



# MALAWI

2024 IFRC Network Mid-Year Report, January – June

4 April 2025

## IN SUPPORT OF THE MALAWI RED CROSS SOCIETY



**33**

National Society  
branches



**1,824**

National Society  
local units



**69,813**

National Society  
volunteers



**171**

National Society  
staff

## PEOPLE REACHED

Climate and  
environment



**8,767,027**

Disasters  
and crises



**8,767,027**

Health and  
wellbeing



**2,661,054**

Migration and  
displacement



**12,130**

Values, power  
and inclusion



**1,198,295**

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)

Country	Funding Requirement	18.8M
IFRC Secretariat	Longer-term Funding Requirement	8.4M
	Funding	Not reported
	Expenditure	Not reported
Participating National Societies	Funding Requirement	2.4M
	Funding	2.8M
	Expenditure	1.1M
HNS other funding sources	Funding Requirement	7.9M
	Funding	772,000

### Malawi Red Cross Society

#### Overview

Funding	3M
Expenditure	2.1M

#### Funding Sources

IFRC Secretariat	760,000
Participating National Societies	1.4M
HNS other funding sources	772,000

Appeal number **MAAMW003**

## ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRMW018 / TC Freddy

Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction.	707,000
Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems.	347,000
Number of people reached with livelihoods support	105,000
Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.	21,000
Number of people reached with shelter support.	136
National Society is supported in developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks.	Yes
National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves).	Yes
National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups.	Yes

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	National Society is implementing environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction or clean-ups.	Yes
	National Society is implementing nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves).	Yes
	National Society is supported in developing and implementing strategies and plans that address rising climate and environmental risks.	Yes
	Number of people reached by environmental awareness and education activities in schools	246,000
	Number of people reached by public campaigns involving clean-up, recycling or urban greening	697,000
	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems.	8.8M
	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks.	8.8M
	Number of trees planted for climate change adaptation, mitigation and/or to reduce disaster risk.	22,000

Disasters and crises	National Society is engaged in Early Warning and Anticipatory Action	1
	Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery.	126,000
	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction.	8.8M
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	260,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support.	816
	Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers.	85%
Health and wellbeing	Number of people donating blood	5,000
	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate health services.	1.9M
	Number of people reached by National Societies with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services.	2.7M
	Number of people reached with immunization services.	29,000
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services.	35,000
	Number of people trained by National Societies in first aid.	49,000
Migration and displacement	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
	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move.	Yes
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) that provided assistance and/or protection to people on the move along land based migration routes.	3
	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection.	12,000
Values, power and inclusion	National Society reports that they have integrated and institutionalised Community Engagement and Accountability in their policies, operations, and procedures (with clear benchmarks).	Yes
	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming.	1.2M
	Number of people reached by RCRC educational programmes.	9,000
	Number of people whose access to education is facilitated through RCRC programming.	2,000

## ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	National Society increases the number of government led platforms in which they are actively participating to achieve humanitarian or development goals.	3
	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the IFRC Network is part of.	0
	Number of strategic partnership the National Society is engaged in	6
National Society development	National Society develops and/or implements a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies.	Yes
	National Society has One National Society Development country plan created.	Yes
	The National Society generates more than 50% of its annual income domestically with sustainable core cost recovery policy	0
	The National Society has a risk management framework in place	1
Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management systems that inform decision making and support monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of the IFRC network's contributions.	Yes
	National Society has a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to enforce prevention and support survivors.	Yes
	National Society has a PSEA Action Plan to enforce prevention and support survivors (cumulative).	Yes
	National Society has strengthened their integrity risk mechanisms.	Yes

## IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Bilateral Support				Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
				Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement				
National Society									
American Red Cross	28,000								
Danish Red Cross	2.8M								

Total Funding Reported **CHF 2.8M**

# OVERALL PROGRESS

## Context

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and is ranked 174 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 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.

In March 2023, Tropical Cyclone Freddy hit southern Malawi bringing 300-400mm of rainfall in the first 48 hours alone. This brought sudden, violent and destructive flash floods and landslides, causing severe devastation, the destruction of livelihoods and loss of life. Despite maintaining political stability and peace, Malawi's economy has weakened due to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone Freddy and the 2023-2024 El-Nino, along with macro-fiscal imbalances. Agricultural output has only slightly increased since 2023 following the cyclone. Food prices remain unstable due to supply issues caused by El-Nino, prompting the President to declare a hunger crisis. 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.

In response, the government launched a hunger crisis appeal through the Department of Disaster Management and successfully negotiated the restoration of the IMF extended credit facility.

## Key achievements

### Climate and environment

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society secured funding for the implementation of the Locally Led Adaptation Project in Nsanje, Phalombe and Mulanje districts. As part of this project, the National Society conducted enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments in these areas, following a successful Training of Trainers session with key government stakeholders from the Environmental Affairs Department, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services and the Civil Society Organization Network on Climate Change. In the second quarter of 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society trained 150 members of village natural resources committees in tree nursery management, woodlot management and tree regeneration and management in Phalombe District. The National Society also implemented environmentally friendly approaches, such as using cement blocks for construction instead of wooden smoked bricks, conducting environmental cleaning, sensitizing communities on the harmful effects of plastics and promoting tree planting and management.

### Disasters and crises

For the period January to June 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported anticipatory action for Tropical Cyclone Filipo, including real-life simulations to assess preparedness and lessons on consolidating early warning messages. It strengthened disaster preparedness and anticipatory action capacity across districts, expanded programming in response to increasingly unpredictable weather and facilitated swift resource transfers. In response to Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the National Society provided relief support, livelihood recovery, multi-hazard resilient shelters and distributed goats to strengthen livelihoods. The National Society also launched a project to improve community-based early warning systems and conducted research on anticipatory actions and rural understanding of weather forecasts. Additionally, it provided in-kind and cash assistance to affected individuals and conducted disaster assessments in various districts, offering non-food items and cash and voucher support.

## Health and wellbeing

Malawi Red Cross Society advocated for the recognition of its auxiliary role in health programming, including a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health and participation in over 120 national-level technical meetings. It facilitated partnerships with organizations such as UNICEF and USAID and supported preparations for the national insecticide-treated net campaign. The National Society trained staff and volunteers in cholera preparedness, [epidemic control](#) and first aid and implemented water, sanitation and hygiene services in cholera hotspots and flood-affected areas. It supported outreach clinics and participated in health commemoration events. The National Society contributed to the Malawi Blood Transfusion Service, exceeding its blood collection target and actively engaged in safe blood programmes. It also appointed [mental health and psychosocial support](#) focal persons, trained volunteers in [first aid](#) and psychological first aid and established Red Cross Youth Clubs in schools. Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society handed over seven boreholes in Dowa district, constructed solar-pumped water systems and trained area mechanics for borehole sustainability. It reached communities with sanitation and hygiene messages and constructed latrines in several districts, with the first ventilated improved pit latrine completed in Dowa.

## Values, power and inclusion

For the period January to June, the Malawi Red Cross Society championed protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in its activities. Through the PGI focal point, the PGI assessment was finalized, and an implementation plan was developed and shared with all project coordinators for execution.

## Enabling local actors

The Malawi Red Cross Society participates in four [IFRC Pan-African initiatives](#) and receives support from the Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Kuwait, and Swiss Red Cross, among others. They assist with shelter initiatives, flood recovery, community resilience and health and water, sanitation and hygiene projects. The National Society coordinates closely with the [Global Shelter Cluster](#), which it co-leads with the IFRC. Notable external partners include UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières and the World Food Programme.

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society partnered with external organizations to strengthen cross-cutting humanitarian diplomacy interventions through community mobilization and the analysis of root causes for future advocacy. It focused on understanding power structures and potential conflicts to prevent exacerbating inequalities and engaged key stakeholders through formal and informal meetings. The National Society also worked to raise public awareness of important issues. Additionally, it continued to implement its accountability system, enabling communities to provide feedback, enhancing information sharing, participation and involvement and offering multiple channels for beneficiaries to voice their concerns.



Malawi Red Cross Society volunteers distribute chlorinated water to members of a community in Blantyre, in February 2023 (Photo: IFRC)



# IFRC NETWORK ACTION

## ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

<b>Emergency Appeal name</b>	Malawi Tropical Cyclone Freddy
<b>IFRC Emergency Appeal code</b>	<a href="#">MDRMW018</a>
<b>People affected</b>	2.2 million people
<b>People to be assisted</b>	160,000 people
<b>Duration</b>	17 March 2023 to 31 March 2024 (extended)
<b>Funding requirements</b>	Total funding requirement through the IFRC Emergency Appeal: CHF 5 million - for 2024 CHF 3.3 million Total Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 6 million
<b>Link to Emergency Appeal</b>	<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Freddy Emergency Appeal</a>
<b>Link to Operational Strategy</b>	<a href="#">Tropical Cyclone Freddy (Operational Strategy)</a>
<b>Link to Operation Update</b>	<a href="#">Operation Update No. 3</a>

Tropical Storm Freddy swept through Southern Malawi on 12 March 2023, with strong winds and heavy rains leaving the affected districts in a state of disaster and affecting the power supply throughout most of the country. Tropical Storm Freddy is set to be the longest tropical system since 1994, having weakened and re-intensified seven times over its course.

The Malawi government declared a state of disaster in 14 southern districts that were hardest hit by the storm. A large number of people were reported to have been affected, of which about 125,000 households (approximately 560,000 people) have been displaced with over 500 camps set to accommodate the displaced. By end of 2023, twenty camps were still active. The death toll, which stood at 499 as of 20 March 2023, was expected to rise as 427 people were still unaccounted for since some areas remained cut off due to relentless rain and fierce wind.

On 17 March 2023 the IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to support the Malawi Red Cross Society's response to the country's acute needs.

### Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The operational strategy aims to assist 160,000 people most affected by the cyclone, enabling them to meet essential needs, recover and strengthen resilience to future shocks. The Malawi Red Cross Society prioritized five districts most affected by the cyclone, extending to other areas based on need and government requests. The strategy focuses on addressing immediate and early recovery needs, ensuring communities adopt a 'building back better' approach and supporting displaced families to return, rebuild and enhance community resilience. Key actions include providing essential household items, rental assistance, farm inputs and cash transfers for livelihoods; offering multi-purpose cash grants; delivering healthcare, water, sanitation, hygiene services and psychosocial support; rehabilitating water points, latrines and handwashing facilities; providing search and rescue services; ensuring equitable access to services based on gender and diversity through protection activities; and community engagement and accountability.

For the period [19 March 2023 to 17 September 2023](#), the following assistance was provided:

### Shelter, housing and settlements

Affected communities were provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance. Low-cost resilient houses were constructed in safer places.

## Livelihoods

Targeted households were reached with livelihoods interventions in form of cash and seeds distribution. Households were also supported with food assistance.

## Multi-purpose cash

Multi-purpose cash grants were provided along with unconditional, unrestricted cash for two consecutive months to vulnerable households.

## Health and care

Affected communities received access to health services through temporary, mobile and static clinics. Services included immunization, ante-natal care (ANC), nutrition, anti-retroviral therapy and tuberculosis management. This was complemented by the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services..

## Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Essential hygiene items and hygiene kits were distributed and sanitation facilities were constructed for people impacted by flooding.

## Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

Awareness-raising activities focused on prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence, were conducted. Volunteers were trained in mental health and psychosocial support, psychological first aid, child protection and safeguarding.

## Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

Volunteers were trained in community engagement and accountability and the feedback received from communities was addressed.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



## Climate and environment

*IFRC Secretariat and National Societies adopt environmentally sustainable practices and contribute to climate change mitigation*

### Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society participated in the National Tree Planting Launch, presided over by the State President in Phalombe District in January 2024. Since then, the National Society has supported tree planting in sixteen districts, with over twenty-two thousand tree seedlings planted.

The Malawi Red Cross Society has secured funding for the implementation of the Locally Led Adaptation Project in Nsanje, Phalombe and Mulanje districts. As part of rolling out the Locally Led Climate Change Adaptation Project, the Malawi Red Cross Society conducted enhanced vulnerability and capacity assessments in Phalombe, Nsanje and Mulanje districts. This assessment followed a successful Training of Trainers session, which involved key government stakeholders from the Environmental Affairs Department, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services and the Civil Society Organization Network on Climate Change.

The National Society trained one hundred and fifty members of village natural resources committees in tree nursery management, woodlot management and tree regeneration and management in Phalombe District in the second quarter of 2024. Additionally, it implemented environmentally friendly approaches, including the use of cement blocks for construction instead of wooden smoked bricks, conducting environmental cleaning, sensitizing communities on



the harmful effects of plastics and promoting tree planting and management.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC provided technical and financial support to the Malawi Red Cross Society in the implementation of the Locally Led Adaptation Project. It also assisted the National Society in promoting environmentally friendly approaches.



## **Disasters and crises**

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*Communities take action to increase their resilience to evolving and multiple shocks and hazards environmental crises*

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

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported meetings with district teams, including staff and early warning committees, to develop anticipatory actions for Tropical Cyclone Filipo, which was forecast by the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services. The failed cyclone provided an opportunity for a real-life simulation to assess preparedness among its staff and the community. Key lessons for community resilience included consolidating early warning messages to prevent confusion and distrust. The assessment recommended continuing the dissemination of locally translated early warning messages through social media, SMS and radio while also ensuring the availability of megaphones and bicycles at the district level. The National Society focused on strengthening disaster preparedness and anticipatory action capacity across all districts and regions, expanding anticipatory action programming due to increasingly unpredictable weather, accelerating information dissemination, mobilizing National Response Team members earlier and facilitating swift resource transfers.

The Malawi Red Cross Society also implemented measures in response to Tropical Cyclone Freddy nationwide. Interventions included relief support, general disaster risk management programming and awareness efforts, particularly regarding the dissemination of warnings. These efforts impacted a significant number of individuals as part of the anticipatory action initiative.

Additionally, the National Society introduced a project titled 'Strengthening Risk-Informed Planning for Hydro-meteorological and Early Warning System' in Mzuzu and Zomba to improve early warning systems by focusing on community-based structures.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the National Society with its Emergency Appeal mechanism to tackle with the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Freddy. It also assisted it in the implementation of its relief interventions.

This was also supported by the **British Red Cross** and **Danish Red Cross**.

*People affected by crises and disasters have their needs met through access to assistance and support that is timely, adequate, flexible and strengthens their agency*

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

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported individuals in Mangochi, Nkhotakota, Karonga, Kasungu and Lilongwe with in-kind assistance or cash and voucher assistance during emergencies. In response to the Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the National Society carried out livelihood and recovery activities aimed at improving household incomes. It also provided multi-hazard resilient shelters to households affected by the cyclone. To support sustainable livelihoods, the Malawi Red Cross Society procured and distributed goats to affected households in Phalombe, ensuring each received a combination of boar and nanny goats to strengthen their livelihood base.

The National Society continued its focus on research and dissemination to support evidence-based programming, encouraging national and local actors to adopt anticipatory mitigation measures that prevent hazards and reduce disaster damage. The National Society also conducted an anticipatory action comparative study in six districts to assess the impact of anticipatory action. It also carried out a knowledge, attitude and practices study to improve rural understanding and trust in scientific weather forecasts and early warning systems. Both studies were completed and disseminated to key stakeholders, with plans to publish findings through the Anticipation Hub and other platforms and present them at national, regional and global forums.

At the onset of the rainfall season, the National Society conducted a preliminary disaster assessment in Dowa, Salima, Nkhonkhotakota and Karonga. In Salima, the National Response Team was deployed to provide relief assistance, including blankets, buckets, plastic sheets, soap, cooking sets and hygiene kits. The assessment in Nkhonkhotakota revealed significant damage to shelter, community infrastructure and livelihoods. The National Society supported affected households with cash and voucher assistance and essential non-food items. In Karonga, the National Society provided relief support to affected individuals through non-food items.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided support to the National Society in the providing people affected by crises and disasters with timely assistance.

The **Danish Red Cross** provided financial assistance to the Malawi Red Cross Society in conducting an anticipatory action comparative study in six districts to assess the impact of anticipatory action.



## **Health and wellbeing**

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*National Societies capitalize on their auxiliary role to ensure their position on relevant country-level public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms*

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

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society continued advocating for the recognition of its auxiliary role in health programming, including a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Health to define volunteer roles. It assisted in developing a communication strategy for non-communicable diseases and a national cholera control plan in Malawi. The National Society participated in approximately 120 national-level technical working group and coordination meetings organized by the Ministry of Health, exceeding the initial target due to an increase in meetings. It also attended international workshops and conferences on health topics in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Burundi, along with training in Uganda and a global meeting on pandemic and epidemic preparedness.

The National Society facilitated potential long-term partnerships with organizations such as UNICEF, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, the United States Agency for International Development and the IFRC Climate Centre. It supported preparations for the national insecticide-treated net distribution campaign and led the development of an occupational safety, health and welfare policy for the National Society.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in developing its auxiliary role in public health strategy, advocacy and policy platforms and mechanisms.

*The health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved through access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate and quality health services across the life course*

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

From January to June 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society trained staff, volunteers and stakeholders in cholera preparedness and response, surpassing the biannual target. Volunteers were trained in epidemic control for community-based health and first aid. Under the Community Resilience Project, the National Society implemented water, sanitation and hygiene services in cholera hotspot areas, flood-affected communities and long-term development project sites. The National Society reached a broader population with health promotion messages through social mobilization via publicity, household visits and awareness sessions.

In expanding access to health services, the National Society supported outreach clinic sessions under the Community Resilience Project and the Integrated Community-Based Health Promotion project. It also participated in health commemoration days such as Community Health Day and World Tuberculosis Day, using these events as platforms for awareness-raising and advocacy on community health and tuberculosis-related issues.

### **IFRC network joint support**

**The IFRC** provided technical and financial assistance to the National Society in the implementation of its health-related interventions.

The **Danish Red Cross** and **Icelandic Red Cross** provided financial assistance to the Malawi Red Cross Society for undertaking the Community Resilience Project

The **Swiss Red Cross** provided financial support to the National Society for the Integrated Community-Based Health Promotion project.

*The health and dignity of communities in emergencies and disease outbreaks are maintained by providing access to appropriate health services*

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

During the first half of 2024, the National Society supported blood collection sessions by the Malawi Blood Transfusion Service (MBTS), collecting more units of blood than initially targeted, contributing to nearly 8 per cent of MBTS's total blood collections. The Malawi Red Cross Society also participated in meetings with MBTS, including the blood management technical working group and the steering committee for the safe blood for maternal health programme.

The Malawi Red Cross Society trained a large number of volunteers in first aid and psychological first aid. It also appointed mental health and psychosocial support focal persons. The Malawi Red Cross Society trained many individuals in caring for staff and volunteers, with additional training for flood-affected volunteers. Furthermore, the Malawi Red Cross Society established Red Cross Youth Clubs in schools, where youth participated in activities such as first aid training and sexual and reproductive health education.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in the implementation of its interventions.

*Communities have increased access to affordable, appropriate and environmentally sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services in emergency settings*

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

The Malawi Red Cross Society handed over seven boreholes with hand pumps in Dowa district, including four newly drilled and three rehabilitated. Through the Tropical Cyclone Freddy response, the National Society constructed and handed over solar-pumped reticulated water systems. The Malawi Red Cross Society also trained area mechanics and linked them to water point committees in Dowa, Mzimba and Salima districts for technical support and sustainability of boreholes drilled the previous year.

Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society reached people with sanitation and hygiene promotion messages and constructed latrines in Mangochi, Chikwawa, Mzimba, Salima and Dowa districts. The National Society also began constructing ventilated improved pit latrines in schools in Dowa and Salima districts, completing one in Dowa during the reporting period.

### **IFRC network joint support**

The IFRC supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in the implementation of its interventions.



## Values, power and inclusion

### Progress by National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society championed protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) in its activities. Through the PGI focal point, the PGI assessment was finalized, and an implementation plan was developed and shared with all project coordinators for execution.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC supported the National Society in the integration of PGI across its operations.

## ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



## Strategic and operational coordination

### IFRC membership coordination

IFRC membership coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing on common priorities; jointly developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need, incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, links with development assistance and efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their 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 is 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**, **Icelandic Red Cross** and **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 Society 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, water, sanitation and hygiene and blood donor recruitment.

### 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.

### External coordination

The Malawi Red Cross Society works closely with the Government, which leads the overall coordination of any humanitarian emergency or disaster response through its Department of Disaster Management Affairs, which sits under the Office of the President. The disaster management structure stems from the disaster technical working

group at the national level; civil protection committees at the district level; area civil protection committees at the traditional authority level; and civil protection committees at the group village level. The National Society is a member of the civil protection committee and the national disaster preparedness and relief committee that comprises the principal secretaries of all key ministries and departments and three non-governmental organizations. It is also a member of the national disaster technical working group.

There is a humanitarian country team in Malawi chaired by UNDP, which is the coordination platform for all humanitarian bodies to ensure coordinated strategies and approaches. The National Society participates in all coordination meetings at the national and district levels, including clusters for shelter and camp management, search and rescue, food security and water, sanitation and hygiene. In addition to being a member of all clusters, it is also a sub-lead for the early warning cluster.

The Malawi Red Cross Society and IFRC co-lead the Shelter Cluster in Malawi, with the National Society also participating in its working groups. The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordination mechanism and IFRC has been leading the shelter cluster in disaster contexts since the establishment of the cluster approach in 2005. This critical mandate places IFRC as one of the lead agencies in the international humanitarian coordination system. IFRC leverages its leadership position in the shelter cluster for improved coordination, stronger policies and standards across the sector and better support for affected people in their recovery.

The Global Shelter Cluster and country Shelter Clusters work collectively with national response actors, including local and national governments, to support people with timely, effective and predictable shelter and settlement responses. As such, the Malawi Red Cross Society's shelter cluster leadership role significantly contributes towards the localization efforts of the international humanitarian system. Its local knowledge and understanding of the context, along with its network and established community relationships, enhance the effectiveness, relevance and connectedness of the overall humanitarian shelter response.

In Malawi, notable partners of the National Society are UNICEF, Médecins Sans Frontières, World Food Programme, GOAL Malawi, Eagle Relief, Care Malawi, World Vision, Habitat for Humanity International and ShelterBox. The National Society has developed multiple partnerships with companies from the private sector and philanthropic foundations that have supported it with financial contributions and donations. Some of the civil society organizations it works with include Civil Society Network for Climate Change (CISONEC), Civil Society Agriculture Network (SISANET), Health Network and National Civic Education (NICE), among others.



## Humanitarian diplomacy

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### Progress by National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society partnered with external organizations to enhance cross-cutting humanitarian diplomacy interventions. The tools used included community mobilization and documenting and analyzing root causes of relevant problems for future advocacy. The National Society also focused on understanding existing power structures and potential conflicts to avoid exacerbating inequalities. It identified key stakeholders and their interests, held formal and informal meetings with decision-makers and donors and mapped their priorities. Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society worked to create greater public awareness of issues.

### IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided support to the National Society in partnering with external organizations to strengthen humanitarian diplomacy interventions.



## Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

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### Progress by National Society against objectives

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society continued to implement its accountability system, enabling the receipt of feedback about its work. This system provided communities with opportunities to voice their concerns, strengthening information sharing, participation and involvement. It employed multiple methods to allow beneficiaries and community members to choose their preferred channels for reaching out.

### IFRC network joint support

**The IFRC** supported the National Society in strengthening and mainstreaming community engagement and accountability across its interventions.





## 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.

### DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 30 June 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies. Mid-year reporting data may have been based on estimations, with plans to submit more robust numbers at the annual reporting stage.
- **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 light 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."
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) and which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Malawi mid-year 2024 financial report](#)  
Note: For emergencies for which financial report is not yet available, see: [MDRMW018](#)
- [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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