



RCRP-2 IMPACT REPORT—2026



FROM CRISIS TO CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) is responding to Cyclone Freddy that affected Malawi and its neighbouring countries in March 2023 and future climate shocks with evidence-based, people-centred investments.

The program's mission is to rehabilitate critical assets, strengthen systems for disaster preparedness and leave no one behind; women, youths, persons with disabilities and vulnerable households.

RCRP-2 is building back better by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, stronger institutions and inclusive systems that protect the most vulnerable and secure Malawi's development gains against future shocks.

Together with stakeholders, RCRP-2 is shaping a resilient future where climate shocks no longer dictate destiny, but inspire innovation and sustainable growth.

Building back better; building back stronger; for a safer, more resilient Malawi. RCRP-2 is turning recovery investments into lasting resilience for Malawi.

FOREWORD



Adwell Zembele — Project Coordinator

The Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) was born out of urgency and hope. In the wake of Cyclone Freddy in 2023, one of the most devastating climate shocks to hit Malawi and the Southern Africa region, the Government of Malawi committed to not just rebuild, but to build back better, stronger, and more resilient.

Since August 2024, RCRP-2 has been implementing different interventions across Malawi and June 2026 marked the Midterm review for the program.

The mid-term review marks an important milestone in Malawi's collective journey toward building resilience against the growing impacts of climate change. Since its inception, the program has sought to strengthen institutional capacity, invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, enhance adaptive services for communities, and ensure effective coordination across national and district levels.

This Mid-Term Review Impact Report reflects on that journey. It documents what we have achieved together in the first half of RCRP-2, not only in terms of infrastructure restored and systems strengthened, but in the lives restored and the dignity returned to communities that were once on the frontlines of climate disaster.

Under RCRP-2, we are delivering results across 5 key components: from the rehabilitation of climate-resilient schools, health centres, roads, and irrigation schemes, to strengthening early warning systems, watershed management, and social protection. Critically, we are also investing in people — ensuring that women, youth, persons with disabilities, and vulnerable households are at the centre of planning, implementation, and benefit.

This review provides an opportunity to reflect on progress made, lessons learned, and challenges encountered, while reaffirming our commitment to safeguarding

livelihoods, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The findings underscore the importance of sustained collaboration among government institutions, development partners, and communities in driving forward climate resilience.

The findings in this report show progress, but they also show purpose. Each kilometre of road rehabilitated, each classroom rebuilt, each early warning message delivered, represents a step away from crisis and toward lasting resilience. The disbursement of performance-based financing to Local Authorities through the Local Authority Performance Assessment (LAPA) further demonstrates our commitment to accountability, local ownership, and value for money.

None of this would be possible without the strong partnership between the Government of Malawi, the World Bank, implementing ministries, departments and agencies, Local Authorities, and most importantly, the communities we serve.

As we look ahead, the RCRP-2 remains a cornerstone for integrating climate risk management into national development planning and ensuring that Malawi is better prepared to respond to both immediate shocks and long-term climate challenges.

I invite you to read this report with the understanding that behind every number is a community, behind every output is a family, and behind every outcome is a more resilient Malawi, because we are building resilience together.

RCRP-2 Impact Pulse: Quick hits on restoring critical connectivity

Rehabilitation of roads,

bridges, and culverts damaged by Tropical Cyclone Freddy is advancing across multiple districts. These climate-resilient upgrades are reducing travel disruptions during heavy rains and improving access to markets, schools, and health facilities for thousands of families.

Safer Crossings for Communities

New and reconstructed bridges with better drainage systems are being prioritised to withstand future floods. This means fewer road closures and safer journeys even in the rainy season – directly supporting livelihoods and emergency response.

Economic Lifelines Strengthened

Climate-proofed road networks are boosting trade and keeping supply routes open. Communities that were previously cut off after storms can now move goods and access services more reliably, reducing economic losses from climate shocks.

Better learning and teaching environment
Investing in safe, resilient, and well-equipped school infrastructure that supports both learners and teachers to thrive. By rehabilitating classrooms, providing adequate WASH facilities, and ensuring access to teaching and learning materials, the project aims to reduce disruptions caused by climate shocks and improve retention, attendance, and performance.

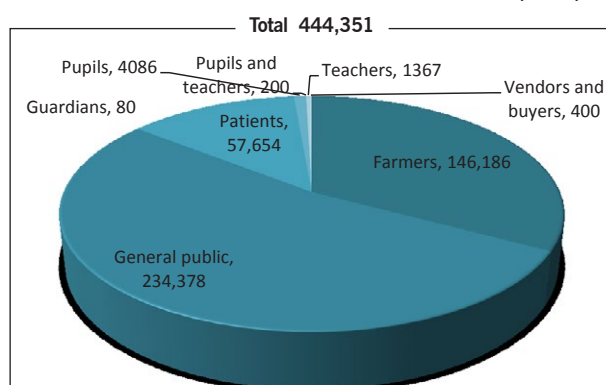
Improved agriculture

Critical to building resilient livelihoods and improving food security in targeted communities. This includes the rehabilitation and construction of irrigation schemes, EPA offices and staff houses that enable farmers to reduce post-harvest losses, improve access to inputs and extension services, and strengthen farmers' ability.

Safer and cleaner water sources

Central to protecting community health and building resilience to climate shocks. The project supports the rehabilitation and construction of water reticulation systems alongside the promotion of good hygiene and sanitation practices. By providing communities with reliable access to clean water, RCRP-2 reduces the risk of waterborne diseases and eases the burden of water collection, especially for women and children.

Here are RCRP-2 hits at the Mid-Term Review (MTR)



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Bridge betters livelihoods in Karonga

Every harvest season, farmers from Nsilu and surrounding villages looked across the washed-away crossing along the Kambwe-Nsilu Road with frustration.

Bags of rice remained piled in their homes while buyers waited on the other side.

For expectant mothers, the sick and the elderly, a trip to Karonga District Hospital became an expensive and exhausting journey through longer alternative routes after floods repeatedly damaged the crossing.

During the rainy season, the section became a major obstacle, cutting off communities and disrupting movement of people and goods. Farmers struggled to transport their produce to markets, while patients, learners and other residents faced difficulties accessing essential services.

Today, that struggle has become a thing of the past.

Karonga District Council has constructed a K111million box culvert along the Kambwe-Nsilu Road under the World Bank-funded Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-

2), restoring a critical transport link that had isolated communities and disrupted farming, trade and access to public services.

The culvert was constructed at the affected section of the Kambwe-Nsilu Road at Chinsebe Village in Traditional Authority Kyungu, helping communities that depend on the route for access to markets, schools, health facilities and other services.

For Esther Mwalweni, a rice farmer from Nsilu Village, the new culvert represents more than improved infrastructure as it is a lifeline for her family's livelihood.

"Last season, I harvested enough rice to sell, but transporting it to the market was very difficult because vehicles could not cross," she said.

Group village head Fundamaso Mwanyongo said the destruction of the crossing affected nearly every aspect of life in the area, especially agriculture, which is the backbone of the local economy.

Karonga District Council acting Director of Public Works George Chanya said the council prioritised the project after repeated floods

continued to cut off communities and disrupt socio-economic activities.

RCRP-2 District Engineer Innocent Ngoma said the project demonstrates how climate-resilient infrastructure can protect livelihoods while ensuring communities continue accessing critical services.

For motorcycle taxi operators who depend on the Kambwe-Nsilu Road to earn a living, the reopening of the route has also brought renewed hope.

One of them, Chimwemwe Phiri from Kambwe Village said the damaged crossing had increased transport challenges for both passengers and operators.

For learners, it means more reliable access to schools during the rainy season, while patients can reach health facilities without delays caused by impassable roads.

The improved connection could also support other economic activities along the route, including trade, access to fishing areas especially at Kambwe Beach Village and movement of goods between villages and markets.



Phiri says the bridge has eased mobility.



New Iponga Primary School block

Project rehabilitates school block

Learners at Iponga Primary School in Traditional Authority Mwakaboko in Karonga District now have a safer learning environment following the rehabilitation of a classroom block damaged by strong winds three years ago.

The project, implemented under the Regional Climate Resilience Program-2 (RCRP-2), was undertaken at a cost of about K82 million and is expected to ease pressure on classroom space at the school, which currently has 640 learners.

The school's head teacher Patrick Matekenya said the project came at a critical time as the school was facing challenges following the destruction of the classroom block.

He says: "Three years ago, our classroom block was blown off by strong winds, but now it is being rehabilitated.

"The project has come at the

right time because our learners will now have a safe and conducive environment for learning after spending months studying under trees and in overcrowded classrooms."

One of the learners, Standard Six pupil Memory Chirwa, said the rehabilitation of the classroom block will improve their learning

“ We believe that the new classroom will help us concentrate better and improve our performance ”

experience.

"We are happy because learning under trees was difficult, especially during rainy days. We believe that the new classroom will help us concentrate better and improve our performance," he said.

Karonga district RCRP-2 engineer Innocent Ngoma said the project, which was carried out by Mwenekumbilo Construction Company and started on October 3 2025 and ended on April 20 2026, seeks to strengthen community resilience by rebuilding infrastructure damaged by climate-related disasters.

He said: "Among other things, the objective of RCRP-2 is to rebuild damaged infrastructure in a way that makes it stronger and more resilient to future climatic shocks.

"We want to ensure that communities can continue to access education, health and market services even after disasters."

Guardian shelter restores dignity to women

Guardians at Karonga District Hospital endured sleepless nights for years as the small old dilapidated guardian shelter could not accommodate more than 100 women.

With no adequate shelter, some slept on verandas while others braved the open air, exposing themselves to harsh weather and insecurity while staying close to loved ones receiving treatment.

That experience has now changed following the completion of a K172 million guardians' shelter constructed under the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2).

For Christina Nyasulu from Tilora Village in Traditional Authority Wasambo, the new shelter represents more than just a building; it is a source of relief and hope.

She recalls how guardians often struggled to find a place to sleep, especially during the rainy season when many were forced to spend nights outside.

"We did not have enough space and some of us were forced to sleep outside, even when it was raining. We are grateful to the council for the facility," says Nyasulu.

Group village head Mwambuli

“

The construction of this shelter has come at the right time, as thieves were having a field day at the old facility, which had no electricity and was overcrowded

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Nyasulu poses in front of Karonga guardian shelter.

described the development as a long-awaited response to a pressing community need.

"We thank the council for constructing the shelter because the previous one was in a bad condition. We appeal for continued support to address other challenges facing the hospital," he said.

Karonga district director of health and sanitation David Sibale said the old shelter could no longer cope with the growing number of guardians, leaving many exposed to harsh weather conditions and poor sanitation.

Karonga District Hospital Management Committee chairperson Felix Mwakyanjala said increasing patient numbers have placed enormous pressure on hospital infrastructure.

"The construction of this shelter has come at the right time, as thieves were having a field day at the old facility, which had no electricity and was overcrowded. Now, this will be a thing of the past. We are very grateful for the RCRP-2 project," he said.

Karonga District RCRP-2 engineer Innocent Ngoma said the project forms part of broader efforts to strengthen community resilience while improving access to quality public services through climate-resilient infrastructure.

For guardians arriving at Karonga District Hospital, the new shelter offers more than protection from the weather.

It restores dignity, privacy and safety to people who stand beside their loved ones during some of life's most difficult moments.

Bale Health Post gives people hope in Chitipa

For years, expectant mothers in the hilly villages of group village head (GVH) Mwenebale in Chitipa District risked their lives travelling 13 kilometres to the nearest health facility.

But now a new health post funded through the World Bank-funded Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) is set to change that reality for at least 1 334 people.

For many families, accessing healthcare has meant walking over steep terrain to Wenya Health Centre, a journey that becomes almost impossible at night or during the rainy season.

Today, that story is beginning to change as the facility is expected to restore hope to more than many people who have endured years of limited access to essential health services.

For 38-year-old Jane Sibale of Mphinda Village, Traditional Authority Mwenewenya, the K177 million project is more than just a new building. It represents safety, dignity and a chance for mothers and children to live healthier lives.

“Some women deliver at home due to long distances to Wenya Health Centre,” she says.

Sibale, a mother of six, explains that the area’s rugged landscape worsened mobility challenges.

“Things are worse at night and during the rainy season because the area is hilly,” she explains.

Bale Village Development Committee chairperson Wyson Kapira says improving access to healthcare topped the community’s development priorities because women and children were the most affected by the long distances.

Kapira thanks Chitipa District Council for responding positively and sending contractors to start constructing the health post.

GVH Mwenebale says the new facility will improve healthcare delivery for communities that have struggled for decades.

Chitipa District Hospital spokesperson Masida Nyirongo says the facility will promote healthcare services in the area.



Kapira poses in front of the health post.

“Even vaccines are kept at Wenya Health Centre, which is a big challenge in terms of transporting them uphill and back. Once the health post is completed, vaccines will be stocked right there, which will in turn boost under-five clinic services,” he says.

Chitipa District RCRP-2 Engineer Rachael Nyasulu is optimistic about the project’s timeframe.

She says once completed, the health post will have a waiting area, antenatal, post-natal, diagnostic/treatment room and medical storage rooms.

“Some women deliver at home due to long distances to Wenya Health Centre”

”

K50.6m project ends water struggles

In group village head (GVH) Gideon in Traditional Authority (T/A) Chilowamatambe in Kasungu District, dawn always marked the beginning of a daily struggle that determined how the rest of the day would unfold.

Before the first rays broke across the village, women and girls would set off with buckets on their heads, covering more than a kilometre to shallow wells dug along nearby streams. The water they fetched was often muddy.

"We used to leave home at dawn and returned after several hours," recalls Miriam Mwalija, a resident of the area.

She explains: "The wells were far away and during the dry season they produced little water. So, we had to wait for a long time before drawing more. In the rainy season the water became muddy and contaminated."

Thanks to the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2), today, that painful routine has become a memory as residents collect clean water from taps at community kiosks supplied by a solar-powered water reticulation system.

Kasungu District Council constructed the K50.6 million facility with support from the RCRP-2 to connect 2 100 people in GVH Gideon to safe water.

"We thank the council for the clean water. We hope this project can also be replicated in other villages," says Mwalija.

Another resident, Lise Kachikho, says the biggest change has been improved health.

"We used to experience many diarrhoea cases because of unsafe water," she states.

Today, she says, families spend more time on productive activities

instead of worrying about where to find safe water.

Village head Chimanda believes the responsibility now rests with the community to safeguard the infrastructure.

"This project belongs to all of us. We have agreed to protect it from theft and vandalism," he says.

According to Kasungu District Council RCRP-2 engineer Cynthia Ngwira, the solar-powered water reticulation system was designed to withstand the growing impacts of climate change.

"We are constructing strong infrastructure that can endure harsh climatic conditions while providing communities with reliable access to safe water," she explains.

RCRP-2 is a five-year World Bank-funded program worth \$250 million under the International Development Association, with Malawi receiving about \$240 million.



People used to draw water in wells.

Good sanitation boosts trade

Long before the day's business reaches its peak, Chinkhoma Trading Centre is already bustling with activity.

Farmers, traders and customers converge on one of Kasungu District's busiest markets, where fresh produce changes hands and livelihoods are earned from sunrise until dusk.

Vendors open their stalls, displaying fresh vegetables, Irish potatoes, dried fish and a variety of farm produce as shoppers stream in from surrounding villages and beyond.

By midday, the market is a hive of activity—and Sundays are the busiest because the weekly mobile market draws thousands of buyers and sellers.

However, beneath the vibrant commerce, there has been a silent but persistent challenge of poor sanitation.

With more than 280 vendors operating in the market, alongside numerous shops and thousands of daily customers, Chinkhoma relied on a single pit latrine that had long ceased to meet the needs of the fastest-growing commercial centre.

The situation was not only inconvenient but also posed a serious public health risk.

The market's chairperson Atende Yodo says the absence of proper sanitary facilities, specifically toilets, created a serious sanitation challenge.

"You can imagine the bad smell, the queues as people struggled to find a decent place to relieve themselves. A full pit latrine is a health hazard because flies from the toilet go to where food such as fish is sold. That is dangerous because diseases can easily spread in such conditions," he says.

Recognising these challenges, Kasungu District Council through the Regional Climate Resilient Program (RCRP-2), invested K50 million in the construction of two double ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines at Chinkhoma Market.

According to Cynthia Ngwira, RCRP-2 engineer for Kasungu District Council, the project was designed not



Yodo tries to open the toilets.

“When customers find a clean market, they feel confident buying food. No one wants to buy fish or vegetables from a place surrounded by bad smell or flies. A cleaner environment builds trust and attracts more customers”

only to improve sanitation but also to withstand the effects of climate change.

She explains: “The latrines have reinforced concrete slabs on both the substructure and superstructure. We incorporated wind-resistant roofing, proper foundation and ground anchorage to withstand extreme weather conditions.

“We also used durable materials such as treated timber and concrete blocks to ensure the facilities serve the community for many years.”

Fish vendor Maxon Mwale believes

cleanliness is directly linked to business performance.

“When customers find a clean market, they feel confident buying food. No one wants to buy fish or vegetables from a place surrounded by bad smell or flies. A cleaner environment builds trust and attracts more customers,” he says.

Kasungu district trade officer Brino Kamanga says clean toilets in markets reduce disease risks, improve food safety, protect the environment and preserve the dignity of every person who visits the market

Early warning systems save the day

Communities along river banks in Kasungu District have shared a complicated relationship with water since time immemorial.

Rivers such as Bua, Dwangwa, Milenje and Mpasadzi sustain agriculture, provide water for domestic use and offer children places to swim in summer. Yet during the rainy season, the same rivers quickly transform into destructive forces as they sweep crops, livestock and homes away.

At Mboza Village in Traditional Authority (T/A) Chilowamatambe, Bua River flows quietly, almost invitingly, and children occasionally gather along its banks as women fetch water while farmers walk to fields that stretch towards the fertile riverbed.

When rains pound the district, the calm waters swell into a roaring current within hours, swallowing crops, cutting off roads and threatening lives downstream.

It is a story communities along the Bua, Dwangwa, Milenje and Mpasadzi rivers can tell vividly.

"We have always depended on the Bua River," says Eliza

Patulani from Mboza Village in T/A Chilowamatambe. "Our children swim here during the dry season, people fetch water and many families cultivate along the river. But whenever the rains become heavy, we know this river can quickly become dangerous."

But through support from the Regional Climate Resilient Program (RCRP-2), the government has established community-based flood early warning systems along the Bua River in Kasungu, Bua at Malomo in Ntchisi, Dwangwa, Milenje and Mpasadzi rivers to monitor the water flow and protect communities from floods.

Patulani explains that before the installation of the system, many families relied on experience or guesswork to judge whether the river was becoming dangerous.

"Now we receive warnings before the river reaches dangerous levels. Once we hear the alerts, parents immediately stop children from swimming, people avoid unnecessary crossings and everyone becomes more alert. Those simple actions save us," she says.

Like many farming communities

across Kasungu, households in Mboza rely almost entirely on agriculture for survival.

Grace Yakobe, also a community member of Mboza, says the fertile soils along the Bua River attract many farmers, making flood warnings particularly important.

According to early warning systems expert Mphatso Jentala, the system combines modern technology with local participation.

He explains: "Each monitoring station has manual river gauge plates installed along the riverbank and automated river-level sensors that continuously transmit real-time information to the Department of Water Resources."

"By combining technology with community participation, we can detect rising water levels much earlier and issue timely warnings before floods occur."

Although the systems were installed in Kasungu, their benefits extend far beyond the district's boundaries.

At Malomo in Ntchisi on the upper Bua River plays a critical role in protecting downstream communities in neighbouring Nkhhotakota District.



Jentala explains how the system works.

From rivers to running taps

For years, the sound of footsteps echoed through the villages of Bwanali, Nsolo, Namkumba and Makwinja in group village head Bwanali in Dedza District long before sunrise.

Women and girls, carrying buckets on their heads, would leave their homes as early as 3am to begin the long journey in search of water.

The trek was more than just exhausting. It exposed them to dangers ranging from accidents and attacks to crossing swollen rivers during the rainy season. Those fortunate enough to avoid the river still had to endure long queues at the only borehole serving four villages.

Fetching water often consumed hours that could have been spent caring for families, tending gardens or engaging in income-generating activities.

Today, that story has changed.

A K75 million water reticulation system installed under the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2) has brought safe drinking water to the four villages.

The system comprises a 10 000-litre water storage tank connected to seven community water kiosks through a two-kilometre pipeline, providing safe water to approximately 350 households, representing nearly 1 750 people.

For community members, however, the project is about much more than pipes, taps and water tanks. It represents restored dignity, improved health and renewed hope.

Water committee chairperson William Papius recalls the difficult years before the project.

“Women left home as early in the morning to fetch water. Men were worried because their wives spent many hours, and sometimes they suspected them of indulging in extramarital affairs. Worse, some were attacked while others drowned while trying to access water. Those challenges are now history,” he said.

Like many rural communities,



Women drawing water in Dedza.

Bwanali Village depended largely on the Nankokwe River for water for domestic use. During the dry season, water levels dropped and quality deteriorated, while in the rainy season, contamination increased the risk of waterborne diseases.

The only alternative was a single borehole that served the four villages, forcing families to spend long hours waiting for their turn.

For Berita Ignancio of Makwinja Village, the new water system has completely transformed daily life.

She explains: “Sometimes we spent almost three-quarters of an hour just waiting to draw water from the borehole because everyone

depended on it. We hardly had time to complete household chores.

“Now we can collect water close to our homes. We have enough time to care for our families and we are planning to establish backyard gardens.”

Village head Nsolo I believes community ownership is key to preserving the investment.

“We are grateful for this development. We used to walk about 25 minutes one way to fetch water from the river. As a community, we are committed to taking care of this project so that our children and grandchildren continue to benefit,” he said.

Evacuation centre brings hope to communities

When floods swept through parts of Traditional Authority Kachindamoto in 2023, panic spread quickly across villages including Dzindebvu, Chagunda, Nyanja, Sitolo, Goshen and Chejelo.

Families fled rising waters with only what they could carry, leaving behind homes, livestock and treasured belongings.

For more than 2 000 people, survival meant squeezing into nearby schools and churches. Classrooms meant for learning suddenly became homes. Churches became makeshift shelters. Privacy disappeared. Proper sanitation was almost non-existent. Women struggled to care for young children, while outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases became an added burden.

Nearly two years later, those painful memories are giving way to hope.

Standing at the heart of the affected communities is the Kapiri Evacuation Centre, a modern facility under construction through the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2), with financial support from the World Bank.

Unlike temporary shelters used in the past, the centre has been carefully designed with separate accommodation spaces for women, men and the elderly.

It will also include a kitchen and sanitation facilities to ensure disaster survivors can live in safe and hygienic conditions while waiting to return home.

For Esinta Fletcher from Dzindebvu Village, the structure represents far more than bricks and mortar.

She says: “The coming of this structure is timely because when disasters happened, we had nowhere to run.

“We sought refuge in schools, thereby disrupting children’s education. We saw how disasters affected us and because of that experience, we will not allow this infrastructure to be misused.”

Her memories of the 2023 disaster remain vivid.

“The floods struck without warning. We ran for our lives, leaving everything behind. Having a place like this gives us peace of mind,” she added.

The facility is strategically located at the centre of the disaster-prone communities, allowing displaced families to remain close to their homes and return quickly once

floodwaters subside.

For Gladys Chatuluka of Ndindi Village, the centre offers dignity, particularly for women and girls.

“When disasters strike, women face many challenges. We struggle to prepare food, find places to sleep and care for children. This structure will benefit women and girls. We are grateful to the government and the World Bank for this project,” she says.

“The coming of this structure is timely because when disasters happened, we had nowhere to run”



Fletcher poses in front of the evacuation centre in Dedza District.



The new classroom block at Ngokwe Primary School in Machinga.

School block ignites hope among learners

Every morning, eight-year-old Latifa Ingeresi, a Standard Two learner at Ngokwe Primary School in Machinga District, walks into a bright classroom, sits at her desk and eagerly waits for lessons to begin.

Just a few months ago, this was not the case for her and hundreds of other pupils who attended lessons under a tree because of a shortage of classrooms.

Whenever rain clouds gathered, lessons were abruptly interrupted as pupils packed their exercise books and hurried home, losing valuable learning time.

“I am happy because we now learn in a classroom. When it rains, we do not stop learning anymore,” said Ingeresi. For years, outdoor learning had become the norm for junior classes at the school in Traditional Authority Ngokwe in the district.

During the rainy season, classes were suspended or combined with other streams where space allowed,

leaving many pupils struggling to concentrate.

However, a newly-constructed classroom block for Standard Two and Three, furnished with desks and other learning facilities, has provided hundreds of learners with a safe and conducive environment for learning.

The facility was built under the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2), which supports infrastructure designed to help communities withstand the impacts of climate-related disasters, including heavy rains and flooding that frequently disrupt education in vulnerable areas.

The school’s deputy head teacher Amina James says the new classrooms have transformed not only the school’s appearance but also ignited learners’ enthusiasm for education.

She explains: “Since the classroom block was completed, we have seen a remarkable increase in enrolment from around 1 000 learners to 2 350.

“More children are coming to school because they have a proper

place to learn. Previously, many of them attended classes under trees, which exposed them to harsh weather, especially during the rainy season.”

The school’s management committee chairperson Alefa Magetsi says the completion of the project is a source of joy.

He says: “As a committee, we closely monitored the construction to ensure quality work, transparency and accountability throughout the project.

“We are delighted to see children learning in decent classrooms and we hope more development projects will continue improving education in our community.”

Machinga District Council works supervisor Francis Chipojola said the project was delivered within the contractual period through close collaboration among the council, the contractor and the community.

The council’s director of education services Wezzie Kacheche Banda, says the new infrastructure is easing pressure on one of the most populated primary schools in the area.

Hail to safe motherhood

Lying along Mulanje-Phalombe Road, Chambe Health Centre has brought a new lease of life into the area following rehabilitation works of a maternity wing at the facility.

For years, the journey to safe motherhood for women in Traditional Authority Mkanda in Mulanje District was marked by a deteriorating maternity wing that offered little comfort and less safety.

For Bertha Tapani, a resident of Mulavo Village, the memories of past maternal care are vivid. She recalls that when labour began, women at Chambe Health Centre were referred to Mulanje District Hospital, at least 20 kilometres away.

“Our facility has no ambulance. So, it was difficult for us to raise transport to go to Mulanje District Hospital. The best solution was to give birth in the village with the help of traditional birth attendants,” she says.

Left without reliable emergency transport, many expectant mothers had no choice but to rely on traditional birth attendants, risking complications far from proper medical intervention.

Eliza Matiyasi from Mwanyiri Village



Tapani: Pregnant women will no longer have to walk long distances.

recalls a dilapidated maternity wing that had turned into a threat rather than a hospital as the conditions were equally distressing.

He explains: “Pregnant women were afraid to go to the facility because of its poor state as it posed a threat to their lives.

“The facility, full of cracks and with a worn-out roof, was also leaking during the rainy season. At some point, the roof was blown off by the wind.”

Matiyasi said that with a shortage of beds, women in labour found themselves sleeping on the bare floor.

The facility's in-charge Enerst Kamzati said termites destroyed the old timber holding the roof.

He says: “The delivery packs were contaminated because of soil falling from the destroyed roof.

“Some people were going to Kambenje and Mulanje District Hospital because the structure was a threat to pregnant women.”

The turning point, however, arrived through the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2), which funded K135 million for rehabilitation works.

For mothers like Bertha Tapani, the shift means peace of mind during one of the most vulnerable moments of a woman's life.

“We no longer worry about transport because we know that we will access maternity services right here in the village at our health facility,” she says.

Chambe Maternity Wing rehab excites communities in Mulanje

People in Traditional Authority Mkanda in Mulanje District have expressed excitement with the rehabilitation of a maternity wing at Chambe Health Centre.

The old, dilapidated facility was in poor shape, forcing pregnant women to dig deeper into their pockets to access health services at Mulanje District Hospital, about 20 kilometres away.

One of the residents, Bertha Tapani, said pregnant women will no longer have to walk long distances to access healthcare services.

The K135 million rehabilitation project involved re-roofing the structure, installing new electrical wiring and conducting general maintenance throughout the building.



The renovated maternity wing at Chambe Health Centre.



Chumani Primary School in Mulanje.

Restoring hope in education sector

When Cyclone Freddy hit Mulanje District in March 2023, it left a trail of destruction in its wake. In particular, the storm dealt a big blow to the education system as it destroyed classroom blocks, thereby threatening the future of thousands of learners.

For schools already struggling with the shortage of learning spaces, hope was lost. With classrooms destroyed, hundreds of pupils were forced to learn under trees, exposed to harsh weather conditions. During rains or winter, parents fear for their children's safety.

Today, the disruption of teaching and learning is no more, thanks to the construction of new classroom blocks under the Regional Climate Resilience Program (RCRP-2).

For Esnat Maloya, a parent from Traditional Authority (T/A) Mkanda, the newly-constructed school block at Chikonde Primary School has brought relief.

She says: "During winter, I could not send my child to school because

they were learning under a tree.

"Now, I send my child to school because he is learning in a new classroom block."

The relief is equally the same at Chumani Primary School in T/A Mabuka.

With an enrolment of 1 600 pupils, the school was pushed to introduce open-air classes after wind destroyed one of its classroom blocks.

The school's head teacher Henderson Kanyanjira said:

"We only had three classroom blocks. The other classroom was destroyed by the wind."

The school's management committee secretary Solomoni Davide Banda explained how worrisome the situation was, adding that any threat of bad weather brought learning to a halt.

Standard Seven learner Mike Mangatchaya remembers how difficult it was to study in the open air.

"Some learners would lose concentration and leave class just to

follow a tractor passing along the road next to the school," he said.

The story of struggle did not spare Chanunkha Primary School whose deputy head teacher Henderson Duncain explained how Cyclone Freddy compounded their existing challenges.

"We have 1 566 learners and the school block that had four classrooms was destroyed during Cyclone Freddy," he said.

A similar transformation has taken place at Mloza Primary School in T/A Njema where learning was disrupted after the storm destroyed the classroom block.

Lydia Frank, a parent at Chanunkha Primary, said that the community has already taken ownership of the new facility.

At Mloza Primary, parent-teacher association chairperson Chimwemwe Chikomoni echoed that commitment, stating that communities around the area have agreed to protect the newly-constructed block from vandalism.

Pictorial focus on Chome Irrigation Scheme

Water flows again at Chome

Communities around the Chome Irrigation Scheme in Phalombe District are breathing a new lease of life, following the rehabilitation of the watering system. In Chome village, group village headman Mukhwayi, Traditional Authority Jenala, the scheme also services Gunda, Mukhwayi, Lyson, Lingazi, Katsonya, Namalawe, Sigoti, Kotamu, and Magonera communities. The communities are now able to buy cheap farm produce, including vegetables, tomatoes, rice, okra, and green maize. 534 farmers are benefiting from the rehabilitation works, which involved drilling of 1 borehole, installation of 2 additional water tanks of 10,000 litres, solar pumping units, solar panels with accessories and fencing of the compound, conveyance pipelines and infield hydraulic structures (distribution boxes) by RCRP-2 to the tune of about MK 180 million. Here is a pictorial focus of the Chome Irrigation Scheme



A solar panel field at Chome Irrigation Scheme in Phalombe District



Two tanks added to existing three tanks to boost irrigation.



A tilled land ready for cultivation at Chome Irrigation Scheme.



Maize giving hope for a great harvest.



Happy farmers expecting a bumper harvest at Chome Irrigation Scheme.