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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Malawi: Strong Winds and Heavy Rains

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation n°	MDRMW015	Glide n°:	SS-2021-000196-MWI
Date of issue:	09 December 2021	Expected timeframe:	4 months
Operation start date:	08 December 2021	Expected end date:	30 April 2021
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: CHF 247,707			
Total number of people affected:	55,500 (11,100 HH)	Number of people to be assisted:	6,000 (1,200 households)
Affected districts:	Lilongwe, Mulanje, Mangochi, Chikwawa, Ntcheu, Machinga, Balaka, Zomba, Chiradzulu, Phalombe, Salima, Mzuzu and Blantyre	Targeted districts:	Salima district (Maganga, Kalonga, Kambwiri and Pemba)
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Malawi Red Cross Society with 263 members of staff, 74,000 volunteers and 33 branches across the country.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Danish Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of Malawi (Department of Disaster Management Affairs- DoDMA), WFP, UNICEF, District Councils through the District Civil Protection Committees (DCPC) and UNDP			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

On 21st November 2021, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) released a warning, which cautioned Malawians to brace up for heavy rains coupled with thunderstorms associated with destructive gusty strong winds, which would hit the South and gradually move to central and northern region parts of the country from 24th to 28th November 2021.

As forecasted in the published alert, Salima district started getting heavy clouds in the afternoon of the 24th November 2021 which later turned into a very heavy storm that lasted for more than three hours. The area recorded 45.1 mm of rainfall associated with high temperatures up to 39 Degree Celsius. During this period, only a few houses were affected. The storms resurfaced on 25th November and continued to 28th November, accompanied by heavy rains and winds causing serious damages to the four Traditional Authorities of Maganga, Kalonga, Kambwiri and Pemba. No deaths or injuries were reported but the impact of the disaster was unprecedented on the people with large affected areas of houses. At the time of the rapid assessment, 1,188 households were affected with most of them having their roofs brown off. Household items (HHIs), food stocks, WASH learning amenities were also damaged. About 98



MRCS volunteer conducting rapid assessment to a destroyed house in Salima ©MRCS

households were also reported to be displaced and hosted by families and neighbours within the communities. However, no camps were established.

This crisis started earlier in July, with the consecutive and cumulative impact of the storm and heavy rainfall. For the period July 2021 to 19 November 2021, several districts have been affected by stormy rains and heavy rains including Lilongwe, Mulanje, Mangochi, Chikwawa, Ntcheu, Machinga, Balaka, Zomba, Chiradzulu, Phalombe, Salima, Mzuzu and Blantyre affecting a total of 11,100 households across the districts with 13 registered deaths (seven due to lightning strikes and six because of collapsed walls due to strong winds and stormy rains) and 51 injuries. Some of the affected households are being hosted by the families and neighbours within the communities.



Left: Damaged house in Salima due to the storm, 25 November 2021

Right: District Civil Protection Committee conducting verification exercise in Salima on 25 November 2021

Summary of the current response

Overview of Operating National Society Response Actions

At the start of the consecutive crisis, the National Society undertook several actions such as dissemination of early warning messages, provision of search and rescue services, provision of First Aid and Psychosocial Support (PSS), conducted rapid assessments and distribution of household items in Lilongwe, Mangochi, Mulanje and Chikwawa. Below is a summarized table of assistance already provided:

District	Targeted HH	Tarpaulin	Blankets	Kitchen Set	Shelter kit
Lilongwe	1,309	2,268	2,138	865	940
Mangochi	80	158	158	0	79
Mulanje	160	320	320	0	160
Chikwawa	202	404	404	0	202
Salima	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet	Not yet
Totals	1,751	3,150	3,020	865	1,381

These stocks were sourced from Malawi Red Cross Society (MRCS) prepositioned stock. As the rainy season is just starting, there is a need to rebuild these stocks so that MRCS can continue to respond within 72 hours of a disaster. Distributed stock included tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets and shelter tool kits. Refer to the above table for quantities. Since MRCS has not started responding in the Salima district and the items were distributed during a period from July to November, MRCS will explore other possibilities outside of this DREF operation to support replenishment.

When the second stormy rains finally affected Salima, the MRCS was unable to respond yet as its stocks had been depleted, thus support is needed to assist the affected people. To note, MRCS has been supporting the district of Salima with different resilience building, capacity building of DRM structures and integrated community-based health care projects funded by the Swiss RC.



MRCS supporting the affected households with NFIs:
MRCS Data Team

In terms of capacity, MRCS has an active Branch Disaster Response Team (BDRT) and 6 MRCS Staff members (1 district Coordinator, 2 Project Officers, 2 Community Development Facilitators and 1 driver) who are currently implementing several projects. Also, the Malawi Red Cross Society has 33 Divisions (Branches) and a network of more than 74,000 volunteers countrywide. It is present in all the 28 districts of Malawi. MRCS has previous experience in implementing emergency relief programs throughout the country, with support from various donor partners, Partner National Societies (PNS) and the IFRC through the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). This includes DREF operations and IFRC Emergency Appeals in Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Mangochi and Karonga districts.

At the national level, MRCS has a pool of trained National Response Team (NRT)/Surge members specialized in different fields such as Health & WASH, Relief support, First Aid, Shelter, Nutrition, Food Security & Livelihoods, Protection, Gender & Inclusion (PGI), Data management and Communications. MRCS has strong experience and qualified staff to conduct this operation with 120 trained NRT. MRCS has institutionalized Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) by implementing cash transfers since 2009. Over this period, the National Society has acquired relevant equipment tools as well as well trained staff and volunteers in the implementation of CVA. MRCS has a full data team that facilitates mobile data management hence, efficient in cash delivery to the affected households.

The MRCS, together with the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), continues to facilitate the dissemination of early warning messages regarding the 2021/2022 rainfall season. Currently, MRCS is supporting dissemination and cascading of seasonal forecast in 9 districts namely Chikwawa, Nsanje, Nkhotoakota, Thyolo, Blantyre, Mwanza, Mangochi, Machinga and Mchinji. The dissemination of seasonal forecasts is critical as it provides the local communities with relevant information to help with planning and preparation for the season. In addition, the information helps to disseminate predictions of impacts of seasonal climate variations and extreme events to enable better management of risk.

On the other hand, the organization has also supported the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) on Disaster Risk Management (DRM), Community Based Early Warning System (CBEWS), training for Community DRM structures, review and development of national and districts contingency plans, supporting DRM meetings at different levels for effective sharing of information and lessons sharing.

The MRCS is a lead partner for the countries Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group that works on improving coordination of shelter response and the development of common guidance and tools for the sector. This engagement has recently resulted in the publishing of a Shelter Response Profile that help actors better understand local construction practices, materials and local solutions for post-disaster reconstruction.

Lessons learned from previous interventions

The following points are lessons learnt from previous interventions, which MRCS has been capitalizing on throughout the series of emergency events which they have had to respond to since mid-2021:

- Prepositioning of stocks through various projects helped the MRCS engage promptly in response actions, although by the time the disaster in Salima occurred, the MRCS stocks were depleted.
- Coordination during response amongst different actors is critical, as such, MRCS is ensuring close coordination with Government and other partners in the overall response to disaster events caused by the heavy and stormy rains.
- MRCS has understood from past responses that conducting detailed assessments helps to ensure the actual needs of communities are addressed, with their specificities in mind. As such, the MRCS will take the first few days of this operation to conduct a detailed needs assessment in Salima, which will support any review of the operational strategy.
- Information sharing and access were easier using MRCS's Emergency Operation Center, which helped the MRCS to scale up its actions widely across several districts, before the Salima events.
- The use of existing volunteers is key to timely response and dissemination of information to the affected communities. As such, for the current DREF, trained NRTs will be deployed to support this response after refresher training to update their technical abilities. This will ensure volunteers deployed already know the Red Cross Fundamental Principles and are aware of the Code of Conduct by which they must abide as they assist.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in-country

The IFRC Harare Country Cluster Delegation will provide technical support during the implementation of the response actions. IFRC will also conduct monitoring visits during the operation and support deployment of a surge in case the disaster spreads widely. MRCS is working hand in hand with different partners such as a consortium of PNSs led by Danish Red Cross (Icelandic, Italian and Finnish Red Cross), Swiss Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross (remotely) and ICRC Supporting Restoring Family Links (RFL) in the districts of Chikwawa, Mulanje, Mangochi and Lilongwe.

Overview of other actors actions in the country

The most notable humanitarian partners present in the targeted districts are the Government, The Hunger Project, World Vision, Care Malawi and WFP. The partners are implementing different types of activities ranging from disaster response, relief support, health, WASH, shelter, education, food security and livelihood promotion just to mention key sectors being supported.

The Malawi government has just provided 500 households with one-time food assistance. DoDMA [started providing relief assistance](#) on 27th November 2021 to the affected in the *Traditional Authorities (TAs) Maganga and Kalonga*. The packages included maize, blankets, plates, cups, pails, plastic sheets for temporary roofing and housing units in some instances. This DREF operation will support in responding Salima, which has received little support as the stocks from both MRCs and Government have been depleted from continuous response since July, to the various weather-related disasters which have impacted the country.

Coordination

In Malawi, the Government leads the overall coordination of disaster response through the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. MRCS takes part in coordination meetings at the national level on different clusters.

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is the coordination platform for partner institutions (UN agencies, INGO's, NGOs) and is mandated to build common strategies related to humanitarian response and policy issues.

At the district level, MRCS participates in the cluster meetings led by the district councils such as Shelter and camp management, Search and Rescue, Food Security and WASH clusters among many others. MRCS is a key member of the Malawi Cash Working Group and Community of Practice in the IFRC hence, this makes the Society well positioned on overall cash delivery and programming.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The rapid assessment of MRCS shows that the disasters have not spared institutions: one school has been reported having its roof blown off leading to disruption of learning at Maganga Community Day Secondary School (CDSS) in the process displacing 3 teachers families. Although health services and public services were disrupted due to the storm and rains, this did not last long. In terms of food insecurity, no crops were destroyed because, at the time of the storm, farmers had not yet planted their fields. Some livestock were reported missing and dead though the numbers are not yet confirmed. The impact of the disaster was, therefore, felt more on the houses and households in Salima. In terms of the functionality of the market, the rapid assessment showed that the market was only disrupted for a few days and are currently functioning normally. In the affected areas, the beneficiaries' access both weekly and routinely organized markets in the 4 locations. In the markets, the basic commodities are readily available. Furthermore, the assessment showed that the areas are well covered with mobile service providers as well as the road network.

Some of the notable needs highlighted in the affected areas per order of importance include shelter, WASH, PSS and Health promotion, food and protection of the vulnerable groups such as children, women, girls, disabled and other vulnerable households.

Food and other basic needs: In terms of food and other basic needs, the affected communities require immediate support for food and other household basic needs such as clothing, soap and other household items which were heavily damaged due to soaking in the rains.

Shelter: The shelter was among the most affected facility due to the stormy rains as it destroyed 98 houses and partially damaged approximately 300 houses. Furthermore, households need HHIs due to important damage of their necessary with the impact of the destruction of their house (include blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen items). This led to the majority of households being exposed for their dignity, safety and security. The displaced families though hosted by their friends and family's members, they need to be provided with an emergency shelter to facilitate their return and access to other services as they rebuild back.

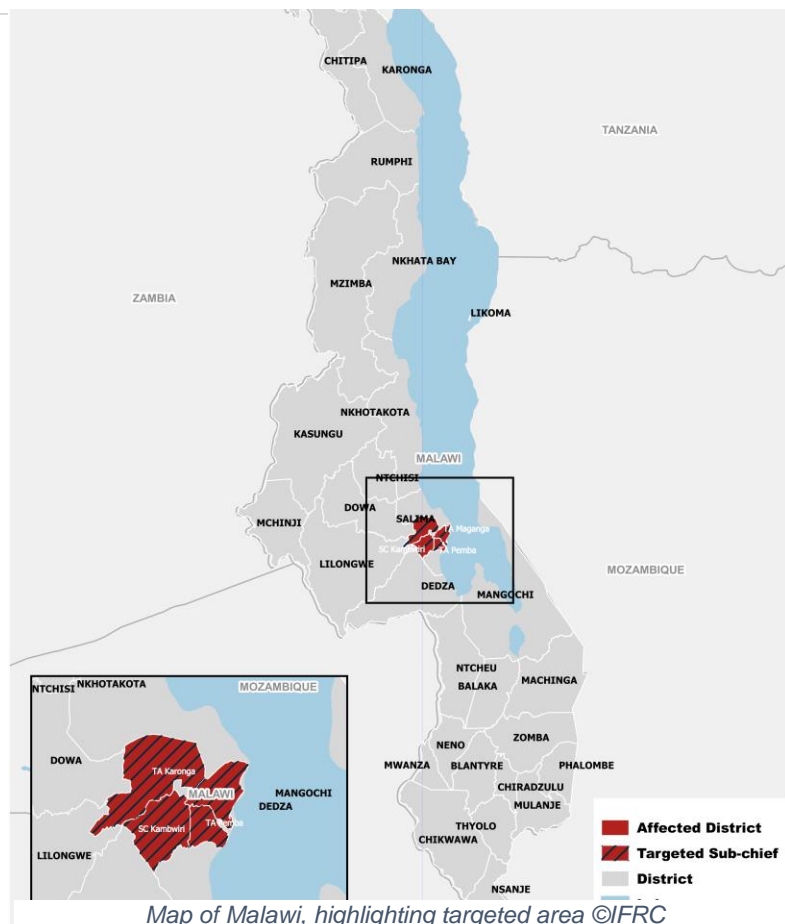
Health: The communities need support for full First Aid and referral to the health care facilities. There is also the need to intensify health promotion messages focusing on the reduction of contagious diseases. Furthermore, there will be a need for the provision of psychosocial support first aid and protection issues.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the affected households will require support for COVID-19 prevention and care actions. This will target areas where the affected households are in crowded conditions but also overall COVID-19 acceptance on vaccination.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: On WASH, there was disruption to safe and clean water systems due to the storm hence, the need for provision of sanitation services and amenities.

Livelihoods: In terms of livelihoods, the affected populations experienced disruptions to their livelihoods activities. This has resulted in the loss of their family economic security as they were not able to continue being engaged in productive activities.

The rapid needs assessment revealed that several households were affected by the loss of food and basic household items and disruption of livelihoods. The needs have further been compounded with the fact that the affected districts are also affected by looming food shortages due to low harvest.



Needs assessment: The MRCS has conducted a rapid assessment to get a minimum of information for this response. However, due to the ongoing incidences of disasters, the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) coordinated an Inter-agency meeting which discussed the need for undertaking a wide scope detailed needs assessment in the affected districts. It will help to determine current needs, gaps and target household selection criteria in the affected districts.

Targeting

The overall target for this operation is 1,200 households¹ (6,000 people) of the most affected people in the Salima District. The operation will target the most affected areas in Salima District based on the findings of the rapid needs assessment but MRCS will prioritize households that have been displaced and are being hosted by friends and neighbours. The other consideration includes people with low or no alternative coping mechanisms. To note, this number is being targeted because the assessments are still ongoing at the time of the DREF application. In the Salima district, the male to female percentage ratio is 51%: 49%, thus operation will target 3,060 females (51%) and 2,940 males (49%) with a combined 2,731 children (46%).

For shelter activities, MRCS will assist 2,000 people, 400 families, whose houses have been destroyed/severely damaged.

The following selection criteria will be considered during the targeting process:

- Child-headed households.
- Elderly-headed households.
- Households with chronically ill/HIV-AIDs affected members.
- Female-headed households.
- Households with children receiving or in need of supplementary or therapeutic feeding.
- Households caring for orphaned children less than 18 years old.
- Those directly affected by strong winds, stormy rains and floods.
- Pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 2 years.

¹ There is an average of five people per household in the area.

Scenario planning

Since the operation has a limited timeframe of four (4) months and is cognizant of the possibility of the scenario escalating into widespread disasters is very high, MRCS operation will be sustained through lobbying for more resources within the PNSs and IFRC to cover costs of the prevailing needs that may still require continued support. Alternatively, MRCS will flag for an Emergency Appeal if the need continues beyond the 4 months.

The planned response reflects the situation and information available as of now, considering the current forecast and required adjustments to contextual changes. The EPoA which supports the design of the overall operation focuses on supporting the communities with immediate livelihood actions through the provision of multi-purpose cash transfers, health, WASH activities, capacity building of volunteers, capacity building and deployment of Search and Rescue teams, provision of shelter and HHIs supplies and awareness creation on COVID-19 vaccination, PGI and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

Three scenarios have been developed below to guide the National Society's response actions, and the current response strategy is based on the most likely scenario. This could be modified in the event of further damages or following detailed assessments.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Scenario 1: The anticipated stormy and heavy rains reduce within the next one week, with limited additional damages on assets and no deaths recorded.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to food, health, WASH facilities and shelter HHIs is improved Affected and displaced people can return home and begin the recovery process 	<p>The implementation of this DREF Operation is finalized, in coordination with National Authorities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The assessment results are used to source funding for recovery actions with support from partners and the Government.</p>
Scenario 2: The stormy and heavy rains continue in the coming two weeks in the Salima district. More injuries and deaths are recorded and the displacements and damages towards infrastructure continue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected areas without access to food, health, WASH facilities and shelter HHIs is improved Surge and NRT teams activated to support the response due to exacerbated damages More damage to property and socio-economic instability. Disruption of livelihoods 	<p>Review of the current DREF operation following assessment to broaden the scope of the response, with a possible change in strategy, a longer timeframe, and request for the second allocation. Continue monitoring while working closely with both local and national partners.</p>
Scenario 3: Increased magnitude of stormy and heavy rains leading into floods in Salima district. Increased displacements, deaths and injuries as well recurring damages to properties. Establishment of camps as temporary shelters in the next two weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Massive displacements are recorded Shelter and settlements destructed Fear of COVID-19 increased spreading due to overcrowding and not following the protocols Increased disruption and losses of livelihoods, leading to food insecurity and sale of productive assets WASH and health situation deteriorates 	<p>Review of the current DREF operation to broaden the scope of the response, with a possible change in strategy, a longer timeframe, launch of an Emergency Appeal informed by the detailed assessment to implement a large-scale response operation.</p>

Risk assessment

Below is a summary of key risks and anticipated mitigation measures for the action.

Risk	Probability of occurrence (high, medium, low)	The severity of the impact (high, medium, low)	Mitigation measures
COVID-19 pandemic	High	Medium	<p>The disaster occurred at a time when the globe, and Malawi in particular, are facing a surge of COVID-19 cases and the country was strictly monitoring the protocols recommended by the WHO. This presented some challenges in movement and coordination with other stakeholders as they were not readily available. MRCS' activities were however deemed essential. This allowed the response teams to work within the lockdown and were even allowed to travel during curfew hours to save lives. The potential spread of the virus during community gatherings for assessment and registrations is a potential expected challenge.</p> <p>According to Malawi MoH as of 6 December 2021, the country has recorded 61,997 cumulative confirmed cases of which 634 are active and one patient admitted in treatment units. The total number of recoveries is 58,824 and 2,307 deaths have been recorded. A total of 618,597 people are fully vaccinated from the novel coronavirus across the country.</p> <p>The MRCS has to ensure adherence to physical distancing, wearing of masks and hand washing whenever people were gathered.</p>
Stormy and heavy rains lead to floods	High	Medium	<p>MRCS will continue to monitor the weather forecast issued through DCCMS as the situation evolve. This will help MRCS to come up with anticipatory messages and strategies to effectively respond to the needs. MRCS will also be conducting and preparing for detailed assessments.</p> <p>The mitigation of the risk will include capacity building of volunteers, community sensitization in relief items distribution planning for the proper mode of transport and using the Community Engagement and Accountability approach to deal with these issues.</p>
Security of cash	Low	Low	<p>When using a cash transfers modality, MRCS transfers the risk of losing money to a pre-contracted financial service provider (G4S or mobile money) who will be responsible to handle the funds from the bank to the affected households of the project. MRCS will be responsible to mobilize the communities and making sure every household registered to receive the cash as per the project plan.</p>

General security	High	Medium	<p>MRCS will make sure that its entire staff and volunteers actively involved in the operations have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security etc.).</p> <p>Road travel presents a considerable safety hazard, for example, due to flash floods, which ought to be addressed appropriately. MRCS Logistics will assess if roads are passable especially during the rainy season and advise on the types of fleets to use before and during operation.</p>
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B. Operational strategy

Overall objective

This DREF is to respond to the strong winds and heavy rains that destroyed households and livelihoods in Salima. It aims at supporting 1,200 households (6,000 people) with immediate livelihood actions through the provision of unrestricted cash transfers for basic needs, health and WASH promotion and distribution of items to 400 HH which have lost their house or have their houses partially destroyed. The planned implementation period is four (4) months.

The operation will also support the capacity strengthening of volunteers and deployment of Search and Rescue teams, provision of shelter and HHIs and awareness-raising on COVID-19 vaccination. This operation will be informed by the findings of the detailed assessment plan, which is part of the strategy.

Proposed strategy

The operation will target the worst disaster-affected areas in Salima District based on the findings of the detailed needs assessment planned at the beginning of the intervention.

The strategy for implementation will be to build on the capacity of affected populations, MRCS branches and National HQ staff will effectively coordinate with Government and national and international stakeholders in the operational areas to ensure maximum coverage and harmonization of the response. The priority for the intervention will be communities most affected by stormy rains and those at risk of being affected by the forecasted heavy rains in the forthcoming rainfall season.

MRCS will mobilize up to 100 trained volunteers to support the operation in the targeted locations. All data, including that at the household level, will be disaggregated by sex and age, disability or other diversity factors, and will also flag cross-cutting issues, such as psychosocial support or Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). The IFRC and Movement partners in the country will also work on ensuring that there is a transfer of competence on the skills learnt during this project, to ensure the sustainability of the impact on the community.

To meet the set goals, this EPoA specifically will address the needs in line with the following areas of intervention as shown below:

1. Detailed Needs assessments (Target: Salima)

There is a need to conduct detailed needs assessments to fully understand the extent of the disaster in Salima. As such, MRCS intends to deploy a team of 6 NRT members and 20 volunteers (4 per Traditional authority across Maganga, Kalonga, Kambwiri and Pemba). The assessment will be done within 5 days, to allow prompt adjustment of plans and response.

2. Shelter and settlements (2,000 people, 400 HH)

The disasters rendered households homeless due to damages caused to their homes and neighbourhoods especially roofs and exposed walls. Families have also lost essential household items like bedding, blankets, kitchen utensils and other food preparation material. This has resulted in exposing the dignity of people, insecurity and disrupted family cohesion. MRCS will support the affected households with tarpaulin, blankets, kitchen sets and shelter tool kits. Meanwhile, the Shelter Cluster, which MRCS co-chairs, has also been activated to support the coordination of the response. The current weather forecast continues to put shelters at very high risk and the likelihood of people being displaced to remains high.

Families will need support to build emergency/temporary shelters, selecting a safe site to do so. Those taking refuge with host families will need to secure essential household items to make their stay there dignified and safe and avoid tension with their hosts brought on by sharing of space and resources. The safe and dignified shelter will help prevent possible GBV and other protection or security concerns. Advice to these families for securing shelter will consider Housing and land property issues, the environmental impact of materials and consumables like fuel for cooking. This support can be delivered by local volunteers that understand their communities needs after short training sessions. Shelter solutions will consider access to other essential services like health, markets, education, clean water and sanitation.

The team will take guidance from the [Malawi Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group](#) findings as well as the newly published [Promoting Safer Building Working Group](#) and the Sphere Standards for the Shelter sector.

The intervention will facilitate the following;

- Procurement and distribution of temporary shelter construction items to support repair or construction of destroyed or damaged houses. Kits will include tarpaulin, blankets, kitchen sets and shelter tool kits.
- Refresher training of 20 volunteers on safe building techniques, so they can provide adequate support to the targeted households.
- Develop and disseminate messaging around setting up safe and secure shelter and environmental impact of materials. This includes protection, environment and housing, land and property rights considerations.
- Support distribution of basic household HHIs for the destroyed houses (20 volunteers for 2 days)
- Support for the most vulnerable families with erecting the temporary shelter or repairs to existing shelter (20 volunteers for 5 days)
- Participate in Shelter Cluster Coordination activities

Table 1: SMEB values by region and their percentage change between Round 41 and Round 40

Area of Coverage	Total SMEB		Food Expenditure		Non-Food Expenditure	
	In MK	% Change	In MK	% Change	In MK	% Change
Urban	67,892	↑+2.0	37,672	↓-2.1	30,220	↑+7.7
Rural North	44,243	↑+5.7	37,901	↑+3.8	6,341	↑+18.6
Rural Centre	45,420	↑+6.3	39,480	↑+6.2	5,940	↑+6.5
Rural South	48,345	↑+2.5	40,192	↑+3.9	8,154	↓-3.9

3. Livelihoods and Basic Needs (Target: 1,200 HH or 6,000 people)

The affected households will be supported with cash transfers for 2 consecutive months based on the monthly food basket and the National Cash Working group set transfer value in Malawi. The minimum food basket targets an average of 5 household members.

This intervention aims to address the immediate needs of vulnerable households through the provision of unconditional, unrestricted cash with a transfer value of approximately USD 48 (MwK 39,480) per month for 2 consecutive months – which is based on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) produced monthly by National Cash Working Group and shared in the [WFP Minimum Expenditure Basket \(MEB\) on 1RST DECEMBER 2021 report](#). See the table on the right, indicating the minimum applicable for Salima, based in the Central rural region.

Activities will include:

- Market assessment for CVA feasibility.
- Activation of the financial service provider (FSP). The MRCS has a contract with Airtel and is currently working on an addendum to the extent of its timeframe while conducting procurement of multiple FSPs. MRCS has institutionalized Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) by implementing cash transfers since 2009. National Society has trained staff and volunteers in the implementation of CVA that will support the activity. Only a refresher on tools and market assessment will be needed for 12 volunteers (3 per Traditional Authority).
- Registration and verification of beneficiaries.
- Distribution of cash to 1,200 households for 2 months.
- Consistent coordination with other cash actors to ensure harmonization of the response and the transfer value.
- Post distribution monitoring (PDM) to measure the impact of the cash grants on families.
- Monitoring and market monitoring to measure outcomes of the response for target communities and markets and to document success stories.

4. Health assistance (Target: 6,000 people or 1,200 households)

There is a need to intensify psychological first aid (PFA) to ensure communities affected by the ongoing disasters have the necessary attention. Due to flooding and stagnation of water, there is a high risk of malaria transmission. The operation will support COVID19 awareness while PPE will be provided to staff, volunteers and other vulnerable displaced households through an ongoing project with Swiss RC.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- Training 50 volunteers and 5 MRCS staff in community-based health and first aid to support the dissemination of preventive and control measures against communicable diseases as well as strengthening the referral systems and disease surveillance.

5. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - WASH (Target: 6,000 people or 1,200 households)

The rapid assessment report indicated the disruption of water and sanitation facilities. Through this response, MRCS will focus on improving WASH to cover the risk of water-related diseases. Activities planned will include:

- Enhance awareness creation on access to clean water for the affected population
- Provision of hygiene kits to 400 households who have lost their damaged or destroyed and are supported with emergency shelter
- Provision of dignity kits to 24% of 1,020 women and girls of childbearing age counted in the 400 HHs targeted with shelter and hygiene kits i.e. in the 245 women and girls for 2 months.
- Procure and distribute Aqua tabs for water purification, sufficient for 30 days. Based on Sphere standards, each person should have access to 5L of water per day. So, for a full month, each household will need 5L X 5 persons x 30 days, which sums up to 750 litres of water per month. Each tablet of Aquatabs is meant to purify 20litres of pure water, as it is not good for turbid water. Thus, each household needs 37.5 tablets of Aquatabs. Based on the above, a total of 45,000 tablets of Aquatabs will be procured and distributed to 1,200 households to serve for one month. The water purification tablets will be distributed by MRCS with technical support from the government. This is because, although MRCs has a WASH focal point, it is required to reach out to the communities with chlorine provision through the MoH.
- Conduct training of 20 volunteers on hygiene promotion (5 per Traditional Authority). The volunteers will support sanitation campaigns and conduct demonstration sessions on homemade Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) and handwashing.
- Conduct sanitation campaigns in communities to ensure full understanding of the need for a clean environment, especially in the aftermath of a disaster, to prevent disease outbreaks. These will be conducted bi-weekly for two months.

MRCS, through the health department, has a WASH Specialist who will support the operation and facilitate the refresher session for volunteers on WASH thematic.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI): The operation will ensure the promotion and participation of men and women including persons with disabilities of different age groups through training and consultation. A continuous dialogue among the different stakeholders will be fostered to ensure all programmes/sectors mainstream DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety) approach ensuring the Minimum Standards on Protection, Gender and Inclusion in emergencies are met based on the identified needs and priorities of humanitarian imperatives on the ground. PGI will be included in the cash transfer response by ensuring that where appropriate, women will be the main recipient for the family, as they are often the ones in charge of managing food stocks in the household. Through the CEA, they will be made aware of the awareness of cash transfer purposes. This operation will ensure all staff and volunteers are briefed on the Code of Conduct and prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse. It will ensure all NS, IFRC, PNS staff and volunteers involved have signed the Code of Conduct. PGI mainstreaming will be done per Minimum PGI standards in

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): The MRCS will ensure that the already developed CEA tools, tailored to Malawi Context, are adopted and used to collect data relevant for planning CEA approaches and activities during the detailed needs assessment, gather community feedback and make sure of the feedback to generate ownership within the community during this operation. The community will initially be accessed and informed through the community leaders, before planning with them on how to engage the wider community including all components including vulnerable groups. They will be engaged through A feedback mechanism that will be put in place to get the necessary feedback from community members on issues related to the overall response. The community members in the target areas will be involved as fully as possible throughout the response phase to increase their ownership of the response. sharing clear information about response activities, selection criteria and distribution processes with

communities through community meetings and door to door activities. Feedback and complaints will also be collected through community volunteers, community meetings, focus group discussions and suggestion boxes and responses provided through community meetings. A beneficiary satisfaction survey will be conducted at the end of the operation.

Operational Support Services

Human Resources: Overall, 100 volunteers will be engaged in this operation to support the various sectors. Some of the volunteers will be selected amongst the National Response Team members and will support in assessments, coordination and response. This will ensure that effective response preparedness and the National Society surge capacity mechanism is maintained. Insurance for volunteers is covered in this operation as well as their per diem for each deployment. The deployed National Society staff cost is also included in the operation. Some six National Society staff will also be on the field to provide support. This includes the 3 Disaster management staff (1 Ops to coordinate overall response, 1 shelter to support activities and 1 cash focal point), 1 health focal point to support the Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), 1 logistics to support procurement and a Planning and Learning focal point to support all Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) aspects of the response as well as reporting. The National Society Cash focal point will provide technical guidance on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) activities. The overall operation will be led by the National Society Director of Programs and Operations.

PMER: MRCS Planning Quality and Learning department will support the DREF operation by providing technical inputs and support to the DM department on planning, continuous monitoring, assessment results and information management. They will also support the development and implementation of the post-distribution monitoring and beneficiaries survey. Monitoring reports shall be used to make proper adjustments to the plans and inform ongoing actions. From IFRC, an operation and finance mission will be conducted to support MRCS to ensure operational overview and compliance with financial procedures.

Communications: MRCS communication department will ensure the media coverage and visibility of the operation through a press release to launch the operation, press articles during the implementation, photos and video documentaries. Information related to the operation will also be disseminated through MRCS social media pages.

Logistics and supply chain: MRCS Logistics will provide inputs on procurement of financial service providers to facilitate Cash and Voucher Assistance. MRCS will continue to use the IFRC FSP reviewed and approved frameworks and contracts.

Procurement: Local procurement will be carried out following the IFRC standard procurement procedures.

Fleet: Local rental of vehicles will be required to support staff during the Cash and Voucher Assistant operation.

Security

Crime represents the main threat to RCRC staff, though the risks remain lower than those in many other African countries. Ostentatious displays of wealth, as well as lack of cultural sensitivity, may mark any staff as a target for criminals. Protests over political issues of socio-economic grievances are rare, but have the potential to turn violent and should be avoided as a basic precaution.

Major cities, including the capital Lilongwe and Blantyre (Southern region), experience higher rates of crime, particularly bag-snatching and mugging. In addition, urban areas are susceptible to sporadic outbreaks of social unrest. Continued economic hardship for the urban poor and widely publicised corruption scandals provide an underlying climate conducive to public protests in the foreseeable future. Precedent shows that any such demonstrations entail the credible risk of violence between protesters and the security forces.

To reduce the risk of Red Cross Red Crescent personnel falling victim to crime or violence, active risk mitigation measures have been communicated with staff and volunteers through 5 house induction or briefing exercise. The briefing exercise included putting out some potential security issues and how they can mitigate, report or manage some of those issues. Relating to safer access concerns, one of the main benefits of the MRCS is the nationwide recognition of the National Society. This has made it easy to access affected communities.

The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff throughout. Area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e. Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Minimum Security Requirements (MSR) is in place for Malawi. May the operational scale grow full review will be necessary as required for operational offices with IFRC staffing.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 2,000

Male: 980

Female: 1,020

Requirements (CHF): 55,047

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis-affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions	% of affected households reached with shelter services (Target: 33% or 400 HH)															
	Shelter Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance are provided to the affected families.	- # of households reached with emergency shelter construction (Target: 400 HH) - # of people benefiting from HHIs distributed (Target: 2,000 people)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Assessment of shelter needs, capacities and gaps																
AP005	Identification of caseloads and verification of beneficiaries in different target groups – inclusion factors integrate gender, diversity and disability in the response																
AP005	Coordination with other relevant sectors for integrated programming																
AP005	Coordination with government and other stakeholders																
AP005	Procurement of shelter/HHI items (tarpaulin, blankets, kitchen sets and shelter tool kits).																
AP005	Distribution of the shelter and household items to the affected population																
AP005	Develop and disseminate messages for site selection and safe and secure construction of temporary shelters.																
AP005	PDM and Evaluation of the shelter support provided																
P&B Output Code	Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness-raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households	# of volunteers engaged in shelter activities (Target: 20 volunteers)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

AP006	Technical support provision build back safer guidance, awareness-raising activities																	
AP006	Identification and mobilization of volunteers for shelter intervention																	



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 6,000

Male: 2,731

Female: 3,060

Requirements (CHF): 124,090

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis-affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	% of the targeted population reached with food support through Cash (Target: 100%)															
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities	- # of families receiving cash for food (Target: 1,200 HH) - # of cash grants provided to families (Target: 2 grants)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP008	Detailed project assessment with Market assessment for CVA feasibility to inform the response plan and actions of this operation																
AP008	Assessments technical analysis and review for the operational response plan to be developed																
AP008	Project introductory and closing meetings																
AP008	Activation of the financial service provider (FSP).																
AP008	Registration and verification of beneficiaries																
AP008	Distribution of cash to 1,200 households for two months.																
AP008	Post distribution monitoring (PDM) to measure the impact of the cash grants on families																
AP008	Monitoring and market monitoring to measure the outcome of response for target communities and to document success stories.																



Health

People targeted: 6,000

Male: 2,731

Female: 3,060

Requirements (CHF): 1,773

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced	<i>Minimum % of affected population reached through awareness sessions to improve their health habits (Target: at least 70 % or 4200 people)</i>															
	Health Output 4.6: Improved knowledge about public health issues among [target population] in [area].	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of health communication plans developed (Target: 1) - # of households reached with Health services (Target: 1,200 HH) - # of volunteers trained and engaged in CBHFA (Target: 50 volunteers and 5 staff) 															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP011	Train 50 volunteers and 5 staff in CBHFA																
AP011	Dissemination of preventive and control of communicable diseases																
AP011	Strengthen referral systems and disease surveillance																



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 6,000

Male: 2,731

Female: 3,060

Requirements (CHF): 16,325

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities	<i>% of affected population reached with clean water meeting Sphere standards (Target: 100%)</i>															
	Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to the target population	<i># of water tablets procured and distributed (Target: 45,000 tabs)</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Provision and distribution of water purification tablets to 1,200 HH for one month																
AP026	Train population in use of water purification tablets																

AP026	Monitoring of use of the distributed water purification tabs																	
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities that meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to the target population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - # of HH reached with hygiene kits (Target: 400 HH) - # of women and girls reached with dignity kits (Target: 245 women) - # of HP and sanitation sessions conducted (Target: 8 sessions) - # of volunteers engaged in WASH activities (Target: 20 volunteers) - # of PDM conducted (Target: 1 PDM) 																
		Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP030	Provision of hygiene kits for 400 HH																	
AP030	Provision of dignity kits for 245 women and girls for 2 months																	
AP030	Train 20 volunteers in hygiene promotion																	
AP030	Conduct hygiene promotion and sanitation sessions (twice a week for 2 months)																	
AP030	Provision of IEC materials on WASH																	
AP030	Conduct PDM for WASH distributions																	

Implementation Strategies

Budget (CHF): 50,472

P&B Output Code	S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated so that National Societies have the legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, skills and capacities to plan and implement activities	<i>% of volunteers involved in the implementation of this operation insured (Target: 100%)</i>											
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	<i># of volunteers equipped with protective equipment (Target: 100 volunteers)</i>											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP040	Ensure that volunteers receive adequate training in safety, PGI, and the operation												
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured												
AP040	Ensure that all staff and volunteers are informed and sign the code of conduct												
AP040	Provide visibility items for volunteers (T-shirts, bibs, etc.)												

P&B Output Code	Output S1.1.6: National Societies have the necessary infrastructure and institutional systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of documentary films profiling NS response (Target: 1) # of lessons learned workshops (Target: 01) 											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP042	Communication and coordination at field level and HQ												
AP042	The logistical support of the NS is ensured for the implementation												
AP042	The follow-up of the operation is ensured at the operational and support level												
AP042	Lessons learned workshop												
P&B Output Code	Output S2.1.3: Improved compliance of NS with principles and rules for humanitarian assistance	% of feedback revised (Target:90%)											
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
AP084	Community meeting to validate criteria and beneficiary lists												
AP084	Implement the CEA guidelines on the ground and in the communities												
AP084	Consult with communities on their preferred and trusted communication channels through focus groups												

Funding Requirements

Overall funding allocated for the implementation of this operation is CHF 247,707 as detailed in the below budget, to be spent within four months.

*all amounts in
Swiss Francs
(CHF)*

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF OPERATION

MDRMW015 - MALAWI - WINDSTORMS

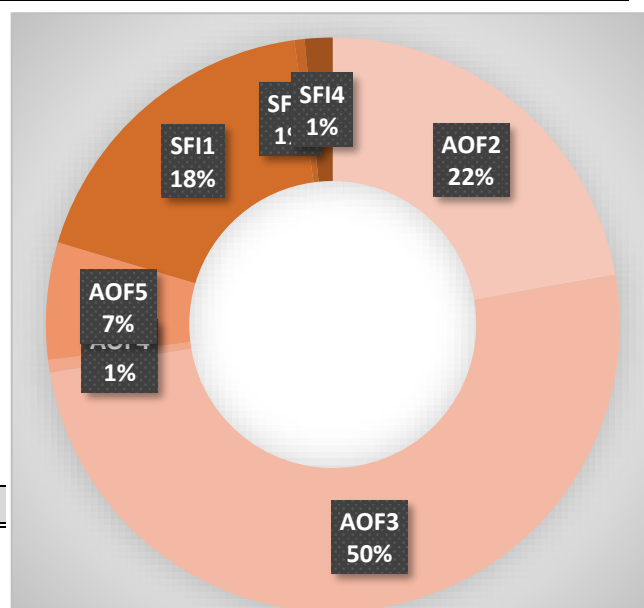
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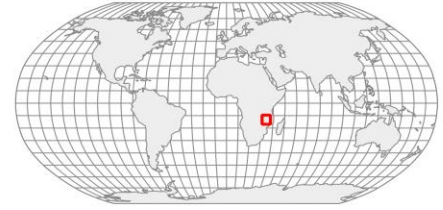
Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	19,714
Clothing & Textiles	12,343
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	11,977
Utensils & Tools	9,879
Cash Disbursement	114,407
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	168,320
Storage	9,374
Distribution & Monitoring	4,995
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,994
Logistics, Transport & Storage	20,363
National Society Staff	2,331
Volunteers	11,753
Personnel	14,084
Workshops & Training	8,636
Workshops & Training	8,636
Travel	3,234
Information & Public Relations	2,553
Financial Charges	422
Other General Expenses	14,977
General Expenditure	21,186
DIRECT COSTS	232,588
INDIRECT COSTS	15,118
TOTAL BUDGET	247,707

Budget by Area of Intervention

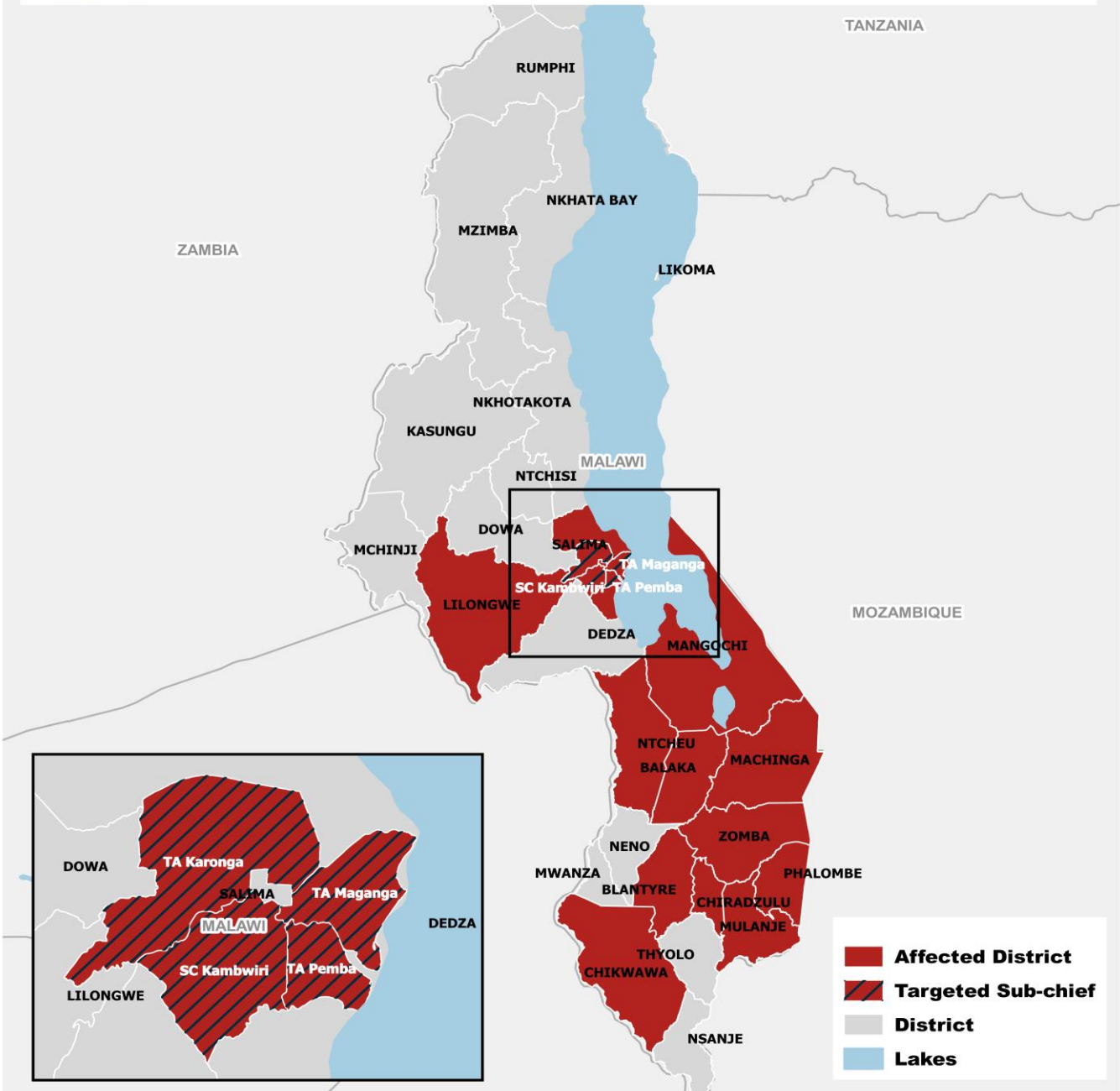
AOF2	Shelter	55,047
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	124,090
AOF4	Health	1,773
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	16,325
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	45,159
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	1,419
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	3,894
TOTAL		247,707



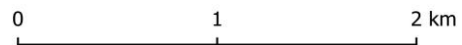


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The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
Map data sources: GADM, Malawi RC, IFRC. Map produced by: IFRC Africa Regional Office, Nairobi



Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.