



Climate
Resilience
Alliance



 **COUNTRY BRIEF**

Malawi
September 2025
 Concern Worldwide

Malawi

Who we are

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance works with communities to influence policies and practices which enhance resilience to climate hazards.

Our definition of resilience

The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance understands the concept of climate resilience as: The ability of a system, community, or society to pursue its social, ecological and economic development and growth objectives, while managing its climate risks over time in a mutually reinforcing way.

Our vision

Our vision is a world where communities are resilient to climate hazards, enabling them to thrive.

Our goal

By 2035, alongside like-minded organizations, we aspire to positively impact 70 million people vulnerable to climate change, and 5.5 million by 2027.

Alliance partners working in Malawi:

CONCERN
worldwide



Find out more about the Alliance's work in Malawi 

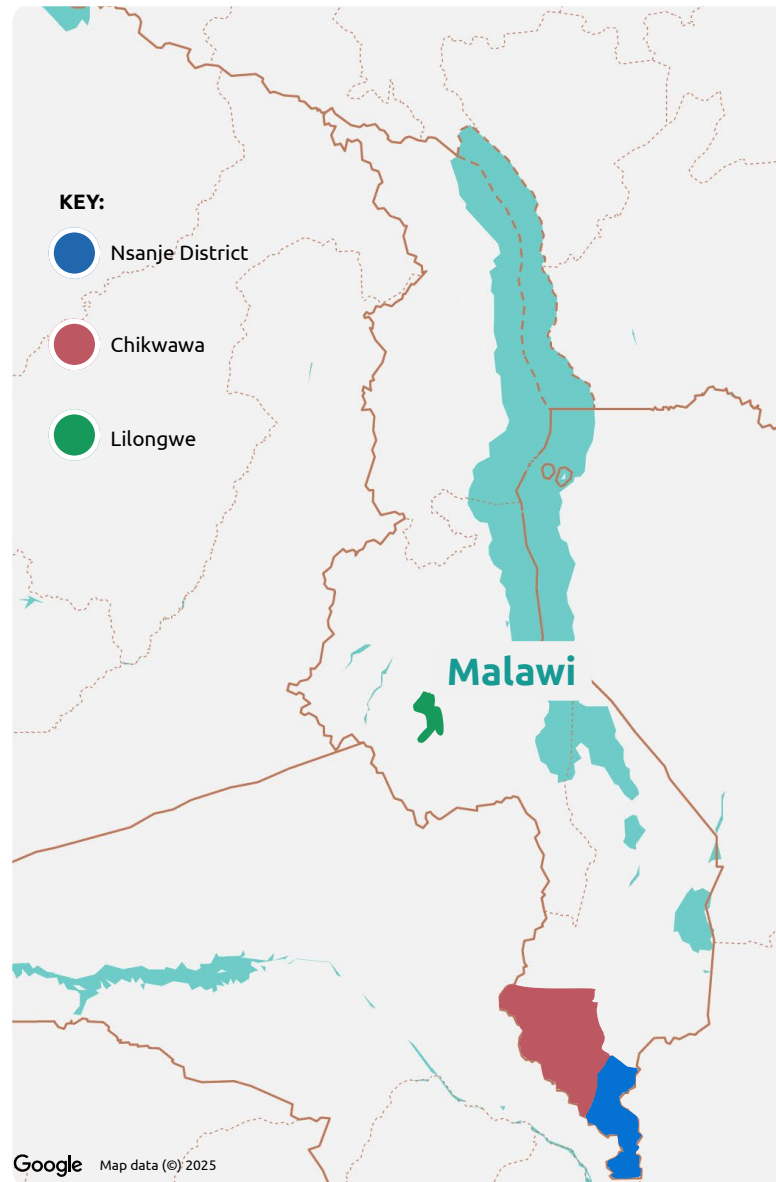
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Impact of floods in Malawi

Malawi is susceptible to various natural hazards, including floods, droughts, and cyclones, due to its geographical location and climate patterns. The impact of these hazards can be severe, leading to loss of life, displacement of communities, damage to infrastructure, and disruption of livelihoods. Floods are among the most frequent and devastating disasters in Malawi, affecting both rural and urban areas. They can result in casualties, damage to crops and property, contamination of water sources, and increased vulnerability to waterborne diseases. Climate change-induced weather events have caused significant losses and damages to the country, leading to fiscal pressure and macroeconomic instability. Various disasters have resulted in loss of human life and damage to infrastructure and economic activity, thereby hindering national economic growth, development, and poverty reduction. For example, the 2016 drought resulted in economic losses and damages totalling US\$365.9 m. More recently, in 2023, tropical cyclone Freddy affected 2,267,458 people, displaced 659,278, and caused 679 fatalities. The cyclone led to disaster-related costs of \$506.7 m and necessitated recovery and reconstruction costs of \$680.4 m.



Heavy flooding as a result of cyclone Ana in Nsanje. Photo: Concern Worldwide



Community members Jalphy, John, and Yowasi showcase their nursery at Bitilinyu Camp, Traditional Authority Ndamera. Photo: Lydia Lampiri



The Dinde marsh near Madani Community, Traditional Authority Ndamera. This area will be completely submerged during flooding. Photo: Lydia Lampiri

Alliance partners working in Malawi

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organization dedicated to the reduction of suffering and working towards the ultimate elimination of extreme poverty in the world's poorest countries. Their mission is to help people living in extreme poverty achieve major improvements in their lives, which last and spread without ongoing support from Concern Worldwide. To achieve this mission, Concern Worldwide engages in long-term development work, builds resilience, responds to emergencies, and seeks to address the root causes of poverty through their development and advocacy work.

At the community level, Concern Worldwide aims to enhance awareness of flood risks and bolster local capacity to proactively respond to, manage, and recover from floods through the implementation of action plans, incorporating nature-based flood management solutions, early warning systems, flood-resilient housing, and climate-adaptive livelihood initiatives.

Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC)

The Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) is a data-driven process, complemented by a web-based tool and mobile app, which helps communities to evaluate and measure how resilient they are to climate hazards. Using the results, they can identify and implement resilience-building interventions and run additional measurements to track improvements.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org/crmc

Alliance objectives in Malawi

Concern Worldwide will continue to engage the disaster risk management (DRM) system at national, district, and community levels to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and timeliness of the overall system and subsystems in the DRM cycle. The focus will be on three areas of systems change:



Dissemination and awareness raising of the *Disaster Risk Management Bill 2023*.



Financing mechanisms at the national and district level (national allocation and devolution, investment in preparedness, risk reduction, and recovery).



Financing mechanisms at the community level, demonstrating the potential implementation of community disaster funds.



Zurich project PSO speaks to flood victims at Mambundungu site in Traditional Authority Malema. Photo: Concern Worldwide

The communities we are working with

Since 2021, Concern Worldwide has been working in 15 communities in Malawi with high vulnerability to floods and food shortages along the lower Shire River in Nsanje District. The Flood Resilience Measurement for Communities tool, which has now evolved into the CRMC tool, was used to engage the community through a sequential data collection approach, community interventions, learning, and adaptation. According to the [Malawi 2019 Floods Post Disaster Needs Assessment report](#), Nsanje District was among the 15 most flood-affected districts.

In the context of DRM in Malawi, gender and social inclusion are crucial yet often challenging aspects. Whilst disasters such as floods and droughts affect all, vulnerable groups, particularly women and children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, face heightened risks and often have limited access to resources, services, and decision-making platforms that would aid in effective disaster preparedness and response. To address these challenges, the programme incorporates

gender and inclusion components that encourage women and other marginalized groups to participate actively in DRM activities.

Concern Worldwide has also contributed to improving national policies by advocating for enactment of the Disaster Risk Management Bill. The coalition engaged with a variety of government ministries and departments around key priorities, and the Bill was eventually passed in April 2023.



Concern Worldwide staff carry out a flood impact assessment in Nsanje. Photo: Eric Banda

Duration of the Malawi Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance programme: January 2024 – December 2027

The Alliance website

- Our website shares practical knowledge alongside the latest evidence and research about how to build community resilience to climate hazards.
- We share knowledge generated through the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance's work across the world, as well as from many other sources of evidence.

Find out more: ZCRAlliance.org

Get in touch

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For more information, visit
ZCRAlliance.org/countries/Malawi

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The Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance is a multi-sectoral partnership, powered by the Z Zurich Foundation, focused on enhancing resilience to climate hazards in both rural and urban communities. By implementing solutions, promoting good practice, influencing policy and facilitating systemic change, we aim to ensure that all communities facing climate hazards are able to thrive. [Find out more at ZCRAlliance.org](https://ZCRAlliance.org)

In partnership with:



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