding, and mainstream Community Engagement and Accountability across operations through improved feedback and data systems. In addition, they will drive innovation and knowledge exchange by linking the Malawi Red Cross Society with regional and global partners to help scale up innovative and digital approaches.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC provides support to the National Society through its country cluster delegation in Harare, and an office in Malawi since obtaining a status agreement from the government in 2022. The IFRC supports the Malawi Red Cross Society with strategic and operational coordination, National Society development and humanitarian diplomacy, including strengthening its auxiliary role. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC also provides support to varied long-term programmes of the National Society, and in recent years, has supported the Malawi Red Cross Society through various IFRC-DREF and Emergency Appeal [operations](#) in response to Tropical Cyclones, food insecurity, floods and population movement.

IFRC membership coordination

In 2026, the Malawi Red Cross Society will strengthen partnerships within the IFRC network while advancing toward greater self-reliance, supported by IFRC's facilitative role in accessing global funding, aligning reporting and monitoring systems, and building technical capacity in digital transformation, resilience, and community health. IFRC membership coordination will ensure that the Malawi Red Cross Society's priorities align with Movement-wide strategies by jointly assessing humanitarian needs, agreeing on common priorities, and developing shared approaches that enhance humanitarian access, mobilize resources, ensure consistent public messaging, and reinforce the auxiliary role.

The Malawi Red Cross Society 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 Society 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 Society with specialized knowledge and resources, strengthening its operational capacity and ensuring effective, community-driven programmes.

The Malawi Red Cross Society is supported by several Participating National Societies that contribute to a wide range of humanitarian and development priorities.

The **Danish Red Cross** leads a consortium that includes the Icelandic Red Cross and supports resilience building, disaster risk reduction, climate-related health and water initiatives, and livelihoods interventions. It also plays a key role in enhancing early warning and early action systems, public health preparedness and cash and voucher assistance capacity.

The **Belgian Red Cross** provides support in WASH, health, environmental management and digital transformation.

The **Icelandic Red Cross** additionally contributes to strengthening community health, epidemic preparedness and psychosocial support



Repeated kwacha devaluations have driven up prices of essential farm inputs, pushing many farmers to abandon their own fields and seek scarce casual labour as a coping strategy (Photo: IFRC)

Movement coordination

The Malawi Red Cross Society 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. 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 services in emergencies.

Coordination with other actors

In 2026, the Malawi Red Cross Society will continue to work closely with the Government of Malawi, with its Health Department collaborating directly with the Ministry of Health to advance disease prevention, primary health care and emergency health responses. In disaster management, the Malawi Red Cross Society will strengthen its partnership with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs through the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee and Civil Protection Committees, while co-leading the shelter, search and rescue, and camp management clusters. At the

inter-agency level, the Malawi Red Cross Society and IFRC will remain active members of the Humanitarian Country Team and sectoral clusters, working alongside UNICEF, WFP, Save the Children, UNDP, Care Malawi and UNHCR. Broader partnerships with international agencies, NGOs, academia and the private sector will further reinforce the auxiliary role of the Malawi Red Cross Society and support coordinated, timely and effective humanitarian response and resilience building across the country.



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 16 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.

About the plan

The plan reflects the priorities of the host National Society, the IFRC and National Societies providing international support, for 2026 and subsequent years. It is aligned with IFRC [Strategy 2030](#), representing the collective ambitions of the IFRC membership, and is the result of a joint planning process and will serve for joint monitoring and reporting. It will be revised on an annual basis to adjust priorities and funding requirements to the needs in-country.

Explanatory note on funding requirements and definitions

- The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network seeks 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 network databank](#)
- 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
- Figures for the years beyond 2026 most often represent partial requirements that are known at time of publication. Many National Societies have annual internal approval processes for funding requirements, and lower figures do not mean a decrease in funding requirements in future years
- Missing data and breakdowns: data may not be available from all IFRC network members for funding requirements. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under-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

- [IFRC network country plans](#) • [All plans and reports](#)
- Data on National Societies on [IFRC network databank](#)
- Live data on active emergency operations on [IFRC GO platform](#)
- Live data on [IFRC-Disaster Response Emergency Fund Response and Anticipatory pillars](#)
- [Evaluations and research bank](#) • [Donor response reports](#)

Contact information

Chifundo Kalulu

Secretary General
Malawi Red Cross Society
T+265 888 411211
ckalulu@redcross.mw
redcross.mw

Louise Daintrey-Hall

Head of Strategic Partnerships & Resource Mobilization
IFRC Regional Office for Africa,
Nairobi
T +254 110 843978
louise.daintrey@ifrc.org

Kopano Masilo

Head of Delegation
IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Zimbabwe,
Zambia & Malawi,
based in Harare
kopano.masilo@ifrc.org

Sumitha Martin

Lead
IFRC Global Strategic Planning & Reporting Centre
New Delhi
sumitha.martin@ifrc.org