

2021

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SOUTHERN AFRICA CLUSTER

MALAWI

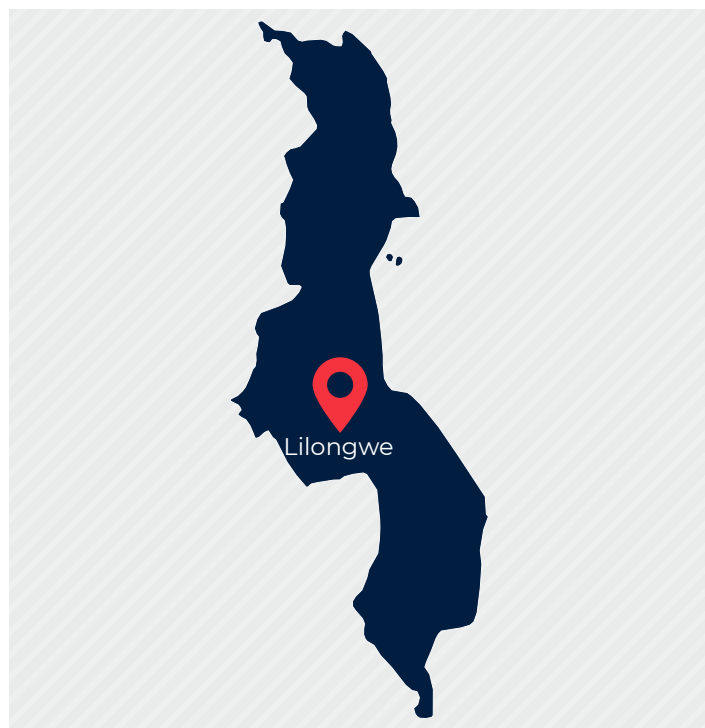
IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

Appeal number

MAA63001

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1.8 million



Branches

33



Staff

141



Volunteers

70,000



People to be reached

3.9 million

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



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SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

19.1 milion

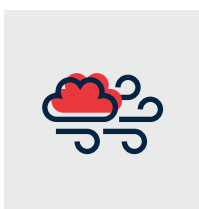
2019 Human Development Index Ranking

172

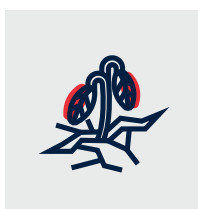
Vulnerability to disasters



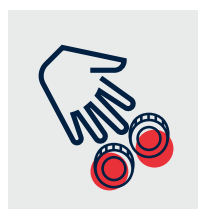
Floods



Strong winds



Drought



Poverty



Disease outbreak

Malawi is a disaster-prone country that commonly experiences flooding, droughts, strong winds and disease outbreaks. With over half of its people living under the national poverty standards in poorly constructed homes, these natural hazards pose significant socio-economic losses to vulnerable communities, including damage to infrastructure, crops and livestock, deforestation, and loss of human lives.

In recent years, Malawi has fallen victim to the effects of aggressive climate change, causing less predictable, heavier rains and harsh heat waves that impact negatively on people's health and agriculture production throughout the year. Together with rapid urbanisation and population growth, leading to degradation of land and natural resources, people in Malawi are facing challenges that they are currently ill-equipped to cope with.

The threat of the COVID-19 pandemic has only served to exacerbate a precarious situation for people in Malawi, who are already at risk from other infectious diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS. Access to health services is limited for many and poor personal hygiene is a major factor in the spread of disease amongst communities.



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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Established

1966

The Malawi Red Cross Society was founded in 1966 to provide humanitarian aid to people in Malawi. It has a presence in all 28 districts of the country and employs 373 people and a further 2150 volunteers to carry out work across a diverse range of sectors, including health, nutrition, relief, first aid and shelter. The National Society also benefits from a network of 76,000 members.

The National Society has a strong Community Engagement Accountability (CEA) component and has received additional training for its staff, volunteers, communities and community leaders as part of this initiative. Malawi also provided one of the field visits to develop the CEA Africa Strategy.

With 33 branches across all three regions and a dedicated emergency response team, the National Society aims to respond to disasters within 72 hours, while continuing to provide ongoing health and developmental services to those in need.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Membership coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Belgian Red Cross	✓	✓	✓					
British Red Cross	✓	✓						
Danish Red Cross	✓	✓						
Finnish Red Cross						✓		✓
Icelandic Red Cross	✓	✓						
Netherlands Red Cross	✓	✓						
Swiss Red Cross			✓					

Movement footprint

The National Society in Malawi responds to the most urgent community needs in close partnership with other National Societies, the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

- The **Danish Red Cross** acts as a coordination lead between the National Society and its Movement Partners:
- The **IFRC** supports National Society initiatives on the COVID-19 pandemic, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and HIV/AIDS, climate change action and recovery in the aftermath of Cyclone Idai
- The **ICRC** contributes to the Restoring Family Links and Safe Access and Communications programmes
- The **Danish Red Cross**, **Finnish Red Cross**, **Icelandic Red Cross** all support Community Resilience, COVID-19 and disaster preparedness
- The **Netherlands Red Cross** and **Belgium Red Cross** support the ECHO Disaster Risk Reduction programme to strengthen communities against crises
- The **Swiss Red Cross** contributes to Blood Donor Recruitment and Community Health



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

105,300

People to be reached

1,500,000

Malawi is among the 30 countries most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the most significant risk being rising temperatures that could negatively impact people's health and agricultural production. With heat waves and extended dry periods becoming more common and rains heavier and less predictable in the medium to long-term, growing and planting seasons are also affected, making it more difficult for communities to sustain crops and to maintain their way of life.

In addition to these climatic stresses, land and natural resources have also experienced degradation due to a growing population and infrastructure development. People in Malawi are not only affected by severe changes in weather conditions, but by increased deforestation rates and denuded soil due to poor agricultural practices that could also threaten their livelihoods.

The socio-economic challenges that people in Malawi will experience as a result of these stressors are wide-ranging and will therefore be tackled by building knowledge of climate change risk among staff, volunteers and community members with the support of the IFRC.



\$13 million
annual GDP loss from
droughts & dry spells
in Malawi



80%
people live below the
poverty line in Malawi

→ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Society to train volunteers and staff in climate change action
- The IFRC will support the National Society to adopt sustainable practices and facilitate community interventions
- The IFRC will support the National Society to mainstream green response in all its programmes



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
496,000

People to be reached
3,500,000



People in Malawi are highly vulnerable to natural disasters, exasperated by the effects of poverty, ill health and other adverse conditions and chronic illnesses. The secondary impacts of these crises are often far-reaching, with women and girls particularly at risk of sexual and gender-based violence, child marriage and early pregnancy.

When disasters occur, communities rarely have the capacity to deal with the immediate danger or, indeed, the aftermath. There is a growing need to empower individuals to become more resilient by educating and training through Disaster Risk Reduction and Preparedness programmes supported by the IFRC and partner National Societies, giving them the power within their communities to take control of their own health and wellbeing.



2.55 million
people required urgent
humanitarian assistance between
November to December 2020

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Share and receive actionable risk information with communities to reduce vulnerability and exposure to hazards and increase resilience
- Provide timely and appropriate access to support and services for people affected by crises
- Advocate for effective and protective disaster related laws, policies and regulations



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
311,000

People to be reached
3,500,000



Lack of access to health services continues to be a critical challenge for people in Malawi, with a high prevalence of communicable diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and a growing number of cardiovascular diseases contributing to the high mortality rates.

With approximately 43 deaths in every 100 live births and 250 deaths per 1000 adults, Malawi is a country that is burdened with an increasing number of health hazards and limited health services to cope with demand. Hospitals in Malawi also routinely experience shortages that restrict their ability to support patients with blood transfusions, one of the core services of every healthcare system.

Poor hygiene and sanitation contribute to the spread of diarrhoea and cholera, conditions that are particularly severe and often fatal in children under five years old. Although progress has been made on the improvement of facilities and educational resources, with access to hygienic latrines available to 39% of people and clean drinking water to 89% of people, the spread of diarrheal diseases within communities still needs to be addressed. In addition, Malawi is experiencing an increase in the local transmission of COVID-19, with citizens and refugees returning to the country with the disease from other locations.

50,000
the number of new HIV/AIDS
infections every year

27.1%
deaths resulting from
HIV/AIDS

32%
deaths related to
non-communicable
diseases

→ ACTIVITIES

- Develop a comprehensive Health and WASH Strategic Plan
- Conduct social and epidemiological assessment on Health and WASH
- Incorporate Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) into health programming
- Establish and train a working group to support the delivery of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to those affected by crises
- Identify and assess areas that require new sanitation systems and facilitate installation



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
60,000

People to be reached
30,000



Malawi routinely hosts refugees and asylum seekers from Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique, many of whom are fleeing their respective countries due to wars and political unrest. Refugee camps are often overcrowded, and most inhabitants are not legally permitted to reside in Malawi which requires them to seek assistance for the legal status that will allow them to stay.

In order to restore and maintain family links, the National Society provides Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to refugees and other internally displaced people, in collaboration with the local government and the UN Refugee Agency. The services it provides include the tracing of relatives to restore contact, free calls and internet use, dissemination of letters via the National Society and home visits to unaccompanied children.

Human trafficking has also become a concern on the borders between Malawi and Zambia through Chipata, with a lack of coordination and advocacy between the two countries making it difficult to take decisive action against the practice.



142

cases of human trafficking
reported nationwide

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Conduct awareness meetings with communities on reporting and the negative effects of human trafficking
- Track human trafficking in coordination with the ICRC and other relevant organisations
- Support migrants and displaced persons through the Restoring Family Links programme



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
101,000

People to be reached
1,530



The National Society engages a diverse, multicultural volunteer workforce, composed of men and women of all ages, ethnicities and religions working together to improve their communities. As the needs of people living in Malawi change and new trends emerge, the National Society will continue to evolve, and to recruit new volunteers and members to strengthen its impact.

Youth education is a particular focus, with special emphasis placed on supporting young people affected by disaster, crisis and displacement, particularly young women who are also vulnerable to gender-based violence and discrimination.

Marginalised groups are actively encouraged to play a part in making important decisions for disaster risk management.



90%
Primary school
enrolment rate

15%
Secondary school
enrolment rate

ACTIVITIES

- Implement National Youth Engagement Strategy and support youth-lead initiatives
- Network with child-focused stakeholders to meet the needs of children during crises, ensuring safe, continuous access to quality education
- Train staff and volunteers in the delivery of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) programmes to support marginalised people
- Conduct a review of the National Society's gender and diversity action



ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

31,000

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society to strengthen its engagement with partners to deliver crucial support to the communities it serves, defining its role as an auxiliary to the local authority in Malawi and as a partner of choice in the humanitarian field.

The IFRC will support the National Society to improve its resources and build a strong presence at regional and global levels, solidifying its role as an effective advocate for policy change. Alongside this, the IFRC will ensure that the relevant representatives of humanitarian and development agencies are well informed of the activities of the National Society and the IFRC network.

In collaboration with internal and external partners, the National Society will respond to the vulnerabilities affecting Malawi through programme delivery and emergency aid. The IFRC will provide training and peer support to National Society staff and volunteers to enhance skills, data literacy and strategy development.

The IFRC network will undergo a digital transformation, with the Iceland Red Cross supporting the National Society to further develop its existing IT infrastructure. All tools, programmes and services within this infrastructure are designed to be fully inclusive of gender, diversity, language and mobility. Training for users of the system will focus on risks, ethics and data protection to ensure a safe experience for all.

ACTIVITIES

- Collaborate with the UN, WHO, UNICEF and other international and local NGOs relevant to the National Society's work
- Develop staff and volunteer knowledge through training and peer support
- Work with the Iceland Red Cross to further develop existing IT system



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ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

46,000

The IFRC will assist the National Society to develop their own contextual security risk register and mitigation measures, to reduce prevailing risks to an acceptable level. The National Society will be supported through security assessment training, knowledge sharing and coaching on a case by case base.

The IFRC will support the National Society to increase its financial resources so it can respond to the growing funding needs of vulnerable people in Malawi, while providing global fundraising insights through the Virtual Fundraising Hub. The National Society will explore sustainable funding mechanisms, with a resource mobilisation strategy finalised and ready for dissemination.

The National Society has submitted a National Society Investment Alliance application through the IFRC to upgrade its National Training Centre in Dowa. A full time Resource Mobilization Specialist has also been hired to drive the fundraising initiatives in addition to programme development.



50%

National Society intended
income from domestic
fundraising efforts

➔ ACTIVITIES

- Develop effective security risk register and mitigation measures and train staff and volunteers adequately
- Finalise and disseminate a resource mobilisation strategy to support fundraising efforts
- Continue to drive sustainable fundraising initiatives with specialist support



ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP
WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

33,300

The IFRC will support the National Society in its development to become a trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action, with the capabilities to act in the global network.

The National Society will address the sustainability of its services by continually revising its legal frameworks and assessing developmental and strategic needs. The National Society will strive to become a more efficient, high performing organisation, moving beyond service delivery to help vulnerable communities build capacity so they can withstand crises.

With the support of the IFRC, the National Society aims to become an economically sustainable organisation that can independently cover its core costs. To this end, effective financial management and accountability will remain a top priority.

The National Society will continue to strengthen its mechanisms for the protection of its staff and volunteers and the people it serves, following guidelines that address issues such as fraud and corruption, discrimination, harassment and child safeguarding.

Volunteer development and youth action is a priority for the National Society as a catalyst for behavioural change within communities. The National Society is committed to improving volunteer management, membership and youth engagement, recruiting individuals with diverse skillsets and abilities.

The IFRC will support the National Society to integrate the 6 movement-wide commitments and actions for community engagement and accountability, improving coordination and communication at country, regional and global levels. The National Society will ensure consistency and alignment with international commitments through a performance measurement framework.

ACTIVITIES

- Develop and implement policies on prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, gender and diversity and child protection/safeguarding policies
- Support the prevention of fraud and corruption through mapping, reporting and development of preventative measures
- Conduct a protection, gender and inclusion organisational assessment, including an analysis of recruitment and retention practices for volunteers
- Track community engagement and accountability performance through measurement framework



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 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.

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