



# RCRP-2 NEWS

JANUARY 2026



*Building Resilience Together*



# Message from the Program Coordinator



Dear Reader,

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

As we begin the new year, we reflect on 2025, which has seen remarkable progress since the Project's effective rollout following its approval in 2023.

The historic grant signing ceremony in January 2025 marked a pivotal moment as 28 district councils received their first performance-based grants to invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and initiatives. This, coupled with the ongoing

efforts in catchment conservation, early warning systems, and community-led initiatives, RCRP-2 is delivering tangible progress.

These funds are already supporting critical work in flood risk reduction, enhanced early warning systems, and community-driven resilience efforts, particularly in high-vulnerability areas such as the Shire River Basin.

This edition highlights our collective shift towards proactive climate adaptation—moving beyond emergency responses to building long-term preparedness that safeguards livelihoods, protects ecosystems, and promotes sustainable growth for vulnerable communities across Malawi.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Government of Malawi, the World Bank, our dedicated implementing partners, district councils, and the communities we serve. Your commitment and collaboration are the foundation of our success.

As we look ahead in 2026, let us continue working together to create a more resilient and prosperous Malawi in the face of water-related climate challenges. Together, we are building a more resilient future for all Malawians.

Thank you for your unwavering support.  
Best regards,

*Adwell Tembele*

RCRP-2 Project Coordinator

# Editor



Dear Reader,

**W**elcome back from the festive season. We extend our warmest 2026 wishes to the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) team and stakeholders. We look forward to a New Year filled with success, prosperity, and continued dedication to building climate resilience in Malawi.

The RCRP-2 project is making significant strides in enhancing Malawi's capacity to withstand and respond to climate-related shocks. With a focus on community empowerment, disaster preparedness, and infrastructure development, we are working tirelessly to protect lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to share updates on our progress, success stories, and lessons learned. This newsletter highlights the impact of our work and the importance of collaboration in building a climate-resilient Malawi.

It sets the tone for our focus for the year 2026, including interventions on strengthening community resilience through early warning systems and climate-smart practices and rebuilding critical infrastructure damaged by Tropical Cyclone Freddy.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in this vital work.

As you read the first edition of 2026, may your year be as vibrant as the Malawian landscape and as hopeful as a greener tomorrow.

Warmest Wishes,

*Yvonne Akonda Sundu*

Editor.

## Editorial Team

**Managing Editor**  
Adwell Zembele

**Editor**  
Yvonne Akonda Sundu

**Graphics and Design**  
Lindiwe Hara

## Contributors

Yvonne Akonda Sundu  
Dalitso Kampira  
Robert Nayeja  
Amanda Chimtengo  
Temwa Mhone  
Chisomo Kambandanga

# RA hands over sites to a Detailed Engineering Design and Supervision

The Roads Authority (RA), with resources from the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2), has handed over sites to a Consultant to carry out detailed engineering design and construction supervision of several road sections affected by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in the southern region.

Mulanje, Mwanza, Phalombe, and Zomba districts.

According to the RCRP-2 Deputy Coordinator at the RA Project Implementation Unit, Eng. Jarrison Chilongo, under the agreement, "the Consultant is expected to commence the assignment on 5th December 2025."

bridges on Chingo-Makanjira road is on site.

The consultant, Kandoli Consulting Engineers from Malawi, in a joint venture with Advanced Engineering Solutions Limited from Tanzania, is designing 9 small bridges on the road.

STADIA Engineering Works Consultant Plc, in Association with SEGAMU14 Consults Ltd. and MK Consulting, are working on the washed-away road sections and small-scale drainage structures in Chiradzulu, Machinga, Mangochi,

He added that the next phase of handovers will be in sites in Blantyre, Chikwawa, Nsanje and Thyolo.

Meanwhile, a consultant working on the detailed engineering design and supervision for the

"The designs for Chingo-Makanjira are ready, and the bidding document, which is one of the deliverables of the detailed engineering design, is the one that we used to go to tender," said Eng Chilongo.

*Here are some of the pictures captured by Yvonne Sundu during the site handovers*



*The situation on the Mpiri Bridge on Machinga Namwera Road.*



*The extent of the damage at Thumbwe Bridge on Nkando Mulomba Road in Mulanje.*



*The situation on the Mpiri Bridge on Machinga Namwera Road.*



*An eaten away approach at Sunuzi Bridge in Zomba.*



Kanthambi (middle in peach): Government remains committed to implementing the RCRP-2.

## World Bank wraps up RCRP-2 support mission

**T**he World Bank recently concluded a technical mission to support the implementation of the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2).

Among others, the objectives were to discuss project progress and advance the implementation of activities, and agree on the concept of additional financing for the project.

During the mission, a series of working meetings with the

World Bank team led by the Task Team Leader and Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, Arati Belle, were conducted with the project's Coordinating Unit, as well as both implementation units: The Roads Authority and the National Local Government Finance Committee.

Speaking during the technical mission wrap-up session, RCRP-2 Belle said, "progress has been made by the project, but there remains room for the project to do more."

Director for Debt and Aid, Tiyamika Kanthambi, says the government is "committed to the smooth implementation of the project so that it achieves the objective of improving resilience to water-related climate shocks in Malawi."

# Media: Voices for a Resilient Malawi

**O**ver 70 journalists and District Information Officers (DIOs) from across Malawi have been oriented on the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2).

Representing national outlets, community radio stations, and digital media have deepened their understanding of one of the country's most ambitious efforts to combat water-related climate shocks.

Among others, the project is building resilient infrastructure, strengthening early warning systems, and empowering local councils through performance-based grants. However, throughout the orientations, the project coordinators emphasised that none of this can succeed without informed and public

support – and that's where the media comes in.

"You are the ambassadors, the bridge for the project and the communities we are serving.

You are helping us with getting information to people, plus a change of mindset in our communities about water-related climate shocks," said Deputy Project Coordinator, Kumbukani Ngambi in Mzuzu.

He emphasised the importance of media engagement in disseminating climate information and promoting project awareness.

"We can translate the messages to local languages if need be, just for us to reach out to as many people as possible," added Ngambi.

The media orientation is expected to enhance reporting on climate resilience issues, ultimately contributing to a more informed public and effective project implementation.

One of the participants, DIO for Rumphi Joel Chiheni Phiri, said the orientation enhanced his knowledge of the RCRP-2.

"We have interventions that the National Local Government Finance Committee is implementing in the district where they are building school blocks. We need to tell people in these areas about such," he said.

RCRP-2 focuses on decentralised climate resilience, targeting all 28 district councils and promoting community-led adaptation initiatives.



Part of the journalists and the District Information Officer who attended the Media Orientation workshop in Lilongwe.

# RCRP-2 media orientation aims to boost Climate Resilience reporting

The Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) has oriented journalists and District Information Officers (DIOs) to enhance their understanding of the project.

The journalists were drawn from both national and community media, and DIOs were from selected districts that are often hit by water-related natural disasters.

Speaking in Blantyre, Deputy RCRP-2 Project Coordinator Kumbukani Ngambi said the media is a vital bridge between policy and people.

"This workshop is an invitation to deepen your understanding of RCRP-2's five components: climate financing for adaptive investments, infrastructure and sustainable asset management, climate services for resilient communities, project management and the Contingency Emergency Response Component.

"Your role in amplifying stories of innovation, accountability, and community triumph is indispensable. When journalists understand climate resilience, millions stay safer," he said. Ngambi stated that the project is a critical initiative aimed at enhancing climate resilience and promoting sustainable development in Malawi.

"Through this program, we are working to improve the management of natural resources, enhance climate-smart agriculture, and promote climate-resilient infrastructure development.

"As the media, you play a vital role in disseminating information and raising awareness about these critical issues. Your engagement and participation in this workshop are crucial to amplifying the voices of our communities and promoting a culture of climate resilience," he said.

One of the participants, Sakina Majawa from Chanco Community Radio, said the orientation has deepened her understanding of RCRP-2 and will enhance the quality of her reporting on the project.

"For our audiences to understand what the project is about, we as reporters must first grasp the subject and translate it into

simple language," she said.

Conducted in Blantyre, Mangochi, Lilongwe and Mzuzu, the workshop also equipped media professionals with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively communicate climate resilience initiatives and promote informed decision-making.

Among others, the journalists were taken through the interventions by the two Project Implementation Units: the National Local Government Finance Committee and the Roads Authority, as well as those implemented by various ministries, departments and agencies.

The journalists were from Zodiak Broadcasting Station, Times Malawi, Nation Publications Limited, Malawi Broadcasting Corporation, Nyanthepa Community, Gaka, Capital Radio, MIJ, Chivomelezi Community, Nyungwe, Blantyre Synod,



Ngambi: The media is a vital bridge between policy and people.

# Water Resources Dykes rehabilitation on course

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has identified a consultant for the design and supervision of two dykes that the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) is rehabilitating.

The Design Review and Supervision Consultant, PPM from Bulgaria, in a joint venture with URANUS from Malawi, is working on Mkombezi and Bona Dykes.

According to the Director of Water Resources in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Engineer James Chitete, the flood protection structures are to help provide climate resilience to the communities in the Shire River Basin, especially from water-related disasters.



Eng. Chitete: We are employing the live with the floods concept

"This is through rehabilitation of the existing dykes using the build back better approach. It involves re-designing the existing dykes through an understanding of the whole river systems thinking approach with cognisance of the pattern of the river morphology due to flood occurrence.

"The initiative will enhance the 'live with the floods' adaptation measure for the communities that are living in the flood-prone areas where the upgraded dykes are currently located. This will assist in strengthening the climate resilience of the communities to the impacts of floods," he added.

In this way, the Director stated that it is anticipated that floods would no longer be seen as a negative phenomenon but a situation in whereby we can live in harmony.

Explained Chitete: "Most of the countries, especially in Asia, have adapted to the events. These dykes promote economic stability and allow for agricultural and urban development in areas that would naturally serve as flood storage. They give communities the confidence to invest in infrastructure and livelihoods due to a reduced perception of constant flood risk."

DWR's RCRP-2 desk officer, Eng. Solomon Kalima says the Bona Dyke on the Phalombe River covers 3.8 kilometres and is expected to protect the communities in Group Village Headmen Bona, Njovu and Chimombo under TA Jenala in Phalombe from flooding.

"The current 2-metre-high dyke is made of earth material and will be rehabilitated to be climate resilient, made of masonry or concrete material," explained Kalima.

The other dyke on the Mkombezi River in Chikwawa covers 2

kilometres, and a 2-metre-high, made of earth material will be rehabilitated.

"It is expected to protect the communities in Group Village Headman Kalenga in TA Lundu in Chikwawa from flooding. The dyke will cover a stretch from Nchalo Community Day Secondary School to the bridge on the M1 road," he added.

The anticipation is that the procurement of the contractors will start in April 2026, and by August, the contractors will start the rehabilitation of the dykes.



Eng. Kalima: More communities will be served once the rehabilitation of the Dykes is completed.

"The designs are expected to be ready by the end of March 2026. The updated designs of the dykes will use masonry materials instead of earth as one way of promoting climate resilience of the dykes from extreme weather events like tropical cyclones," explained Kalima.

Meanwhile, another consultant, ACE from India, is working on the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan (ESMMP) and the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the dykes.



## Zomba City in Climate Smart Public Works

*Community sensitisation meeting in Zomba.*

**Z**omba City Council will soon start implementing the Climate Smart Public Works program.

As part of the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) interventions, the city will, from February 2026, be executing public works that will assist in mitigating climate-induced impacts in six wards.

According to the Council's Director of Planning, Hilary Kamela, the city is currently conducting sensitisation meetings over the program.

"This is a community-centred intervention that requires the concerned communities to be familiar with the objectives of the activity as well as their roles in it. Hence, the need for the briefings and sensitisation of the council structures and communities who will play a major role in the implementation

of the program," he said.

Kamela stated that the sensitisation is targeting all structures involved in decision-making for the city.

"Councils have a political leadership that makes decisions and an executive arm that implements resolutions of the political arm. In addition to this, the governance structure of the city also includes various committees at the ward and neighbourhood level."

"As such, we are including all council members, the city council executive committee and all committees at the ward level," he said.

The intention, according to Kamela, is that before rolling out the program, the city council leadership and various governance structures are aware of what it intends to achieve.

"This includes what it will cover and how participants will be targeted. Apart from informing, the briefing sessions are also more importantly to get views and input and offer clarifications where necessary.

"We are also undertaking various activities with the communities before the actual public works can start. These include mapping of hot spots with the most vulnerable households and suffering from climate-induced impacts, screening of public works projects to be undertaken, targeting of participants, development of safety net and environmental management plans before commencement of the actual public works," he said.

Other interventions that the city will undertake under the RCRP-2 include clearing of storm water drainage management, runoff management, minor

## FROM PAGE 8

infrastructure rehabilitation and repair, urban greening and beautification, waste management and sanitation.

"While these interventions shall end up with assets in the communities that will assist in managing climate-related disasters, they will also help to build resilience at the household and community level," said Kamela.

Meanwhile, Zomba, together with Blantyre City Council (BCC), have reviewed the Urban Public Works Programme (UPWP) Manual for the exercise.

Speaking during the validation session, Deputy Director for the Public Sector Reforms Programme (PSRP) in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Decentralisation,

Misheck Longwe, emphasised the importance of ensuring that the programme delivers both immediate and long-term benefits.

"The UPWP provides short-term wages for urban households, but it also ensures the quality and sustainability of urban assets.

"We must leave behind long-lasting assets that communities value and maintain, so that posterity can appreciate the work we are doing today," he said.

The manual being developed will serve as a guide for all UPWP activities under the RCRP-2.

Initially, the programme will be piloted in Zomba and Blantyre before being replicated in Lilongwe and Mzuzu.

BCC Director of Town Planning and Estates Services, Costly Chanza, said the pilot phase will provide critical lessons on how to adapt the programme to different urban contexts across the country.

"Urban resilience has become a pressing issue to mitigate against increasing vulnerability to flooding, waste management crises, and infrastructure strain.

The UPWP seeks to address these challenges by combining short-term employment opportunities with the creation of durable public assets.

"By embedding technical standards into the programme, the project seeks to ensure that investments are not only cost-effective but also sustainable," said Chanza.

## DCCMS enhances weather forecasting capabilities

The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) is making significant strides in improving



DCCMS officials at one of the Automatic Weather Stations being upgraded under RCRP-2.

warning systems in Malawi. Under the Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP-2), DCCMS plans to upgrade and install new Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and procure a second weather radar.

DCCMS Deputy Director Responsible for Observation and Forecasting, Charles Vanya, says the project will also integrate forecasting systems and incorporate weather radar data.

"Furthermore, DCCMS has developed an application to translate English weather products into local languages, including Chichewa, Yao, and Tumbuka," he said.

These advancements come at a crucial time as Malawi faces increasing climate-related hazards, including floods, droughts, and severe storms.

"As such, improved early warning systems are saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and supporting resilient development across the nation, which will help Malawi forge ahead.

"These initiatives demonstrate DCCMS's commitment to enhancing climate resilience and improving weather forecasting capabilities in Malawi," he added.

**T**he National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) is conducting district sensitisations, which will culminate in the establishment of the Shire Basin Catchment Management Committee (SBCMC).

Under the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2), the NWRA is consolidating Catchment Management Plans for the Shire Basin and developing the Shire Basin Investment Plan, hence the stakeholder engagements in districts falling under the Shire Catchment.

The engagements of Area Development Committees (ADC) and District Technical Teams are aimed at informing communities and councils of the intended activities under RCRP-2 under the Shire Basin catchment management.

By March, the SBCMC, which will comprise representatives from ADCs and other portfolios as stipulated under section 28 of the Water Resources Act (2013), according to NWRA Director of Water Resources Management and Development, Toney Nyasulu.

"The engagements are at different levels under the hierarchy of District Councils. The targeted levels are District Executive Committees, District Environmental Committees and full council members," said Nyasulu.

He added: "With guidance of the Water Resources Act (2013), after the stakeholder engagements, we will train the Catchment Committee members in areas of catchment management, leadership skills and

## NWRA in Shire Basin engagement



NWRA CEO Dwight Kambuku making opening remarks at one of the stakeholder engagements in Blantyre.

and initiate the gazetting process under the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs."

Nyasulu said the role of the SBCMC is the voice and guide for water management in the Shire Basin.

"It is a bridge between communities, local government, and sector ministries. In short, it ensures that everyone, from farmers to city water suppliers, can depend on the Shire Basin's water resources.

"It is to make sure water is used wisely, conserved sustainably, and shared fairly. The committee's mandate is to oversee the implementation of Catchment Management Plans (CMPs), advise on sustainable water use and conservation, bring together all stakeholders for coordinated action, help resolve conflicts over water use and monitor compliance with environmental rules," he said.

Malawi has 17 catchments/ Basin/Water Resources Units. These Catchments, according to RCRP-2, NWRA Desk Officer, Yamikani Mtimuni, are not

delineated by administrative boundaries like districts or Traditional Authority, but rather by hydrological boundaries, meaning one catchment may be formed by 2, 3 or more districts.

"Shire Basin Catchment is the biggest and the hub of economic activities. It is where the Hydroelectric plants are, where the biggest irrigation scheme is located and where the southern region gets its water for domestic supply," he said.

The districts involved in the stakeholder engagement are: Chikwawa, Nsanje, Blantyre, Mwanza, Mangochi, Balaka, Machinga, and Zomba. Neno, Ntcheu and Thyolo.

Under RCRP-2, the NWRA is also spearheading the consolidation of Shire Catchment Plans and its Investment Plan.

Upon development of these plans, they will act as a blueprint or project bank where all prospective bankable projects will be documented in various sectors of Water, Environment, Roads, Forest and Disaster Risk.

# Government brings Disaster Risk Management Centre

The government of Malawi has identified land earmarked for the construction of the Disaster Management and Climate Resilience Centre.

The building will house the Departments of Disaster Management Affairs (DODMA), Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), Water Resources (DWR) and the Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC).

According to DODMA Commissioner Wilson Moleni, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development has provided land in Area 20, traditionally known as Capital Hill.

"As of now, DoDMA through the Project Coordinating Unit is in the final stages of engaging the firm to facilitate the design and supervision of the construction of the building," explained Moleni.

He added: "As a key member, DoDMA engaged a Panel of Experts: Mechanical, Structure, Architect, Electrical Engineers and ICT Specialist to provide technical expertise to the department on each phase of the design and construction supervision of the National Disaster Management and Climate Resilience Centre."

Among others, the DRM and Climate Resilience Centre will be equipped with radio communication to link it with all local authorities in the country, even during times when there is a communication disruption.

States Moleni: "The NEOC in particular will be designed, planned and managed in such a way that it meets the physical



Moleni: DODMA to soon identify the design and supervision consultant. Picture by Chipiliro Khamula, DODMA.

and organisational requirements necessary for efficient and effective performance of the department as a coordinating agency and cluster members."

In anticipation of the national centre, DODMA is facilitating several interventions as part of the groundwork in the districts.

"We recently did a training on the Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (PVCA), which is the first part of the process of development of the Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience Plans for all 35 local authorities.

"The purpose of the training was to, among others, build the

technical capacity, strengthen understanding of hazard, vulnerability, livelihood, and capacity assessment tools and enhance the ability to facilitate community-driven disaster risk prioritisation and action planning," he said.

Aside from that, the department has also developed a draft Emergency Response Plan, which is expected to be validated by DRM stakeholders by January 2026.

"We are also aiming at providing technical assistance for scaling up the implementation of the Disaster Information Management System as a tool to analyse the disaster trends and their impacts in a systematic manner to facilitate a risk-informed development agenda.

"This shall be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment," explained the Commissioner.

The information management system shall further be used as a tool to assist the government and all partners to better manage and coordinate disaster response with the full and active participation of affected communities, such as emergency needs assessments, vulnerability/gender targeting, and beneficiary communications.

# Khonjeni gets new EPA offices

**T**hyolo District Council has taken a significant step towards enhancing climate resilience with the completion of the Extension Planning Area (EPA) structure.

The structure at Khonjeni, constructed by the Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP-2), will serve as a hub for extension services, providing crucial support to farmers and households in the area.

Speaking during a media visit, Acting Director of Environment and Natural Resources Mirriam Yona, emphasised the importance of building resilient infrastructure that can withstand climate-related disasters.

"We need to make sure that the buildings are resilient to disasters and that they are durable and last long," she said.

Local leaders have welcomed the development, with Beatrice Naisoni, chairperson of the area's disaster and rehabilitation committee, describing the EPA as a "game changer" for farmers and households.

"Now we are close to the extension services and can access them easily and quickly," said Naisoni.

The new EPA is expected to benefit close to 30,000 households in Traditional Authority Kapichi's area and surrounding areas, strengthening food security and proving a



*Khonjeni old EPA office*



*New Khonjeni EPA in Thyolo.*

platform for farmers to access vital information and resources.

Chipiliro Muyaya, Area Extension Development Committee Officer, praised the project, saying it will have a significant impact on the community.

"The presence of extension services within the community will strengthen food security," she said.

The RCRP-2 project is part of the government's efforts to build resilience against climate shocks in Malawi, where communities remain vulnerable to floods, droughts, and other climate-related disasters.



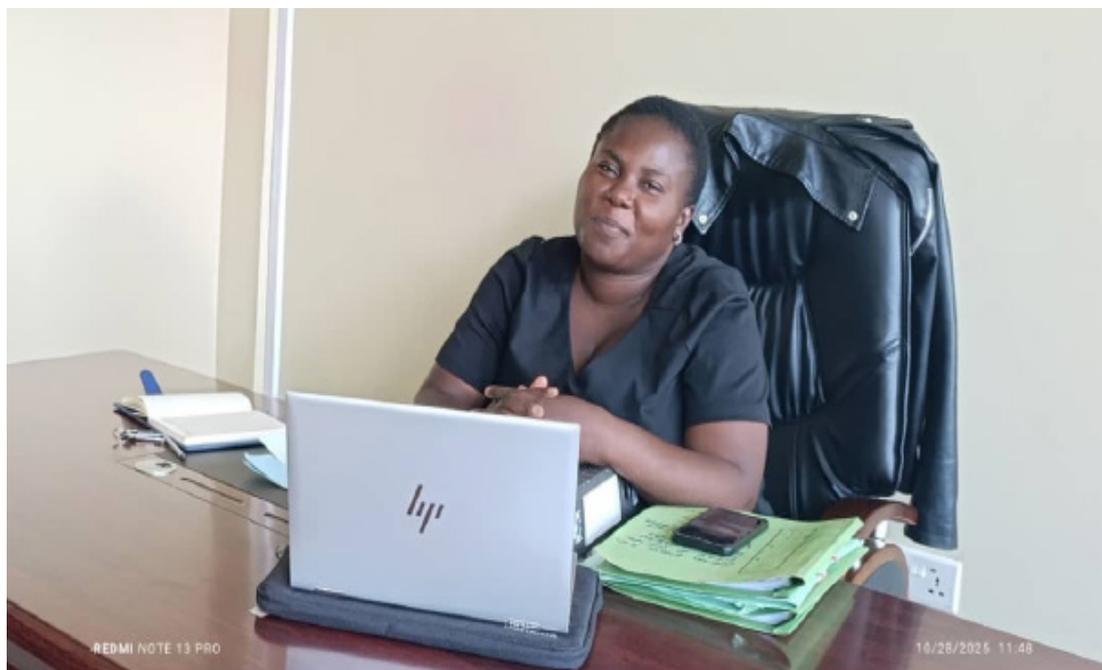
*Old staff house at Khonjeni EPA.*



*New staff house at Khonjeni EPA.*

*Pictures by Dalitso Kampira, MANA.*

# Rehabilitated school projects near completion



Yona: Works to be completed soon. Picture by Isaac Mdindo, DPW, Thyolo.

**R**ehabilitation of classroom blocks at Masambanjati and Mitembo Primary Schools in Thyolo District under the Regional Climate Resilience Programme (RCRP-2) is nearing completion.

The district's Acting Director of Environment and Natural Resources, Mirriam Yona, says the works are at an advanced stage.

"Currently, two blocks comprising four classrooms at each school are expected to be completed within the first quarter," said Yona.

She added that the project has also constructed toilets at both schools, a development she said will help create a more conducive learning environment for learners.

Thyolo District Director of Education and Sports (DES), Rabson Kawalala, said the rehabilitation of the schools will significantly improve education standards in the district.

"The rehabilitation has brought hope. Previously, during the rainy and sunny seasons, learners were forced to run away from classes, affecting syllabus coverage.

Learning outside exposed pupils to constant interruptions, including noise from passers-by, which hindered effective learning," he said.

Kawalala said the new classroom blocks will address challenges learners were facing after their classrooms were destroyed by cyclones in 2023.

"The infrastructure will enhance the quality of education by providing a conducive learning environment. When learners have proper classrooms, absenteeism is reduced. Teachers will be able to safely keep learning materials, and the display of teaching and learning aids will be easier," Kawalala added.

Under the RCRP-2, Thyolo District Council received about K1.1 billion, out of which five development projects have been prioritised, including the construction of Khonjeni EPA offices and the four classroom blocks, together with the provision of furniture and improved sanitation facilities.

# Fatima EPA to enhance service delivery



*Muna: No more excuses for absenteeism. Picture by Robert Nayeja.*

In a major step toward climate resilience and improved agricultural support, the Fatima Extension Planning Area (EPA) in Nsanje District is celebrating the construction of new offices, funded through the World Bank-supported Regional Climate Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa (RCRP-2).

Agriculture Development Extension Coordinator Epimack Muna hailed the project as a milestone for service delivery in Senior Chief Mlolo's Area.

For over a decade, staff have operated without proper facilities after devastating floods in 2015 destroyed their original offices in Makhanga.

"The floods submerged the Makhanga EPA, wiping out critical documents and equipment. Staff and operations relocated to Fatima, where a tiny room forced 10 workers to rotate shifts or stay away entirely," said Muna.

He added: "Meetings were often held under trees, posing risks during windy weather and contributing to absenteeism that

hindered community support."

The new K179 million facility changes everything: spacious offices, a conference room, space for demonstration gardens, and animal rearing.

"There will be no more excuses for absenteeism," Muna said.

Acting Senior Chief Mlolo expressed satisfaction with the construction project, saying that for a long time, the people in the area have been asking the government to construct new offices after the old one was destroyed by floods.

"We moved in swiftly and allocated land to the government for the construction of the much-needed Agriculture offices. We are glad that the project is progressing well.

My subjects were denied some extension services because most of the time, workers were not available at the office due to a lack of space in the small office provided to them," she said

The RCRP, a multi-country initiative backed by the World Bank, focuses on adapting to climate impacts like floods and droughts through resilient infrastructure and community capacity-building; perfectly aligning with Nsanje's needs in the flood-prone Lower Shire Valley.

# Salima undertakes climate-resilient works



*Old Chilupa EPA staff house.*

**S**alima District Council is rehabilitating key public facilities in the area of Senior Chief Mwanza through the World Bank-funded Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP-2).

The project is improving service delivery in the agriculture and education sectors, targeting areas most affected by climate-related shocks.

Chief Public Works Officer, Dzilire Nkhoma, explained that



*Old Chilupa EPA Offices*

the project is addressing critical needs, including a new extension

office at Chilupa Extension Planning Area (EPA) and modern housing for teachers at Chinkhuli Primary School

The interventions are significantly improving service delivery in both sectors," he said.

At Chilupa EPA, extension workers are now operating from a new office building, replacing the previous structure that collapsed in 2017. Agriculture Extension Development Officer Sydney Mabuka praised the new office, saying it has transformed their operations.

"This is the ultimate solution to our long-time predicament," he said.

The EPA serves 19,526 farmers, who will benefit from uninterrupted extension services. In education, the project is renovating two teacher houses at Chinkhuli Primary School, damaged by Tropical Cyclone Chido in 2024.

Head teacher Fesia Bitolia said the upgrades will improve teacher punctuality and teaching time, ultimately benefiting pupils.

"The modernised, climate-resilient houses are reducing the number of teachers staying far from the school, resulting in improved learning outcomes," she said.



*Progress of the new Chilupa EPA.*

Pictures by Shareck Mkwezalamba, EP&D.

# Council commends programme for enhancing resilience



Part of the progress of the construction of the Chigongolero Primary School in Dowa. Picture by Yvonne Sundu

**D**owa District Commissioner Stallich Mwambiwa has commended the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) for promoting the construction of durable and resilient education infrastructure to the effects of climate change for sustainable service delivery.

Speaking during a visit to a two-classroom block construction project at Chigongolero Primary School in Traditional Authority Dzoole under the programme, Mwambiwa said the intervention has enabled them to restore damaged infrastructure, thereby improving children's access to quality education.

He said: "Cyclones destroyed classrooms in many schools, making the learning environment bad, and most children lost

interest in education.

The RCRP-2 provides us with funds resulting in the building of strong and climate-resilient rooms in affected schools, making education service delivery adaptive to climate change, and motivating more children to come back to school."

Mwambiwa said the initiatives will contribute to the sustainable development of the district as more children will be educated and grow into proactive citizens.

The school's headteacher, Lameck Chaima, said the classrooms have brought peace of mind to the teachers and learners.

"We lost two classrooms to the hailstorms in November 2024 because the communities built

them poorly using mud. The programme has given us the best, which we will use during this rainy season without worry," he said.

Group village head Matuwamba said his subjects are committed to protecting the structures to serve their children for a long time.

"We will plant trees around the school premises to shield the classrooms from strong winds, among other activities to conserve the environment," he said.

The construction of the K176 million modern classroom block under the RCRP-2 is being facilitated by the National Local Government Finance Committee.

# Program enhances agriculture extension services in Nkhata Bay



Duwe (left) and Nkhwekwe (right) outside the newly constructed Tukombo EPA office. Picture by Chisomo Kambandanga, MANA.

Over 6000 farming households in the traditional authorities (T/As) Zilakoma and Fukamapiri in Nkhata Bay are expected to enhance their crop production and income due to improved extension services.

The district's principal agriculture officer, Gerald Nkhwekwe, said this during a visit to a newly constructed Tukombo Extension Planning Area (EPA) office block under the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) with funds from the World Bank.

Nkhwekwe said officers have been struggling to work without offices to operate from, which affected the farmers' adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices, among others, due to

poor engagement.

"There was no office to serve these T/As, a situation that affected officers' coordination with farmers to meet their demands. We are happy with the development that will enable us to store our data and reports, conduct meetings and be easily accessible to 6271 farmers," he said.

The EPA's agriculture extension development officer, Jonah Duwe, commended the program for giving them a durable and resilient infrastructure.

"This will serve us for a long time, contributing to sustainable extension services to our farmers and a population of over 30,000 to embrace climate

resilient technologies such as agroecology, and water and land management interventions," he said.

One of the farmers, Arthur Ng'oma, said they look forward to experiencing the presence of extension officers in the area.

"We have not fully enjoyed their services as they had no offices. This development is timely as the rains have started and we need their expertise to avert the effects of climate change," he said.

The K161.7 million office constructed under the RCRP-2 was facilitated by the National Local Government Finance Committee.

# M'mbelwa Council hails RCRP-2

**M**'mbelwa District Council director of lands and public works, Allan Chitete, says the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) complements their efforts to build back better public infrastructure damaged by the effects of climate change.

Speaking during a visit to the World Bank-funded construction site at Kabowozga Primary School in Traditional Authority Chindi,

Chitete said they are being provided with funds to replace damaged structures with resilient ones for sustainable service delivery to the communities.

He said: "We have been struggling to build back public structures that have been damaged by disasters due to a lack of funding.

However, RCRP-2 is enabling us to restore the destroyed infrastructure and make it stronger. This intervention is critical to sustainable development because people will be served throughout with enhanced resilience."

Chitete said the school block will increase the number of classrooms to have all pupils learning in a conducive environment.

"Hailstorms reduced the number of classrooms. Learning under



*Chitete: Pupils will learn in a conducive environment. Picture by Temwa Mhone.*

trees was easily disturbed by rain or hot weather.

The development projects mushrooming at the school will have learners accommodated in modern classrooms, and answer the call of nature within the school premises," he said.

The school's head teacher, Ishmael Kumwenda, commended the intervention, saying it will improve education and uplift the face of the school.

"We are motivated because we will teach in a conducive environment where our learners will also focus on lessons. We are certain the enrolment will increase, and the dropout rate

will decline," he said.

About K280 million is being spent at the school in erecting a two-classroom block, double VIP latrines, and the installation of solar power electricity and tap water, with facilitation from the National Local Government Finance Committee.

## SCAN ME

To find our location



# Nkhata Bay Council appoints contractor for K204 million school block

**N**khata Bay District Council has officially handed over the construction site for a new two-classroom block at Mkuludzi Primary School to a new contractor.

The move follows the termination of the previous contractor's contract after they failed to commence work due to a collapsed bridge that made the site inaccessible.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, Director of Education and Sports, Votie Mboweni, said the first contractor was unable to start work because construction materials could not reach the site.

"The first contractor could not access the site due to the collapsed bridge, and we terminated the contract. Now that an alternative route has been established, we expect the new contractor to begin work

without delay. Our priority is to ensure that our learners benefit from this project," he said.

Mkuludzi Primary School Head teacher, Stanley Folodi, welcomed the development, highlighting the long-standing challenge of inadequate classroom space.

"Our pupils have been learning under mango trees and temporary grass-thatched shelters. We only have one block with two permanent classrooms, meaning all the other six classes learn outside. Seeing a new contractor finally gives us hope that conditions will soon improve," he said.

Village Head Chikampha said parents had been worried about delays, fearing the project had been abandoned.

"We were concerned because nothing was happening here, but we understood the challenge.

Today's handover brings renewed confidence, and we are ready to support the construction process in any way we can," he said.

Managing Director of SEM Construction Company, the new contractor, Ephraim Nyirenda, assured the community of professionalism and timely delivery.

"We are fully prepared to start work immediately. The school's condition is not pleasing at all, and our team is committed to delivering a quality classroom block within the agreed timeframe," he said.

The MK204 million project, implemented under the World Bank-funded Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) through the National Local Government Finance Committee, is expected to be completed within 90 days.



*Mboweni: The contract delayed due poor road network. Picture by Anert Nkhunga.*



**? Our toll-free  
is now live!**



**351**

**Report all grievances, concerns, feedback  
or program-related issues easily  
and confidentially.**