



# RCRP-2 NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025



# Message from the Project Coordinator



Dear Readers,

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to the first edition of the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) Newsletter!

I am delighted to share our progress and achievements in enhancing climate resilience across Malawi. Our program is working closely with local communities, government agencies, and partners to address the impacts of climate change and promote sustainable development.

In this newsletter, we highlight the successes and challenges of our work, as well as the innovative solutions being implemented on the ground. We are committed to sharing knowledge, building capacity, and fostering partnerships that support climate-resilient growth and development in Malawi.

I want to express my gratitude to our development partner; the World Bank for the tireless efforts in supporting Malawi address and rebuild from climate change effects. Together, we are making a difference and building a more resilient future for Malawi.

I hope you will find this newsletter informative and engaging. We welcome your feedback and look forward to sharing more updates in future editions.

Warm regards,

*Adwell Zembele*

RCRP-2 Project Coordinator



# EDITOR

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) Newsletter! As we launch this platform, our goal is to inform, inspire, and connect communities, stakeholders, and partners dedicated to building a more resilient future in the face of climate challenges.

This newsletter is highlighting innovative projects, celebrate local success stories, and share practical strategies to strengthen our nation's ability to adapt to climate challenges and thrive.

From addressing floods and droughts to promoting sustainable practices, we are committed to fostering collaboration and amplifying efforts that protect our environment and livelihoods.

It also features the work of our stakeholders, and local communities in addressing climate-related challenges across the country.

We believe that by sharing knowledge, experiences, and best practices, we can accelerate progress toward a more resilient and sustainable future for Malawi.

We are proud to be part of Malawi's journey toward climate resilience, and we are committed to sharing the successes, challenges, and lessons learned along the way while rebuilding the nation from effects of climate change related shocks.

Join us in shaping a resilient Malawi. Let us work together to shape a sustainable tomorrow. Building a climate-resilient future for Malawi is possible.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We look forward to sharing more updates in future editions. We invite you to engage us and share your feedback as the contributions are vital.

Sincerely,

*Yvonne Akonda Sundu*

Editor.

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# RCRP-2 to install hydrological equipment

The Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP-2) has assumed responsibility for the installation of hydrological stations, which were previously under the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP).

The project, also funded by the World Bank, concluded in January this year before finalising the rehabilitation of hydrological stations to improve water resource monitoring in the country.

Under the Department of Water Resources (DWR), MRDRMP targeted 12 hydrological stations, which have now been taken over by RCRP-2, according to the Director of Water Resources in the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Engineer James Chitete.

"The monitoring of water resources assists in having



data that is used in the design of infrastructure, including bridges, dams, effective water allocation, like water supply, irrigation, hydropower, and also early warning systems of extreme events like droughts and floods, among others," he said.

Eng. Chitete says the rehabilitation of the stations involved reconstruction of the Data Collection Platform (DCP), installation of gauge plates and automated hydrological data collection equipment like data loggers and associated instruments.

"The reconstruction of DCP and the installation of gauge plates were completed. However, the installation of the automated hydrological data

collection equipment and associated instruments was not completed because the supplier of this equipment had delivered the equipment at the time the project was ending," he explained.

RCRP-2 Desk Officer for DWR Engineer Solomon Kalima emphasised that the arrangement is meant to benefit locals.

"The DWR reached an agreement with the bank on finalising the installation of this automated hydrological data collection equipment, considering its importance to the socio-economic development of Malawi, but this time around with financial support from the RCRP-2," he said.

According to the RCRP-2 Project Coordinator, Adwell Zembele, WAGTECH UK Limited, the Supplier who had delivered the equipment under MRDRMP, has signed a contract for the installation of the automated hydrological equipment.

"It is expected to take 45 to 60 days to finish the work, assuming all associated contract risks remain constant. We will make sure the project is fully delivered so that Malawians can benefit," said Zembele

The intervention will impact almost 500,000 direct beneficiaries around the 12 hydrological stations, which are the South Rukuru River at Mlowe in Rumphi, the Luweya River at Zayuka in Nkhatabay, the Dwambazi River at Nthanda and the Bua River at Chizuma, both in Nkhotakota, the Linthipe River at Malapa in Salima, the Thangadzi East River at Gooke in Nsanje and the Ruo River at Sandama in Thyolo.

The Shire River has five points at Liwonde in Machinga, at Chikwawa in Chikwawa, at Tengani in Nsanje and at Matope and Zalewa, both in Neno.



# Malawi's RCRP-2 Shines with Best Multi-Ministerial Award



## Malawi's RCRP-2 Shines



**T**he Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) says its recent award for the Best Multi-Ministerial Set-Up Award signifies the commitment by government to change the lives of people in the country.

Malawi earned the award at the 2nd RCRP Conference for Eastern and Southern Africa held in Maputo, Mozambique, in June.

"This accolade celebrates Malawi's teamwork across ministries to deliver climate resilience projects effectively.

"This award inspires us to keep collaborating and using our expertise to protect communities from climate

shocks," said RCRP-2 Project Coordinator, Adwell Zembele.

Laura Bonzanigo, Regional Technical Team Lead for RCRP, praised Malawi's coordinated approach: "By uniting multiple ministries, Malawi ensures stronger, sustainable outcomes for climate resilience."

RCRP-2 strengthens regional cooperation to tackle water-related climate challenges through investments in water management, resilience planning, and capacity building.

The conference united countries like Madagascar, South Sudan, and Mozambique to share best practices, address challenges, and plan cross-border solutions.



# RA, BCC rebuild after Cyclone Freddy

**T**he Roads Authority (RA) and Blantyre City Council (BCC) are rebuilding vital infrastructure damaged by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in southern Malawi.

With support from the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2). RA is reconstructing bridges, culverts, and roads sections, according to the authority's Chief Designs Engineer, Eng. Jarrison Chilongo.

Chilongo, who is also the Deputy Coordinator of the RA Project Implementation Unit (PIU), added: "For lots 1 and 2, the sites are spread all across the southern region of Malawi, specifically in Mangochi, Machinga, Zomba, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Mulanje, Thyolo, Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje, Neno and Mwanza."

For lot 3, he said, the authority is reconstructing bridges along the Mangochi - Makanjira (S129) Road.

"For this lot in particular, civil works are expected to commence before the end of the year, while consultants prepare detailed engineering design and safeguards instruments for Lots 1 and 2.

"The duration of the civil works execution varies per lot. The first two are planned to be executed within 24 months, while lot 3 is allocated 36 months. These are the actual civil works implementation times, which are, however, preceded by detailed engineering design and safeguards instruments development consultancies," said Chilongo.

The US\$65 million project includes 43 drainage structures, with works spanning 24-36 months.

So far, RA is sensitising communities along the Mangochi-Makanjira Road.

RA has met district council officials, community members, CSOs, concerned citizens, local leaders, the media, and technocrats.



*Community sensitisation at Lungwena EPA in Mangochi*

"Among others, stakeholders are being updated on the expected commencement period and progress, particularly on the processes required to be done before the commencement of the actual construction.

"These include the need to have an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment to assess possible environmental and social issues that can be encountered before and during the implementation/construction," said Eng. Chilongo.

Meanwhile, BCC is rehabilitating the 8.4-km Mthawira Parkway in Blantyre, a US\$8.5 million project set to finish in 18 months.

"We're building stronger bridges and drainage systems to withstand future storms," said Eng. Chimwemwe Mndelemani, BCC's Director of Engineering Services.

RCRP-2's investments focus on immediate reconstruction and long-term resilience, especially in the Shire River Basin, by integrating community engagement and robust engineering.



## Know the law, build resilience: RCRP-2 supports DRM Act awareness

*Familiarisation meeting of the DRM Act of 2023 with Karonga Council Officials*

**T**he Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) is partnering with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) to promote the 2023 Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Act across Malawi.

The Act strengthens disaster preparedness by establishing coordinated systems and a Disaster Risk Management Trust Fund.

DoDMA has trained district councils including Mzuzu and Blantyre cities, Nkhata Bay, Salima, Dedza, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Nsanje, Chikwawa, Balaka, Machinga, and Mangochi to share the Act's key points with Area Disaster Risk Management Committees (ADRMCs).

We are committed to professional, law-abiding disaster management," said DoDMA's Deputy Director of Disaster Resilience, Hastings Mwanjoka, during a session in Karonga.

Karonga's Director of Planning, Khumbo Mkandawire, pledged to educate all seven ADRMCs in the district: "This knowledge will empower communities to act."

The Act also outlines penalties for misuse of relief resources, ensuring accountability. RCRP-2, funded by the World Bank, supports these efforts to build Malawi's resilience against climate shocks.



# MK21 billion to power local resilience



Neno DC Rosemary Nawasha joined by Neno North MP Thoko Tembo (second from right) in receiving a dummy cheque from former Minister of Local Government, Unity, and Culture, Richard Chimwendo Banda (far right) as a council official looks on.

**T**he Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) has disbursed MK21 billion in Performance-Based Grants (PBGs) to district councils, fuelling climate-resilient development across Malawi.

At an awards ceremony in Salima, former Minister of Local Government, Unity, and Culture, Honourable Richard Chimwendo, MP announced the funds as the government continues to build a stronger, climate-ready Malawi.

"RCRP-2 is empowering councils to tackle water-related climate shocks and deliver quality services," said Honourable Chimwendo Banda.

The PBGs, guided by the Local Authorities Performance Assessment (LAPA), reward councils for excellence in governance and service delivery.

Top performers Neno, Dowa and Nkhotakota received MK1.82 billion, MK494 million, and MK1.15 billion respectively. Other highly ranked 2023/2024 LAPA councils are Salima and Machinga.

The former minister urged underperforming councils—Likoma, Lilongwe, Mulanje, Mchinji, Karonga, and Chitipa—to step up, emphasizing, "LAPA ensures accountability and drives high-quality services for all Malawians."

He also celebrated 20 councils, including Blantyre, Chiradzulu, and Rumphu, for achieving clean audits, with Phalombe and Nkhotakota earning praise for four consecutive years of flawless financial records.

Neno's District Commissioner, Rosemary Nawasha, expressed pride in the recognition: "This award energizes us to do more. The MK1.82 billion will rebuild our district library and Nkhande Primary School, both damaged by cyclones, and complete a health post and teacher's house."

The MK21 billion is part of a larger MK53 billion allocation going to councils, with MK32 billion from another World Bank-funded project; Governance to Enable Service Delivery (GESD).

# RCRP-2 commences district-led resilience construction



**T**he Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP-2) is constructing structures that incorporate disaster-resilience aspects in the design.

Through the National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC), the project is financing Performance-Based Grants (PBGs) for district-level infrastructure, landscape management and nature-based solution investments in all 28 district local authorities.

This is in response to the adverse effects Malawi has suffered from disasters like cyclones, droughts and floods that have left the country battered, according to the NLGFC Project Implementation Unit (PIU) Deputy Coordinator, Flemmings Nyirenda.

He said the ongoing construction works include the rehabilitation and construction of school blocks, EPA offices, staff houses, and a health centre, employing climate-resilient designs, materials, and construction methodologies

"Following the Environmental and

Social Management Plan (ESMP) approvals from the World Bank, we have notable completions in Kasungu, Kakwale and Kaphaiza school blocks, Tukombo EPA office in Nkhatabay, Chilwa EPA staff houses and Katitima Primary School block in Salima, and Golomoti EPA office in Dedza," he said.

The district-level infrastructure investment is also particularly focusing on districts in the transboundary Shire River Basin with access to the PBGs, depending on the capacity of the districts to plan, implement, and monitor infrastructure and catchment management interventions.

Said Nyirenda: "The works will significantly benefit communities by improving teaching/learning environments, enhancing teacher and pupil retention, and supporting effective delivery of environmental programs.

"Construction activities have provided local employment and stimulated the economy, while climate-resilient designs will reduce vulnerability to natural hazards. Overall, these interventions will strengthen community capacity, promote sustainable development, and foster social cohesion."

According to Peter Nyirenda, the project engineer at the NLGFC PIU, incorporating disaster-resilient aspects into design means creating structures, infrastructure, and systems that can withstand and recover from natural disasters such as

floods, storms, and landslides.

"This approach aims to minimise damage, ensure safety, and facilitate quick recovery. This encompasses sustainable and adaptable design by creating buildings and systems that can adapt to changing environmental conditions and are sustainable over the long term. "Flood-resistant construction involves elevating buildings above anticipated flood levels and integrating properly designed drainage systems to minimise damage. Structural reinforcement, achieved through the use of durable materials and proven engineering techniques, further enhances a building's capacity to withstand hydrostatic and hydrodynamic forces during flooding," said the engineer.

Other aspects include risk assessment and mitigation by identifying potential disaster risks and incorporating design elements that mitigate those risks, and designing infrastructure and public spaces that support community resilience and facilitate emergency response.

Currently, construction works are also ongoing at various stages in Chitipa, Karonga, M'belwa, Dowa, Balaka, Mchinji, Machinga, Mulanje, Thyolo, Phalombe, and Neno.

The latest expected completion date is December 2025, with the ongoing projects costing over MK5.6 billion, while the total budget for construction works in cycle 1 is MK16 billion.

# RCRP-2 in GRMC training



The Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) has trained members of the District and City Grievance Redress Mechanism Committees (GRMC) across the country.

Twenty-eight district GRMCs and two; Zomba and Blantyre city GRMCs have been trained having been purposefully established by the project to receive and address disputes, concerns and feedback arising from the implementation of the project.



As intended to be accessible, participatory, expeditious, and effective in resolving concerns, disputes or conflicts, the GRMCs are generally designed to be the 'first line' of responding to stakeholder concerns.

As such, the GRMs are also a measure of the efficiency and effectiveness of the project, complementing and not replacing or substituting for formal legal or administrative systems.



# RCRP-2 through the lens.



Sensitisation meeting with communities surrounding the Mkasi River at Kalembo in



Progress of the construction of the Chilwa EPA Staff Houses in Salima.



Part of the Chingo Makanjira road sensitisation meeting in Mangochi.







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