

MALAWI



BACKGROUND

Malawi has made great strides moving towards disaster prevention and resilience building. Disaster risk reduction is a stated priority for the government along with a comprehensive implementation of the disaster risk management (DRM) agenda. As of February 2015, Members of Parliament in Malawi approved the *National Disaster Risk Management Policy*. The policy will help create an enabling framework to establish a comprehensive DRM system. It will also give updates on disasters, guide stakeholders in implementing programs and activities to effectively reduce risk, especially relevant following recent events.

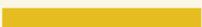
Natural disasters have had serious impacts on Malawi's economic development. Drought and dry spells in Malawi cause, on average, a one percent loss of gross domestic product (GDP) annually. Additionally, an average loss of 0.7 percent of the annual GDP is due to the flooding of lakes and the overflowing of rivers. Moreover, studies indicate that climate change will continue to affect the incidence of drought and floods— notably, the mean annual temperature in the country has increased by an average rate of 0.21°C per decade over the last 30 years.

QUICK FACTS

COUNTRY INDICATORS¹

GDP per capita (PPP)	\$780
Total Population	16,362,567
Income Level	Low
Poverty ²	51%
Urban Population	16%

RISK PROFILE³

Lack of coping capacity	 6.7
Vulnerability	 5.4
Hazard and exposure	 1.9
Overall risk	 4.1

KEY PRIORITIES

1. Technical leadership for DRM
2. Diagnosis of underlying risk factors
3. Structural and non-structural risk mitigation options
4. Risk financing mechanisms

¹ World Bank: free and open access to development data in countries around the globe. <http://data.worldbank.org/>

² Poverty rates at national poverty lines, World Bank Open Data.

³ INFORM: a global, open-source risk assessment for humanitarian crises and disasters. INFORM uses a scale from 0-10 (10 is the highest level of risk) <http://www.inform-index.org/>



Flooding results in sediment deposits in river channels, reservoirs and floodplains. In turn, this causes catchment degradation, loss of arable land and damage to irrigation infrastructure. Most recently in 2015, the country was impacted by unprecedented flooding which affected more than 1.2 million people and destroyed agricultural fields and damaged key infrastructure leading to a massive loss in livelihoods. Further, Malawi is located within the great East African Rift System, an area prone to severe and frequent earthquakes.

To further advance the DRM agenda, priorities include: (i) improving technical leadership; (ii) creating a systematic and comprehensive diagnosis of underlying risk factors—especially at the local level; (iii) systematically identifying and evaluating risk mitigation options—structural and non-structural; and (iv) developing risk financing mechanisms.

GFDRR PROGRESS TO DATE

GFDRR's engagement in Malawi started in 2008, with the publication of the *Situation Analysis Report on Disaster Risk Management Programs and Practices*. This document identified the strengths, weaknesses and needs of existing programs and practices, while also providing suggestions for a national DRM policy. Improved water resources management, early warning systems and hydro-meteorological services were identified as key factors for reducing impacts on the national economy and local livelihoods.

In addition, GFDRR: (i) supported the government in two analytical studies which incorporated flood and drought risk reduction into the country's development policies

and strategies; (ii) funded the Karonga Earthquake Project; (iii) supported an education and housing sector structural assessment; (iv) provided assistance in the production and dissemination of safe housing guidelines, in partnership with the Malawi Red Cross Society and UN-HABITAT; and (v) provided support to a post-disaster needs assessment in 2012 and 2015.

Most recently, GFDRR supported online mapping and data access platforms through the Malawi Spatial Data Portal. This is part of a larger open data initiative to promote transparency and accountability, and facilitate informed decision-making.

LOOKING AHEAD

GFDRR proposes to support the government in further obtaining a thorough understanding of risk. GFDRR will support: (i) the development of tools for the maintenance of disaster risk data; (ii) continued community mapping and training sessions on the OpenStreetMap platform; (iii) flood risk assessments; (iv) seismic risk assessments; (v) the development of safe housing and school guidelines; and (vi) training on building resilient infrastructure.

Further, technical support will be channeled towards the development of an early warning system for the Shire basin, disaster risk financing and insurance, damage and loss training, and the development of a Scenario Assessment for Emergencies tool (SAFE).

PROJECTS AWARDED BY GFDRR 2007-2015

Project	Description
Developing Safer Schools Program   US\$300,000 Start date: 2015 (Ongoing)	Supports the development of Safer School Programs in Malawi. Activities include: (i) analyzing the drivers of disaster risk in the education sector, (ii) formulating a strategy for intervention; and (iii) developing the detailed concept, activities, and implementation arrangements of a larger Technical Assistance Program on safer schools.
Flood Post Disaster Needs Assessment  US\$170,000 2015 (Completed)	Assessed the impact of the 2015 floods and defined a strategy for recovery including its financial implications. Activities included: (i) estimating the overall impact of the 2015 floods on the socio-economic development of the country and on affected districts and communities; (ii) developing a recovery and reconstruction framework; and (iii) ensuring that strategies for recovery integrate concepts of disaster risk reduction, “building back better”, and address gender and environmental concerns.
Disaster Risk Management in Malawi Country Plan – Phase II      US \$1,000,000 Start date: 2012 (Ongoing)	Supports the country in disaster risk reduction and preparedness efforts. Activities include: (i) strengthening DRM and CCA policy, strategy and institutional capacity; (ii) identifying and reducing underlying risks; and (iii) supporting early warning and hydro-meteorological systems.
Mainstreaming Disaster Reduction for Sustainable Poverty Reduction   US\$1,306,000 2006–2010 (Completed)	Provided technical assistance to the government in its efforts to mainstream disaster risk reduction in strategic planning and sectoral development. Activities included: (i) managing disaster risk; (ii) enhancing preparedness at national and district levels; and (iii) facilitating the application of World Bank’s DRM experience into the Malawi’s economic and sectoral growth strategies.
Karonga Earthquakes     US\$122,901 for 8 countries² 2008–2011 (Completed)	Provided technical assistance to the government in resilient recovery. Activities Included: (i) conducting trainings on the damage and loss assessment (DaLA) methodology; (ii) housing structure and recovery needs assessments; and (iii) supporting the production and dissemination of safe housing guidelines, in partnership with the Malawi Red Cross Society and UN-HABITAT.
GFDRR Malawi Disaster Risk Management Country Plan – Phase I      US\$1,099,000 2011–2013 (Completed)	Supported efforts to mainstream DRM in the country. Activities included: (i) developing an Integrated Flood Risk Management Plan, with major stakeholders, for the Shire Basin—the largest river in Malawi.; (ii) conducting an analytical study which led to the development of a flood risk atlas, a hydrodynamic modeling framework and guidelines for the development of a flood forecasting and early warning system; and (iii) developing an institutional capacity development plan and guidelines for future flood assessments.

 Pillar 1
Risk Identification

 Pillar 2
Risk Reduction

 Pillar 3
Preparedness

 Pillar 4
Financial Protection

 Pillar 5
Resilient Reconstrction

GFDRR KEY PARTNERS

AfDB, GEF	The African Development Bank (AfDB) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) support the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) in its funding for Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture.
ECHO	The following activities are being implemented by the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO): (i) community-based early warning systems; (ii) small-scale flood mitigation measures; (iii) catchment improvement; and (iv) activities focusing on livelihoods.
Ireland, Norway and United Kingdom	The Enhancing Community Resilience program provides support to the country through: (i) sharing information on climate forecasts with farmers; (ii) river level monitoring systems; (iii) community-based early warning systems; (iv) flood mitigation measures; (v) catchment improvement; and (vi) community grain banks.
UNDP	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assists the government to develop national DRM policies and update the National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act (1991). UNDP is also supporting capacity at national and district levels for DRM and response, mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies and planning processes at all levels of government. It is also establishing an effective system to identify, assess and monitor disaster risks through early warning systems and strengthened coordination.
UN-HABITAT	UN-HABITAT is supporting the development of evacuation points and construction of foot bridges, dikes, gabion walls and evacuation centers.
WFP	The World Food Programme (WFP) provides assistance to people suffering from the effects of natural disasters, HIV and AIDS.
World Bank	<p>The following projects are part of the World Bank's efforts to mainstream DRM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strengthening Safety Nets Systems Project: strengthens Malawi's social safety net delivery systems and coordination across programs. ■ Rapid Response Policy Development Project: supports efforts to achieve and maintain macroeconomic stability, protect the poor, and improve transparency of delivery systems. ■ Irrigation, Rural Livelihoods and Agricultural Development Project: increases agricultural productivity of poor households and strengthens institutional capacity for long-term irrigation development. ■ Social Action Fund Project: improves the livelihoods of poor households within the framework of improved Local Governance at community, Local Authority, and National levels. ■ Shire River Basin Management Program: generates sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits by effectively and collaboratively planning, developing and managing the Shire River Basin's natural resources.

GFDRR STAKEHOLDERS

National Services	Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA), Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Transport and Public Infrastructure, Civil Protection Committees (CPC)
Regional Organizations	Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), African Development Bank (AfDB)
International Organizations	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Agency for Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society Organizations	Christian Aid, Action Aid, CARE, Concern International, Plan International, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision, Evangelical Association of Malawi, Goal Malawi, Church Action in Relief and Development, Adventist Development and Relief Agency