



MALAWI

2024 IFRC network annual report, Jan-Dec



7 August 2025

IN SUPPORT OF THE MALAWI RED CROSS SOCIETY



33

National Society
branches



2,150

National Society
local units



85,600

National Society
volunteers



272

National Society
staff

PEOPLE REACHED

Emergency
Operations



4,242,624

Climate and
environment



8,983,325

Disasters
and crises



9,313,410

Health and
wellbeing



3,723,405

Migration and
displacement



37,650

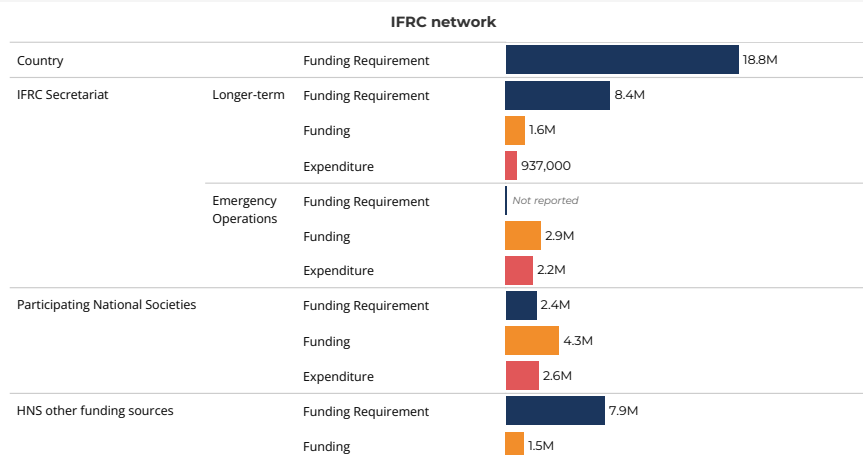
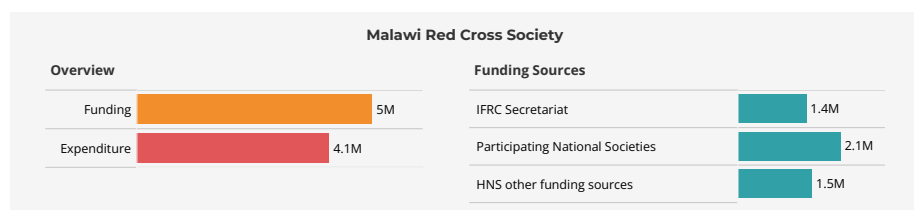
Values, power
and inclusion



3,594,885

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

in Swiss francs (CHF)



Appeal number **MAAMW003**



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

ONGOING EMERGENCY INDICATORS

MDRMW018/ TC FREDDY

SP1 - Climate and environment	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems	 2.1M
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes
SP2 - Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	 4.2M
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	 631,000
	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 shelter support	 816

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Climate and environment	Number of people reached with activities to address rising climate risks	 9M
	Number of people reached with activities to address environmental problems	 9M
	National Society implements nature-based solutions (including those with a particular focus on the planting of trees and mangroves)	Yes
	National Society implements environmental or climate campaigns focused on behaviour change, plastic reduction, clean-ups or reducing GHG emissions	Yes
	National Society has received IFRC Network's support to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change	Yes

Disasters and crises	Number of people reached with disaster risk reduction	9.3M
	Number of people reached with livelihoods support	260,000
	Number of people reached per year with support services, in-kind, cash and voucher assistance for emergency response and recovery	138,000
	Number of people reached with shelter support	8,000
	Percentage of assistance delivered using cash and vouchers	90%
Health and wellbeing	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate water, sanitation and hygiene services	3.7M
	Number of people reached by the National Society with contextually appropriate health services	3.7M
	Number of people reached with psychosocial and mental health services	236,000
	Number of people reached with immunization services	58,000
	Number of people donating blood	5,000
	Number of people trained by the National Society in first aid	2,000
Migration and displacement	Number of migrants and displaced persons reached with services for assistance and protection	38,000
	Number of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) providing assistance and/or protection to people on the move along migration routes	3
	National Society has undertaken any data collection, research, analysis or other information management initiatives to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
	National Society has undertaken any advocacy, dialogues, educational or communication initiatives to change the legal, policy, or operational environment to better assist and protect people on the move	Yes
Values, power and inclusion	Number of people reached by protection, gender and inclusion programming	3.6M
	Number of people reached by the National Society's educational programmes	12,000
	Number of people whose access to education is facilitated through National Society's programming	2,000
	Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	79%





National Society has a Community Engagement and Accountability policy, strategy or plan

Yes

ENABLING FUNCTIONS

Strategic and operational coordination	Number of formal interagency/international coordination platforms the National Society is part of	12
	Number of government-led coordination platforms the National Society is part of	16
National Society development	National Society covers health, accident and death compensation for all of its volunteers	Yes
	National Society has created and implemented youth engagement strategies	Yes
	National Society has developed and/or implemented a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role	Yes
	There is a National Society Development plan in place	Yes
Humanitarian diplomacy	National Society has a domestic advocacy strategy developed aligning, at least in part, with global IFRC advocacy strategies	Yes
	National Society participates in IFRC-led campaigns	Yes
Accountability and agility	National Society has a functioning data management system that informs decision making and supports monitoring and reporting on the impact and evidence of its ..	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	Yes
	National Society has strengthened its integrity and reputational risk mechanism	Yes
	National Society is implementing a digital transformation roadmap in line with the IFRC strategy	Yes

IFRC NETWORK SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

	Funding Reported	Climate and environment	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration and displacement	Values, power and inclusion	Enabling Functions
National Society							
Belgian Red Cross	284,000						
Danish Red Cross	3.1M						
Swiss Red Cross	855,000						

Total Funding Reported **CHF 4.3M**

Q1. OVERALL PERFORMANCE

Context

Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, is geographically divided by the Great Rift Valley and Lake Malawi, one of the continent's largest lakes known for its rich biodiversity. Despite its small land area of 118,480 km², Malawi's elongated shape presents logistical and accessibility challenges. With a rapidly growing population of over 21 million, projected to double by 2038, the country faces increasing demographic pressures. Politically, Malawi remains a peaceful democracy with regular elections since the end of one-party rule in 1993.

However, Malawi continues to grapple with deep-rooted development challenges. Ranked among the world's poorest nations, its economy is heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture, leaving the predominantly rural population highly vulnerable to climatic shocks, food insecurity and malnutrition. The impacts of COVID-19, global inflation and regional conflicts have exacerbated economic hardships, with inflation and food prices soaring due to currency depreciation and rising global commodity costs. A severe drought in 2024 compounded the situation, prompting the government to declare a hunger crisis amidst worsening fiscal imbalances and dwindling reserves.

Environmental and health crises further strain national resilience. The country endured a deadly cholera outbreak and the devastating effects of Tropical Storm Freddy in 2023, highlighting its exposure to climate change and natural disasters. Meanwhile, deforestation, soil erosion and declining fisheries underscore systemic environmental degradation and limited institutional capacity. Despite these challenges, Malawi has made developmental gains, particularly in health, education and digital access, and continues to pursue reforms under its Vision 2063 agenda. The recent loss of the Vice President in a plane crash has marked a period of national mourning, adding to an already difficult year for the country.

Key achievements

Climate and environment

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society advanced its climate and environmental agenda by promoting community-led climate adaptation, enhancing environmental education, supporting sustainable agriculture and integrating eco-friendly practices across its programmes. These efforts strengthened community resilience, encouraged youth engagement and aligned environmental actions with long-term development goals.

Disasters and crises

In the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society significantly strengthened its disaster and crisis response by delivering timely humanitarian assistance to communities affected by floods and cyclones, providing shelter, livelihoods support and cash and voucher assistance (CVA). It advanced anticipatory action through early warning system improvements and simulation exercises, while also contributing to national and regional knowledge through studies and active participation in disaster resilience platforms.

Health and wellbeing

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society conducted widespread hygiene promotion, improved water and sanitation infrastructure and expanded outreach health services. It enhanced community resilience by providing first aid and mental health support, promoting blood donation and advancing cholera prevention in hotspot areas. These initiatives contributed to improved access to health services and stronger community health systems.

Migration and displacement

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society provided critical humanitarian assistance to people affected by displacement, including asylum seekers fleeing conflict in Mozambique and refugees residing at Dzaleka Refugee Camp. The National Society delivered protection services, facilitated family reunification through restoring family links (RFL) and referred individuals for psychosocial support, reinforcing its role in supporting vulnerable migrants and displaced populations.

Values, power and inclusion

During the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society advanced its commitment to equity, inclusion and community trust through youth-led initiatives, protection activities and disability-friendly programming. It played an active role in shaping national mental health and protection strategies, while strengthening participation and accountability at all levels. The National Society also prioritized the integration of protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) across programmes and invested in staff and volunteer training to ensure inclusive and empowering humanitarian action.

Enabling local actors

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society invested in institutional leadership, decentralizing operations and empowering communities through branch development and youth engagement. It improved financial systems, advanced infrastructure projects and strengthened accountability through robust feedback mechanisms. The National Society also positioned itself as a credible humanitarian diplomacy actor by using community-driven advocacy and forging strategic partnerships. These efforts supported long-term sustainability and reinforced the National Society's readiness to lead and localize humanitarian action.

Q2. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

During the reporting period, changes were made to the Unified Plan in response to evolving needs and operational realities. Mr. Chifundo Kalulu was officially appointed as Secretary General of Malawi Red Cross Society in April 2024, after serving in an acting role for six months and his confirmation in the role has been warmly welcomed by the Malawi Red Cross Society family.

The Malawi Red Cross Society received renewed National Society development support from the Swiss Red Cross as part of its exit and sustainability strategy, with additional funding from the FCDO Cholera Project and UNICEF. These changes required alignment of National Society development activities to reflect new funding streams.

The closure of the Tropical Cyclone Freddy project in early 2024 led to staffing reductions as contracts ended, affecting some programme delivery. However, the Malawi Red Cross Society successfully launched new projects including COMREP III, the FCDO Cholera response and FICAP, which helped maintain operational momentum.

Operational constraints included staffing gaps, reliance on donor timelines and logistical challenges during project transitions. Despite these, the Malawi Red Cross Society adapted effectively and remained focused on achieving its objectives.



Malawi Red Cross Society volunteers get water from a borehole to bring to a cholera treatment centre. (Photo: IFRC)

Q3. MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

ONGOING EMERGENCY RESPONSE

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

Name	Tropical Cyclone Freddy
Appeal number	MDRMW018
Duration	12 months (April 2023 to April 2024)
Funding requirements	Total IFRC: CHF 2.7 M Total Federation-wide: CHF 5 M
Emergency Appeal	Tropical Cyclone Freddy Emergency Appeal
Operational Strategy	Tropical Cyclone Freddy (Operational Strategy)
Revised Operational Strategy	Tropical Cyclone Freddy Revised Operational Strategy
Last Operation Update	Tropical Cyclone Freddy 6-month Operation Update

Tropical Storm Freddy struck Southern Malawi on 12 March 2023, bringing severe winds and heavy rains that caused widespread damage, power outages and displacement. The government declared a state of disaster in 14 districts, with approximately 125,000 households (around 560,000 people) displaced and over 500 camps established, 20 of which remained active by the end of 2023. The storm resulted in 499 confirmed deaths and 427 missing, as some areas remained inaccessible.

In response, the IFRC launched an [Emergency Appeal](#) on 17 March 2023 to support the Malawi Red Cross Society's humanitarian efforts. Initially set to close in December 2023, the appeal was extended to April 2024 due to funding delays and operational challenges. Despite these constraints, the extended period allowed the National Society to make significant progress in supporting affected communities.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

The main goal of the Malawi Red Cross Society's strategy was to support 160,000 people (32,000 households) most affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy to meet their basic needs, recover with dignity and build resilience to future shocks. The response focused on five severely affected districts—Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje and Phalombe—and was later expanded to Mangochi, Thyolo, Zomba, Chiradzulu and Machinga based on government requests.

In response to the national disaster declaration, the Malawi Red Cross Society launched an appeal through the IFRC, which attracted funding from various partners including the IFRC, the **Danish Red Cross** Consortium including the **Icelandic Red Cross**, CERF via IOM, Qatar, the **Kuwait Red Crescent**, China and local donors. This support allowed the Malawi Red Cross Society to broaden its reach.

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

Shelter, housing and settlements

During the reporting period 136 multi-hazard houses were constructed with funding from several partners, out of these 21 were constructed with funding from the IFRC in the districts of Mulanje (14) and Blantyre (7).

Livelihoods

As part of preparations for goat distribution under the Tropical Cyclone Freddy response, the Malawi Red Cross Society carried out a market assessment to evaluate the availability, quantity, quality and pricing of goats to ensure market readiness and inform planning. Based on the findings, 500 goats were distributed to 100 households in Phalombe, with each family receiving five goats—one boar and four nannies.

Health and care

The Malawi Red Cross Society integrated awareness-raising activities on improved health and nutrition services with ongoing water and sanitation interventions. To support vulnerable communities, especially those affected by floods, the National Society trained and deployed volunteers to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

Through these efforts, a total of 39,314 people (19,322 males and 19,992 females) were reached. This outcome was made possible through several key initiatives: training 1,966 volunteers in psychological first aid (PFA) in Nkhhotakota and Mangochi districts, training 91 volunteers to manage child-friendly spaces, and orienting 40 volunteers on self-care and safe spaces. Additionally, 60 staff and youth leaders based at headquarters received orientation on team care.

As part of their outreach, the trained volunteers also conducted door-to-door visits, delivering MHPSS messages to 1,473 households.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The Malawi Red Cross Society undertook several WASH initiatives to support communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Two solar-powered water systems were drilled and installed at Mpambachulu School in Phalombe and Nyangu School in Chikwawa, benefiting a total of 21,753 people (9,777 males and 11,976 females).

The Malawi Red Cross Society also constructed 136 latrines across the districts of Blantyre, Zomba, Phalombe, Mulanje and Chiradzulu. These facilities were well-received by the communities, significantly improving sanitation in the affected areas. In Blantyre, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported the construction of a five-cubicle (five-vault) latrine at Kapeni School, helping to ease congestion. The latrine was officially handed over and is now in use.

In addition, 21 latrines were built specifically for shelter beneficiaries in Chiradzulu, Phalombe and Mulanje as part of the cyclone response, ensuring access to safe and dignified sanitation for displaced families.

Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI)

The Malawi Red Cross Society prioritized vulnerable groups, especially women and female-headed households, in its beneficiary targeting. Enumerators were trained on prevention against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding, and all field staff were required to sign the Code of Conduct and PSEA policy.

All staff and volunteers were briefed on PSEA principles, with mandatory signing of the Code of Conduct by those involved in the operation. The National Society also developed and distributed IEC materials outlining referral pathways for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), displayed in camps and district offices per Protection Cluster guidelines.

Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society developed a PGI action plan based on assessment findings to address both strategic and operational gaps.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

The Malawi Red Cross Society implemented a strong accountability system that promotes community ownership and participation in decision-making. Through CEA, the National Society builds trust, improves programme quality and strengthens local resilience. A feedback mechanism in affected districts ensures communities can voice concerns and influence planning.

Clear information on selection criteria, distribution processes, and project updates is shared through meetings and door-to-door visits. The Malawi Red Cross Society prioritizes women and vulnerable groups in aid distribution and payroll systems. Communities are aware of feedback channels, which guide planning and include PGI considerations.

Community leaders and camp committees are actively engaged, and affected people are regularly informed about services, risks and preventive measures. Staff and volunteers are trained in CEA and feedback handling. Sensitive feedback is addressed by district grievance and social mobilization committees.

Environmental Sustainability

Integrated risk reduction and climate change adaptation into its broader strategy to build resilience and reduce vulnerabilities to climate-related impacts. This work is carried out in collaboration with government ministries, communities, international organizations and other humanitarian partners.

With IFRC support, the Malawi Red Cross Society launched a project focused on promoting locally led climate adaptation. During the reporting period, a climate screening assessment and validation workshop were held. Capacity building for staff and volunteers was conducted both locally and internationally, covering areas such as non-communicable diseases in emergencies, climate adaptation, anticipatory action, food security and livelihoods.

The Malawi Red Cross Society also prepared for enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments ([eVCA](#)) in targeted districts. Toward the end of the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society participated in a climate action orientation facilitated by the [Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre](#) with support from the IFRC. Key stakeholders consulted included CISONEC, DoDMA, the Environmental Affairs Department and the Ministry of Health's Climate Change section.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Climate and environment

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society implemented several initiatives to address environmental degradation and build climate resilience. Under the Locally Led Climate Change Adaptation Project, Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments ([eVCAs](#)) were conducted in Nsanje, Mulanje, and Phalombe, engaging 2,745 community members to guide the creation of localized adaptation plans.

As part of the Flanders Climate Action Project, 150 members of village natural resource committees in Phalombe were trained in tree nursery and woodlot management, as well as tree regeneration. In collaboration with government partners, the Malawi Red Cross Society also conducted a Community Trust Index survey in these districts with 1,437 participants, showing a 79 per cent trust level in the Malawi Red Cross Society due to programme awareness.

The Malawi Red Cross Society supported the planting of 38,000 tree seedlings across 18 districts during the National Tree Planting Launch—a decrease from the previous year due to El Niño-induced rainfall shortages. Environmental education reached over 2.7 million students through school clubs and 882,425 people via public campaigns focused on clean-ups, recycling, and urban greening. Youth in seven districts led clean-up efforts and fire briquette production.

Through the COMREP III project, 1,923 farmers in Chikwawa and Mangochi were trained in [climate-smart](#) agriculture. The Malawi Red Cross Society emphasizes integrating environmental considerations into all programmes to enhance sustainability, mitigate climate impacts and support peacebuilding.

Additionally, the Malawi Red Cross Society secured funding to expand the Locally Led Adaptation project to Nsanje, Phalombe and Mulanje. Community meetings are underway, and upcoming eVCAs will identify local risks and inform response strategies.

Under the Pan-African “Tree Planting and Care” initiative, the Malawi Red Cross Society used eco-friendly methods such as cement block construction, promoted plastic waste reduction, and encouraged tree planting and care. By the

end of 2024, 38,000 tree seedlings were planted across 18 districts, including Mzimba, Machinga, Dowa and Lilongwe.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC assisted the Malawi Red Cross in promotion of community-led solutions to address climate-related challenges, improve behaviours and promote climate action. The IFRC supported the National Society's programming to enable it to participate in the [IFRC Pan-African Tree Planting and Care](#) initiative.

The Malawi Red Cross Society is also 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.

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



Disasters and crises

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

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

NAME OF THE OPERATION	Malawi Floods 2024
MDR-CODE	MDRMW020
DURATION	5 months (11 March 2024 to 31 August 2024)
FUNDING ALLOCATION	CHF 499,820
PEOPLE TARGETED	6,000 people

The DREF allocation of CHF 499,820 in March 2024 supported the Malawi Red Cross Society in assisting 6,000 people affected by flooding in the central and northern regions (districts of Karonga and Nkhosvota). 138 trained volunteers were quickly mobilized to support the response efforts, located throughout the country and were engaged within 72 hours of the disaster. The National Society support included designing, constructing and set up of temporary and permanent shelter camps. The Malawi Red Cross Society volunteers also assisted in managing camps, raising community awareness, disseminating messages and conducting rapid assessments. Prepositioned stocks were distributed in the affected area. The National Society participated in coordination meetings with clusters and implemented search and rescue operations, along with the provision of [first aid](#) and disease sensitization.

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society delivered a wide-reaching emergency response to disasters such as flooding and Tropical Cyclone Freddy, supporting a total of 3,103,410 people (1,481,886 males and 1,621,524 females). Key interventions included the distribution of cash and agricultural inputs, benefiting 7,500 people in Mzimba and 3,250 in Zomba. Additionally, 27,669 individuals (4,558 males and 23,111 females) in disaster-affected districts received in-kind cash or cash and voucher assistance ([CVA](#)).

[Shelter](#) support reached 7,384 people (3,139 males and 4,245 females) through initiatives such as the participatory approach to safe shelter awareness ([PASSA](#)) and the construction of multi-hazard resilient shelters. Among these, 136 households received durable shelters following the impact of Cyclone Freddy.

The Malawi Red Cross Society also carried out anticipatory actions for Tropical Cyclone Filipo, including real-time simulations that identified gaps in early warning communication. Two major studies—the Anticipatory Action Comparative Study and a knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) study—were conducted under the Anticipatory Action Project and shared nationally. Additionally, the SRIPHEWS project was launched in Mzuzu and Zomba to further strengthen early warning systems. The National Society teams also participated in regional disaster resilience workshops in Kenya and Geneva.

Livelihood recovery assistance reached 105,185 individuals (51,541 males and 53,644 females), including the distribution of 500 goats to Cyclone Freddy-affected households in Phalombe, with each family receiving five goats (one boar and four nannies).

These efforts were part of broader disaster and crisis response programme, including the Pan-African Initiative on Readiness and Preparedness.

IFRC network joint support

The 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 March 2024, the IFRC provided a DREF allocation for Malawi floods to help the Malawi Red Cross in assisting 6,000 people in the Central Region and Northern Region with a budget of CHF 499,820.

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

The **Danish Red Cross** funded the Anticipatory Action Project.



Health and wellbeing

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society advanced its health programmes in alignment with national and global health priorities. A total of 6,760 staff, volunteers and stakeholders were trained in preventive health approaches, helping reach 1,848,993 people (852,244 males and 996,749 females) with hygiene promotion activities through van publicity, household visits and outreach sessions.

The Malawi Red Cross Society supported 713 outreach clinic sessions that reached 133,120 individuals and marked global health days to raise awareness on critical health issues. Efforts to improve water access included drilling 22 new boreholes and rehabilitating 111 existing ones, benefiting 36,251 people (17,763 males and 18,488 females). Two solar-powered high-yield boreholes were installed in Chikwawa and Phalombe, each serving 500 people and offering potential for expansion. Additionally, 38 area mechanics were trained and linked with 100 water point committees to enhance sustainability.

In cholera hotspot areas, the same 1,848,993 individuals were reached with intensified hygiene promotion efforts, which led to the construction of 1,204 household latrines and 21 institutional latrines by the Malawi Red Cross Society. In schools, the National Society built 12 VIP latrines benefiting 18,000 children.

The Malawi Red Cross Society facilitated 231 blood donation sessions in the reporting period, collecting 13,612 units of blood from 5,095 donors (1,804 males and 3,291 females), exceeding its 8,000-unit target. First aid training reached 2,106 individuals (849 males and 1,257 females), while psychological first aid (PFA) training reached 426 people. The Malawi Red Cross Society also provided first aid services to 9,082 people at 301 events, referring 382 for further treatment.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services reached 39,314 people (19,322 males and 19,992 females), with 1,966 volunteers trained in PFA and others trained in operating child-friendly spaces and promoting mental health awareness.

IFRC network joint support

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

The **Finnish Red Cross** supported the National Society in first aid.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provided support to the National Society on health, WASH and blood donor recruitment.



Migration and displacement

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In response to the post-election conflict in Mozambique in December 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported 2,182 asylum seekers (753 males and 1,429 females) who sought refuge in evacuation centres such as Tengani evacuation centre, Nyamithuthu Primary School and Chadzuka evacuation centre. These individuals were provided with humanitarian aid, comprehensive assessments, and restoring family links (RFL) services to help reunite separated families. The Malawi Red Cross Society also offered RFL support to 83 people and referred 79 individuals for further psychosocial assistance, contributing to their overall protection and well-being.

Throughout 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society continued working with refugees at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa District, home to individuals from Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. The National Society maintained its RFL and missing persons tracing services within the camp.

By the end of the year, the Malawi Red Cross Society had provided protection and assistance services to a total of 10,440 people (5,352 females and 5,088 males) across various emergency and refugee response efforts.

IFRC network joint support

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



Values, power and inclusion

Progress by the National Society against objectives

The Malawi Red Cross Society prioritized equity, trust and local empowerment across its programmes. A Community Trust Index study conducted in Nsanje, Mulanje and Phalombe districts showed that 79 per cent of respondents trust the Malawi Red Cross Society, highlighting its strong community presence. Youth engagement played a vital role, with Red Cross Youth Clubs leading school-based health and environmental initiatives, including first aid activities.

To promote protection and mental health, the Malawi Red Cross Society supported six protection cluster coordination meetings and actively contributed to the launch of Malawi's suicide prevention strategy and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) guidelines. The National Society further reinforced inclusion by installing disability-friendly WASH facilities in schools and ensuring equal opportunities in training and volunteer initiatives. The Malawi Red Cross Society trained 91 volunteers in managing child-friendly spaces and 40 in self-care and safe space facilitation. Mental health focal points were appointed in eight districts affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy.

In the reporting period, the Malawi Red Cross Society participated in regional and global training sessions, strengthening its capacity in disaster response, fundraising and international humanitarian law (IHL). It also continued to advance protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) as a cross-cutting priority. Through its PGI focal point, the National Society finalized a PGI assessment, developed a corresponding implementation plan and disseminated it to project coordinators to guide planning and ensure budget allocation for inclusive programming.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the necessary technical support to the Malawi Red Cross for institutionalization of community engagement and accountability (CEA).

ENABLING LOCAL ACTORS



Strategic and operational coordination

Progress by the National Society against objectives

IFRC membership coordination

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Movement coordination

The Malawi Red Cross ensures regular exchanges with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, for the alignment of support and action between Movement partners. During the reporting period, two Movement Coordination meetings brought together the Malawi Red Cross Society, the IFRC, the ICRC and participating National Societies to discuss strategic priorities, operational progress, financial updates and

emergency response models. A shared response framework for Tropical Cyclone Freddy and Cholera ensured cohesive technical support and implementation across districts. In times of emergencies, closer coordination is organized. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation ([SMCC](#)) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

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

External coordination

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society strengthened its institutional capacity and operational sustainability in alignment with its National Society development priorities. The exit strategy for the integrated community-based health and blood donor recruitment projects will continue over the next two years.

Institutional strengthening continued with the establishment of a stronger leadership structure. The Malawi Red Cross Society appointed a new Secretary General, Director of Programmes and Director of Finance, along with new Heads of Human Resources, Logistics and Corporate Services and Finance. In addition, the Head of planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) transitioned to the Disaster Management Department, and the vacant position was immediately filled, ensuring continuity in monitoring and evaluation capacity.

Branch capacity development remained a priority, especially in the transition period following project closures. As part of the exit strategy for the integrated community-based health project, the Malawi Red Cross Society emphasized the handover of responsibilities to local community structures and government line ministries. This decentralization approach is advancing sustainability at branch and community levels, strengthening their ability to continue services independently.

The Malawi Red Cross Society continued to strengthen its financial management and liability control systems. The internal Liability Taskforce held monthly meetings focused on reducing existing liabilities and preventing the accumulation of new ones. The PMER department initiated a survey to identify key factors contributing to financial liabilities, laying the groundwork for a longer-term sustainability plan. Significant infrastructure development also took place during the year, with major progress in the construction of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in Blantyre.

The National Society continued its investment in youth and volunteer engagement. Branches were supported to promote youth-led initiatives and strengthen volunteer networks, especially in community outreach, resilience building and humanitarian response. Youth engagement was notably visible in the roll-out of health, WASH and environmental initiatives.

The Malawi Red Cross Society ensured that all international support was aligned with its strategic priorities under National Society development. The Malawi Red Cross Society also benefited from institutional capacity-building support under the USAID Partnership Incubator. This included an on-site assessment by a USAID delegation in September 2024. The assessment confirmed the National Society's capacity to manage direct USAID funding, transitioning from its previous role as a sub-recipient. The Malawi Red Cross Society is currently addressing the final recommendations outlined in the assessment to qualify as a principal recipient.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided financial support, technical assistance and capacity-building to the National Society. The IFRC surge team continued to provide technical support in all operational districts to strengthen coherence and efficiency. The IFRC also contributed to infrastructure and institutional resilience through the construction of the EOC in Blantyre. This major infrastructure investment is supported by the IFRC-ICRC joint National Society Investment Alliance ([NSIA](#)) and co-financed by the Government of Malawi.

The **Swiss Red Cross** provided direct bilateral support as part of the planned phase-out of the long-term integrated community-based health and blood donor recruitment projects. This support, which will continue over the next two years, was complemented by funding through the FCDO-supported Cholera Response and UNICEF, ensuring a smooth transition and continuity of impact in the National Society's priority sectors.



Humanitarian diplomacy

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society integrated humanitarian diplomacy across its programming. Humanitarian diplomacy served not only to remove implementation barriers but also to address systemic and structural issues beyond the direct reach of individual projects. This strategic approach contributed to the National Society's broader ambition of establishing itself as a strong humanitarian diplomacy actor in Malawi.

The Malawi Red Cross Society adopted a bottom-up approach to humanitarian diplomacy, beginning at the community level and scaling successful interventions to district and national platforms. This approach allowed local insights and lived experiences to inform advocacy messages, thereby ensuring relevance, credibility and resonance with decision-makers. Community mobilization played a critical role in this process, helping to gather community voices, encourage dialogue and increase public participation in local development processes.

To support its advocacy efforts, the Malawi Red Cross Society used a range of tools and methods. These included documenting and analyzing the root causes of local problems to build an evidence base for policy engagement, mapping key stakeholders and power structures to guide strategic influence and conducting formal and informal engagements with decision-makers and donors to align priorities and co-create solutions. Public awareness campaigns were also conducted to elevate specific humanitarian issues, broaden public understanding and cultivate greater support for the National Society's mission.

Collaboration with external partners further strengthened the Malawi Red Cross Society's humanitarian diplomacy initiatives. These partnerships added value by expanding the reach of advocacy campaigns and enhancing the National Society's capacity to influence systemic change. The Malawi Red Cross Society also took steps to improve its internal capabilities, including the development of advocacy resources, strengthened training in policy analysis and participation in national and regional coordination platforms.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC assisted the Malawi Red Cross Society in accessing training opportunities and peer support networks focused on skills and strategy development for influencing. It also provided communications and public advocacy resources to the National Society.



Accountability and agility (cross-cutting)

Progress by the National Society against objectives

In 2024, the Malawi Red Cross Society advanced its efforts in strengthening institutional accountability, digital transformation and innovation across its operations. Central to these efforts was the enhancement of the Malawi Red Cross Society's feedback and accountability mechanisms, which ensured transparent engagement with communities and promoted participatory humanitarian programming.

The National Society's accountability system enables continuous two-way communication with the communities it serves. Designed to encourage information sharing and inclusion, the system employs multiple feedback channels—including help desks, suggestion boxes and direct face-to-face interactions—available at all distribution points. This multi-channel approach empowers individuals to voice concerns or offer feedback through their preferred method. All feedback is logged in a web-based system using Kobo/ODK and transmitted to the Programme Quality and Learning (PQL) server for analysis. Issues are categorized and directed to relevant district teams, who, in collaboration with local government staff, investigate and respond appropriately. The outcome of each case is then logged and closed in the central database.

During the implementation of the Tropical Cyclone Freddy Appeal, the Malawi Red Cross Society collected a total of 1,369 feedback entries from the supported districts of Phalombe, Thyolo, Mulanje and Zomba. Of this total, 357 responses (26 per cent) were submitted via help desks and 1,012 (74 per cent) through suggestion boxes. Feedback analysis showed that 586 messages (43 per cent) expressed appreciation for the support received, 765 messages (56

per cent) requested additional aid and six cases registered complaints about eligible individuals not receiving support. Of all feedback received, 587 (43 per cent) were resolved, while 771 (57 per cent) were forwarded to relevant project staff for further action.

IFRC network joint support

The IFRC provided the National Society with financial training, security assessment training, knowledge sharing and direct support through coaching on a case-by-case basis.

Q4. AFFECTED PERSONS (PEOPLE REACHED)

See cover pages

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

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

Q6. RISK MANAGEMENT

This information is not available in Annual Reports

Q7. EXIT STRATEGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

See Strategic Priority on Enabling Local Actors, where relevant under Q3: MEASURING RESULTS OF THE IFRC NETWORK ACTION

Q8. LESSONS LEARNED

- Community involvement at all stages of implementation is key to community ownership of the Malawi Red Cross Society projects
- There is a need to consider branch capacity development in project design to ensure that volunteers are capacitated through the projects
- Community feedback is key in any project implementation as it strengthens community trust
- Collaboration with other line ministries, departments and stakeholders in both emergency operations and long-term development projects is paramount as it brings synergy, promotes complementarity of actions, resilience and sustainability
- Coordination with district councils is key in sustaining all interventions at community level
- Use of community level extension structures and volunteers is paramount in ensuring delivery of timely and quality services within target communities

SUCCESS STORIES



1

A New Beginning: How Cash Transfers Are Transforming Lives – The Story of Eviness Dickson

Eviness Dickson, 51, a mother of five, lost her home to flooding during the El Niño rains. With water rising to knee level and walls collapsing, she and her family had no choice but to stay in the damaged house. Through the Malawi Red Cross Society's El Niño response project, supported by the Danish Red Cross, Eviness received multipurpose cash assistance—part of support reaching 718 households. With the first 100,000 Kwacha, she bought materials and began rebuilding on higher ground. The final 50,000 Kwacha helped complete the house. "Now my family is safe. I'm very grateful to the Red Cross," she shared. The support not only restored her shelter but renewed her hope.



2

Empowering Communities: The Impact of Locally Led Adaptation in Climate Resilience

In the face of climate change, communities on the frontlines are often left out of the solutions. That's now changing through Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)—a powerful approach that places local voices at the centre of climate action.

In Malawi, the Malawi Red Cross Society, with support from the IFRC, embraced LLA through projects such as DRIMIAA. Using tools including the enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments, communities identified their own climate risks and proposed locally tailored solutions. This participatory process didn't just inform project design—it empowered the people most affected. By blending science with community knowledge, LLA is proving to be more than a method; it is a movement. It ensures climate strategies are not only effective but also inclusive and sustainable; driven by those who live the reality every day.

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

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

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

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

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



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

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

DATA SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

- **Timeframe and alignment:** The reporting timeframe for this overview is covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024. However, due to the diversity of the IFRC and differences in fiscal years, this coverage may not fully align for some National Societies.
- **Financial overview:** This overview consolidates data reported by the National Society and its IFRC network partners, as well as data extracted from IFRC's financial systems. All reported figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities. The financial data with a grey background is solely reported by the National Society, including the funding sources. Financial reporting is often times estimated depending on availability of financial figures, closing of financial periods, and may be incomplete. 'Not reported' could sometimes mean 'not applicable'. Also note that funding requirements are already reflected in the published 2024 IFRC network country plan. The total funding requirements show what the IFRC network has sought to raise for the given year through different channels: funding through the IFRC, through participating National Societies as bilateral support, and through the host National Society from non-IFRC network sources. All figures should include the administrative and operational costs of the different entities.
 - » Host National Society funding requirements not coming from IFRC network sources can comprise a variety of sources, as demonstrated when reporting on income in the IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System
 - » Participating National Society funding requirements for bilateral support are those validated by respective headquarters, and often represent mainly secured funding
 - » IFRC funding requirements comprise both what is sourced from the IFRC core budget and what is sought through emergency and thematic funding. This includes participating National Societies' multilateral support through IFRC, and all other IFRC sources of funding
- **Missing data and breakdowns:** National Societies have diverse data collection systems and processes that may not align with the standardized indicators. Data may not be available for some indicators, for some National Societies. This may lead to inconsistencies across different reporting tools as well as potential under or over-estimation of the efforts led by all.
- **Reporting bias:** The data informing this Federation-wide overview is self-reported by each National Society (or its designated support entity) which is the owner and gatekeeper, and responsible for accuracy and updating. IFRC tries to triangulate the data provided by the National Societies with previous data and other data in the public domain.
- **Definitions:**
 - » **Local units:** ALL subdivisions of a National Society that coordinate and deliver services to people. These include ALL levels (provincial, state, city, district branches, sections or chapters, headquarters, and regional and intermediate offices, as well as community-based units)
 - » **Branches:** A Branch has its roles, responsibilities and relationship with the National Headquarters defined through the National Society's Statutes, including the level of autonomy given, especially in the area of its legal status, mobilising local resources and building local partnerships, and the decisions it makes. It has a local-level decision-making mechanism through its Branch members, board and volunteers, equally defined through the National Society's Statutes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [MW_Malawi AR Financials.pdf](#)
- [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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