ADAPTATION FUND

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CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

~~CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY~~

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Title of Project:	Smallholder Climate Resilience Project (SCRP)
Country:	MALAWI
Thematic Focal Area:	AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Type of Implementing Entity:	Multilateral Implementing Entity
Implementing Entity:	IFAD
Executing Entities:	Ministry of Agriculture
Amount of Financing Requested:	10 million (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Project Formulation Grant Request (available to NIEs only): Yes ☐ No ☒

Amount of Requested financing for PFG: (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☒ No ☐

NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission:

☒ This concept has been submitted before

☐ This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

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In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date:

17/07/2024

Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including annexes.

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A. Project background and context:

1. ~~Country background:~~ Malawi is a landlocked country in south-eastern Africa, bordered by Zambia to the west, Mozambique to the southeast and Tanzania to the northeast. The country has a total area of 118,484 km^2, of which 79.4% is land and 21.6% is water. Malawi terrain is characterized by an elongated plateau, resulting in rolling plains, hills, and mountains. This terrain creates microclimates~~micro-climates~~, principally due to the variation in rainfall across locations, with the overarching climate described as sub-tropical, ~~which is and~~ influenced by the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)1. Agriculture is ~~and~~ highly rainfed dependent. ~~on rainfed agriculture.~~

A1. Socio-economic background

2. ~~Based~~**~~Economic context:~~** ~~Malawi is ranked among the least developed countries globally based~~ on ~~the~~ Human Development Index (HDI) and comparative analysis across countries, Malawi is ranked among the least developed countries. ~~.~~ Malawi's HDI value for 2019 was 0.483 and ranked~~rated as~~ 174 out of 189 countries and territories (UNDP, 2020)[2]. With a total population of nearly 20 million[3], Malawi has Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita of $645[4]. The agriculture sector is a key contributor to the Malawian economy. The sector employs around 85% of the workforce, contributes 40% of GDP and 80% of its export earnings5. Crop production alone is estimated to account for 74% of all rural incomes[6]. ~~Notwithstanding its economic importance, the sector faces several barriers to fulfil its potential, particularly from the induced phenomenon of climate change and variability.~~

~~3.~~2. ~~**Social context**:~~ Over 70% of the population lives below the international poverty line of $1.90/day, driven by abject poverty and recurrent climate related shocks[7]. The higher poverty levels entail limited livelihood opportunities with over 80% of people's livelihoods reliant on natural resources, which are climate sensitive[8]. ~~sectors[9]. According to an IPC analysis, approximately 5.4 million people face moderate to severe chronic food insecurity, while an additional estimated 4.4 million, face mild food insecurity[10]. Gender inequalities impact on women's poverty due to low participation in economic activities and limited access to productive resources. The youth (age 15-35), who are most of the population, lack basic opportunities to enable them to develop to their full potential.~~

3. **Poverty particularly affects women**, as gender inequalities lead to low participation in economic activities and limited access to productive resources. Gender inequalities occur not just in governance and leadership but also in agriculture, education and health. According to the World Bank (2022), women in Malawi comprise 52% of population and provide nearly 80% of the labor force in agriculture. Despite women their critical role in agriculture, producing about 70% of the food, women do not enjoy equal benefits from production.

4. Land is culturally owned either by men (patrimony) or women (matrimony). While land holding sizes are already low for Malawian farmers (1.0 ha), women farmers have 20% less land holding size than male counterpart. However, regardless of culture or ownership, the use of land is mostly controlled by men, despite them providing less labor. Additionally, women have lower education levels, less access to loans, less access to improved inputs and less access to agricultural extension and information (only 14% of the recipients of extension services are women), which restricts their agricultural productivity. Women managed

1 McSweeney C, New M, and Lizcano G (2010). Climate Change Country Profiles. http://www.un-gsp.org/sites/default/files/documents/malawi.oxford.report.pdf.
2 UNDP (2020). Overview of Malawi Human Development Report.
3 World Bank (2022) Open Data.. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=MW
~~https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=MW~~
4 Ibid
5 IFAD (2022). Republic of Malawi, Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (2023 – 2030). https://www.ifad.org/en/-/malawi-country-strategic-opportunities-programme
6 Chirwa EW, Kumwenda I, Jumbe C, Chilunda P, Minde I (2008). Agricultural Growth and Poverty Reduction in Malawi. Past Performance and Recent Trends. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADS611.pdf
7 FAO (2022). Malawi Chronic Food Insecurity Situation 2022 – 2026. https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/fr/c/1155612/?iso3=MWI#:~:text=Acute~~https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/fr/c/1155612/?iso3=MWI#:~:text=Acute~~Malnutrition&text=Chronic%20food%20insecurity%20in%20Malawi,reliance%20on%20weak%20livelihood%20strategies
8 National Statistical Office (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.
~~9 National Statistical Office (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.~~
~~10 FAO (2022). Malawi: Chronic Food Insecurity Situation 2022 – 2026. https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/fr/c/1155612/?iso3=MWI#:~:text=AcuteMalnutrition&text=Chronic%20food%20insecurity%20in%20Malawi,reliance%20on%20weak%20livelihood%20strategies~~

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plots are 25% less productive than those of their male counterparts. When aggregated these challenges increase women's vulnerability to climate change and decrease their capacity to attain food, income and nutrition security.

5. **The youth (age 15-35),** constituting 40% of the population, lacks basic~~**Environment degradation**: Malawi's natural resource base provides~~ opportunities, and experiences high unemployment levels (80%). Focus group discussions with youth in selected communities indicated that youth had less land, were deliberately excluded from accessing credit and agricultural capacity building initiatives, and overall had a lower participation in projects. Consultation with youth further highlighted that high unemployment levels, coupled with less knowledge, expertise and participation in agriculture, led many to risky activities such as prostitution and early marriages for girls and increased criminal activities for boys.

6. SCRP has included considerations on how to mitigate gender inequalities and enhance women and youth empowerment, informed by consultations with the community (Section H) and the preliminary gender assessment (Annex B)

A2. Agriculture and Food Security

7. The agriculture sector is a key contributor to the Malawian economy and source of livelihoods for 80% of people. The majority are smallholder farmers (70-80%) cultivating between 0.1-1.0 hectares with low and limited farm inputs quality.

8. Only 28% of the potential irrigable area is irrigated, with the majority of irrigation infrastructure benefitting larger private estates. Smallholder farmers produce most of the food crops that are reliant on rain-fed agriculture, making the sector highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Community consultations identified the following as main challenges to agriculture productivity (ranked from highest to lowest challenge): droughts, land degradation resulting in soil loss and decreased soil fertility due to rapid deforestation, other unsustainable agricultural practices and climate change, pests and diseases management, expensive farm inputs, limited loans and markets access, lack of diversification and post-harvest losses.

9. Consultations also revealed that there have been increased incidences of pests and diseases on a yearly basis. The emergency of the fall armyworm (FAW) in 2015 further worsened yield losses. Estimates indicate that FAW alone was responsible for about 10-12% maize yield loss in Malawi. As regards pests' management, farmers lack basic information about FAW biology and behavior that would enable them to target planting dates and management interventions, including pesticides and the timing of treatments.[11]

10. Due to the challenges faced, smallholder crop yields were comparatively low compared to potential yields. Actual yield to potential yield was: 32% for maize; 43% for groundnuts; 28% for soybean; 26% for common beans; 42% for sweet potato; and 67% for cassava. SCRP will enhance adoption of CSA including through improved soil fertility management, pest management and other practices, as well as small irrigation schemes and other water infrastructure, addressing the critical factors that ~~to~~ reduce smallholders' productivity and increase their vulnerability to climate hazards.

A3. Natural Resources

~~4.~~11. ~~rural poverty. However,~~ Malawi faces one of the highest and widest rate of~~widespread~~ natural resources and land degradation (soil erosion and loss of soil fertility)[12]. It is due to climatic conditions such as heavy rains and floods, as well as man-made deforestation, unsustainable~~due to deforestation and inappropriate~~ land management and overgrazing. The annual soil loss from cropland is described as severe with ~~at~~ 29 tons/ha (GoM~~and responsible for up to 0.5% per annum crop yield reduction [Government of Malawi (GoM),~~ 2019)[13], putting Malawi among the top 12 countries most exposed to soil erosion.][14]. In the last 10 years' land degradation has resulted in a 15% decrease in arable land15, worsening the already dire situation of low land holding (1 hectare per household)[16]. With an estimated 96% of the total population using fuelwood for cooking in the form of firewood and charcoal, deforestation rate is highest in sub-Saharan

11 Feed the Future (2019). Fall Armyworm Management for Maize Smallholders in Malawi: An Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan
12 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.Ibid
13 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.
~~14 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.~~
15 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi. ~~Ibid~~
16 Holden, S., Lunduka, R., 2012. Do fertilizer subsidies crowd out organic manures?. The case of Malawi. Agric. Economics 43 (3), 303–314

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Africa[17], with almost 33,000 hectares of land cover loss annually[18] and a main~~is high and a significant~~ driver of ecosystem and biodiversity ~~and ecosystem services~~ loss.

12. A recent study in 2020, found that soil loss contributed to a national GDP loss of 1-3%, and causes between 32 to 61% decrease in maize production[19] in some areas. In 1990s, maize yield decreases due to soil erosion was estimated at 15.6%[20]. As a consequence, farmers face reductions in food production, income losses and devaluation of their land, exacerbating their vulnerability and food insecurity and fostering urban migration. Another study in 2019, indicated that female headed households faced double the impact of soil loss on maize productivity and on per capita real consumption when compared to male counterparts, indicating that female headed households were more fragile to soil erosion impact than male counterparts[21].

13. Community consultations confirmed that land degradation had the second worse effect on agricultural productivity after droughts. With already over three-quarters of the agricultural land exposed to severe topsoil loss, erosion represents the major threat to food security and agricultural growth, and amplifies impacts of climate change such as floods and droughts. If not addressed, impacts of land degradation are expected to worsen due to high population growth, rapid deforestation and intensive agriculture and the combined effects of climate change (heavy rains and strong winds). SCRP will promote on farm and micro-catchments restoration and conservation..

A4. Climate change and its impacts

Current impacts of climate change

14. ~~**Increased climate change risks and impacts**: In addition to these challenges Malawi is impacted by climate change.~~ The World Bank (2018)[22] has described Malawi as particularly prone and exposed to adverse climate hazards such as dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine and flash floods. Droughts and floods occur on an annual basis in many districts of Malawi.~~including dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, ravine and flash floods.~~ Most smallholder farmers are resource poor with very limited capacity to contain shocks arising from climate change. Economic modelling assessment estimated that the direct overall costs due to climate change impacts were equivalent to 5% of the country's GDP each year (GoM 2015)[23]. Due to drought occurrence in the 2023/24 season, the Government of Malawi urgently needs more than $200 million in humanitarian assistance to provide food to more than 2 million households and declared a state of disaster in 23 of out 28 country districts[24].

15. The Department of Disaster Management Affairs analyses shows that an increased number of people are impacted by climate related disasters. In 1989, about 200,000 people were affected by storms, floods and landslides. The number steadily increased 500,000 in 1997; 700,000 in 2025; 1,000,000 in 2019 and 2,300,000 in 2023.

16. Since January 2022, three cyclones (cyclone Ana in January 2022, cyclone Gombe in March 2022, cyclone Freddy in March 2023) have hit Malawi with devastating impacts. Cyclone~~For instance with cyclone~~ Anna destroyed more than 220,000 farmers' fields in nearly 179,000 hectares of crop fields. The 2015 floods resulted in over 280 deaths, 638,000 people affected in one form or the other, physical damages and economic losses valued at $335 million25. The post disaster needs assessment conducted in April 2023, estimated that cyclone Freddy alone affected over 2.3 million people and over 545,000 households were reported to have lost their crops and livestock, 1.6 million were declared severely food insecure, over 650,000 people displaced and over 600 deaths (WFP 2023)[26]. Cyclone Freddy in 2023, is estimated to have reduced maize production at the national level by 20-30% below average, which is likely to exacerbate food insecurity. Economic modelling has estimated the direct overall costs due to climate change impacts equivalent to losing at least 5% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) each year[27]

17 Borrelli, P., Robinson, D.A., Fleischer, L.R., Lugato, E., Ballabio, C., Alewell, C., Bagarello, V., 2017. An assessment of the global impact of 21st century land use change on soil erosion. Nat. Commun. 8 (1), 2013.

20 FAO and UNEP (2019). Soil and nutrient loss in Malawi: An economic assessment.
21 Giacomo P et al (2020). Distributional impacts of soil erosion on agricultural productivity and welfare in Malawi. Ecological Economics 177 (2020) 106764.
22 World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes
23 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi
24 WFP (2024). Reliefweb: https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/wfp-urges-global-support-malawi-faces-looming-food-crisis-triggered-el-nino
25 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi
26 WFP (2023). Cyclone Fredy Response Update. https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/wfp-malawi-cyclone-freddy-response-update-6-april-2023-0800-cat
27 GoM (2021). UPdated National Determined Contribution

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5.

6. **Brief description of the intervention to address the challenges**: Overall, the Smallholder Climate Resilient Project (SCRP) is designed based on emerging needs, current economic, social, environmental barriers, climatic risks, previous lessons, best practices and knowledge to address the identified barriers. The SCRP aims to address some of the strategic causes of climate vulnerability that have hitherto hampered the growth of the Malawian agriculture sector including but not limited to: i) land degradation resulting to low soil fertility, ii) limited access to climate smart technologies and improved farm inputs, which leads to low productivity, iii) limited generation and access to climate change information for informed decision making iv) high post-harvest losses in the face of climate change and limited value addition affecting marketability of farm produce, v) limited access to inclusive financial resources and economic empowerment for women and youth to engage in climate change responsive micro-enterprises that deprive employment for youth and women, and vi) weak institutional capacity in agriculture extension and disaster risk management.

7. **Alignment with country policies and strategies:** From broad interventions outlined above, SCRP is aligned to the national developmental strategies and plans. For instance, Malawi Vision 2063[28], which aims to transform the country into a wealthy and self-reliant industrialized upper-middle-income country by the year 2063. Pillar I of the Vision 2063 seeks to improve agricultural productivity and commercialization by combating the high environmental degradation; reducing the adverse impacts of climatic conditions; addressing low adoption of climate smart agricultural technologies, low access to farm inputs, low mechanization, poor land management practices, poor access to finance, weak linkages to markets and limited irrigation among most of the farmers.

SCRP is in consonance with the National Agricultural Policy[29] (GoM 2016) which aims to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation, by expanding incomes for farm households, improving food and nutrition security, and increasing agricultural exports. In addition, SCRP's promotion of climate change adaptation approaches will contribute to the objectives of the National Climate Change Management Policy (GoM 2016)[30], the updated National Determined Contributions (2022)[31] and the National Resilience Plan (2017)[32], which together outline adaptation, mitigation, capacity building for climate change programming and Disaster Risk Management. SCRP is also well aligned and contributes to the four pillars of the National Resilience Strategy (GoM 2017) through building: a) resilient agriculture; b) disaster risk management; c) adaptive capacity development; and d) micro catchment protection and management.

Climate risks, vulnerabilities, trends and impacts in the project areas.

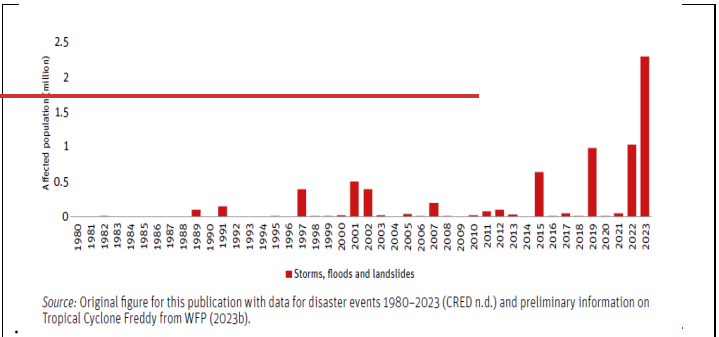
8. This section highlights the major climate hazards observed, critical factors of climate vulnerabilities in Malawi, the presents observed and projected climate trends and the analysis possible climate impacts particularly on crop productivity which is major livelihoods for the at least 80% of the Malawian population. The highlights on observed hazards, vulnerabilities, and impacts, create a basis for adaptation to the next sections.

8. **Major climatic hazards in Malawi:** Malawi is particularly prone to adverse climate hazards that include dry spells, droughts, intense rainfall, floods, strong winds and cyclones. Droughts, floods and cyclones, the most severe of the observed hazards, have increased in frequency and magnitude over the past twenty years, with dire consequences on food and water security and livelihoods of the most rural communities.

8. **Figure 1** below highlights how most common disasters have increased in the three (3) decades in Malawi. Climate related disasters affected over a million people in Malawi in 2019 and 2022, the

[28] *National Planning Commission (2020). Vision 2063. https://npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/MW2063-VISION-FINAL.pdf*
[29] *Ministry of Agriculture (2016). National Agriculture Policy. https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/mlw141073.pdf*
[30] *Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining (2016). National climate change Management Policy. https://www.ccpm.scot/assets/000/000/079/NCCM_Policy_Final_06_11_2016_original.pdf?1542206333*
[31] *Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment (2021). National Determined Contribution. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Malawi%20Updated%20NDC%20July%202021%20submitted.pdf*
[32] *Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2018). National Resilience Strategy. https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/mlw190927.pdf*

highest since 1980s. In 2023, the Cyclone Freddy affected more than 2.3 million people.



Source: Original figure for this publication with data for disaster events 1980–2023 (CRED n.d.) and preliminary information on Tropical Cyclone Freddy from WFP (2023b).

Fig 1: Disaster events associated with severe rainfall events in Malawi (Sourced from NRS 2017).[33]

Climate change vulnerability factors: Malawian rural communities are highly vulnerable to climate change. Factors exacerbating climate change vulnerability include increased exposure, high sensitivity, low adaptive capacity, gender disparities, high degradation of natural resources, limited access to finance climate resilient investments, are described in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Vulnerability to climate change

ID	Vulnerability factors	Description
1	**Increased exposure**	Malawi has become particularly prone and exposed to adverse climate hazards including dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, ravine and flash floods[38]. In January 2015, Malawi received extreme precipitation[39] of four times higher than average and caused severe flooding in 15 of the 28 districts, which adversely affected more than 1.3 million people.[40] In the last two years, three cyclones (cyclone Ana in January 2022, cyclone Gombe in March 2022, cyclone Freddy in March 2023) have hit Malawi with devastating impacts. SCRP will enhance climate generation to guide farmer decision making, assess and recommend specific agroecological based adaptations options and enhance community preparedness to reduce climate economic impacts on food security, livelihoods and national economy.
2	**High sensitivity**	Malawi's high population density, high poverty levels with a huge proportion of population relying on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, leads to high sensitivity to climate change. Malawi is one of the most densely populated countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with population density of 203 people per km^2. The current population of 20.9 million (GOM

17. In the last five decades, Malawi has experienced more than 19 major flooding events and seven droughts. In 2015, the country was affected by the worst floods in 50 years, affecting over 1 million people, displacing 230,000 people and killing 106 people, with another 172 people reported missing.[34] The 2019 floods resulted in 60 deaths, with 975,000 people affected, physical damages and economic losses of $220 million[35] [36]. The effects of Tropical Cyclone Idai, in 2019, placed Malawi in the top five countries worldwide most affected by extreme weather events, according to the Global Climate Risk Index[37].

[33] *Ibid*

34 GoM (2021). UPdated National Determined Contribution

35 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2019). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.

36Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.

37Eckstein, Kunzel and Schafer (2021). Global Climate Risk. Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Event? Weather Related Loss from 2000-2019. German Watch. https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/20-2-01e%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202020_15.pdf

[38] *World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes*

[39] *Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report..*

[40] *World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes.*

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		2020) is expected to double by 2060[41], which will exert further pressure on land resources, leading to worsened widespread degradation and deforestation, in absence of proper actions. The fact that over 80% of people in Malawi depend on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources which are climate sensitive sectors[42], makes the Malawi economy overly sensitive to climatic hazards. For instance, due to floods in 2024, there was a significant fall GDP (GoM 2015)[43]. SCRP will contribute to reducing climate sensitivity through irrigation and diversification from predominantly maize crop-based livelihood to crop livestock integration and micro catchments conservation to reduce land degradation and soil erosion that affect crop production, among others.
3	**Low adaptive capacity**	Malawi smallholder farmers' climate adaptive capacity is low, due to limited climate change knowledge, lack of access to finance to adopt climate resilient technologies, high poverty levels, low women and youth participation and empowerment in economic activities. SCRP will contribute to improve climate adaptive capacity through capacity building, enhancing adoption of available CSA technologies, promotion of inclusive climate resilience financing
4	**Gender disparities**	The female headed households are reported to more likely to be poorer (57% for female-headed and 43 % of their male-headed households)[44]. Women poverty is directly related to low participation in economic activities, low access to productive assets (land and capital) and higher illiteracy rates. Laws guaranteeing inheritance and land ownership rights to women are often overridden by social norms and customs. Even though women provide 70% of the labour force in the agricultural sector, they still earn less than their male counterparts. The youth (age 15-35), who are the majority of population (57%)[45], lack basic opportunities to enable them to develop to their full potential. SCRP will ensure active participation and empowerment of women and youth (50% women and 30% youth) in its interventions
5	**Degradation of natural resources**	Malawi faces one of the highest and widespread natural resources and land degradation, largely caused by deforestation and inappropriate land management practices resulting in increased soil erosion. The annual soil loss from cropland is estimated at 29 tons/ha and responsible for up to 0.5% per annum crop yield reduction (GoM 2019)[46]. In the last 10 years land degradation has resulted in a 15% decrease in arable land[47]. With an estimated 96 percent of the total population using fuelwood for cooking, deforestation is estimated to be responsible for 33,000 hectares of land cover loss annually[48] and a main driver of ecosystem and biodiversity loss. The SCRP will promote sustainable land management and micro catchments conservation, as an adaptation option, which have direct effect on agricultural productivity.
6	**Limited adoption of climate smart technologies and investments in climate resilient infrastructure**	Malawi has limited public, private funding as well as limited access by smallholders' farmers to financial services, which impact on climate smart technologies and investments in climate resilient infrastructure. For instance, less than 8% of arable land is under irrigation and the over reliance on rain-fed agriculture increases the vulnerability of small-scale poor farmers, and farmers experience huge post-harvest loses (25%) due to of proper storage and value addition The SCRP promote gender responsive climate financing to increase irrigation for enable farmers produce double crops while averting drought impacts, reduce postharvest losses and enhance value addition along the value chains
8	**Limited climate information to support decision making**	While many previous initiatives have been undertaken to improve generation, access and use of climate information, there are still huge gaps for effectiveness of the available information. For instance, the forecast information covers large periods and not narrowed to a specific area or value chain, message alert being too short for effective preparedness. SCRP will enhance climate information generation and advisories formulation, improve dissemination capacity through digitalization and build capacity of district and local communities. SCRP will also undertake assessment to provide policy guidance on

[41] *National Statistics Report (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.*
[42] *National Statistical Office (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.*
[43] *Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.*
[44] *National Statistics Office (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.*
[45] *UNDP (2020). Human development Index.*
[46] *GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.*
[47] *GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi*
[48] *GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.*

		~~improving use of climate change information and services in agriculture, disaster risk management, including crop insurance under smallholder farmers.~~

Observed and projected climate trends

~~10.~~18. ~~: **Temperature changes:**~~ As highlighted in Fig 1 ~~below~~, Malawi's observed **mean temperature** increased by 1.25 deg~~25°C~~ between 1951 -1980 (21.50 deg~~°C~~) and 1991- 2020 (22.25 deg~~°C~~) (**Fig 1 - a**). The observed average monthly temperature changes for the same period also increased by between 0.5 deg~~°C~~ - 1.0 deg~~°C~~ for most months except for October and November (**Fig 1-b**). The projected mean temperatures are expected to increase from 21.75 deg in 1960s to 23.5 deg by 2040 (**Fig 2 - a**). The projected (2020-2040) temperature increases vary across the country from 0.96 to 1.08 deg (**Fig 2- c**).

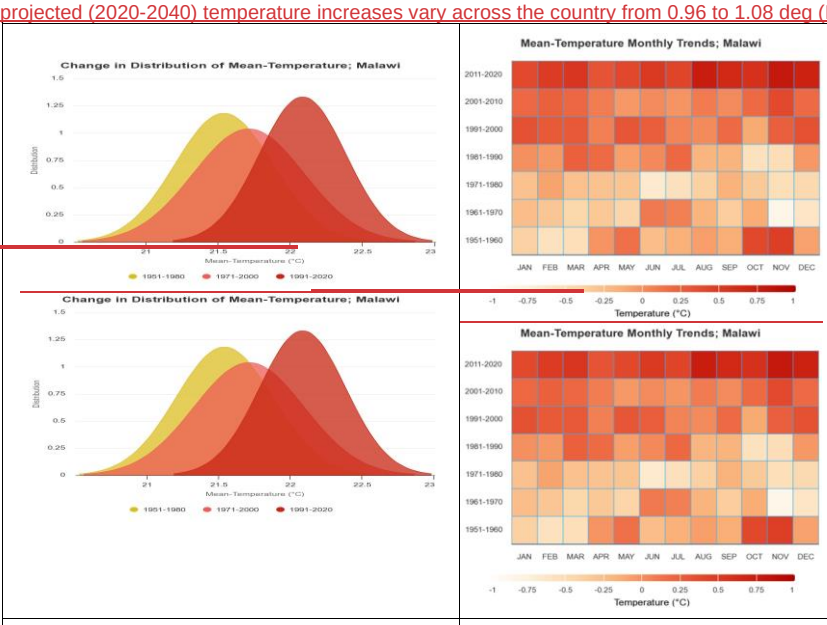

Fig 1-a: Changes in mean temperature over years. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[49]

Fig 1-b: Increase in mean monthly over years. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[50]

~~11. The projected mean temperatures are also expected to increase from 21.75°C in 1960s to 23.5 °C by 2040 (**Fig 2 - a**). The projected (2020-2040) temperature increases vary across the country from 0.96 to 1.08 °C (**Fig 2- c**). For the selected SCRP districts, temperatures are expected to increase by 1.08 °C in Balaka, and around 1.04 °C in Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba (**Fig 2-c). However, the highest temperatures will still be observed in southern and lakeshore districts (Fig 2-b and Fig 2-c**).~~

49 World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes.

50 Ibid.

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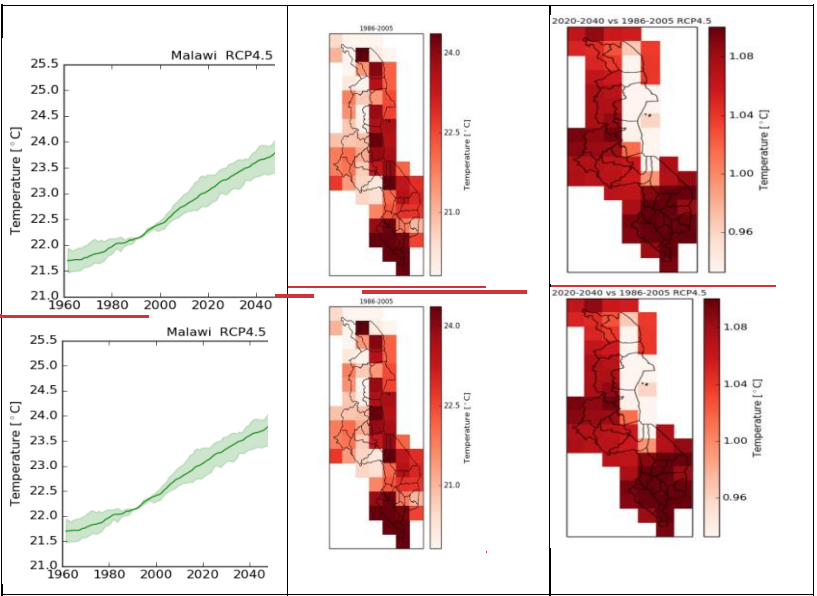

(Fig 2-a): Mean temperature changes annual aggregates (2020- 2040)	(Fig 2- b): Reference temperature (1986-2005)	(Fig 2-c): Future projected province changes (2020-2040)

Source: Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices[51]

~~12.~~19. ~~Change in extreme temperatures:~~ **Extreme average hot temperatures** ~~are noted to~~ have increased from around 30.0 ~~deg~~°C - 32.0 ~~deg~~°C in 1960s to 31.2 ~~deg~~°C - 33.5 ~~deg~~°C 2040s (Fig 3 - a). The projected (2030-2040) highest extreme temperatures are expected in the northern region at 1.08 ~~deg~~°C~~s~~ (Fig 3 -c). However, the highest extreme temperatures will still be expected in the southern region (Fig 3-b plus Fig 3-c). ~~Increases in temperatures affect crop physiology~~

[51] Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices

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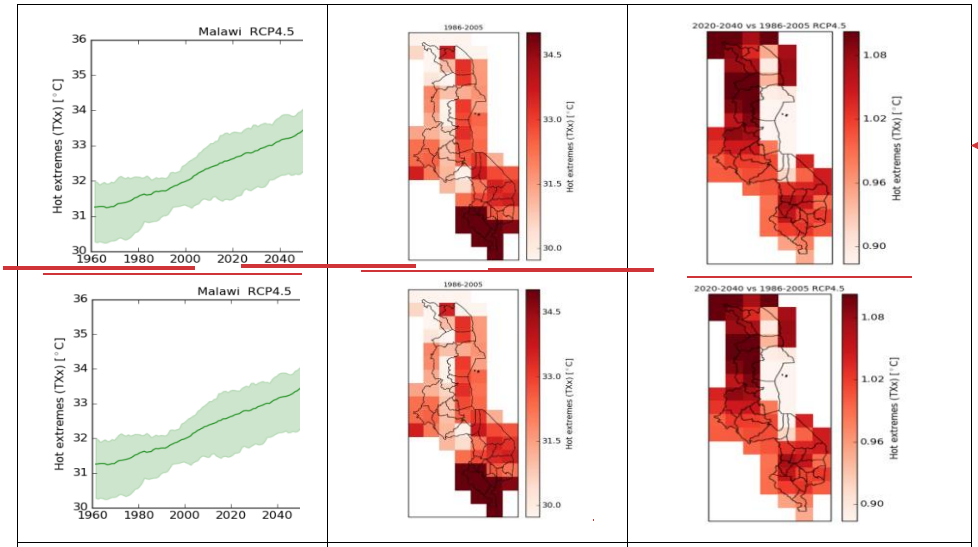
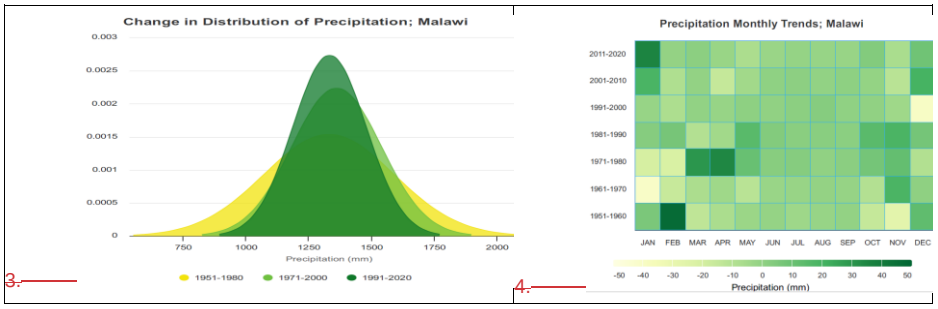
productivity as well as increased evapotranspiration reducing water availability for crop use.

		
(Fig 3- a): Annual average extreme temperature change (2020-2040)	**(Fig 3 b):** Reference extreme temperature (1986- 2005)	**(Fig 3 - c):** Projected extreme temperature changes (2020- 2040)
Source: Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices [52]		

1.20. Observed **mean precipitation levels** remained the same at nearly 1875 mm per year between 1951-1980 **and** 1991 - 2020 (Fig 4 - a). This corroborates many studies that precipitation in Malawi varies but change is uncertain. However, there are noticeable changes in monthly precipitation between the different decades (Fig 4-b). The projected mean precipitation levels show a slight decrease from 1100m mm **per** year in 1960s to 1040mm in 2040s (**Fig 5 - a**) with huge uncertainties. When projected to (2030- 2050) the highest precipitation increases (50mm) and decreases (-50mm) are noted across the country compared to the reference year of 1986-2005 (**Fig 5 -c**).

2. Changes in precipitation:



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52 Ibid

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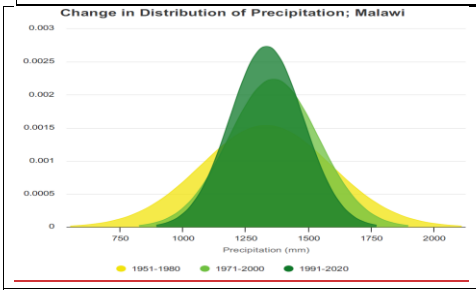
5. **Fig 4-a:** Changes in annual observed precipitation. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[53]

6. **Fig 4-b:** Changes in monthly observed precipitation. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[54]



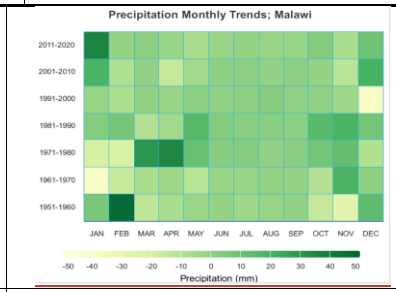
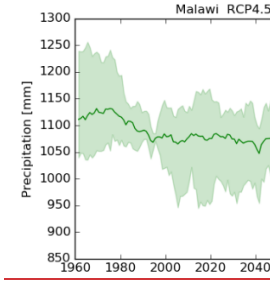
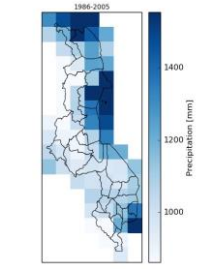
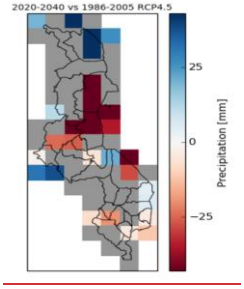


Fig 4-a: Changes in annual observed precipitation. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[55]

Fig 4-b: Changes in monthly observed precipitation. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[56]







(Fig 5 -a): Annual mean precipitation changes (2020 – 2040)	**(Fig 5- b)**: Reference mean precipitation levels (1986- 2005)	**(Fig 5- c):** Projected mean precipitation changes (2020-2040)

Source: Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices [57]

13. A slight decrease in precipitation is expected in Dowa and Balaka, where Mzimba and Lilongwe remain the same.

[53] *World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes.*

[54] *Ibid*

55 World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes.

56 Ibid

57 Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices

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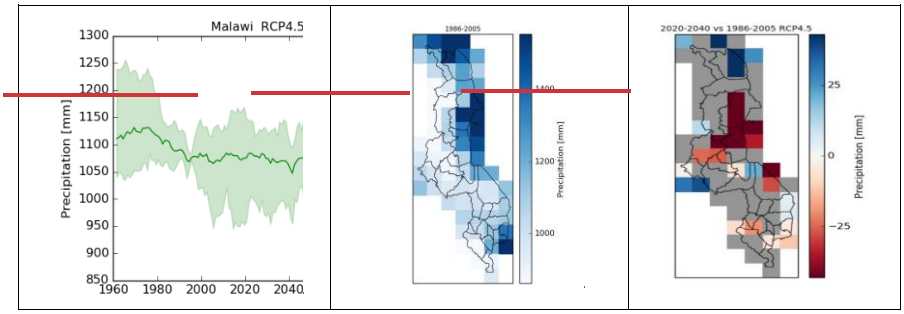

~~18.~~21. ~~Changes in extreme precipitation:~~ Unlike mean precipitation changes, there are changes in **extreme mean precipitation**. At national level there is a general increase in~~on~~ extreme precipitation from 132mm (1960s) to 140 mm (2040s) with huge uncertainties (Fig 6-a). ~~All districts show increase in extreme precipitation, Balaka (24mm), Lilongwe (12mm), Dowa (12mm) and Mzimba (4mm) respectively (Fig 6-c).~~ Overall extreme precipitation is observed in the very north and south-eastern regions of Malawi (Fig 6-c). Even though there are slight changes in average precipitation and extreme precipitation, much of the rainfall changes could be variability in start and end dates

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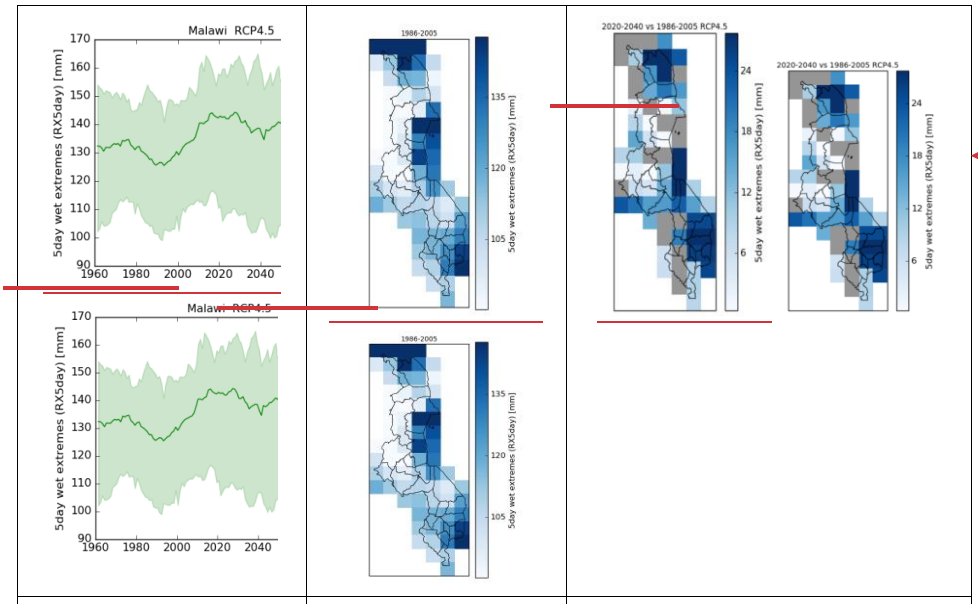
which also greatly influence the crop productivity.



(Fig 6- a):	(Fig 6- b):	(Fig 6 - c):
Extreme precipitation changes (1960- 2040)	Reference extreme precipitation (1986-2005)	Projected extreme precipitation changes (2020-2040).

Source: Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices [58]

A5. Climate vulnerabilities

22. Malawian rural communities are highly vulnerable to the climate hazards just described. Factors exacerbating climate change vulnerability include high sensitivity of livelihood sources, low community adaptive capacity, gender disparities, soil, land and natural resource degradation, limited access to finance for climate resilient investments and increased incidences of pests, as presented in Table 1 below.

19. ~~**Socio economic impact of observed and projected climate trends in the project areas:** The impact of climate change has been significant and has continuously affected every segment of society. From 1979 to 2008, more than 2,600 people are reported to have died due to natural disasters, and nearly 21.7 million people have cumulatively been adversely affected[59]. In 2015, the country had its worst floods in 50 years[60]. The frequent disasters have resulted in large costs for repairs and rebuilding, diverting scarce resources from other development needs. The 2015 floods resulted in over 280 deaths, 638,000 people affected in one form or the other, physical damages and economic losses valued at $335 million61.~~

58 Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices
~~59 *Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.*~~
~~60 *Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2019). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.*~~
~~61 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.~~

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~~20.1.~~ ~~The 2019 floods resulted in 60 deaths, with 975,000 people affected, physical damages and economic losses of $220 million[62],[63]. The effects of Tropical Cyclone Idai, in 2019, placed Malawi in the top five countries worldwide most affected by extreme weather events, according to the Global Climate Risk Index[64].~~

~~The post disaster needs assessment conducted in April 2023, estimated that cyclone Freddy alone affected over 2.3 million people and over 545,000 households were reported to have lost their crops and livestock, 1.6 million were declared severely food insecure, over 650,000 people displaced and over 600 deaths (WFP 2023)[65].~~ **Table 1: Vulnerability to climate change**

ID	Vulnerability factors	Description
~~The agriculture sector suffers the greatest loss because of~~	**High sensitivity**	Malawi's high population density, high poverty levels with a huge proportion of population relying on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, leads to high sensitivity to climate change. Malawi is one of the most densely populated countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a population density of 203 people per km^2. The current population of 20.9 million (GOM 2020) is expected to double by 2060[67], which will exert further pressure on land resources, leading to worsened widespread soil, land and natural resource, in absence of proper actions. The fact that over 80% of people in Malawi depend on rain-fed agriculture and natural resources which are climate sensitive sectors[68], makes the Malawi economy overly sensitive to climatic hazards. For instance, due to floods in 2024, there was a significant fall GDP (GoM 2015)[69]. SCRP will contribute to reducing climate sensitivity through irrigation, community water sources through boreholes and diversification from predominantly maize crop-based livelihood to integrated crop management and CSA, including on-farm and landscape soil, land and micro-catchment conservation.

~~[62] Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2019). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.~~
~~[63] Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.~~
~~64 Eckstein, Kunzel and Schafer (2021). Global Climate Risk. Who Suffers Most from Extreme Weather Event? Weather Related Loss from 2000-2019. German Watch. https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/20-2-01e%20Global%20Climate%20Risk%20Index%202020_15.pdf~~
~~65 WFP (2023). Cyclone Fredy Response Update. https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/wfp-malawi-cyclone-freddy-response-update-6-april-2023-0800-cat.~~
67 National Statistics Report (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.
68 National Statistical Office (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.
69 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.

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~~climate change impacts in Malawi.~~ ~~Most smallholder farmers are resource poor with very limite~~		

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~~decapacity to contain sharp edges arising from climate change. Economic modelling assessment estimat~~		

~~ed that the direct overall costs due to climate change impacts were equivalent to 5% of the country's~~		

~~GDP each year (GoM 2015)~~[66]		
2	**Low adaptive capacity**	Malawi smallholder farmers' climate adaptive capacity is low, due to limited climate change knowledge, lack of access to finance to adopt climate resilient technologies, high poverty levels, low women and youth participation and empowerment in economic activities. SCRP will contribute to improve climate adaptive capacity through capacity building, enhancing adoption of available CSA technologies, and support access extension services and inputs for climate-resilient practices on the farm.
3	**Marginalization of vulnerable groups**	Female headed households are poorer (57% compared to 43% to their male-headed households)[70]. Women poverty is caused by low participation in economic activities, low access to productive assets (land and capital) and higher illiteracy rates. Social customs override women land inheritance rights and decision making on land uses. Even though women provide 70% of the labour force in the agricultural sector, they still earn less than their male counterparts. The youth (age 15-35), who are the majority of population (57%)[71], lack basic opportunities to enable them to contribute to the economy, in particular in agriculture. SCRP will ensure active participation and empowerment of women and youth (50% women and 30% youth) in its interventions.
4	**Land degradation**	Malawi faces one of the highest and widespread natural resources and land degradation, largely caused by deforestation and inappropriate land management practices resulting in increased soil erosion. The annual soil loss from cropland is estimated at 29 tons/ha and responsible for up 31-61% per annum crop yield reduction (GoM 2019)[72]. In the last 10 years land degradation has resulted in a 15% decrease in arable land[73]. With an estimated 96 percent of the total population using fuelwood for cooking, deforestation is estimated to be responsible for 33,000 hectares of land cover loss annually[74]. Soil, land and natural resources degradation was ranked among 5 critical factors affecting agricultural production, and a main driver of ecosystem and biodiversity loss. The SCRP will promote sustainable soil, land, and natural resources management, including micro catchments conservation. Considering the current situation, without soil, land and natural resources restoration and management there cannot be any effective agricultural production.
5	**Limited adoption of climate smart technologies**	Malawi has limited public, private funding as well as limited access by smallholders' farmers to financial services and extension, which impact on climate smart technologies and investments in climate resilient infrastructure. For instance, less than 30% of potential irrigable land is under irrigation and the over reliance on rain-fed agriculture increases the vulnerability of small-scale poor farmers, and farmers experience huge post-harvest

~~66 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.~~
70 National Statistics Office (2020). The Firth Integrated Household Survey. Zomba, Malawi. http://www.nsomalawi.mw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=230&Itemid=111.
71 UNDP (2020). Human development Index.
72 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.
73 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi
74 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.

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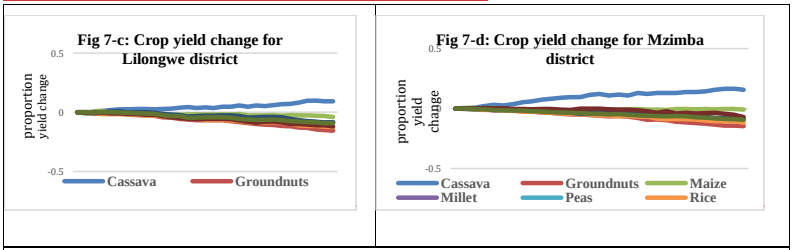
	and investments in climate resilient infrastructure	losses (25%) due to proper storage and value addition. Also limited adoption of CSA technologies lead to increased degradation of soil, land and natural resources as expressed under point 5. SCRP will provide the investments needed to roll out climate-smart technologies that reduce farmers' vulnerability to climate change, including crop diversification, soil cover, integrated pest management, etc. It will also increase water availability and access through small-scale irrigation schemes and communal water sources such as boreholes.
6	**Limited climate information to support decision making**	While many previous initiatives have been undertaken to improve generation, access and use of climate information, there are still huge gaps for improvement. For instance, the forecast information is done at the start of the season, with few updates in between, covering large areas and not narrowed to a specific area, not specific to value chain, message alert being too short for effective preparedness. SCRP will enhance climate information generation and advisories formulation, improve dissemination capacity through digitalization and build capacity of district and local communities.
7	**Pest and diseases**	All consultations with local agricultural officials and communities indicated that there was increased incidences of pests and diseases. For instance, across the country over 60% of maize fields are attacked by fall armyworm to different extent. It is currently estimated that yield losses from FAW are approximately 10%. Farmers have only limited access to education about IPM for effective management of FAW or any other pest. Specifically, farmers lack basic information about FAW biology and behavior that would enable them to target planting dates and management interventions, including pesticides and the timing of treatments.[75] Managing pests and diseases, including the FAW will reduce farmers' vulnerability to climate change, increase agricultural productivity and additionally reduce the environmental risk where farmers are without knowledge using chemicals without sufficient knowledge for its control.

Differentiated vulnerabilities and impacts by group



~~**Source**: Crop Impact Assessment (CARD 2018)[76]~~

~~Having a clear understanding of the most frequent observed and projected climatic hazards (drought, dry spells, floods and cyclones), and the factors that exacerbate vulnerability, (limited access to climate resilient technologies, existential gender disparities, environmental degradation, and the observed and expected impacts on the vulnerable livelihoods (reduced yields and economic loses), require effective adaptation measures to reduce the impacts.~~

~~As outlined in detail in the in PART II, the SCRP will enhance adaptive capacities to reduce vulnerabilities and climate change impacts. The proposed interventions includes a) enhancing farmer adaptive and climate resilience for improved crop and livestock productivity, micro catchment and ecosystem conservation through i) increased capacity of communities and institutions; ii) access to climate resilient technologies and improved farm inputs, iii) restoration of micro catchments and ecological functioning of watersheds; iv) unveiling availability of inclusive and gender responsive financing mechanism through the Farmer Challenge Fund (FCF) for the communities to invest in~~

75 Feed the Future (2019). Fall Armyworm Management for Maize Smallholders in Malawi: An Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan

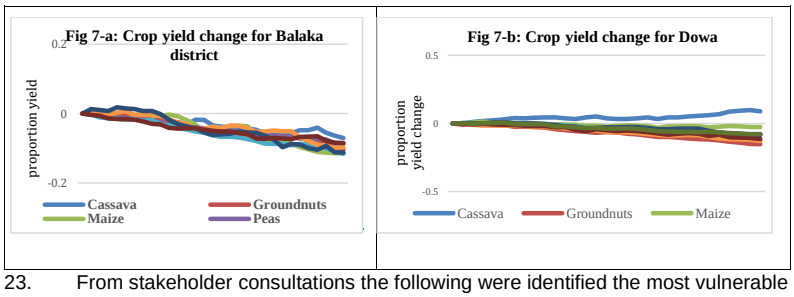
~~[76] *IFAD (2019). Climate Adaptation in Rural Development Assessment Tool. Available at: https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/publication/climate-adaptation-in-rural-development-card-assessment-tool.*~~

~~sustainable crop management practices, diversification of livelihoods and climate resilient infrastructure including irrigation infrastructure, storage and transportation facilities, ; iv) value addition equipment; and) build and community institutional adaptive capacity in disaster risk reduction.~~

~~**Project area description, targeting strategy and project aim.**~~

~~**Project areas:** The SCRP will be implemented in some ofdistricts and areas of Balaka, Lilongwe Rural, Dowa and Mzimba districts (**Fig 8**)Cyclone Freedy in 2023, is estimated to reduce maize production at the national level by 20 – 30% below average, which is likely to exacerbate food insecurity in the affected areas.~~

~~**Climate impact on crop yield**: Considering that the majority of Malawi is agro based, climate change is expected to have a huge impact on crop productivity. This would have a huge impact on the agricultural sector and the national economy. **Fig. 7** shows potential climate impact on crop yield in 2050 based on 2020 as baseline. For all crops apart from cassava in Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba show decrease in yield. Yield reduction ranges between 6% to 15% for all the selected districts (**Fig 7-a:d**). The highest crop yield change for Balaka is under maize (12%) while groundnuts have highest yield loss for Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba with around 15-16% respectively.~~



23. From stakeholder consultations the following were identified the most vulnerable groups to climate change: **women** and girls, the youth and the elderly.

24. **Women and girls** are among the most vulnerable groups to climate change. Women face unique impacts due to their primary role as caretakers of the households. When disaster occurs, women face an extra burden to care for the family. In periods of droughts, women and girls walk longer distances to fetch water for the household, exposing themselves to further climate hazards or other sources of insecurity, and spending time away from productive activities. Women also lack access to productive resources, lack of employment opportunities, lack access to micro-credits and access to agricultural extension services and climate information. Women and girls will also have increased stress related to sanitation and hygiene. These combined vulnerabilities result in increased malnutrition, increased debts incurred, increased incidences of dire poverty, disturbances marriages and gender-based violence as a result of climate change.~~districts have been selected based on specific criteria including poverty rates and chronic~~

~~21.~~25. **Youth** are also more vulnerable due to their lack of access to productive resources, lack of employment opportunities, lack of access to micro-credits and less access to agricultural extension services and climate information. During consultations it was revealed that youth were segregated from microcredits and women had less decision making on what type of crop and CSA investments to undertake. The youth were mostly affected by low yields resulting in increased food insecurity, reduced likelihood of getting employment due to reduced agricultural activities, less land access as parents resorted to selling land as recovery measures to disasters, increased high risk behaviors (prostitution and criminal activities) and early marriages among girls.~~-~~

26. The **elderly** were also particularly vulnerable due to limited social protection interventions, especially as they have limited energy to actively participate in productive work. The elderly and **children** were more affected due to increased malnutrition incidence, challenges to move during floods and increased absenteeism for school going children.

27. Based on the most critical climate hazards outlined during consultations and the differentiated

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gender impacts, SCRP has interventions to address the differential impacts.. SCRP also has preliminary beneficiary selection criteria based on recent government guidelines on mainstreaming gender and disadvantaged groups in agricultural interventions. These ensure that in each district, the most vulnerable areas, the most vulnerable communities, and most vulnerable households will be targeted, with specific measure to ensure women and youth empowerment and participation.

A6. Project area identification and beneficiary target strategy

28. A three-stage process is adopted for selecting SCRP beneficiaries. (1) At CN formulation, SCRP districts are identified; (2) at full proposal, actual projects areas (extension planning areas – EPAs) will be identified; (3) at project implementation, actual households and farmer groups will be selected.

Stage one - identification of SCRP districts: Government

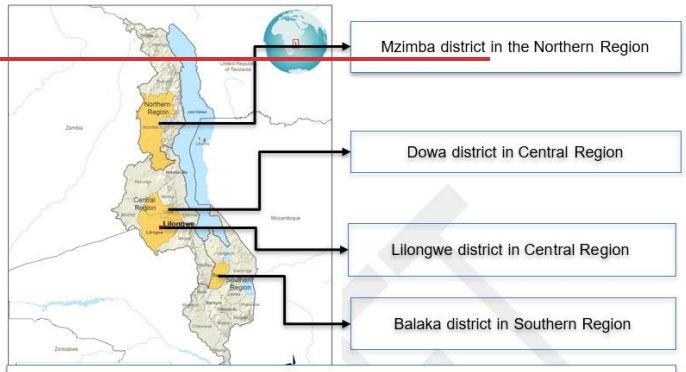

Fig 8. SCRP proposed project areas.

~~26. **Targeting strategy:** The SCRP targeting strategy is in two-fold. Firstly, the projects districts and areas are identified, followed by farmers' groups with specific groups characteristics. While the targeting criteria will be further elaborated during the full proposal development, the following paragraphs highlight some of the district and beneficiaries targeting requirements.~~

29. ~~**Targeting district:** The district targeting criteria is agreed by Ministry of Agriculture~~ and IFAD selected the districts where SCRP will be implemented based on: exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, ~~which include district~~ poverty levels and, ~~climate risks and vulnerability,~~ food ~~and nutrition~~ insecurity levels. Potential, ~~and potential~~ to complement existing programmes was also considered, while avoiding overlaps. While some districts might be more vulnerable, the number of immediate past and ongoing climate change interventions was also taken into consideration so as to avoid duplication of climate related interventions in some districts.

~~22.~~ Based on the criteria above and as further detailed below, SCRP will be implemented in the districts of~~. The selected districts for SCRP interventions are Mzimba,~~ Balaka, Lilongwe Rural, Dowa and Mzimba (**Fig 7**). Rural~~and Dowa which have high poverty rates ranging between 40% (e.g., Mzimba) to well over 60% (in Balaka, Lilongwe and Dowa).~~

~~24.~~30. ~~The rural~~ poverty in these districts is even higher, especially among the most vulnerable groups, such as women and youth. In addition, there is a very high co-relationship between poverty rates and food insecurity incidences, with Lilongwe being worse-off, with over one and half million people categorized as being chronically food insecure. All the participating districts are also badly affected by climate change which impinge on their agricultural productivity.~~the vagaries of the ever-changing climate conditions which~~

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~~impinge on their agricultural productivity. The final choice of villages in these districts will be based on (i) potential for sustainable agricultural practices to make an impact on productivity, food security and incomes; (ii) the level of poverty and food insecurity; (iii) the presence/absence of other projects working in similar areas. Analysis of district vulnerabilities guided the development criteria for targeting of districts as follows:~~

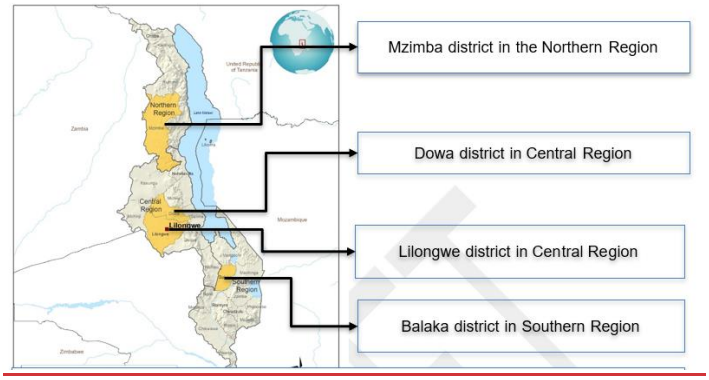

Fig. 7: SCRP Project Area

31. **Stage two - Selection of project areas in selected districts**: Having selected the project districts, the project communities or areas will be selected with stakeholders at district level. The most vulnerable Extension planning areas (EPAs) will be selected at FP development based on: climate exposure, adaptive capacity, poverty levels and food insecurity levels, levels of soil, land and natural resources degradation. The number of immediate past and ongoing climate change interventions in different EPAs will also be considered so as to avoid duplication of climate related interventions. The criteria for identification of SCRP EPAs will be further refined and validated with district stakeholders (local stakeholders) at FP proposal..

32. **Stage three - selection of actual beneficiary households**: While the targeting criteria will be further elaborated at FP, the criteria shall be applied to the following types of beneficiaries: a) rural food insecure households, vulnerable to malnutrition; b) moderate food insecure households involved in low-productivity subsistence crop and livestock farming, and in need of support to become market oriented.

33. Women will constitute 50% of the beneficiaries for each activity respectively (i.e. 29'438 having improved access to agro-advisory on climate resilient practices, and 19'500 being trained on climate resilient practices). Youth will constitute 30% (i.e. 17'663 and 11'700) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) 5% (i.e. 2'943 and 1'950).

A7. Climate vulnerabilities, exposure and impacts in the targeted districts

~~26.~~34. ~~**Exposure:**~~ The selected districts have medium to very high exposure to climate change risks as highlighted in the Table 2 below. Balaka ~~in the southern region~~ is highly exposed to recurrent droughts, rainfall variability (including short rainy seasons), high temperatures and strong winds. Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba are moderately exposed to droughts, rainfall variability, floods and strong winds.

35. By 2040, temperatures are expected to increase by 1.08 º C in Balaka, and around 1.04 º C in Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba**.** However, the highest temperatures will still be observed in southern and lakeshore districts. A slight decrease in precipitation is expected in Dowa and Balaka, where Mzimba and Lilongwe remain the same. All districts show an increase in extreme precipitation, Balaka (24mm for 5-day wet extremes), Lilongwe (12mm), Dowa (12mm) and Mzimba (4mm) respectively (Fig 6-c).

36. During community consultations droughts and land degradation were the highest ranked hazards for Lilongwe, Dowa and Mzimba in terms of impact on the communities. For Balaka, the highest ranked hazards were droughts, land degradation and floods. Even if soil, land and natural resources degradation may be caused by other factors such as unsustainable management practices, climate change such as droughts and floods exacerbate these issues.

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Table 2: Description of exposure for selected districts.

Exposure factor	**Potential selected project implementation areas**			
	Balaka	Lilongwe	Dowa	Mzimba
Drought occurrence	Very high	Medium and some high areas	High ~~Medium and in some areas~~	High ~~Medium in some areas~~
Rainfall variability	Very high ~~variability~~	~~Medium~~High	High~~Medium~~	High~~Medium~~
Floods occurrence	High~~Medium~~	Medium~~High in some areas~~	Medium ~~and in some areas~~	Medium ~~and in some parts~~
High temperatures	Very high	High in some parts	High in some parts	Medium~~High in some parts~~
Strong winds	Very high	High is some areas~~Medium~~	High in some parts~~Medium~~	High is some parts~~Medium~~
	Data source: Malawi Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas - DoDMA (2016)			

~~27.~~37. ~~**Sensitivity:**~~ Table 3 highlights the sensitivity factors for the selected districts. Due to high poverty levels, population density, illiteracy levels and proportion engaged in the agriculture sector, Balaka has the highest sensitivity. Lilongwe and Dowa show high sensitivity due to high poverty levels and proportion of population in the agriculture sector. Mzimba is mostly sensitive due to the high proportion of its population in the agriculture sector.

Table 3: Description of sensitivity for selected districts

Sensitivity factor	**Potential selected project implementation area**			
	Balaka	Lilongwe	Dowa	Mzimba
Poverty levels	Very high	Very high	Very high	High ~~Medium~~
Population density	Very high	Very high	Medium	Medium
Illiteracy levels	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Population in agriculture	High	High	High	High
	Data source: Malawi Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas - DoDMA (2016)			

~~28.~~38. **Adaptive capacity:** Table 4 highlights the adaptive capacity factors for the selected districts. All selected districts have high land and soil degradation, except for Mzimba which is moderate. Compared to national averages, all selected districts have a low proportion of land under irrigation, making farmers extremely vulnerable to droughts ~~occurrence~~. Access to inclusive financial resources and credits is extremely low in all districts, which presents a barrier to adopting and investing in climate resilient technologies. Apart from Balaka, all districts have low access to use of climate change information to guide decision making.

Table 4: Description of adaptive capacity for selected districts

Adaptive capacity factors	**Potential selected project implementation area**			
	Balaka	Lilongwe	Dowa	Mzimba
Literacy rate	Low	Medium	Medium	High
Time taken to access markets	Low	Low	Medium	High
Access to health services	Medium	High	Medium	Low
Land under irrigation	Low	Low	Low	Low
Natural resources degradation	High	High	High	Medium
Access to financial services	Low	Low	Low	Low
Access to and use of climate information	Medium	Low	Low	Low
Climate related interventions	Medium	Low	Low	Low
	Data source: Malawi Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas - DoDMA (2016)			

39. Overall, climate impacts affect agricultural productivity in all the selected districts. Figure 8 show potential climate impact on crop yield in 2050 (based on 2020 baseline), under a pessimistic scenario (current trajectory). All crops apart from groundnuts show decrease in yield. Yield reduction ranges between 6% to 30% for all the selected districts. The highest crop yield change for all districts is under maize, ranging from 30% less yields in Balaka to 40% in Mzimba.

29. **Overall vulnerability analysis**: Fig 9 below highlights the integrated hazards exposure, sensitivity, lack of adaptive capacity and overall vulnerability of climate change for different regions in Malawi. Balaka is the most exposed district among the other selected districts. However, Dowa has the least adaptive capacity, possibly because not many communities have been supported or invested in climate resilience. The highest vulnerabilities exist among communities in Balaka and Dowa districts.

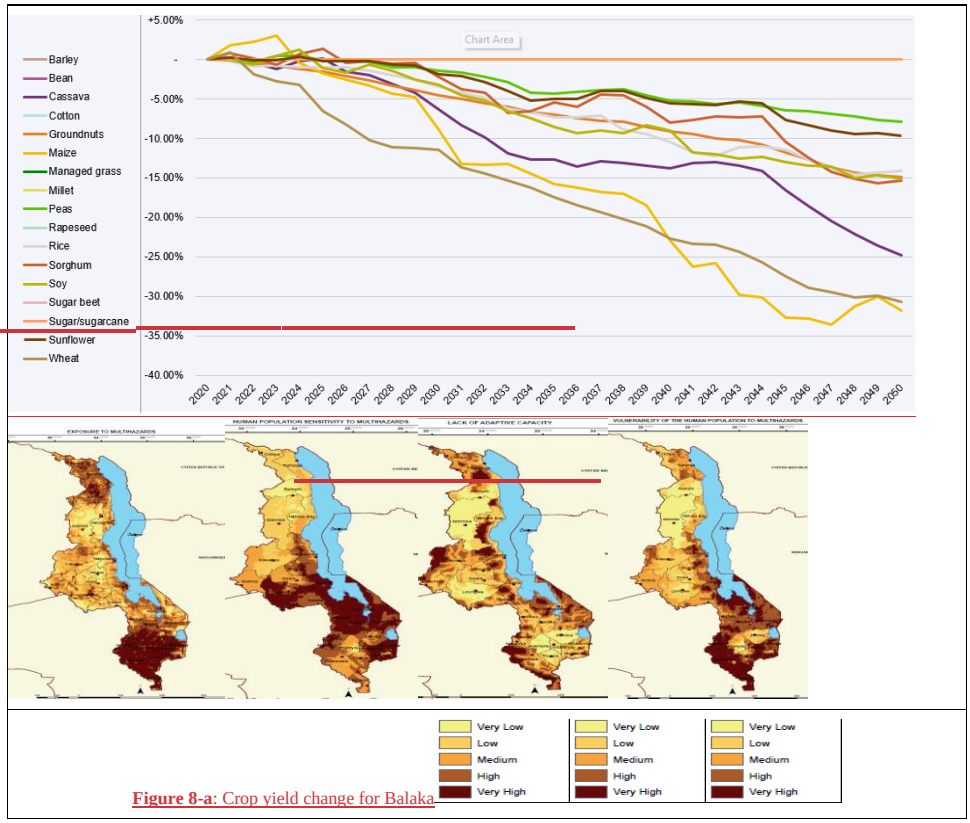
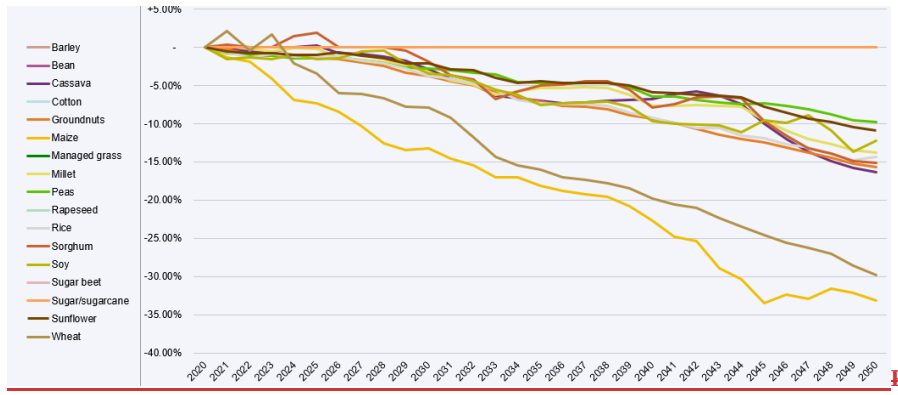


Figure 8-a: Crop yield change for Balaka



~~**Fig 9:** Malawi Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas - DoDMA (2016)~~

Figure 8-b: Crop yield change for Dowa

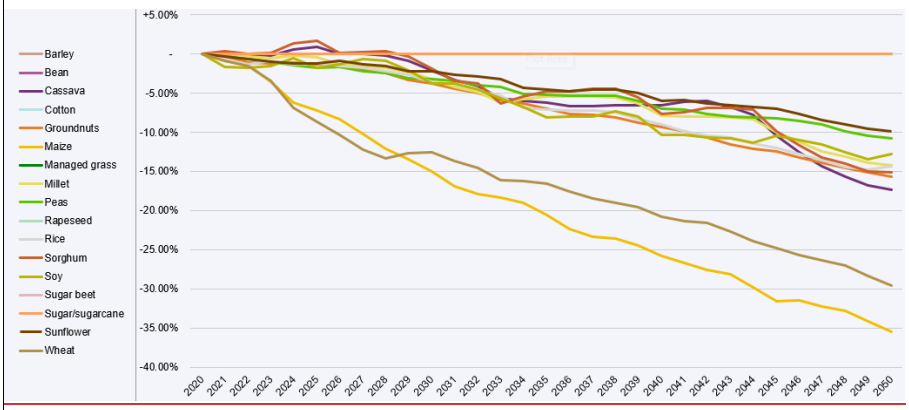


Figure 8-c: Crop yield change for Lilongwe

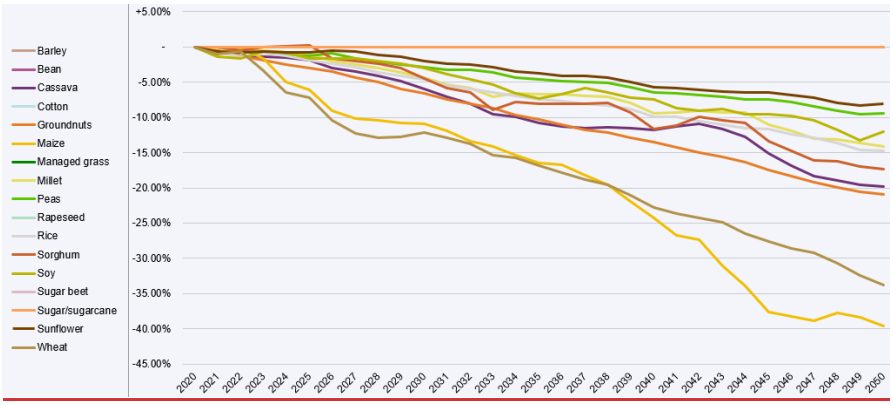


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Figure 8-d: Crop yield change for Mzimba
Source: Crop Impact Assessment (CARD 2018)[77]

2. **Selecting beneficiaries:** When selecting beneficiaries in the target districts, SCRP will have mechanisms to ensure that the targeted poor men and women (particularly by purposively and deliberatively targeting the youth and women as well people with living with disabilities) to participate and benefit from the planned interventions. Women will constitute 50% women, while youth will constitute 30% youth and 5% for PWDs and other vulnerable groups.

4. While the targeting criteria will further be elaborated at full proposal development, the criteria shall consider: a) rural food insecure households, and vulnerable to malnutrition youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS and other vulnerable groups; b) moderate food insecure households which are involved in low-productivity subsistence crop and livestock farming, and in need of support to produce surplus to become market oriented and c) market-potential smallholder households, that are facing fewer productivity constraints, comprising economically active small and medium enterprises requiring support for strengthened production and have the ability to support poor smallholders in commercial agricultural production and provide employment to others.

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6. **Women empowerment**: SCRP will enhance gender equality and women empowerment by creating equal opportunities for women and men to benefit from the project. Specifically the project will: (i) increase women economic empowerment by enabling access and control of productive assets and finances through the FCF, (ii) participation in natural resource management, (iii) climate adaptation and mitigation interventions in crop and livestock production; (iv) reduce workloads for women by introducing labour and time-saving technologies,(v) easy access to clean energy and water harvesting; (iii) increase women participation, representation and decision-making at household, community and farmer organization levels, (v) increase joint benefits sharing through the household (Gender Action Learning System- GALS) approach and contribute to gender policy engagement.

1.

8. **Youth empowerment**: young females and males aged between 18-35 years will constitute not less than 30% of direct beneficiaries. The youths will be supported through (i) capacity and skills development to enhance their participation in agri-business in the targeted value chains (ii) increase access to productive assets and finances through the FCF by creating a quota and tailored conditions for youth beneficiaries and (iii) availability of jobs created through wage and self-employment across the selected value chains.

Food security and Nutrition: SCRP will improve access to food and dietary diversity of the beneficiary communities, particularly the most vulnerable women, children and adolescents by (i) assessing the value chains potential to increase nutrition benefits (ii) scaling up integrated homestead gardens through provision of garden kits with garden kits (iii) nutrition education aligned with the national Multi-Sector Nutrition Education and Communication Strategy II 2021-2025 to promote dietary diversity, (iv) enhance change perceptions of the richness of indigenous and local wild foods by including activities on participatory biodiversity activities to understand the availability of food, their key characteristics and potential for biodiversity while conserving traditional knowledge and food cultures (v) promoting post-harvest loss reduction, value addition and food processing in ways that maintain nutrition.

B. Project aim: The aim ofObjectives

77 IFAD (2019). Climate Adaptation in Rural Development Assessment Tool. Available at: https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/publication/climate-adaptation-in-rural-development-card-assessment-tool.

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40. **Project goal and objectives**: SCRP goal is to build ~~climate~~ adaptive capacity and resilience of rural men and women in Malawi, ~~smallholder farmers and communities to increase food and nutrition security~~ and enhance disaster risk management ~~along~~among the agriculture value chain to increase food~~climate vulnerable rural men~~ and nutrition security for smallholder farmers.

~~30.~~41. The goal will be achieved~~women in Malawi,~~ through the following objectives: (i) enhanced knowledge and capacities for climate-smart and resilient ~~capacities, inclusive climate resilient and gender responsive financing, promotion and adoption of climate smart agriculture technologies, landscape and micro catchment management and conservation,~~ agriculture (through integrated soil fertility management and integrated pest management), (i) restoration and sustainable management of shared natural resources in micro-catchments, and (iii) improved~~extension systems and~~ disaster risk management integration in extension services. Interventions will be focused on addressing the main challenges identified in all key targeted districts during consultations, specifically droughts, land degradation/soil fertility and pests. GALS approach will underpin all these interventions, having successfully promoted women and youth leadership, access to resources and active participation of all genders in decision-making in past projects~~approaches~~.

42. To achieve this goal, SCRP will focus on specific agricultural commodities, chosen for their climate-resilience as well as income-generation and nutritional potential and their complementarity on the field for ISFM: groundnuts, soybeans, pigeon peas, common beans, maize, sunflower, goats and horticulture (tomatoes and onion). Crop yield assessment in Figure 8 show that these crops are among those whose yield will be least affected, except for maize which was retained for its income-generating potential. Horticulture crops will also be a focus of interventions, for their nutritional benefits and potential to increase gender-empowerment through home gardens

C. Project components and financing

43. The project consists of three main components, designed to complement and build on each other to sustainably increase climate resilience of smallholder farmers and improve their productivity in the face of climate change. While Component 2 focuses on improving on-farm practices for better resilience and improved adaptive capacity, Component 3 provides complementary investments at community-level to ensure sustainable access and use of natural resources that provide key ecosystem services without which communities cannot adapt. Components 2 and 3 build long-term resilience of farmers, while Component 4 focuses on improving the relevance and coordination of EWS and disaster risk management procedures for vulnerable smallholder farmers. Component 1 ties all other interventions together, by building and learning from community groups and promoting social inclusion.

Table 5: Summary description of SCRP components, outcomes, outputs and cost estimates

Project Components	Expected concrete outputs	Expected outcomes	Amount (USD)
Component 1. Mobilisation of rural community groups	**Output 1.1.** Strengthened inclusivity and women empowerment **Output 1.2.** Community ownership over on-farm and catchment-based natural resource management for climate resilience	**Outcome 1.** Sustainable and inclusive natural resource management solutions support farmers' resilience beyond SCRP	558'000
Component 2. Enhancement of agriculture advisory and capacity-building services	**Output 2.1.** Timely, accessible, inclusive and climate-informed agro-advisory services **Output 2.2.** Improved capacities and inclusive access to resources for climate-resilient and gender-sensitive agriculture practices	**Outcome 2.** Improved resilience and productivity of men, women and young farmers	4'000'000

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Component 3. Restoration of ecosystem services	**Output 3.1** Restored natural resources and genetic diversity, empowering women and youth **Output 3.2** Reduced pressure on natural resources, alleviating women burden	**Outcome 3.** Enhanced resilience through ecosystem services improvements and social inclusion and empowerment	2'186'000
Component 34. Institutional capacity building for better and more inclusive disaster risk management and response in agriculture	**Output 4.1** Inclusive Disaster Risk Management mainstreamed in extension services **Output 4.2** Inclusive Disaster Risk Management processes devolved through the agriculture sector	**Outcome 4.** Reduced agricultural losses from extreme weather events	1'000'000
Total Operational Cost			8'418'000.00
Project Execution cost (9.5%)			798'590.00
Total Project Cost			**9,216,590.00**
Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable) (8.5%)			783,410.00
Amount of Financing Requested			**10,000,000.00**

D. Projected Calendar~~:~~

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project Implementation	July~~January,~~ 2025
Mid-term Review (if planned)	January~~August~~ 2029
Project Closing	February~~September,~~ 2032
Terminal Evaluation	July~~January,~~ 2033

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PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

~~PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION~~

~~F.~~A. Describe the project components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience.

~~Project goal~~Component 1. Mobilisation of rural community groups

44. Building farmers' adaptive capacity through improved climate smart sustainable practices and restored ecosystems requires a deep rooting in the communities, ensuring the buy-in and relevance of each intervention to the landscape and communities where it will be implemented. This component will focus on mobilising the community, sensitising them to gender equality and social inclusion, natural resource management and climate-resilience practices, and learning from them to ensure SCRP interventions are informed by beneficiaries firsthand.

Output 1.1. Strengthened inclusivity and women empowerment

45. Women are disproportionately affected by climate change, owing to their increased exposure working in the field, their responsibility as caretakers, their role fetching water over increasingly long distances. Like youth, the land they work on is typically less productive, as their access to information and extension services training is reduced due to higher illiteracy, poor timing of delivery, or restricted access due to cultural norms. These challenges were also highlighted in consultation with communities (see Section H)

46. To address these challenges and ensure women and youth active participation in the project and beyond, SCRP will employ the **Gender Action Learning System (GALS)**[78]. GALS is a household methodology that transforms norms in the households and encourages women and youth participation in decision-making. It uses simple mapping and diagram tools for visioning and planning to empower men, women and youth to work together and have equal share in responsibilities and decision-making. GALS is based on a set of principles: (i) gender justice, (ii) inclusion, (iii) leadership potential of all, (iv) action orientation, (v) sustainability, and (vi) *gender is fun*. Additional key elements of GALS are also the peer replication structure and integration into the interventions of a specific project.

47. Paired with gender- and youth- explicit targeting, GALS will help ensure women and youth can access the support provided by SCRP and that the interventions also cater for their specific vulnerabilities. SCRP will conduct workshops with District Agriculture Extension Committees (DAEC) and relevant district actors to sensitise local agricultural institutions' staff on the GALS approach. It will then support dedicated workshops and integration of GALS module in the various capacity-building interventions of SCRP (in particular the Farmer Field School (FFS) programme – see Component 2), and conduct further workshops with existing farmer groups, specifically those focused on the management of community resources (such as water user associations) (see Component 3) and access to finance (such as agriculture cooperatives). In total, 250 extension officers will be trained as trainers of trainers and 500 local facilitators will be further trained, in order to reach 10'000 households mentored on GALS.

~~30.~~ Throughout the project, supervision and monitoring visits will be conducted by DAEC to ensure the successful implementation and follow-up of commitments made, and verify the gradual increase in women's empowerment, decision-making, access to training and resources, both for project activities and other decision-making in the household. ~~**and objective**: SCRP goal is to enhance climate resilience, food and nutrition security among the climate vulnerable rural population of Malawi through increased adaptive capacity and sustainable agricultural practices. Whereas the development objective is to promote the adoption of climate resilient agricultural practices and sustainable resources management thereby increasing agricultural productivity while building resilience to climate change impacts.~~

~~30. The p**roject specific objectives** includes to: i) enhance adaptive capacity to adopt climate resilient and nutritional production systems among selected beneficiaries; ii) enhance restoration and~~

78 See https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/how-to-do-note-integrating-the-gender-action-learning-system-in-ifad-operations

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~~management of degraded landscapes and micro catchments; iii) enhance climate proofing of value chains through climate and gender responsive and sustainable financing (Farmer Challenge Fund) and iv) strengthen institutional capacity (districts and local level institutions) in agriculture extension systems and disaster risk management.~~

~~The project consists of three main components which systematically input and build on each other to sustainably increasing climate resilience, productivity, and ultimately building smallholder farmers adaptive capacities, taking cognizant of the challenges and risks posed by climate change. The details of these components, including the outcomes, outputs and activities are formulated to address the most common climate risks and vulnerabilities identified in the background context and are presented below.~~

48.

Output 1.2 Community ownership over on-farm and catchment-based natural resource management for climate resilience

49. This output will aim to inform the delivery of SCRPs interventions as well as safeguard their sustainability by (i) ensuring buy-in from the community, (ii) ensuring the delivery of climate-informed agro-advisory in Component 2 responds to communities' needs and challenges, and (iii) ensuring the design of micro-catchment solutions in Component 3 is informed by the communities' reliance on natural resources.

50. Natural resource management groups will mobilised in each cluster of the project. To inform Components 2 and 3. Consultations will be undertaken through participatory approaches following Malawi National Guidelines on Integrated Catchment Management and Rural Infrastructure, which have proved effective in Zomba villages to identify both community-based interventions like afforestation and trenches excavation (relevant under component 3) and on-farm management of natural resources (crop rotation, minimum tillage, intercropping etc, to be promoted under Component 2). Participatory rural appraisals will be conducted to assess the state of natural resources in the landscape, identify preferred locations for interventions, identify potential sources of conflicts over resources, determine common climate threats faced, identify common challenges in implementing integrated soil fertility management (ISFM) etc. Group members will also be consulted on (i) their perceived reliance on natural resources (to identify the ecosystem services they most benefit from), and (ii) their linkages with other communities within and between villages (to determine potential resource conflicts).

51. A total of 80 groups will be consulted and supported throughout the project lifetime. Beyond initial appraisals, they will also be consulted for regular feedback mechanisms, specifically important under Component 2 to ensure climate-informed agro-advisory and forecasts are adjusted each season. It is expected that these groups already exist, created under previous projects presented in Section F. If not, they will be registered with the Ministry of Agriculture following the guidelines. Where needed, groups will be enhanced to ensure at least 50% of members are women and 30% are youth. The consultation modalities will build upon the GALS principles and training to ensure that women and youth participation is not only performative, but that they also play an active role in the groups' decisions.

Component 2. Enhancement of agriculture advisory and capacity-building services

52. As identified in community consultations (see Section H) and in previous projects (see Section F), Department for Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCS) provides information on climate-change, but only at the start of the rainy seasons (no update throughout), at excessively low resolutions and not specific to any agricultural commodity. There is also low capacity in implementing good agricultural practices, and most farmer groups consulted received no formal trainings. Communities expressed a need to receive support on on-farm soil and water conservation (SWC) practices, integrated pest management practices (IPM), agroforestry and general soil fertility management practices (ISFM).

53. This component addresses these needs, ensuring they are responding to the specific climate threats faced by the beneficiaries, so that farmers' vulnerability to climate change is reduced. IPM, ISFM and agroforestry contribute to climate resilience by reducing erosion, improving water retention, shielding from wind and increasing income diversity, among other benefits. Advice and capacity-building activities will be tailored to the specific value chains chosen for SCRP.

Output 2.1 Timely, accessible, inclusive and climate-informed agro-advisory services

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54. Prior to each season (2 per year), SCRP will support a seasonal workshop in each district, gathering DCCS, Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA), DAEC as well as agrodealers and farmer representatives from the 80 groups mobilized under Component 1. The aim of the workshop will be to review climate projections for the upcoming season, ground-proof it through farmer and local stakeholder feedback from previous seasons, and devise specific seasonal advice for farmers regarding planting times, preferred varieties to sow, best potential intercrop and rotation plans for the upcoming season, pest forecast, and any other measure that may increase their resilience to projected hazards or climatic conditions. Previous projects' experience in the region shows that presence of agro-dealers and seed companies at these workshops will also be crucial to ensure there is no bottleneck in the market in case the demand or a specific variety suddenly rises upon receipt of the agro-advisory. Dedicated efforts will ensure each workshop includes women and young farmers, as well as women and youth- owned agrodealers, to ensure agroadvisory does not increase burden on women (at least), and support women and young agrodealers' market power.

55. Subsequent to these workshops, tailored advisory messages will be developed and shared with farmers through radio hotlines, TV programmes, print media and in-person advise. Learning from previous programmes, a multi-platform approach to extension services is preferred to maximise reach. Digital extensions services through mobile phones and social media will be rolled out, and Physical Resource Centres (RCs) will be upgraded where needed, as they provide a valuable source of information for remote farmers with limited access to digital media. SCRP will support the development of targeted messages through these channels and allow feedback mechanisms online. Complementary information products will be developed for non-seasonal advisory on resource use, water conservation, as well as sensitization on climate-insurance products.

56. A total of 40 workshops are expected to be run, assuming that the project will cover 10 seasons and that it will be implemented in all 4 districts. 21 RCs are expected to be upgraded. The subsequent information programme will target 58'576 persons.

Output 2.2. Improved capacities and inclusive access to resources for climate-resilient and gender-sensitive agriculture practices

57. Answering to the communities' need to receive support on SWC, IPM, ISFM and other practices that support their resilience to climate change thanks to improved efficiency in the use of natural resources (preventing water waste) and reduced environmental degradation (otherwise exacerbating their vulnerability), SCRP will support the delivery of direct capacity building activities to farmers. These capacity-building activities will directly support the implementation of climate-informed agro-advisory developed under Output 2.1.

58. The curriculum for the Malawi FFS programme (implemented and developed under the FAO-led KULIMA project – see Section F) will be enhanced to reflect the main climate risks and needs identified in Component 1, ensuring that the practices promoted respond to the beneficiaries' vulnerabilities and are consistent with the climate-informed advisory developed in Output 2.1. SCRP will subsequently support the delivery of the FFS programme to the beneficiaries, including training of trainers, transportation, input supply to model farmers in FFS sites and monitoring visits. A total of 39'000 farmers will be targeted by the FFS training, 50% of them being women, 30% of them being youth and 5% of them being people with disabilities. Timing and location of FFS will be chosen to maximise participation of these marginalized groups that have historically lacked access to these capacity-building interventions. Through inclusive consultations and workshops in outputs 1.2 and 2.1, the solutions promoted through the FFS curriculum will have been developed inclusively, ensuring women and youth challenges are addressed and their burden not increased.

59. In parallel to updating the FFS curriculum, Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) guidelines and extension manuals used by DAEC staff will also be revised and enhanced. For a long time, these have only included blanket recommendations. The Guidelines lack of specific guidance on how to apply fertilizer sustainably, how to conserve water on the field, how to integrate and diversity their crops, or how to address pest without harming the environment, etc, all practices that can reduce farmers' vulnerability to drought and floods. There has been multiple guides and manuals developed through past programmes (listed under Section F), but none of them have been harmonized nor institutionalised. The updated GAP guidelines and extension manuals will gather information from these past programmes and from latest technologies developed by DARS, and combine them into specific guidance for agroecological and regenerative agriculture practices that restore and protect soil health, reduce environmental degradation, maximise nutrient and water use efficiency, shield fields from the impacts of strong winds and floods (or restore

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ecosystem services that reduce these impacts) and promote women integration in extension services.

Component 3. Restoration of ecosystem services

60. During consultations, communities in all districts have identified "land degradation" as one of the two challenges with the most impact on agriculture over the last 10 years (alongside droughts). With farm-level soil restoration being supported under component 2, this component focuses on restoring the land beyond the field, so that ecosystem services can be restored in the watershed. These include pest management services, water absorption services and windbreaks, among others, addressing key challenges of floods, heavy rains, strong winds and pests identified during consultations.

61. Hence, SCRP will support the review and delivery of some 80 micro-catchment management plans based on consultations in Component 1 and Malawi National Guidelines on Integrated Catchment Management and Rural Infrastructure. Specific interventions that benefit communities' resilience across the landscape through ecosystem services will be supported, as described under outputs 3.1 and 3.2.

Output 3.1. Restored natural resources and genetic diversity, empowering women and youth

62. SCRP will support any of the following interventions, selected for their capacity to provide ecosystem services that address the main challenges identified in consultations, while increasing women and youth's empowerment: (i) afforestation and communal forest management and (ii) seed banks for genetic conservation. The full proposal will also consider the need to finance erosion control structures such as spillways or terraces, based on the selected project areas in the targeted districts (Stage 2) and complementarity with other programmes already doing terracing.

63. (i) Rapid deforestation has increased climate vulnerabilities of communities by reducing their soil fertility and reducing the water infiltration rates, hence increasing damages from floods and sedimentation downstream. Trees also provide essential windbreaks in cases of cyclones, which communities have repeatedly suffered from. These communities are already sensitized to the benefits of trees in protecting them from climate hazards, having highlighted afforestation as a suggested action against flooding/extreme rains and soil degradation during the consultations (including by women groups). If sustainably managed, trees may also provide a sustainable source of livelihood, providing raw material for construction of fencing or animal shelters, firewood for cooking, or fruits and/or other byproducts (e.g. charcoal) for consumption or sale.

64. SCRP will hence support the provision of inputs, preparation of lands and other activities necessary to the afforestation of areas that have been deforested and/or require restoration to better protect communities in the target catchments. Afforestation will be organised in the form of "community woodlots". Tree species used will be chosen to ensure they can provide co-benefits to communities in terms of raw material or income-generating products, in particular for women and youth. Participatory management plans will be developed to ensure sustainable use of the woodlot resources once tree products become available, to prevent further deforestation while also ensuring that the communities are reaping tangible economic benefits from the land. The participatory management plans have cultural by-laws which are agreed upon by the members and their local chief. To make best use of the woodlot, apiculture activities will also be developed as an income generation activity, targeting women and youth specifically. A total of 400ha of woodlots are expected to be replanted, benefitting 80 groups with 5ha each.

65. (ii) With communities highlighting pests and diseases as another key challenge affecting their productivity, it is crucial to restore the diversity of species grown to slow down the spread of pests and viruses. Indigenous species also tend to be better adapted to local climate conditions, with some exhibiting drought-resistant characteristics (i.e. sorghum or Moringa tree). Finally, in case of climate hazards or a pest outbreak, practicing crop rotations and having a diversity of crops on the field ensures that not all the harvest will be affected. However, most of these seeds are unavailable on the market or are more expensive. Hence, SCRP will support the development of women- and youth-led community-based seed banks, and deliver training to them on seed multiplication and conservation. Access to these seeds will improve the resilience of beneficiaries while developing a demand for these varieties, so that markets may gradually increase their availability.

Output 3.2. Reduced pressure on natural resources, alleviating women burden

66. Beyond restoring natural resources, it is key to ensure that the pressure on them is also reduced to prevent further degradation and maintain ecosystem services. Deforestation and unsustainable agricultural practices are key factors of land degradation identified by communities in the consultations. Hence, SCRP

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will also support any of the following interventions, which reduce pressure on natural resources while also reducing the burden on women: (i) fuel efficient woodstoves and charcoal making kilns, (ii) infrastructure for improved water-use efficiency, and (iii) group storage structures for reduced losses and waste.

67. (i) With almost 96% of the population relying on fuelwood for cooking, it is key to ensure that the wood resources in the process are used as effectively as possible, so that the rate of deforestation to meet cooking needs can be reduced to a sustainable level. The rocket stove and chitetezo stove have been shown to significantly reduce the amount of firewood required for cooking, while also producing less smoke and saving time, improving the health and reducing labour required from women. Similarly, the use of charcoal kilns reduces the amount of wood needed to produce charcoal and can provide an alternative source of income for the community through efficient charcoal production. SCRP will support the provision of these stoves and provide training on how to build these kilns, specifically where woodlots have been developed. A total of 4'000 HHs will be targeted to benefit from these technologies. Training on kilns building will be delivered to men, women and youth, depending on the outcome of the GALS process to ensure a balanced level of responsibility and efforts in the household.

68. (ii) With drought being the most impactful hazard on agriculture according to communities, it is essential to make best use of the water available and reduce any losses. This also reduces the burden on women and girls to fetch water over increasingly long distances, increasing their exposure and vulnerability to climate further. While on-farm water conservation measures are supported under Component 2, SCRP will here support the construction of community-based water structures including boreholes, tanks for rain- and flood- water harvesting and support the development of small-scale irrigation schemes linked to these reservoirs. The choice of infrastructure type and location will be informed by consultations in Component 1 and hydrological study, with specific attention to facilitating women's access to water. SCRP will also support the reclamation of gullies and protection of waterways where structured have been damaged. A total of 20 small-scale community irrigations schemes are expected to be supported (serving 30 members each), 50 solar-powered boreholes and tanks serving 100 households, and 50 gullies reclaimed. Management plans and structures will be put in place or reviewed where needed to support the ongoing maintenance and access to the structures. Women's representation and decision-making power in these plans will be enhanced where needed.

69. (iii) Due to drought, climate hazards and pests, Malawi has one of the highest post-harvest losses in the region, accounting for about 30% of the total harvest. Any losses post-harvest mean the resources used in the production have also been wasted. Hence, to improve resource-use efficiency and to support farmers resilience to climate hazards post-harvest, SCRP will also support the construction of group storage structures, and provide the training necessary to ensure their sound management for the protection of the harvest. 125 storage facilities will be supported, and management groups ensuring maintenance of the structure will specifically target youth participation.

Component 4. Institutional capacity building for better and more inclusive disaster risk management in agriculture

70. Components 2 and 3 focus on building climate resilience on- and off-farm inclusively, through improved farming practices and restoration of natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide. However, in case of severe whether events, such as the cyclones faced by Malawi, these gradual adaptation measures can never be sufficient to prevent losses in productivity and, ultimately, livelihoods. Hence, this component of SCRP focuses on building institutional capacity for better disaster risk management in the agriculture sector.

Output 4.1. Inclusive Disaster Risk Management mainstreamed in extension services

Effective disaster risk management and response requires not just receiving information and alerts of upcoming hazards, but also being able to interpret the information, identify its implications for different groups of the population, and act accordingly. A training programme will be rolled out in each district under SCRP to build the capacity of extension officers to efficiently (i) interpret the intervention provided by DoDMA, (ii) identify management and response measures that the community requires to preserve their agricultural

~~**Component 1. Enhance smallholder farmers' knowledge capacities in climate resilience and sustainable productivity:**~~

~~**Outcome 1: Increased farmers' climate resilience in agriculture, nutritional sensitive production systems and sustainable landscape management:**~~

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30. To have effective adaption is it important that farmer adopt and engage in value chains that are climate resilient and or identify potential areas of investments that will enhance their preferred or selected value chain based on agreed criteria which include climate resilience. Secondly is it important that necessary farmers' adaptive capacities are built to attain climate resilience. Outcome 1 seeks to address the knowledge and capacity gaps that hinder farmers to properly adapt to climate change.

32. After confirming the potential value chains, farmer capacities and knowledge to address existential gaps in climate change adaptation will be improved learning in participatory research on already proved climate resilient technologies, through Farmer Field Schools, through on farm demonstrations hosted by lead farmers. Opportunities will be offered for women to lead farmer groups. This will give farmers opportunity to appreciate and decide on particular set of technologies to be further adopted to increase climate resilience based on learning results.

34. As on farm activities are strongly linked to landscape and catchments management status. This outcome SCRP will support restoration and conservation of highly degraded areas thereby reducing the flood impacts running and affecting crop production, reduction in sedimentation in water bodies, increased water recharge in catchments areas and biodiversity among others. The restoration activities will involve participation of women, men and youth.

36. Additionally, restorations of degraded land may have co-benefit opportunities for smallholder farmers. In July 2023, launched the Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative with aim of averting high deforestation and increasing the currently low forest cover. The Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative may present some opportunities to smallholder farmers, which are yet well assessed. The SCRP will therefore undertake an assessment and give recommendations on opportunities, implications and challenges for participation of smallholders' farmers. While SCRP, is not particularly focusing on mitigation activities, if opportunities for smallholder farmers are asserted, besides the projects advantages in increasing adaptive capacity, agricultural productivity and landscape resilience, farmers would be extra motivated from carbon credits payments to further increase adoption of CSA technologies and management of catchments through afforestation.

Output 1.1: Climate resilient value chains and climate sensitive market dynamics assessment conducted considering gender impacts.

38. To enhance climate resilience from production to market, SCRP undertake assessment to support farmers select value chains based on agreed criteria, which includes: i) value chain climate resilient ii) promote food security, iii) are market responsiveness; iii) positive gross markets and iv) promote gender inclusivity. The criteria will be further refined at the full proposal formulation. The potential and preliminary value chains included: i) groundnuts, ii) soybeans, iii) pigeon peas, iv) common beans, v) sunflower, vi) horticultural crops (tomato and onions) vii) goats, viii) poultry.

39. SCRP will also support farmers in undertaking assessment to identify specific adaptation options or investments needs within the value chains that would increase climate resilience. The adaptation options will be specific to agroecological zones and value chains and will consider farmer economic, social and technical feasibility and recommendations, thereby promoting options that are feasible to specific farmer needs, gender considerations and conditions which will in turn improve adoption rates and technology efficiency.

40. The Department of Agriculture Research has developed some potential climate smart technologies, which need to be well refined and demonstrated to farmers for adoption considering gender requirements and vulnerable groups. The SCRP will support DARS to demonstrate climate smart technologies to farmers through adaptive and participatory research in crops and livestock such as of early maturing, drought tolerant crop varieties and species, on farm assessment of new fertilizer protocols, integrated pest management, low-cost mechanization and labor-saving technologies and post-harvest management.

42. As stated, Malawian soils are heavily degraded in various degrees. However currently there is general or blanket recommendation and lack of specific guidance to farmers on how to apply fertilizers based on degree of degradation and soil status in their areas. To improve on specific nutrient

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requirement and application, the Department of Agricultural Research, based on recently approved agroecological-specific fertilizer recommendations and assessment will undertake farm demonstrations ensure transition from current fertilizer blanket recommendations to specific agro ecological needs taking into consideration the soil status, thereby improving farmer adaptive capacities.

44. This output addresses the information and knowledge gaps to guide farmer decision making selecting both value chains and adoption of climate smart technologies. The output, therefore, contributes directly to Adaptation Fund outcome on development and diffusion of innovative practices, tools, and technologies (AF Outcome 8).

Activity 1.1.1	Undertake analysis to support farmers select suitable informed value chains based on agreed criteria (value chain resilience, market responsiveness, food security, gender responsiveness etc.)
Activity 1.1.2	Undertake detailed analysis to identify targeted adaptation options to climate resilience of selected value chains based on farmer's needs, gender needs and conditions (economic, technical social, environmental feasibility)
Activity 1.1.3	Undertake adaptive and participatory research in crops and livestock such as of early maturing, drought resilient crop varieties and species, integrated pest management, low-cost mechanization and labor-saving technologies and post-harvest management.
Activity 1.1.4	Undertake farmer participatory research on new fertilizer protocols based on crop and agroecological chains to improve soil nutrition and productivity and consider gender requirements

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Output 1.2: Adaptive capacity for climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive production systems and gender transformative approaches enhanced.

As stated, the low adoption of GAPS, impacts on climate change, land degradation, decline in soil fertility, smallholder farmers' productivity for instance in maize is around 1.5 tons per hectare, way below the potential yield of 5-8 tons per hectare, which contributes to food insecurities in Malawi. The annual soil loss from cropland is estimated at 29 tons/ha and responsible for up to 0.5% per annum crop yield reduction (GoM 2019)[79].food security, water body sedimentation and biodiversity.

62. While output 1.1 is focused on generation of information , technologies and guidance for farmers to select potential value chains and potential climate resilient technologies that are agroecological based, value chain based, gender considerations that consider farmers social economic, technical and environmental aspects, output 1.2 will seek to build actual farmers capacities which is currently low and upscale adoption of new or existing climate smart agriculture (CSA) technologies and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), through extension services such as farmer field schools (FFS), group trainings, and on-farm demonstrations ensuring participation of women, man and youth. Increased knowledge and adoption of CSA and GAPs will reduce potential impact of identified risks such as dry spells, droughts, intense rainfall, and floods. The other factor affecting soil productivity under smallholder farmers in Malawi is high soil acidity due to continuous cropping, use of inorganic fertilizers and land degradation. As an adaptation measure, SCRP will build on previous and ongoing initiatives to promote organic making use and utilization.

64. While undertaking all interventions, SCRP will ensure gender inclusivity to enhance gender empowerment and learning through the GALS approach, especially in target areas and communities with existential gender inclusive barriers or currently having less capacity to mainstream gender. Building on the success of the household (GALS) approach under SAPP, SCRP will GALS approach through GALS training The GALS will be integrated through the FFS, communities, farmer groups and households. The approach will empower women and men to improve gender relations, encourage households to harness their collective potential, negotiate gender equitable decision making, benefits sharing and balanced workloads, increasing women's voice. Some of the key issues that will be addressed include development of mindsets towards gender equitable attitudes, household, and group vision to achieve greater productivity, visibility of women and youth's meaningful engagement in value chains with potential. It is also noted in Malawi and as reiterated by UNICEF (May 2023), most poor

[79] *GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.*

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rural households in the country face acute malnutrition, linked to poor food diversification, social altitudes. SCRP will provide training to improve nutritional aspects of the beneficiaries, particularly the elderly, expectants and under five.

66. The output address critical existing knowledge and capacity of smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change. and enhance gender equality. The output, therefore, contributes to equally contributes to the objectives of both the Malawi National Gender Policy (2015) and the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (2017).

Activity 1.2.1	Review existing manuals on GALS or Household Approach
Activity 1.2.2	Undertaken training in GALS, including on gender empowerment and decision making, household and group visioning
Activity 1.2.3	Develop or review of CSA farmer training manuals for selected VCs (crops and livestock)
Activity 1.2.3	Train farmers in CSA through FFS (such as promotion of soil fertility and integrated soils and water in-situ conservation practices, post-harvest management, water use efficiency, GALS)
Activity 1.2.4	Provide improved inputs to demonstrate on farm CSA technologies such as (drought, water lodging, disease, heat tolerant varieties or species), including early maturing verities.
Activity 1.2.5	Provide support and demonstrate community and or household water harvesting in drought prone areas
Activity 1.2.6	Develop capacity and promote use of organic fertilizers to reduce soil acidity and improve soil fertility considering participation of women, men and youth
Activity 1.2.7	Support climate sensitive nutritional education and nutrition-sensitive production for most vulnerable households, elderly, expectants, People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHAS) and under five children.

Output 1.3 Sustainable management of landscapes and restoration of degraded micro catchments enhanced emphasizing inclusive participation

As described in the background context, one of the factors that exacerbate small holder climate vulnerability is the huge land degradation in Malawi. However, Malawi faces one of the highest and widespread natural resources and land degradation due to deforestation and inappropriate land management and overgrazing. The annual soil loss from cropland is estimated at 29 tons/ha and responsible for up to 0.5% per annum crop yield reduction [Government of Malawi (GoM) 2019]. In the last 10 years' land degradation has resulted in a 15% decrease in arable land.

94. While **output 1.2** focusses on farmers' capacity building on CSA, GAPs, and GALS to enhance on-farm resilience, productivity and gender inclusivity, output 1.3 will focus on the sustainable landscape approach to resolve the interlinked challenges that exist between on-farm and landscape activities. High levels of land degradation resulting into soil erosion, sedimentation of rivers and floods which wash away crops and, livestock, household assets and also result in loss of biodiversity exacerbates community's sensitivity to climate impacts. Output 1.3 will enhance landscape -based approach which includes integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use of natural resources that in turn increases climate adaptation of on farming activities.

96. While in general the project focusses exclusively on adaptation, output 1.3 will have both adaptation and mitigation co-benefits: (a) improved forest cover, thereby leading to (a) decreased soil erosion, (b) decreased water sedimentation, (c) enhanced carbon sinks (d) reduced impact of strong winds and floods (e) and improved ecosystem biodiversity conservation, among others. Additional interventions include reduced deforestation through community afforestation, production of livestock folder to reduce scarcity of livestock feed and promote natural vegetative regenerations due to overgrazing, provision of cleaner energy sources such as solar, efficient charcoal kilns and smart cooking stoves will be promoted considering gender needs. Interventions in clean energy access have multiple benefits such as reduced burden pressed on women and girls in accessing energy for household use, decrease health risk from using firewood and reduced deforestation as over 90% of population depends on wood energy source.

98. As the Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative has just been launched by the Government of Malawi (July 2023), SCRP will take the advantage to assess possible opportunities and come up with

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~~recommendations for participation of small-scale farmers. The assessment findings may guide and open opportunities for participation of smallholders' farmers in carbon markets, which may motivate farmers to adopt CSA technologies with mitigation co-benefits. Assertion of smallholder farmers' participation in Malawi Carbon Initiative has a triple -win scenarios as farmers will be motivated from adopting more CSA technologies and catch conservation through afforestation, additional payments from accrued credits and increase in forest cover currently less than 20% benefiting vulnerable groups, women, men and youth.~~

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Activity 1.3.1	Promote flood control structures, such as contour bunds, check dams, swales, gully reclamation, drainage channels and vetiver planting
Activity 1.3.2	Develop training manuals and provide trainings which includes 50% participation of women on catchment conservations, including community forest management and support afforestation in highly degraded areas:
Activity 1.3.3	Facilitate development of micromanagement plans and restoration of highly degraded areas through inclusive community participation.
Activity 1.3.4	Build gender focused capacity and support fodder production and management or small-scale livestock
Activity 1.3.5	Undertake assessment and recommendation on feasibility and opportunities of small-scale farmers inclusive participation in Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative.
Activity 1.3.6	Promote adoption of cleaner energy sources such as solar and smart energy stocks

Component 2: Promote commercialization of climate smart smallholder farming systems:

Outcome 2.0 Enhanced climate resilience and gender responsive financing:

122. While **outcome 1** has focused on building knowledge capacities for climate resilience based on informed value chain assessment and selection, CSA, and GAP training, including on farm demonstrations and landscape management and conservation approaches. Outcome 2 has two interlinked outputs (farmer groups strengthened; and climate and gender responsive financing provided). which essentially seeks to establish and strengthen beneficiary groups and enhance climate resilience of the value chains from actual production (crops or livestock), post-harvest management and marketing, through a climate resilient and gender financing mechanism.

124. Firstly, for effective adaptation to take place, it is advantageous to have group and community approach and ensure that groups or communities' function effectively. The group approach also simply adaptive capacity building and ensures exchanges and discussion of knowledge. The groups approach, through economies of scale is also advantageous in easing access to services such as agricultural extensions and market negotiations. Additionally, improved farmer group capacities in governance and financial management will contribute to resolving financial access to smallholder farmers which is a major barrier to climate adaptation and contributes to farmer groups sustainability beyond the project period.

126. SCRP provide financial access to farmer groups through matching grants, which may be facilitated through partnerships with mainstream financial institutions, thereby strengthening farmer groups to access mainstream financing. 50% ($5 Million) of the project cost will be allocated to CFC as part of an operationalization tool to provide sustainable climate and gender responsive financing to address constraints that hinder adaptation and competitiveness of targeted value chains.

127. Outcome 3 directly contribute to Adaptation Fund (Outcome 6) on enhanced capacity to diversity and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income to vulnerable people in target areas.

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Output 2.1 Farmers group established or strengthened to adapt to impacts of climate change with 50% participation of women.

Based on selected project area context, the project may form new farmer groups (including participation of women, man and youth) or adopt and strengthen existing and functional farmers facing similar challenges as outlined in the background context. To ensure gender inclusivity in the existing or new farmers groups, affirmation action to have at least 50% women members and 30 percent youth will be affected. Selected farmer groups will be supported based on selected value chain and market needs identified in output 1,1 under outcome 1. While farmer technical adaptive capacities are built under output 1.2, output 2.1 seeks to build farmer group capacities to function as a group in democratic way, and further horn agribusiness management related to their respective selected climate resilient value chains (crops or livestock). Besides the Farmer Challenge Fund (FCF) as described in output 2.2, the groups will also be strengthened to independently access loans through the existing financing institutions.

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Activity 2.1.1	Identify or establish gender sensitive groups and conduct capacity building in group dynamics and democratic governance as basis for group success and sustainability
Activity 2.1.2	Conduct farmer group inclusive training in agri-business, financial management and improve their credibility for financial access
Activity 2.2.3	Conduct farmers group inclusive training in marketing aligned to buyer and market needs, including facilitating market linkages and contracts where feasible
Activity 2.1.2	Facilitate where feasible farmer market linkages and contracts benefiting women, men and youth
Activity 2.1.3	Train farmers as necessary in climate smart value chain (crops and livestock) value addition, quality control and safety, including aflatoxin management ensure 50% of women

Output 2.2 Climate and gender responsive and sustainable financing through Farmer Challenge Fund (FCF) to address climate resilience provided

149. The aim of the FCF is to facilitate financial access to farmer groups through matching grants, which may be facilitated through partnerships with mainstream financial institutions, thereby strengthening farmer groups to access mainstream financing. A total of 50% ($5 Million) of the project cost will be allocated to CFC as part of an operationalization tool to provide sustainable climate and gender responsive financing to address constraints that hinder adaptation and competitiveness of targeted value chains.

150. SCRP will build on lessons from Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Programme (SAPP) where a similar financial arrangement proved successful in enhancing smallholder farmer climate resilient investments, improving livelihoods of the vulnerable population, enhancing saving culture and building farmer group credibility in accessing loans from financing institutions. In the short and medium term FCF will address constraints and barriers that hinder small-scale farmer groups, and small and medium enterprises competitiveness in the selected value chains. FCF may also be used as a window for finance livelihood diversification in that farmers would choose to integrate crop with livestock farming and improves resilience in time of poor crop yield due to climate impacts. In the long run the FCF will contribute to the generation of lessons for sustainable financing which is currently limited to smallholder farmers in Malawi. The FCF will have matching grants through two funding windows.

151. **Production window**: The production window aims to enhance smallholder climate resilience and market-oriented production, which will be achieved through improved productivity, nutrition, food security and marketing capacities. The window will mostly finance producer groups that face constraints related to improving production and productivity due to climate change. Based on needs, farmer groups may request funding for: i) accessing improved climate resilient varieties and animal breeds, ii) gender sensitive equipment and assets for land preparation; iii) investments such as construction or rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation schemes, vi) agricultural diversification including poultry and goats to increase resilience. This window aims to address the challenge of limited access to CSA technology adoption, reduce climate sensitivity from rainfed to irrigation system and improve livelihood diversification from the dominant crop-based livelihoods, to crop and livestock integration.

152. **Post-harvest and value addition window**: Post harvest averages about 25-30% of grain related produce and sometimes up to 50% of horticultural production in Malawi. Capacity building in post-harvest management presents a huge adaptation option and its training will be offered to all selected beneficiaries under output 1.2.

153. However, the post-harvest and value addition financing window will target farmers that are already achieve high or potential yields on their own but lack means for commercialization, value addition. This window will enhance smallholder climate resilience value addition, post-harvest loss management and marketing. The post-harvest and value addition window will prioritize financing towards purchase of assets and equipment for i) climate resilient storage infrastructures; b) small scale transport facilities, iii) commodity processing and improve quality standards as part of market integration.

154. In accessing FCF and regardless of the funding window each farmer group will commit to activities of landscape and micro-catchment restoration in proximity to the community itself. The farmer groups will finance labour and management costs, while the project will cover technical costs on design of flood control structures, provision of preferred drought tolerant seedlings and related catchment area management and conservation capacity training (refer to outcome1, output 1.3).

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155. **Matching grant contributions**: Farmer groups under the Production Window will have lower matching grants contribution than those for Post-Harvest and Value Addition window, 10% and 20% respectively. Not to burden the vulnerable and resource restricted farmer groups the matching grants under production window may be paid in cash or in kind.

157. **Access to Farmer Challenge Fund**: As stated FCF is simply a matching grants facility where farmers will transparency and competitively through Call for proposals. Criteria for Fund Application and Access will be developed based on lessons from SAPP, TRADE, AgriCoM and other ongoing relevant initiatives. While the FCF Access and Application criteria will be further elaborated at Full Proposal Development, the fund access will include criteria such as: i) inclusivity (participation of women and youth), ii) promotion of climate resilient investments, iii) integration of natural resource management, iv) co-financing in kind or cash based on the funding window, iv) nutrition and food security; v) and sustainability. Agribusiness officers in the targeted districts will provide support to farmer groups to develop feasible and viable business proposals.

159. **Management of Farmer Challenge Fund**: The FCF will be managed by a competent Fund Manager, who will provide oversight on business plans submitted by groups, technical assistance to the groups to ensure the business plans are bankable and implementable, undertake performance monitoring of the group enterprises, promote best practices and knowledge management. The full TORs for the Fund Manager will be developed at proposal development. To ensure that acceptable bankable proposals there shall be two phase selection process. Preselection will be undertaken based on own farmer group EoI submissions, and the preselected farmers will be offered support by District Agribusiness Officer on how to refine and attain bankable project ideas, from which there shall be a final selection based on transparent process and agreed inclusive criteria. The selection criteria which will be further developed at formulation phase shall ensure that most resource restricted groups equally participate without being disadvantaged.

Activity 2.2.1	Based on lessons from SAPP and other related interventions, design modalities for FCF access and management, including the two phased selection process and criteria
Activity 2.2.2	Issue Expression of interest (EOI) for different FCF funding windows ensure all to women, men and youth
Activity 2.2.3	Preselect inclusive farmer groups based on EoI submitted applications
Activity 2.2.4	Support preselected farmers to formulate feasible fundable proposals based on predefined criteria ensure equal participation for all people despite of status in the community.
Activity 2.2.5	Undertake assessment of FCF performance and formulate recommendations on how to improve long term inclusive smallholder climate financing in Malawi

Component 3: Strengthened institutional capacity and knowledge management systems:

Outcome 3: Strengthened institutional capacity in knowledge management, agriculture extension and disaster risk management

182. To effectively implement and deliver effective climate adaptation there is critical need for improved institutional and staff capacities in agricultural extension and management of climate related disasters. The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is liaising with IFAD and the Government of Malawi to assist in digitalization to improve agriculture extension and climate information services and make recommendation thereto for its effective implementation. SCRP will build on the opportunities from Global Centre on Adaptation (GCA) and the Government of Malawi initiatives to further strengthen key GoM staff and institutional capacities in and eventually pilot the modern agricultural extension services to adapt to climate change and disaster risk management in the selected district levels.

184. Noting the limited capacities in drought and flood forecasting and monitoring and generation of seasonal forecast and development of advisories, SCRP build the capacity of Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services officials in flood and drought forecasting and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture through the Participatory Information Services for

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Climate Adaptation (PISCA) train agricultural staff and develop necessary advisories to enhance adaptation decision making by farmers.

186. Through the Project's M& E, field data would be collected and analyzed, and information generated will be useful not only in project decision making, but also disseminated through other fora to inform future designs of projects based on lessons learned.

188. Outcome 3 therefore addresses the low capacities in agricultural extension services and management of disasters of climate related disasters Malawi and also directly contributes to the Adaptation Fund (Component 2) on strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate induced socio economic and environmental loses This component has outputs which include:

Output 3.1 Capacity staff and institutions in climate related modern agricultural extension systems and disaster risk management enhanced with participation of both women, men and youth:

191. As outlined earlier vulnerable population face many impacts from climate change including limited capacities and information access to information for agricultural activities decision making and disaster risk management. The generation of climate change information such as drought and flood are sometimes not timely and specific in addition to having ineffective advisories to guide farmers and communities especially for women who vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. On DRR many districts and community lack proper planning with no disaster contingency plans in place or not reviewed for long time.

193. To address this, gap the project will in modernization of agricultural extension and climate change information services and related capacities at district and local community levels where extension agents and other public front line staff are located. SCRP will build on the initiatives being undertaken by the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA). GCA is an international organization working to accelerate action and support for adaptation and resilience and is collaborating with IFAD and the GoM to plans to assess, design and develop roadmap to improve agriculture extension services and dissemination of climate information through digitalization. The SCRP will build on GCA results and road to pilot the digital extension system on climate information in agriculture and disaster management in the SCRP targeted districts addressing gender inequality. SCRP will also build the capacity of Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services in drought and flood forecasting and monitoring and generation of seasonal forecast and development of advisories to enhance adaptation decision making by farmers.

Activity 3.1.1	Undertake district and local community level capacity needs and knowledge gap assessment to improve DRM at district and community level ensure needs vulnerable members, including women considered
Activity 3.1.2	Train extension staff in digitized agricultural extension messaging ensuring 50% participation of women
Activity 3.1.3	Train research and extension staff in climate smart agriculture (CSA) consider requirements of women, men and youth.
Activity 3.1.4	Build capacity of agricultural staff in participatory integrated climate services for agriculture (PICSA) and advisories
Activity 3.1.5	Build capacity of district stakeholders and local communities to improve coordination disaster risk management, including where possible capacity to review, formulate or strengthen district or community disaster contingency plans
Activity 3.1.6	Roll out on pilot basis in the selected districts the design and recommendations from digitalization of the agro extension services and climate information services report considering needs of women.
Activity 3.1.7	Build capacity of DCCMS in flood and drought forecasting ensuring equal participation

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71. **Output 3.**production, if possible, or to re-build, and (iii) relay this information to the communities affected. This training programme will be informed by a participatory needs assessment including DAECs as

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well as Village Civil Protection Committees (VCPC) and DoDMA. The programme content will address any gender-based bias in being exposed to, preparing for and responding to disasters. Content will be tailored so that women's burden in caring for the family is not disproportionately increased, and their livelihoods not disproportionally threatened due to differing adaptive capacity and exposure (longer times walking, lower literacy levels, etc). 150 extension workers are expected to be trained as trainers across 50 Extension Planning Areas (EPA) in the four districts.

72. In addition, a review and planning workshop will be held in each EPA between Agriculture Extension Officers (AEO) and District Civil Protection Committees, to identify gaps in the current response and management measures specifically related to the agriculture sector. Informed by experiences from farmers, including women and youth, relayed by the AEOs and reviewed by the DCPCs, each workshop will yield policy recommendations for reviewing the current processes, identifying resources available and preventive measures that should be mainstreamed in DoDMA's action plan to reduce losses in the agriculture sector specifically and address gender-based differences in accessing, interpreting and responding to information. Five (5) policy are regulatory documents will be produced as a result.

Output 4.2. Inclusive Disaster Risk Management processes devolved through the agriculture sector

73. Building on the training received and the increased connection between DAECs and DoDMA, SCRP will then support extension officers in rolling out the information available and processes in place to respond to or manage hazards to protect or rebuild their farms. 250 villages will benefit from awareness raising sessions by extension officers, ensuring that beneficiaries are also able to access, interpret and act on the alerts they might receive. 50% of women and 30% of youth will be targeted through the awareness raising sessions.

74. Digital options will also be rolled out to increase the reach of extension officers, informed by GCA's ongoing study on digital adaptation solutions to promote EWS and the roadmap for national digital advisory services and e-extension system. The study will be over by the end of 2024, on time to describe the specific interventions in the FP for SCRP.

~~**2: Knowledge management and M&E on climate change adaptation strengthened considering the specific requirements of women and youth**~~

~~8. SCRP will enhance development of knowledge products and dissemination to facilitate effective implementation and outreach to targeted project beneficiaries and strengthen M&E to assess project impacts, lessons and future adaptation programming. Knowledge management and knowledge generation will be an integral part of the project and fully mainstreamed throughout the project components. The project will introduce several innovative approaches and technologies as pilots that will have the purpose to demonstrate technology and will be showcased. The training programmes and awareness raising activities will also be based on the lessons learned and best practices generated from previous projects. The project will also aim to develop guidelines on how to mainstream climate activities based on the lessons learned and best practices from the climate-resilient~~

~~10. The outputs will also seek to formulate policy briefs whose recommendations will improve the design of attractive and innovative smallholder farmer crop-based insurance accessible to vulnerable groups and women. Despite crop insurance having potential to improve adaptation, and widely recommended in many Malawi policies and strategies such as National Agriculture Policy, National Agriculture Investment Plan, National Climate Change Policy and National Climate Change Investment Plan, crop insurance products are rare, not well regulated and usually not accessible or attractive to smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups. SCRP will contribute to policy guidance through formulation of policy brief and technical paper on crop-based insurance under smallholder agriculture in Malawi.~~

~~Activity 3.1.1~~	~~Produce progress reports as required outline success, challenges and lessons learnt and include gender disaggregated data~~
~~Activity 3.1.2~~	~~Develop communication strategy with gender considerations supported by the necessary materials~~
~~Activity 3.1.3~~	~~Develop, disseminate knowledge products and enhance outreach to all members of the community~~
~~Activity 3.1.4~~	~~Develop and disseminate communication materials for farmers,~~
~~Activity 3.1.5~~	~~Formulate policy brief and recommendation design attractive and innovative smallholder farmer crop-based insurance accessible to vulnerable groups and women~~

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~~BB.~~B. Describe how the project provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

~~33.~~75. **Economic benefits:** ~~The~~ SCRP will be designed to ~~contribute towards wealth creation and~~ improve the resilience of agricultural production ~~food and nutrition security~~ among the rural population of Malawi, thereby maintaining their productivity in the face of climate hazards and retaining their main source of income. ~~.~~ Through enhanced farm capacities, ~~in outcome 1, 2 and 3 and~~ access to climate-resilient~~CSA~~ technologies, improved farm inputs and ~~access to better markets,~~ knowledge on soil fertility management, as well as climate-driven agroadvisory in component 2,~~nutrition~~ the selected beneficiaries are expected to ~~will~~ experience increased production and household income level and/or to reduce any losses from climate disasters. Based~~. The SCRP based~~ on previous similar initiatives driven by IFAD, in particular the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme (SAPP), productivity of farmers is expected to ~~such as SAPP expects to~~ increase ~~productivity by 20%, incomes~~ by 30~~25% and reduce food loss by 25~~%.

76. SCRP will further support beneficiaries with accessing finance through. ncome-generating activities not included under previous SAPP , such as community management of income-generating woodlot and seed multiplication, alongside more efficient cooking and production systems that would reduce use and costs of inputs.

77. Non-quantifiable economic benefits will also be derived from the enhanced ecosystem services associated in particular with ecosystem restoration practices supported under Component 3.

~~34. Increased access to climate information and institutional capacity in disaster risk management is further expected to reduce climate impacts and loss of both public and private assets. The project interventions outcome 1 and outcome 3 will result in provision of timely climate information and advisories in using digital technologies and the PICSA approach is expected to improve decision making and reduce the economic losses and social impacts from climate disasters as these will be mitigated against through the planned adaptation activities and preparedness. employment~~

~~35. Interventions under component 2 and output 2.1and output 2.2 on adoption of CSA and on restoration of landscape will reduce costs of agricultural production due to restored landscape, functional ecosystems, adoption, and the use of organic fertilizers (manure), soil fertility enhancing trees which will partially replace exorbitant inorganic fertilizers; and increased income (production) from double cropping in irrigation schemes, improved value addition and better access of markets.~~

~~36. Though not yet definite at this time, it is envisaged that the assessment and recommendation for smallholder participation in Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative create extensive and new opportunities for small scale farmers adoption of climate mitigation activities as it may incentive farmers to adopt sustainable land management practices and enhancing forest cover and other ecosystem services.~~

~~37.~~78. **Social benefits and gender empowerment:** The project also seeks to promote gender equality in line with the National Gender Policy (2015)[80], Malawi Gender Act (2014), IFAD Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2015) and the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (2017) and Environment and Social Policy (2016). ~~The project will contribute to reducing the current high level of gender inequality and unemployment levels among women, youth and people living with disabilities.~~

79. The project will put special emphasis on addressing gender inequalities and empowering women, as their role is vital to reduce the vulnerability of livelihoods and ecosystems to the negative impacts of climate change in Malawi. This will be done through affirmative action, according to which 50% and 30% of beneficiaries will be women and youth respectively, and people with physical challenges but able to actively participate will be prioritized. It will also be supported by a mainstreaming of GALS approach in all participatory planning processes.

80. In the implementation of capacity-building interventions across all components, the roll-out of climate-advisory services in Component 2 and disaster-risk information in component 4, and in the support

80 Ministry of Gender, Women, Children and Social Welfare (2015). https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC149139/

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to accessing inputs, gender differences in adaptation needs and capacities will also be explicitly addressed, having identified specific barriers faced by women in preliminary consultations as well as through the GALS workshops. Income-generating activities and ecosystem services enhancement in component 3 have been selected to specifically benefit women and youth, either by reducing disproportionate burden and exposure on women (cooking time, water collection, etc) or providing direct access to productive resources (wood, beekeeping, etc)

81. The preparation of this concept note was informed by gender-disaggregated insight from community consultations. During full proposal formulation, a detailed gender assessment and action plan will be prepared, including indicators for gender segregated data. During full proposal formulation, IFAD will also formulate a robust M&E and Grievance Redress Mechanism that will be systematically applied throughout SCRP interventions to monitor progress and collect feedback. IFAD will establish a project M&E and reporting mechanism to track: a) project progress and results on gender responsive indicators; and b) impact assessment and compliance with ESP Principles. All stakeholders and direct beneficiaries will be informed on the grievance mechanism, the handling of complaints and the resolution processes.

~~38. **Environmental** Affirmative targeting of participants for gender equality will lead to social economic empowerment for youth and women to engage in micro-enterprises and derive decent employment; Women and youth will be targeted to actively participate in the project, including holding leadership positions to influence decision making. Selected value chains shall be gender responsive. Knowledge and awareness for social inclusion shall be raised through Gender Action Learning System (GALS) approach for the beneficiary groups not yet conversant in the GALS approach. Through increased access to cleaner energy sources and promotion of water harvesting techniques, there will be reduced burdens placed on women and girls who are often responsible for collecting firewood.~~

~~39. As many targeted vulnerable groups face food insecurity and poverty, the project is expected to improve the income of the beneficiaries which in turn culminates into improved living standards which elevates social status of targeted beneficiaries. Therefore, the project will help in increased food production (20%), household income (25%) and increased alternative livelihood options and nutrition security due to diversification (livestock, crops). Additionally, the project will promote water harvesting in drought prone areas, thereby increasing water availability for both household and agricultural production use and reducing burden pressed on women and girls.~~

~~40. SCRP will ensure the communities take ownership of the climate change interventions and capacitate them to respond adequately and beyond the project timeframe to maintain success in social livelihoods. All landscape restoration activities will be participatory and will be adapted to the community needs and acceptable cultural practices.~~

~~41. **Environmental and ecosystems** **benefits:** Environmental benefits are inherent to SCRP, which relies on enhancing While increasing agricultural productivity, the project will also enhance the resilience of agricultural farming systems and increasing productivity thanks to restored ecosystem services and reduced land degradation. SCRP through promotion GAPs and climate resilient practices from activities outlined in output 1.2 on adaptive research, output 1.3 on land restoration. Farmers will be capacitated and supported to adopt soil and water management practices, participatory restoration of micro catchments to reverse high levels of land degradation and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services under output 1.3.~~

~~42.~~82. ~~The project will also enhance access to clean energy sources, including solar panels, and efficient energy stoves, thereby reducing burden placed on women and girls in fetching firewood. This not only saves time and reduces physical strain but also decreases health risks associated with smoke and indoor air pollution. Cleaner energy access and afforestation activities~~ will lead to ~~a number of better forest cover and reduced deforestation due to reduced demand in firewood. Other~~ environmental benefits, including:~~and ecosystem co-benefits such as biodiversity as result of afforestation, reduced deforestation and natural regeneration and sustainable practices are also envisaged.~~

- **Improved soil fertility and soil ecosystems**: ISFM practices under Component 2 will help re-balance depleted micronutrients, reduce high soil acidity levels due to chemical fertilizer applications and improve the soil ecosystems, life and productivity.
- **Conservation of scarce resources**: Soil and water conservation measures promoted under

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component 2 and water collection and small-scale irrigation infrastructures supported under component 3 will provide improvements in water-use efficiency. Coupled with soil health improvements this will contribute to better water penetration in the soil, replenishing groundwater bodies and maintaining sustainable water levels.

- **Increased biodiversity:** Biodiversity is also expected to increase thanks to soil health improvements, water conservation, shelters (including for pollinators and natural enemies) through agroforestry, afforestation and diversification of production practices
- **Carbon capture:** Increased soil cover and improved soil organic content (SOC) achieved on farm through ISFM (Component 2), and increased tree cover thanks to community woodlots (Component 3) are also expected to provide climate mitigation benefits through increased carbon capture.

83. To mitigate any negative impact at this stage, a preliminary social and environmental assessment was conducted, following the Government of Malawi's Environment Management Acts guidelines and the IFAD Social, Environment and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) requirement. SECAP requirements conform to the 15 ESP Principles of the Adaptation Fund. The assessment classified SCRP as having low or limited impacts. To this extent a preliminary Environmental and Social Management Framework has been developed. The choice of SCRP interventions was also based on a Targeted Adaptation Assessment, considering climate change scenarios, future expected impacts, socially preferred value chains, gender, technical and economic feasibility. This assessment reduces the risk of maladaptation. At FP stage, the preliminary environmental assessment, Environmental and Social Management Framework and Targeted Adaptation Assessment will be refined. During project implementation, IFAD will provide oversight to ensure the application of environmental, gender and social principles and screening of impacts and risks of proposed project in relation to the 15 core principles of ESP.

~~29. The successful design and participation of small-scale farmers in the Malawi Carbon Credit initiatives will motivate farmers in landscape restoration through the carbon accrued credits and payment. The process and procedure of Malawi Carbon Trade is yet evolving. The project envisages to seek out opportunities for its beneficiaries and relevant public institutions when the system of Malawi Carbon Trade is up and running.~~

~~30. Following the Government of Malawi and IFAD Social, Environment and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP) requirement, all sub-projects shall undergo environmental and social safeguards screening and formulation of specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) to ensure that negative impacts are mitigated and that positive impacts are enhanced. It is important to note that the SECAP requirement conforms to the 15 ESP Principles of the Adaptation Fund by ensuring the :a) compliance with the extant laws; b) promotes access to equity; c) protects the vulnerable and the marginalized; d) promotes human rights; e) guarantees equality and women empowerment; f) guarantees core labor rights; g) indigenous peoples rights; h) minimizes involuntary resettlement; i) protects natural habitats; j) conserves biodiversity; k) climate change; l) pollution prevention; m) public health consideration; n)physical and cultural heritage and Land and soil conservation . The project will undertake further awareness among all stakeholder and selected groups to promote women, youth and child rights. A comprehensive grievance redress mechanism shall be in place to ensure reporting and redress of complaints during project implementation.~~

~~EE.~~C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project.

~~43.~~84. Cost-effectiveness rationale for the specific interventions identified are summarized in Table 6 below. In general, the biggest cost-effectiveness brought by SCRP is to lessen recovery costs and prevent losses of resources spent by the project by (i) complementing farm-based approaches with watershed improvement, (ii) linking agro-advisory to climate projections explicitly, (iii) strengthening climate resilience and preparedness of farmers (iv) increasing the reach of disaster management plans and messages, and (iv) overall enhancing collaboration between DoDMA and DAEC. Frequent climate related disasters result in large costs for repairs and rebuilding for both communities and the Government of Malawi, thereby diverting scarce resources from other development needs. For instance, the 2015 floods resulted in economic losses of $335 million apart from the death casualties and displacement of 638,000 people. IFAD's own interventions in Malawi have been affected by climate disasters, in part due to the lack of a disaster risk component and preparedness and a focus on farm productivity. Improvements in soil fertility at farm level would be entirely lost in the absence of wider ecosystem functions that can slow down the speed of water

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or provide windbreaks, and in the absence of clear disaster preparedness and management plans that farmers know how to interpret. Strengthening institutional capacity as outlined in output 3,1 and output 3.2 on disaster risk management is cost effective as it will contribute to averting loss and damage among the vulnerable communities. Additionally, the institutional and local community capacity will enhance project ownership and will ensure long term commitment by government institutions and beneficiary groups.

44.85. OverallAdditionally, in selecting value chains and definingundertaking the project interventions, SCRP adopted a particularly the selection of value chains, the project will adopt the Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) to determine which were the most feasible options that couldwould be implemented. The approach has takentakes into consideration several criteria including technical feasibility costs, social benefits, potential to address climate change risks, accessibility of optionsoption to small-scale farmers, flexibility (i.e., avoids lock-in), mitigation co-benefits and transformative potential. Criteria were informed through consultation with This approach is considered sustainable in that it involves an extensive participatory process of the farming communities, government representative at the ministries and other stakeholders from the private and civil society sector. This approach provides further reassurance that the selected interventions are cost-effective, thanks to their reported technical feasibility and transformative potential indicated by those consulted, and likelihood of being adopted thanks to reported accessibility..

216.86. Operationally, SCRP will be delivered by the same government team as other IFAD-funded programmes. These programmes have already contributed to the delivery of necessary vehicles, office furniture and other equipment necessary for a smooth implementation. In this way, costs spent for SCRP will be maximized.Considering the high degradation levels of soils in Malawi, no meaningful agricultural activities are undertaken without use of inorganic fertilizers, apparently fertilizers have exorbitant costs that are not easily managed by smallholder farmers. Enhancing sustainable on-farm and landscape management through CSAs and GAPs will restore land productivity. The participation of vulnerable communities in the project will be cost effective as will improve household food security self-reliance, reduce dependency on humanitarian support and reduce import food bills for the Government.

In terms of economic benefits, the SCRP is projected to yield a baseline Economic Rate of Return of 23% with a positive Net Present Value of US$11.9 million (MWK 12.3 billion). All quantifiable benefits being discounted over a period of 20 years including 7 using 17% lending rate of Reserve Bank of Malawi (RMB) to commercial banks. For emphasis the economic rate of return measures the discount rate which equates the present value of its expected cash flows stream of project to its initial outlay. This concept is central to economic investment theory. The baseline ERR of 23% is higher than the discount rate used for economic analysis, which confirms the justification of the proposed project investment. The overall project benefits cost ratio is computed at 5.7.

The project is providing gender responsive climate financing, which is usually not available or easily accessed by small scale farmers due to high collateral requested by financing institutions. Further as the project will build farmers in groups an enhance capacity in business management and governance, The groups will be formalized and may easily access finance from lending institutions. Matching grants

Table 6. Proposed interventions cost-effectiveness rationale

Approaches making SCRP cost-effective	Cost-effectiveness justification	Less cost-effective alternatives
Training of trainer *Component 1 and 2*	Creates a multiplier effects, extending the reach of the training beyond immediate beneficiaries while maximizing training resources used. This is applied both to the FFS programming in Component 2, the GALS approach in Component 1, and the disaster risk management interventions in Component 4.	More external trainers could be hired to train all beneficiaries directly, resulting in increased cost of staff, transportation, etc

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Approaches making SCRP cost-effective	Cost-effectiveness justification	Less cost-effective alternatives
Seasonal Workshops for Climate-driven agro-advisory *Component 2*	Provides specific, timely advice that directly addresses the climate risks, leading to better productivity and reduced losses. Engages multiple stakeholders, including agro-dealers and seed companies, ensuring market readiness and reducing bottlenecks.	Providing non-specific, generalized advice and training that focuses on productivity enhancement without considering feasibility and timeliness with forecasted climate events. Only providing the advisory to farmers. In a similar project in IFAD-portfolio, seed companies and agro-dealers were not included in the workshop, and so the specific maize variety recommended to sow for a specific season ran out.
Consultations and coordination with natural resource management groups *Component 1, 3 and 4*	Encourages sustainable resource use and conflict resolution, preventing long-term environmental costs due to erosion of social structures and individualism, fostering "tragedy of the commons" and/or excluding some community members. No new groups will be created where some already exist or existed, building on existing trust relationships and dynamics within communities as well as their existing knowledge of the communities' resources.	Implementing interventions without forming local management groups, leading to mismanagement, potential scarcity for some community members unable to access resources, and conflicts. Entirely new groups could be formed, requiring more time to develop trust among group members and to build knowledge of natural resource management anew.
Participatory rural appraisals *Component 1*	Provides detailed, locally-relevant data to guide interventions, increasing their effectiveness and acceptance.	Relying on scientific soil health data and watershed map solely to inform interventions, using GIS and in collaboration with the research department. Interventions informed by this data alone may not be well-accepted by the community who is unable to process the data, or because it may not be reflective of their reality. In which case, interventions informed by this data are only likely to last for as long as the programme lasts, with low adoption and sustainability.
GALS approach implementation *Component 1*	GALS approach is a specific methodology to foster women empowerment in the community. It is particularly cost-effective because it targets women-empowerment within the households, so that sensitization and empowerment measures do not need to be repeated at each individual project interventions. It also addresses deep-rooted gender-norms and power dynamics, rather than being specific to a single resource use (inputs, finance, water, etc), hence further avoiding replication. Studies and reports on GALS have shown significant improvements in gender relations, economic empowerment, and community cohesion in various settings, illustrating its effectiveness and replicability.	Resource-specific programmes targeted at women like micro-finance programmes, vocational training programmes, separate agriculture training programmes, etc. These programmes may duplicate what is already delivered for men, doubling the costs, without addressing the deep-rooted reason for why women lack access to the already-existing programmes. While gender-specific programmes may at times be necessary to address discreet problems that women may face, this is not deemed necessary in Malawi if GALS is implemented successfully, and women participate in already-existing interventions.

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Approaches making SCRP cost-effective	Cost-effectiveness justification	Less cost-effective alternatives
Supporting groups rather than individuals *Component 2*	SAPP Programme highlighted that farmers organized in clusters and groups are better able to mobilise resources to access inputs in bulk and enjoy some discounts. The same approach is being adopted for the delivery of FFS and the provision of inputs through a lead farmer model. Farmers will be organized in groups of common interest so that each individual supported by SCRP is then better able to access the resources necessary to implement the practices they have been trained on, through the group.	Training and support provided to a collective of individuals that have not expressed intent of pooling resources and knowledge to continue sustaining the practices. There is more chance that each individual trained in this way will not be able to sustain and/or implement the learnings gained, nor to continue learning from peers, meaning resources spent in capacity-building may be lost.
Use of various ICT channels in extension services *Throughout the project*	Learnings from IFAD SAPP Programme implementation (ended in 20224) also highlighted that the use of ICT4D tools in extension services has facilitated the communication of agro-advisory, particularly using rural resource centres and radio programmes which were created to "bridge the technical gap" for farmers who do not have access to mobile phones. These ICT infrastructures will be used throughout SCRP interventions involving extension services, to ensure that the communication material developed under SCRP will achieve maximum reach and avoid creating new channels of communication.	Extension services in Malawi largely rely on the use of printed material as well as radio and television programme. Their messaging are hence temporary and cannot be consulted again. Use of apps and sms services to complement them ensures that the material developed can remain accessible for longer periods of time. Private extension services could also be mobilized, but their costs may lead to the exclusion of the most vulnerable beneficiaries, hence reducing the effectiveness of services.

~~45.~~ Cost effectiveness of SCRP is further strengthened ~~in many ways~~ by building on lessons and knowledge ~~products and upscaling of successes~~ from previous and on-going related programmes such as Enhancing Resilience of Agro Ecological Systems Projects (ERASP); ~~the~~ SAPP, SAPP II, ~~Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative,~~ PRIDE and, FARMSE (among others in Section F). The full project proposal preparation~~(refer part D Table 6). SCRP build on and improve the management and implementation of the matching grants arrangement under SAPP in the outlined Farmer Challenge Fund by linking host of the fund to one of existing financing institutions so that farmers have capacity and experience in dealing with established financing institution. SCRP will adopt lessons, manuals developed under ERASP, PRIDE in ENRM for building capacity of local communities, formulation and implementation of catchment and management plans.~~

~~46.~~87. ~~SCRP~~ will include a comprehensive cost analysis of all components and activities, as well as an alternatives~~conduct an~~ analysis to ensure cost-efficiency. This analysis~~identify opportunities and recommendations on how smallholders' farmer may participate, where possible in the Malawi Carbon Trade Initiatives. Besides increased resilience and improved productivity, the payments from accrued carbon credits would another strong motivating for farmers to increase adoption CSA technologies and catchment conservation. Additionally lessons under FARMSE, and piloting of insurance products and the Global Climate Adaptation design on digitalization of agricultural extension and climate information services~~ will assess the financial implications of each component, taking into account factors such as implementation costs, maintenance requirements, and long-term sustainability.~~be used by SCRP to formulate policy briefs the will guide effective utilization of climate information for agricultural extensions services and disaster risk management in Malawi.~~

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D. Describe how the project is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), national or subnational development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programme~~programs~~ of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.

~~47. At the time when the CN was formulated, Malawi had not yet finalized the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). However, the The~~ Government of Malawi has a number of ~~put in place some~~ policies and strategies ~~that to~~ guide the development of the agriculture sector and resilience to climate change. ~~These include among others: the Malawi 2063 (2020); the updated NDC (2021); The Third National Communication Report (2021);The Vision 2063 has emphasized on agriculture transformation by shifting from low productivity and subsistence-oriented agriculture to a highly productive and commercialized agriculture system with manufacturing linkages. In seeking to improve agricultural productivity, the Vision 2063 has recognized the need for optimal utilization of land, improved and sustainable land management practices, including promotion of climate smart and resilient agriculture technologies.~~

~~48. In the agricultural sector the National Agricultural Policy (NAP) (GoM 2016)] defines the vision and provides a high-level framework for development of the agricultural sector in Malawi. The Policy intends to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation, expand incomes for farm households, improve food and nutrition security and increase agricultural exports by creating a conducive environment for development of the sector. In addition to production and productivity, the NAP also addresses sustainable management of agricultural resources, resilience to climate change.~~

~~49. To guide agricultural investments, the government further formulated~~ the National Agriculture Policy (NAP 2016) and National Agriculture Investment Plan (2019); ~~Investment Plan [NAIP) (GoM 2019), which has four broader program areas that include: policy and institutional coordination; resilient livelihoods and production systems; production and productivity growth; and markets and value chains (GoM 2019). Broadly, NAIP is crafted to contribute to the achievement of the NAP goal and the attainment of the Malabo Declaration. The main objectives of NAIP are a) broad based and resilient agricultural growth, improved well-being and livelihoods of Malawians, and improved food and nutrition security.~~

~~50.~~88. ~~In addition to the Malawi Vision 2063, NAP and NAIP, the Malawi Government has also formulated the climate change related planning documents, which include~~ the National Climate Change Management Policy (2016); ~~GoM 2016), the updated Nationally Determined Contribution [NDC (GoM 2022)] and~~ the National Resilience Strategy ~~(Plan (GoM~~ 2017). ~~The Policy provides strategic direction for Malawi's priorities for climate change interventions and outlines an institutional framework for the application and implementation of adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building.~~

~~50. The updated NDC outlines Malawi's climate change priorities for the period from 2020 – 2040 and has provided concrete strategies for addressing the causes of climate change and responding to the adverse effects and impacts in line with provisions established under the Paris Agreement. The updated NDC highlights both mitigation and adaptation commitments based on support. The NDC has prioritized ten strategic adaptation options with objectives to: (i) promote an enabling environment to facilitate Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) mainstreaming, (ii) improve capacity for data and information management and sharing, and access to technology and financing for adaptation, and (iii) plan and implement adaptation actions toward an increased resilience of the most vulnerable Malawians.~~

~~50. The National Resilience Strategy (GoM 2017) envisions a nation free of chronic vulnerability and food and nutrition insecurity, where sustainable economic development creates opportunities for everyone, and where people are resilient to economic and environmental shocks that affect their lives and livelihoods. The Strategy has four pillars which include: a) resilient agriculture; b) disaster risk management; c) human capacity development; and d) catchment protection and management. A brief overview of the main agricultural and climate change related policies and strategies are presented in the Table 5 below.~~

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89. ~~Table~~ Most common climate resilient interventions suggested in national strategies include: drought management, early maturing and drought tolerant species, flood management, integrated catchment management, afforestation and agroforestry; soil and water conservation, construction of small-scale irrigation schemes, water harvesting and supply, access to improved seed through community seed banks, weather index insurance, crop and income diversification, pest and disease management and improved access to climate information and early-warning advisory. These interventions are similar to those suggested by stakeholders including communities during consultations, and hence to those proposed under SCRP.

Table 7. Alignment of country policies and strategies to proposed SCRP

~~5. Highlights of Malawi national agricultural and climate change policies and strategies.~~

ID	Policy/~~Name of policy and~~ strategy ~~main objectives~~	Interventions in building climate change resilience	~~Alignment with~~ SCRP alignment ~~interventions~~
1	**Malawi 2063 (GoM 2020)** Vision 2063 is the country's economic blueprint. The vision aims to enhance economic growth through three (3) pillars of agricultural productivity and commercialization, industrialization and urbanization~~(GoM 2020)~~.	The Malawi~~Vision~~ 2063 has highlighted adverse impacts of climate change; high land degradation; low adoption of CSA technologies; poor access to finance and limited irrigation as some of ~~is~~ the main factors affecting low~~country's economic blueprint. The vision aims to enhance economic growth by among others enhancing~~ agricultural productivity. The Malawi 2063 therefore outlines the following as some of the interventions to improve agricultural productivity and climate resilience: ~~, commercialization, diversification, use of modern technologies, access to targeted agriculture insurance. The Vision also outlines how to ensure~~ sustainable land management practices (, soil and water conservation, agroforestry)~~,~~ ~~CSA agriculture through~~ irrigation, ~~and insurance and~~ crop diversification, crop insurance ~~and beyond maize production including~~ promotion of climate smart agriculture technologies, access to finance. ~~SCRP contributes to Vision 2063 as it will improve agricultural productivity, commercialization through use of climate resilient technologies such as soil and water conservation, agroforestry, CSA agriculture through irrigation (SCRP outcome 1), enhance sustainable land and micro catchments management (SCRP outcome 2).~~	SCRP contributes to Malawi 2063 by promoting climate resilient technologies such as soil and water conservation, agroforestry, restoration of degraded land including catchment management and small-scale irrigation infrastructure (Component 3), input access to farmer groups (Component 2) and climate-smart agriculture soil and water conservation practices in the field (Component 2). SCRP also contributes to crop diversification with interventions on indigenous seed banks (Component 3).
2	**Updated National Determined Contribution (2022)** Regarding climate change adaptation, the Updated NDC has three (3) main objectives which include: (i) promote an enabling environment mainstream Climate Adaptation (ii) improve capacity for data and information management (iii) plan and	~~The main policy document for the agricultural sector with eight Policy Priority Areas (PPAs) to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation, expanding incomes for farm households, improved food and nutrition security. NAP also highlights inclusive agriculture value chains through empowerment of women and youth to access productive assets and agriculture~~	In alignment to the NDC, SCRP include capacity building on CSA and soil and water conservation (Component 2); drought management, provision of irrigation infrastructure, communal water sources, watershed management, afforestation, natural generation, construction of

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ID	Policy/Name of policy and strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience	Alignment with SCRP alignment interventions
	implement adaptation actions to resilience of the most vulnerable Malawians.Agriculture Policy (GoM 2016)	financing. The updated NDC has also highlighted: increased exposure, soil erosion, loss of soil fertility, poor crop diversification, low CSA technology uptake, lack of EWS, low capacity in DRM as some of the factors exacerbating climate vulnerability. The updated NDC has proposed numerous adaptation interventions which include: drought management, use of early maturing and drought tolerant species, flood management, integrated catchment management, natural generation; soil and water conservation, construction of irrigation schemes, water harvesting and supply, access to improved seed through community seed banks, weather index insurance, crop-livestock-fisheries integration, pest and disease managementOther activities highlighted under NAP include innovative extension, access to high quality inputs; irrigation, water catchment management; CA and soil nutrition. SCRP will contribute to NAP objectives of increased food and nutrition security and household incomes through capacity building and adoption of CSA (SCRP outcome 1) and sustainable financing climate resilience technologies (SCRP outcome 2) and innovative extension, access to high quality inputs	irrigation schemes, community seed banks (Component 3); and improved DRM capacity (Component 4)
3	**The Third National Communication Report to the UNFCCC (2021)** The 3rd NC provides a comprehensive outlook on the status of climate change issues in Malawi and highlights mitigation and adaptation efforts that are feasible.	Like other national strategies the 3rd NC highlights over-dependence on rainfed agriculture, high poverty levels, increased exposure to droughts, lack of insurance, inadequate hazards mapping and lack of crop diversification as main factors increase communities vulnerability. The potential adaptation interventions outlined in 3rd NC include: Drought management through early and tolerant varieties; crop diversification to fish and livestock; access to quality seeds; promoting irrigation; promoting weather-based insurance; use of climate information and EWS; water supply and harvesting; integrated pest management; soil and land restoration; integrated catchment management among others.	SCRP directly contributes to climate change adaptation priorities as outlined in the 3rd NC. SCRP will address drought management by promoting improved drought-tolerant varieties and supporting the development of water sources and irrigation infrastructure and other water infrastructure. It will also support soil and land restoration and integrated catchment management under component 3. Use of climate information for better agro-advisory is a cornerstone of component 2, and improved EWS in agriculture makes up the entirety of Component 4.
43	**National Agriculture Policy (GoM 2016) and the National**	SCRP is also well aligned to NAIP, which is a national framework to	SCRP will contribute to NAP objectives of increased food

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ID	Policy/Name of policy and strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience	Alignment with SCRP alignment interventions
	Agriculture Investment Plan (2019) The NAP is the main policy document for the agricultural sector and has eight Policy Priority Areas (PAs) including agricultural risk management (PA6), Empowerment of vulnerable groups, including youth and women in agriculture (PA7) to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation. NAIP, is the agricultural investments framework for NAP. NAIP has four broader programme areas, one of which includes: resilient livelihoods and production systems.	guide agricultural investments, has four broader programme areas that include: resilient livelihoods and production systems; production and productivity growth; and markets and value chains. Broadly crafted to contribute to the achievement of the NAP goal and the attainment of the Malabo Declaration (African Union Zero Hunger initiative by 2025). Actions under resilient agriculture pillar include DisasterNAP also highlights inclusive agriculture value chains through empowerment of women and youth to access productive assets and agriculture financing. Other activities highlighted under NAP include innovative extension, access to high quality inputs; facilitate access to finance for women and youth; irrigation, water supply catchment management; conservation agriculture and soil nutrition. NAIP actions under the resilient agriculture pillar include disaster risk reduction measures; pest and disease surveillance, livestock pass on schemes, agroforestry, conservation agriculture and nutrition related agriculture, resilient livelihoods and production systems; production and productivity growth; and markets and value chains.	and nutrition security and household incomes through capacity building and adoption of CSA (Component 2) as well as improvement of extension services through innovative digital approaches and climate-resilient advisory (Component 2) Additionally, SCRP will ensure strong gender mainstreaming and empowerment of women and youth through the implementation of the GALS approach. It will also support community small-scale irrigation and water supply, and contribute to the restoration of degraded land (Component 3)
5	**National Climate Change Management Policy (2016) and the National Climate Change Investment Plan (2013)** The policy sets out a long-term goal for climate change management, which is to reduce the socioeconomic impacts of adverse effects of climatic change. One of the policy outcomes is reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts. The Investment Plan highlights priority areas for climate change investments to avert climate related impacts.	The NCCMP also lists exposure, lack of institutional and community capacity, sustainable land use and inadequateInvestment Plan highlights priority areas for climate change mainstreaming as factors increasing communityinvestments to avert climate vulnerability. The NCCMP and NCCIP proposed interventions to enhance related impacts. One of the priority areas is climate adaptation, whose actions include increase adaptive capacity of local communities through weather forecasting; afforestation and restoration of degraded lands; development of watershedwatersheds management plans; increase soil fertility and forest cover in degraded lands; reduce sedimentation from soil erosion; enhance sustainable irrigation in drought prone areas; promote agricultural diversification; enhance community based early warning	SCRP will be in line with NCCMP and NCCIP to enhance adaptive capacity of local communities through mainstreaming climate forecasts in agro-advisory (Component 2); afforestation and restoration of degraded lands (Component 3); development of watershed management plans (Component 2); increase soil fertility and reduce soil erosion (Component 2 and 3); enhance sustainable irrigation in drought prone areas (Component 3); , promote agricultural diversification (Component 2 and 3); enhance community based early warning systems and strengthen disaster preparedness at all locals including communities (Component 4); enhancing gender equality to increase adaptive capacity of women

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ID	Policy/Name of policy and strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience	Alignment with SCRP alignment interventions
		systems, strengthen disaster preparedness at all locals including communities. As stated SCRP will likewise promote priority areas for climate change investments to avert climate related impacts. by enhancing gender equality to adaptive capacity of local community's weather forecasting; afforestation, watersheds management plans; increase adaptive capacity of women and girls who are more vulnerable to climate change.forest cover in degraded lands; and strengthen preparedness at all locals including communities	and girls who are more vulnerable to climate change (Component 1 and throughout the project).
6	**National Resilience Strategy (2018)** The goal of NRS is to transition from recurrent humanitarian appeals (most due to climate change) to productive investments targeting chronic vulnerable households. The Strategy has seven pillars which include: food security and poverty reduction; scaled-up climate-resilient infrastructure, and enhanced climate-adaptation capacity of all stakeholders).	Some of the NRS The Strategy has seven pillar impacts which include: transformed agricultural sector into an engine for shared economic prosperity, food security and poverty reduction; scaled-up climate change resilience intervention: -resilient infrastructure, and enhanced climate-adaptation capacity of all stakeholders, through better access to climate information and early warning and drought managementmitigation, through water harvesting and irrigation; climate smart and insurance product; better access to climate information and early warning; building capacity of products, farmer organization to access market s and value addition, resilient landscape through afforestation and micro catchmentswatershed management; scaling up payment of carbon credits, clean energy access through solar; disaster preparedness through community based EWS and contingency plans. SCRP is responding to NRS pillars food security and poverty reduction; through scaled-up climate-resilient infrastructure, and enhanced climate-adaptation capacity of beneficiaries, SCRP will enhance better access to climate information and early warning and drought mitigation through water harvesting and irrigation; farmer organization to access markets and value addition, resilient landscape through afforestation and micro watershed management; SCR P will also make an assessment that will recommend as feasible the scale up payment of carbon credits	SCRP is delivering NRS priorities interventions directly, including water harvesting and irrigation (Component 3), climate-smart practices (Component 2), better access to climate information and early warning (Component 2 and 4), afforestation and micro-catchment management (Component 3), disaster preparedness through community-based EWS and contingency plans (Component 4)

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ID	Policy/Name of policy and strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience for smallholder farmers	Alignment with SCRP alignment interventions
4	National Climate Change Management Policy (2016)	The policy sets out long-term goal for climate change management, which is to reduce the socioeconomic impacts of adverse effects of climatic change. The medium-term outcome is improved community resilience to climate change through the development of sustainable livelihoods and reduced emissions of GHGs. The policy outcomes include reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts through improved, social, economic and ecological resilience; reduced greenhouse gas emissions; increased awareness of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures; research, technology development and transfer and systematic; observations enhanced and strengthened, and enhanced capacity to implement climate change related interventions to which SCRP is well aligned	
6	Updated National Determined Contribution (2022).	NDC main objectives include: (I) promote an enabling environment to facilitate Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) mainstreaming, plan and implement adaptation actions toward an increased resilience of the most vulnerable Malawians. NDC outlines adaptation initiatives including strategic adaptation actions that include drought management through forecasting, use of early maturing and drought tolerant species, flood management through forecasting, integrated watershed management, natural generation; CSA activities including soil and water conservation, construction of irrigation schemes, water harvesting and access to improved seed through community seed banks. weather index insurance, value addition, and post-harvest management. Just like the NDC, the SCRP adaptation actions that include drought management through forecasting, use of early maturing and drought tolerant species, flood management through forecasting, integrated watershed management, afforestation, natural generation; CSA activities including soil and water conservation, construction of irrigation schemes, water harvesting and. weather index insurance, value addition, and post-harvest management;	
8	The Third National Communication Report to the UNFCCC (2021)	The 3rd National Communication has highlighted a number of adaptation activities such as drought tolerant and early maturing varieties; improving access to quality seeds; promoting irrigation; promote weather-based insurance; use of climate information and EWS; water harvesting and mechanization among others. The SCRP is directly contributing to climate change adaption priories as outlined in the 3rd National Communication. SCRP is supporting farmers resilience through same highlighted adaptation activities	

TT.E. Describe how the project meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

220.90. Through its SECAP, IFAD aligns with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund, (see ESP risk assessment summary in section II. K) and has been designed to minimise any negative environmental impact, resulting in net environmental benefits. The project is also designed in respect and adherence to the relevant federal and state level laws and codes, where they exist, as outlined in Table 8. To effectively adhere to the national standards, SCRP will involve the different government departments such as the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) at both national and district level; the Department of Land Resources; Department of Forestry; Department of Irrigation and Department of Water. While all these technical acts and standards will be reflected in the project's procurement processes and delivery, a Grievance Redress Mechanism will also allow any stakeholder or beneficiary to flag potential misalignment with these acts in the delivery of SCRP.

Table 8 highlighting national technical acts and standards

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ID	National Acts	Description and relevance to SCRP
1	The Environmental Management Act (EMA 2017) and Generic Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (1997)	A legal framework requiring environmental impact assessment (EIA) and environmental auditing. The EMA presents broader provisions for the protection and management of the environment and the conservation and sustainable utilization of natural resources. These highlights guidance in areas of water, soil, waste management, environmental protected areas, conservation of biodiversity. The Generic Environmental Assessment Guidelines (1997, currently being updated) outline processes and steps to undertake EIA where and as necessary. EMA guides SCRP in mainstreaming social and environmental safeguards to mitigate perceived negative impacts. In consultation with the Environmental Affairs Department SCRP has already undertaken an environmental and social safeguards screening with categorization of moderate category. Detailed ESMF and separate ESMPs will be developed at full proposal with participation of EAD and other stakeholders.
2	The Land Act (2016)	The Land Act provides a comprehensive framework for land tenure, use, and management. It guides land utilization and access to land resources to ensure sustainability and equity. This includes describing the terms for acquiring land, necessary compensations, mechanisms for securing land tenure by communities, issuance of customary certificates, consent procedures for land used for development purposes, etc. SCRP will comply with these guidelines for all activities to be undertaken outside of private farms and at watershed levels. No activities will be undertaken without community consent, collaboration with village heads and traditional authorities, ESIAs and other provisions from the Land Act. This is also outlined in SECAP procedures and the Grievance Redress Mechanism will ensure accountability to it.
3	The Pesticides Act (2018)	Prescribes the control and management of the import, export, manufacture, distribution, storage, applications and proper disposal of pesticides. SCRO will be guided on types and proposer use to avoid negative effect on human beings and environmental pollution. SCRP will align with these prescriptions in any procurement and training on pest management practices.
4	Irrigation Code of Practice and Equipment Standards (2018) Irrigation Act (2001)	The Irrigation Act, 2001 makes provision for the sustainable development and management of irrigation, protection of the environment from irrigation related degradation, and prohibits people from engaging in practices that are destructive or potentially destructive to the catchment area of a river that provides water for irrigation. SCRP shall be guided by ICoP on suitability, design of irrigation systems in an economic and environmentally and social sustainable manner, including the selection of type of irrigation, capacity building of farmers to manage irrigation type, and environmental screening of the proposed project and identify all environmental and social impact issues, and propose remedial measures.
5	Forest Management Act (1997 and Amended 2019)	The purpose is the declaration, conservation and management of forest reserves, protected forest areas and biodiversity. The act highlights how forest management and conservation will be enhanced through stakeholder participation, forest management plans, use of forest products, enforcement of regulations and penalties. SCRP will be guided by the Forest Management Act in its activities of afforestation, community management plans and use of forest products from the woodlot, in particular to ensure conservation of soils and water and to protect and manage trees and forest sustainably on customary land.
6	Water Resources Act (2013)	The Act guides the management, conservation, use and control of water resources and the acquisition and regulation of rights to use water in order to prevent pollution and preserve water quality (biological, physical and chemical). In relation to SCRP, this act will guide the construction of community-scale water structures (tanks, boreholes etc) and will be reflected in the subsequent management plans of the structures.
7	The Seed Act (1997)	The Seed Act provides for the regulation and control of the production, sale, importation and exportation of seed for sowing, minimum standards of germination and purity. SCRP will be guided by the Seed Act to avoid supply of seeds that are harmful to human beings or unsatisfactory quality.

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ID	National Acts	Description and relevance to SCRP
8	National Guidelines on Integrated Catchment Management and Rural Infrastructure (2016)	These Guidelines for Integrated Catchment Management and Rural Infrastructure serve as a planning framework for the country with the aim of improving land and water management for ecosystem and livelihood benefits across Malawi. The Guidelines address the interlinked challenges of poverty and a deteriorating natural resource base especially in the southern region and propose measures to reduce the process of environmental degradation in other regions and improve the country's overall productive potential of natural resources outlines catchment management principles, role of stakeholder including the village-level communities. SCRP interventions will be compliant with all national technical standards, particularly those relating to concrete adaptation measures, including water and soil conservation and integrated watershed management.

50. The project aligns with the Adaptation Fund Standards and Policies vis-a-vis the Social and Environmental Policy[81] and the Gender Policy[82]. In this instance, the Project has taken into consideration the 15 ESP Principles as outlines in contained in the approved AF ESP of 2013 and as amended in 2016. The Project therefore emphasizes: a) compliance with the extant laws; b) promotes access to equity; c) protects the vulnerable and the marginalized; d) promotes human rights; e) guarantees equality and women empowerment; f) guarantees core labor rights; g) indigenous peoples rights; h) minimizes involuntary resettlement; i) protects natural habitats; j) conserves biodiversity; k) climate change; l) pollution prevention; m) public health consideration; n)physical and cultural heritage and Land and soil conservation. Furthermore, alignment will be ensured by adherence to the and the Malawi Government policies, including the environmental laws and regulations, particularly the Environmental Management Act (2017) and the National Environmental Action Plan. IFAD as an Implementing Entity shall strongly collaborate with the Malawi Government, particularly through the Malawi Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA) in strengthening compliance and alignment of IFAD procedures, Malawi country laws and Adaptation Fund procedures.

50. SCRP will adhere to the National Environmental regulations such the National Environmental Policy which provides a comprehensive policy framework on environmental planning for development programmes introducing environmental impact assessment for projects. The Environmental Management Act (EMA) (2017) and its previous versions aligns Malawi's environmental and natural resources management with global standards. The EMA makes Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) a statutory requirement and outlines the EIA process and guidelines and procedures for the EIA legislation. EMA lists projects that cannot be licensed and implemented until a satisfactory EIA study has been completed and approved.

50. Additionally, SCRP will follow the Malawi's National Guidelines on Integrated Catchment Management and Rural Infrastructure (2016), which outlines catchment management principles, role of stakeholder including the village-level communities. The SCRP will also contribute to the implementation of the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP) which is a framework mainstreaming environmental planning and management into the country's socio-economic development. NEAP focuses on deforestation, natural resources, including biodiversity loss and habitat degradation, soil depletion and erosion. As SCRP productive activities may involve use of pesticides especially under agricultural production, SCRP will also be guided by the Malawi Pesticide Act (2014), which prescribe types and procedures for manufacturing, importing, applications and mitigative options for pesticides.

50. The national regulations will further be reinforced by both and Malawi Government on conservation of biodiversity, resource efficiency and pollution prevention, cultural heritage, gender empowerment, labor and working conditions, community health and safety, physical and economic resettlement, and climate change adaptation among others. Likewise, the Government of Malawi's Environmental Management Act (2017)[83], gives guidance on mainstreaming social and environmental

[81] *Adaptation Fund Social and Environmental Policy (2013). https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Environmental-Social-Policy-approved-Nov2013.pdf*
[82] *Adaptation Fund Social and Environmental Policy (2016). https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/AF-presentation-Gender_YL_DC-Rabat_Day2.pdf*
[83] *Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment (2017). https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC169354/*

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safeguards to mitigate perceived negative impacts. This proposed project has already undertaken an Environmental and Social Safeguards Screening with categorization of moderate/category B. A generic Environmental, Social and Climate Management Plan (ESCMP) with clear mitigative actions and specific stakeholder responsibilities will be formulated during full proposal development to avert the negative impacts that are reversible.

51. The implementation of the to be formulated specific ESMPs will guarantee improved social, environment, biodiversity and natural resources management thus going beyond nor doing harm scenario. As regards climate change adaptation, the project has also proposed area specific adaptation options based on projected climate change impacts, adaptive capacity and vulnerability of targeted beneficiaries and their livelihoods. In contributing to climate change action, the project ensures that adaptation and mitigation objectives as outlined in the revised NDC (GoM 2021)[84], The National Climate Change Policy (GoM 2016) and Climate Change Investment Plan (GoM 2013)[85] and the Third National Communication are promoted.

52. The project also seeks to promote gender equality in line with the National Gender Policy (GoM 2015)[86], Malawi Gender Act (GoM 2014), IFAD Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (GoM 2015) and the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (2017) and Environment and Social Policy (2016). The Programme places a strong emphasis on social inclusion. The project aims to contribute to gender transformation, thus going beyond active women and youth participation but also seeking women access to productive resources, women empowerment in leadership and decision-making processes. In this case the project will further undertake extensive stakeholder consultation to identify the causes of economic and power disparities, differentiated disproportional vulnerabilities and barriers among marginalized and vulnerable groups particularly women and youth. The project will target 60% women and 30% youth thereby providing means to production and equality.

53. To promote resource efficiency and reduce environmental degradation the project will improve soil and water conservation, irrigation water use efficiency, landscape restoration, chemical inputs will be replaced with eco-friendly inorganic fertilizers and pesticides, and where feasible the project will promote integrated pest management (IPM) and pesticides management plan. Such activities will be in line with the National Agricultural Policy (GoM 2016)[87], the National Irrigation Policy (GoM 2016), the Environmental Management Act (GoM 2017)[88]. Project priority is on sustainable management of productive resources (soil, land, and water) with activities supporting promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), energy saving technologies, soil fertility improvement and conservation agriculture.

54. The project through the Malawi Labour Act (GoM 2000)[89], Malawi Employment Act (2014)[90], and ILO labour regulations will ensure prevention of child labour and provide safe working conditions and less burden especially on women. In contributing to the National Energy Policy (GoM 2018)[91] and the National Water Policy (GoM 2005),[92]. The project will reduce the burden on women and girls in accessing clean water through provision of clean energy alternatives and water harvesting technologies. These initiatives will reduce related health risks from use of firewood polluted water and time invested by women and girls to fetch water. Overall, the project contributes to several Sustainable Development Goals of the Malawi Government.

55. To ensure transparent implementation of project interventions and considering community

[84] *Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment (2021). Updated NDC. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Malawi%20Updated%20NDC%20July%202021%20submitted.pdf*
[85] *Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment (2013). National Climate Change Investment Plan. https://climate-laws.org/document/national-climate-change-investment-plan-2013-2018_9645#:~:text=This%20plan%20identifies%20four%20key,and%20transfer%3B%20and%20capacity%20building.*
[86] *Ministry of Gender, Women, Children and Social Welfare (2015). https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC149139/*
[87] *Ministry of Agriculture (2016). National Agriculture Policy. https://ccpa.rmportal.net/Library/government-publications/national-agriculture-policy-2016/view*
[88] *Ministry of Agriculture (2016). National Irrigation Policy. https://ccpa.rmportal.net/Library/government-publications/national-irrigation-policy-2016/view*
[89] *Ministry of Labour (2000). Malawi Labour Act. https://invest.mitc.mw/images/downloads/Employment-and-Labour-Acts-of-Malawi.pdf*
[90] *Ministry of Labour (2021). Amended Malawi Employment Act amended 2021. https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.detail?p_lang=en&p_isn=112666&p_count=32&p_classification=01*
[91] *Ministry of Energy (2018). National Energy Policy. https://npc.mw/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/National-Energy-Policy-2018.pdf*
[92] *Ministry of Water development (2015). National Water Policy. https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/mlw165858.pdf*

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voices, a Grievance Redress Mechanism for beneficiaries will be developed to address all complaints in the implementation of the project during proposal development stage. A brief description of some national policies, regulations and laws and their respective alignment to the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender Policy are presented under Annex C.

DDD.F. Describe if there is duplication of project with other funding sources, if any.

91. SCRP preliminary location and beneficiary selection criteria target district, EPAs and communities where no ongoing projects carry out similar activities. This criterion reduces the risk of duplication. The projects below are highlighted for their potential in providing lessons and knowledge products that can be re-used under SCRP, either in the same districts or other districts.

Table 9

51. The SCRP activities have no duplication but upon several previous and ongoing interventions undertaken by the Government of Malawi and IFAD. The synergies and complementarity between the different initiatives are outlined in Table 6.

Table 6. **Synergies between SCRP with previous and ongoing interventions**

ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions Objectives	Lessons and synergies with SCRPSynergies
1	Enhancing the Resilience of Agro-ecological Systems Project **(ERASP 2016 - 2023)**)$7,397,000 by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD (2016 -2023) $7,397,000 ERASP project districts were in Karonga, Zomba and Phalombe	i) Conservation of catchment areas; b) Scaling up of sustainable land management practices, and c) Provision of EWS for informed farmer decision makingERASP sought to promote interventions to reduce land degradation, loss of agro-biodiversity, enhance climate change adaptation and mitigation, improved credit and market access.	SCRP covers Both projects cover climate variability resilience and restoration of degraded landscape but in different districts from those or ERASP areas. SCRP will adopt lessons and build on the manuals developed under ERASP to improve communities'in ENRM building capacity in ENRM of local communities, formulation and to formulate and implementimplementation of catchment and management plans. Learning from ERASP, SCRP will fill gaps in EWS by improving forecast resolution of climate information, linking EWS to specific agricultural value chains and improving on frequency and channels of information dissemination.
2	Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Programme **(SAPP 2016 - 2022)**)$73,224,300 by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD (2016 -2022) $73,224,300 SAPP was implemented in Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Balaka, Lilongwe, Nkhotakota and Chitipa	SAPP's main climate change interventions included: a) SAPP objective was to contribute to the reduction of poverty and improved food security among the rural population through adoption of CSA on farm activities; b)GAPs. SAPP achieved great success regarding agricultural extension capacities in selected districts, livelihood diversification through small livestock passpasses on programme; c) farmers access to finance through and adoption of GAPs with financing from the Village Challenge Fund (VCF) Initiative as vehicle to access financing for different agricultural climate resilient enterprises	SCRP will complement SAPP by reaching new farmers with capacity-building programmes on climate-resilient practices that restore soil health. Extension manuals have also not been updated under SAPP to reflect the improved practices, which SCRP will support to ensure vulnerable farmers can be best supported based on climate-informed agro-advisory. SAPP interventions' main gap was to only focus on on-farm interventions for climate-smart agriculture. SCRP will complement this through micro-catchment plans for restoration and resource management, which in turn affects crop productivity. This ensures that the resilience-building activities on-farm can be sustained by ecosystem services too, reducing exposure to or impact from events like floods and strong winds. Another gap from SAPP interventions was a perceived disconnection between agro-advisory and climate projections, and a lack of focus on disaster management. SCRP will directly fill this gap.Both projects aim to increase climate

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ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions ~~Objectives~~	Lessons and synergies with SCRP~~Synergies~~
			~~resilience through adoption of CSA in different project areas. SCRP will improve agricultural practices and resilience of communities based on SAPP lessons. SCRP will adopt and improve on the financing window through FCF. on a) creating a separate window for resource restricted smallholder farmers that still lack access to improved inputs for improved productivity; b) introduce a specific window for farmers that seek value and commercialization; b) host of the fund to one of existing financing situations so that farmers have capacity and experience in detailing with established financing institution.~~
34	Sustainable Agriculture Productivity Programme - Phase II **(SAPPII 2024 - 2031)** $ 35.09 Million by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD SAPPII will be implemented in the same districts as SCRP ~~Assessment on Digitalization of Agro extension services and climate information services by the Global Climate Adaptation (2024)~~	SAPPII is the continuation of SAPP, focusing on scaling up interventions~~Aims~~ to support farmers that are more resilient~~develop a roadmap, design~~ and productive with accessing markets~~build capacity to improve agro extension~~ and finance. SAPPII main interventions from IFAD and the Ministry include (i) developing productive assets and~~climate information~~ services for agriculture commercialization, (ii) value addition and (iii) post-harvest handling. This is informed by a value chain/market analysis and adaptive research for the development on new agricultural practices. SAPPII will deliver this through a Farmer Challenge Fund, receiving business plans from farmers.~~digitalization~~	With its commercial focus, SAPPII risks excluding beneficiaries the most vulnerable beneficiaries, who are not yet resilient to climate change and do not adopting good and resilient agricultural practices, or have access to water, etc. SCRP will fill that gap in SAPPII by focusing on increasing the resilience of the most vulnerable farmers in the districts of operations. It will focus on the agricultural crops chosen under SAPPII to ensure that there is a continuity for beneficiaries who, once the right practices are adopted and their resilience increased through SCRP, can access finance through the SAPPII programme activities.SAPPII therefore provides an "exit" strategy for SCRP. Among other practices, SCRP will also be promoting those developed through adaptive research in SAPPII, to the extent that they support resilience to climate change. ~~SCRP Full project design will build on recommendations of GCA and roll out the digitalized agro extension services and climate information on pilot basis.~~

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ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions ~~Objectives~~	Lessons and synergies with SCRP~~Synergies~~
~~46~~	Programme for Rural Irrigation Development **(PRIDE 2015 -2026)** $ 125.88 Million by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD PRIDE is being implemented in Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Machinga, Dowa, Nkhotakota, Rumphi, Nkhatabay, Karonga and Chitipa districts	Main PRIDE adaptation interventions include: a) construction~~aims to enhance rural Malawian communities' resilience to food insecurity and the adverse effects~~ of irrigation schemes for smallholder farmers; b) Developing~~climate change. PRIDE will develop climate-smart land and~~ water management systems; c) Building capacity of ~~for~~ small-scale farmers to manage, operate and maintain schemes; d) Building capacity of farmers on CSA ~~farmers engaged~~ in selected value chains; e) Integrated catchments areas~~rainfed agriculture and cultivating on irrigated land.~~	Even though~~Both~~ PRIDE is mostly ~~and SCRP aim to enhance community resilience however the interventions will be~~ in different districts, SCRP will adopt lessons and knowledge products~~areas. Lessons~~ from PRIDE in irrigation schemes, construction process~~will be used to guide~~ and standards; training manuals on WUA ~~upscale SCRP initiatives in climate smart land~~ and building farmers capacities to manage and operate schemes. While PRIDE has targeted bigger irrigation schemes (at least 200 hectares), which have different sustainability criteria, SCRP will focus on smaller infrastructure. This responds to consultations with farmers, who indicated that smaller irrigation schemes suiting areas with less water (around 20 hectares) would be preferable. In this way, SCRP will reach farmers who would not benefit from the larger irrigation schemes developed~~initiatives~~ under PRIDE due to either water scarcity or land scarcity~~component 1 and 2~~.
~~57~~	Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and Enterprise Programme **(FARMSE 2017 – 2028)** US$ 102.73 million by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD FARMSE is implemented in selected communities in all SCRP districts	FARMSE main interventions included: a) increase finance access~~seeks to reduce poverty, improve livelihoods~~ and saving culture among~~enhance the resilience of~~ rural households; b) capacity to improve selected value chain productivity; c) enhance access to markets ~~on a sustainable basis through improved financial access~~	FARMSE enhanced farmers' access to finance through innovative cash transfer, which resulted in agricultural livelihood diversification through investments in both agricultural and non-agricultural value chains and increased their savings. SCRP may serve similar beneficiaries, but its activities will be targeted at implementation of climate-resilient practices and disaster management. In this way, SCRP might benefit from prior community engagements and groups formed in these communities.~~Both projects aim to reduce poverty through enhanced access to climate financing in different areas. Lessons learnt under FARMSE, and piloting of insurance products will be used under SCRP component 3 to support formulation of policy brief designing of attractive and innovative crop-based insurance under smallholder farmers~~
~~68~~	Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship Programme **(TRADE 2019- 2026)** US$ 125.35 million by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD TRADE is implemented in Chitipa, Karonga, Rumphi, Nkhatabay, Kasungu, Mchinji, Lilongwe, Dedza, Blantyre and Thyolo.	TRADE also focussed on building farmer organizations to become commercially viable and commercial entities through provision of finance, capacity building for intensification; developing agribusiness skills; capacity for value addition and market access through infrastructure development such a climate resilient roads and trade platforms, and livestock markets~~To increase value chain commercialisation and resilience of rural poor and smallholder producers~~	Beneficiaries are not expected to overlap. If they do (in Lilongwe), SCRP will only target the most vulnerable ones that might have engaged in TRADE, supporting their increase in productivity and resilience through climate-resilient practices, climate-based agro-advisory and DRM support. In this way, SCRP learnings can be combined with agribusiness skills development under TRADE for farmers to be fully supported along the value-chain. The roads maintained under TRADE will provide better support to the implementation of SCRP activities, ensuring that the most remote beneficiaries (hence more vulnerable) can be reached. ~~Both projects seek to improve value chains productivity and marketability among vulnerable communities. TRACE is successfully supporting smallholder farmers in agro-processing.~~

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ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions ~~Objectives~~	Lessons and synergies with SCRP~~Synergies~~
			~~Lessons under business management skills and agro processing will be useful for SCRP communities.~~
7	Adapting to Climate Change Through Integrated Risk Management Strategies and Enhanced Market Opportunities for Resilient Food Security and Livelihoods ~~WFP~~ (2020-2024) USD $9,989,335 by WFP and Ministry of Agriculture Projected is implemented in Balaka Zomba and Machinga	The project adaptation interventions included: a) access to micro insurance as risk transfer mechanism; b) promotion of soil and water conservation; crop diversification; irrigation; access to climate services to inform farmer decision making, access to financial services for enhanced investments in climate resilient agriculture~~to enhance climate adaptation and food security of households through access to integrated climate risk management strategies and structured market opportunities~~	While there is significant similarity in some interventions there are no duplication as SCRP will target different communities in different areas of Balaka. SCRP will improve climate-services delivery by tailoring agro-advisory to climate forecasts each season, and developing recommendations through district workshops that include all actors of the value chain to ensure cohesive information and location specific advisory. SCRP will also use these seasonal planning workshops as feedback mechanisms, learning from potential errors in previous forecasts and adjusting projections and advisory accordingly. This heavily localized and context-specific process is an improvement from previous climate services' delivery. Where deemed effective, the same channels of communication will still be used. ~~While there is significant synergy between the two projects, there are notable differences that suggest complementary rather than duplicative efforts. SCRP has a distinct emphasis on climate resilience and sustainable productivity, primarily focusing on the assessment of climate-resilient value chains and market dynamics. It also places a strong emphasis on institutional capacity building and knowledge management, particularly in modernizing agricultural extension systems and risk management. In contrast WFP implemented project focuses more into specific interventions like weather index microinsurance, soil and water conservation, and crop diversification. It uniquely focuses on building national capacities for weather index insurance and s, market access, and infrastructure for storage and aggregation.~~

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ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions ~~Objectives~~	Lessons and synergies with SCRP~~Synergies~~
8	Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project **(MWASIP 2020-2026)** USD 160,000,000 by World Bank and implemented by Ministry of Water and Sanitation Machinga, Balaka, Blantyre, Ntcheu, Mangochi, Zomba, Neno	(i) performance-based grants for restoration of approximately of degraded landscape; (ii) matching grants to enhance agricultural-based livelihoods and boost household incomes; (iii) advisory services and capacity building on Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) practices; (iv) a social marketing campaign to influence farmer behavior concerning adoption of SLM practices; (v) support to undertake local-level participatory land-use planning, land demarcation, adjudication and registration (i) performance-based grants to selected watershed management institutions (ii) technical assistance and the initial capital required to establish a pilot market-based mechanism for the provision and maintenance of selected watershed services; and (iii) a package of enabling infrastructure and climate information services	SCRP will work closely with the MWASIP team to ensure no geographical overlap of interventions in Balaka. It will seek complementarity with MWASIP interventions where possible, in cases where MWASIP infrastructure need small-scale extension work (i.e. for irrigation) to reach remote communities targeted by SCRP. Other districts do not overlap. MWASIP interventions are larger in scale than SCRP, with irrigation and dams systems spanning several communities beyond catchment and village level. Still, SCRP will seek guidance Land Resource Conservation Department (LRCD), closely coordinating MWASIP interventions, to re-use the data and technologies available from MWASIP for identifying degraded catchments and undertaking hydrological studies to inform watershed management interventions. SCRP team will also continuously work with LRCD to identify lessons learnt from successful community engagements with VNRMCs and barriers to SLM practices' adoption in MWASIP area of interventions, so that SCRP can adjust its interventions accordingly. This engagement process with LRCD has already been initiated.
9	**KULIMA (2017-2022)** EUR 110,000,000 by European Development Fund, implemented by FAO and GiZ and coordinated by Ministry of Agriculture Targeted counties: Chitipa, Karonga, Mzimba, Nkhata-Bay, Kasungu, Nkhotakota, Salima, Chiradzulu, Mulanje, Thyolo	Up-scaling climate-smart agriculture technologies, agriculture value chain and business development and support to improved governance in the agriculture sector. Putting in place an institutional framework for farmer field school programming and capacity building Capacity building of seed actors including agro-dealer, seed multipliers and community seed banks Fish ponds Agroforestry, IPM, ISFM and conservation agriculture training	SCRP interventions on capacity building for on-farm natural resource management are similar to KULIMA's, but there will be no geographical overlaps. In Mzimba, the only overlapping district, different communities will be selected to receive training. SCRP team will work closely with KULIMA team to identify barriers to adoption faced following KULIMA's interventions, and adjust SCRP's training content accordingly. The FFS framework developed under KULIMA will be directly re-used under SCRP. Only the content will be adapted in case the commodities chosen in SCRP do not overlap or to reflect season-specific climate advisory. Additional trainers may be trained under SCRP in areas not yet covered, but the framework will remain the same as the one institutionalized under KULIMA. SCRP will also learn from KULIMA's community seed banks interventions to establish further seed banks in other target areas.

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ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions Objectives	Lessons and synergies with SCRPSynergies
10	**Climate Smart Public Works Programme (CSPWP)** Funded through Multi-Donor Trust Fund and World Bank, implemented by Government of Malawi Ongoing in several districts with relevant project interventions	Cash transfer to communities against a few days of work on restoration of degraded land through flood control, land restorations, conservations, regeneration and afforestation.	A number of degraded areas were identified under CSPWP, but not rehabilitated. SCRP will use this information to target some of the areas identified to micro catchments conservation and restoration. SCRP will seek continuation with CSPWP restoration activities if they link to farmers' VNRMCs and the value chains and beneficiaries targeted.
5	Malawi Carbon Trade Initiative (Just launched and on-going) jointly managed by the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs and the Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change	To enhance forest cover, biodiversity, while maintaining supply of ecosystems services and create alternative incomes generation	SCRP will contribute to forest cover engage beneficiaries' communities in landscape restoration and assess opportunities where feasible to facilitate participation in the carbon trade initiative.

KKK.G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

53. One of the constraints the project is addressing is the limited availability of and access to consistent knowledge and capacity to adopt climate resilientresilience technologies andto enhance production and limited capacity to plan and effectively manage climate related disasters. Therefore, the project is embeddingsupporting a full-fledged knowledge management and institutional capacity building throughout its components. The costs of these interventions have been mainstreamed in components' outputscomponent. SCRP will support capacity building activities to facilitate effective implementation and inoutreach to targeted project beneficiaries.

54.92. The capacity building activities will include complementing the execution costs. In particular, the project will thoroughly document:Project Management Unit (PMU) with additional staff where needed in areas of monitoring and evaluation, procurement, agribusiness, grants management, environment and climate change, gender, nutrition and social inclusion, and a dedicated knowledge management and communication officer. SCRP will also undertake capacity building of partners at the district level to strengthen project implementation. Knowledge gathered from previous SAPP and other projects (see Table 6) to better cope with climate change impacts related to pest and disease outbreak will be promoted.

- The most appropriate agricultural practices for a given climate hazard's projection (under Component 2) (based on effectiveness but also ease of adoption for farmers), so that this might be re-used and re-adapted in the future. The project will also document the effectiveness of these practices where they have been successfully adopted, comparing them to those who received blanket agro-advisory not linked to climate-projections. The project will also document the accuracy of climate projections provided at each district's level, based on community feedback. Projections and advisory will be revised for the following seasons accordingly.
- Success stories and mechanisms for true bottom-up approaches in locally led micro-catchment restoration, and in particular the types of incentives that encourages community participation and sustainability (Component 1 and Component 3).

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- Success stories in implementing GALS approach at household level, and the implications on productivity, household income and adoption of climate-resilient practices.
- The preparedness and response to extreme events, including droughts, floods and cyclones, and best practices in reducing impacts from improving communication and interpretation of DRM alerts and information, and from improved cooperation between DoDMA and DAEC.

~~55.~~93. Outputs will also be used to formulate policy briefs and technical papers with recommendations on: (i) improved disaster management plans for the agriculture sector, and (ii) best use of digital tools in extension services. Other key learnings and how they will be captured will be laid out in a~~A~~ comprehensive Knowledge Management and communication strategy~~, to be formulated at Full proposal stage anchored on the existing M&E system, and consistent with the knowledge diffusion strategy that is being formulated under the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach – Support Programme (ASWAp-SP), will be prepared during the first year of project implementation~~. The Project will make budgetary provision to execute this function effectively, including national and international technical assistance. Knowledge harvesting, storage and processing resources will be made available to the people and organisations that need it and to ensure best use of knowledge generated by other initiatives in Malawi and the region.

~~56.~~94. To support M&E, capacity-building will also be provided on data collection, analysis and interpretation; use of electronic databases; systematic documentation and knowledge dissemination processes; and geographical information collection and analysis using open-source softwares. In line with other IFAD projects in the country, the KM system, integrating planning, M&E and communication will have the following objectives: (i) continuous information to improve project performance; (ii) identification, analysis, documentation and dissemination of best practices; (iii) interactive and inclusive communication with all stakeholders; and (iv) visibility for policy dialogue and advocacy. To this end, electronic~~Electronic~~ databases accessible through the project website~~,~~ will be developed, adapting from~~constitute~~ the existing database~~primary tool. Such databases are~~ already available under the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD)~~.) Technical Secretariat, with an experienced management team.~~ SCRP will complement in financing additional hardware and software, to better store, maintain and disseminate data from~~, and library services for document acquisition and storage at~~ various workstations where needed.

95. The overall responsibility for Knowledge Management (KM) and communication will rest with the project M&E Officer, who will coordinate with other members of the Project Management Unit (PMU), local Government counterparts and other project stakeholders to identify case studies that illustrate the impact that the project has had on improving rural livelihoods and centralize key information generated. More generally the M&E Officer together with the rest of the PMU will process the knowledge generated into an appropriate format for the general public and disseminate it. This will be done through workshops and seminars, electronic/digital media (radio, television, and internet – emails and websites); social media (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, etc.), and print media (flyers, brochures, reports, working papers, monographs, manuals).

96. The project will also document lessons learnt and disseminate knowledge products through annual performance reports (APRs), briefing notes, infographics & flyers, knowledge platforms, project performance reports (PPRs), the mid-term evaluation report (MTR) and terminal evaluation report, project stories and project videos.

~~64. Additionally, the project will employ a "value chain" approach to knowledge management, incorporating action learning approaches, training at various levels, establishment of communities of practice and systematic documentation and knowledge dissemination processes. Some of these elements are present in MoAIWD, but require better coordination, particularly the flow of information and knowledge sharing in the extension system. After information is captured, there will be value addition through interpretation and analysis, drawing on information from other sources, and adapting it for use by a range of partners. Instruments to be deployed will be specified in the knowledge management and communication strategy.~~

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~~MMM.~~H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

~~58. The~~ SCRP design adopted a highly consultative process with stakeholders at different levels which included: (i) at national level:, ~~farming communities who were involved in identifying the problems, needs related to resilience to climate change, sites for project implementation and the Government of Malawi, including the District Councils under the Ministry of Local Government, technical officers under the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry responsible for environment and natural resources management. Consultations were made between 12 -21 June 2023. The essence of the consultations was to elicit ideas from a wide range of stakeholders including vulnerable groups and gender considerations such that activities to be implemented will be inclusive and embracing across the various strata of the society and beneficiaries.~~

~~59. Face to face key informant interviews and discussions were held with several~~ government ministries and departments, financing institutions, farmer apex bodies such as Farmers Union of Malawi, ~~(Department of Planning, Department of Crop Production, Department of Livestock, Department of Irrigation, Department of Agricultural Research under the Ministry of Agriculture). Additionally further discussions were held with the Ministry of Finance; the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and the Department of Meteorology and Climate Change; and the Environmental Affairs Department; relevant NGO and private sector such as the Total Land Care and the Red Cross Society, the~~ local NGOs, UN agencies; (ii) at banks, and the seed producers. ~~Discussions with most stakeholders particularly DoDMA and Red Cross outlined the differentiated impacts that women and girls face from climate change impacts and need for gender responsive value chains and participation of women.~~

~~60. The~~ district and local level discussions ~~were also held face to face with District Council representatives in Balaka and Blantyre. Discussions focused on observed climate impacts faced in the districts, vulnerabilities, and feasible adaptation options for the districts. Further specific mixed gender groups and women only groups (potential or those that previously received support from other intervention) at community~~ level: involving the district ~~were held. Previous supported groups emphasized usefulness of the GALS approach and had increased representation of women in decision making. However, the discussions still showed that most women had limited access to credits, and access to productive assets.~~

~~61.~~97. ~~The stakeholders' engagement assisted in itemizing activities towards building leadership and governance structures; management plans that define the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders; support community efforts towards~~ agricultural extension coordination committees (DAECC); (iii) at community levels: with community leaders, potential beneficiary groups through focus group discussion segregated by gender (men,~~development including planting and replanting as well as improving disaster risk management and gender sensitive climate change adapted technologies as well as pilot risk mitigation measures such as weather asset insurance schemes. The Stakeholders' engagement elicited useful information on the activities for consideration that would benefit a wide range of stakeholders' particularly the vulnerable groups of women and~~ youth and women). ~~. A careful and deliberate integration of their views informed the entire concept development and selection of project activities. A list of stakeholders consulted, and views is attached in the annex B.~~

98. 4 key informant discussions with DAEC members were conducted (one for each district) plus one with traditional leaders~~More elaborate consultations will be done at full proposal stage including a robust gender analysis~~ in Lilongwe rural district; 6 community addition to Annex C to ensure needs for all stakeholders are included in the project. Particular attention will be given to vulnerable groups discussions (2 for each district), 24 focused group discussions with women, youth. ~~Male~~ and men~~female~~ beneficiaries will be interviewed separately (6 for each district). A total of 489 participated in the consultations, with 3% from government departments; 13% DAEC members; 7% traditional leaders; 33% women and 15% youth~~in mixed groups. A gender specialist will guide the timing~~ and 27% men. The breakdown is summarized below.

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District	Key informants				Group Discussion (C)			Focused group discussions (D)		
	DAEC Members (A)		Traditional Leaders (B)		M	F	Y	M	F	Y
	M	F	M	F						
Balaka	8	6	5	3	36	50	28	36	50	28
Lilongwe	6	10	9	4	38	41	17	38	41	17
Dowa	9	8	6	2	34	38	21	34	38	21
Mzimba	10	6	6	-	24	36	16	24	36	16
Sub- total	33	30	26	9	132	165	82	132	165	82
Total	63		35		379			379		
Total consulted (A+B+C+D)	477									

99. **Consultations with potential beneficiaries:** Intensive consultations targeted potential direct and indirect beneficiaries. Eight community group ~~location of~~ consultation meetings separated into 3 gender based focused groups of women, men and youth (24 focused group discussions were held). About 165 women, 132 men and 82 youth attended the focused group discussions. The consultation focused on understanding~~to ensure inclusive participation and ensure~~ the general challenges they face in improving their livelihood (ranking most critical challenges) particularly in agriculture where most of livelihoods are based, most common climate hazards (ranking by frequency of occurrence; climate hazards impacts (ranking by most impact on production loss or assets loss); and differential impacts of climate change on women, men and youth; their preferred value chains (food security or income generation) and adaptation solutions (ranking by most preferred). Most communities ranked drought occurrence, high land degradation, limited finance to access improved farm inputs and adopt CSA, and incidence of pest and disease as overarching factors affecting their agricultural production. High ranking suggested solutions included the need for community irrigation infrastructure, water harvesting, restoration of degraded lands, integrated pest management, and access to improved farm inputs and climate change information.

100. **Women** particularly emphasized climate change's increased impact due to droughts exacerbating food insecurity and malnutrition due to crop failure and reduced yields as most of agriculture is based on intermittent and variable rainfall. Women proposed interventions included increased access to water in the form of solar powered irrigation schemes where feasible, solar powered boreholes, restoration of degraded land and access to improve farm inputs to improve crop productivity. Due to low ownership of livestock on women, women indicated having limited opportunities to diversify from crop production. To reduce increased burden and time on fetching energy for household use, women expressed the need for capacity to establish, manage and conserve communal woodlots.

101. In addition to focus groups discussions, consultations were also held with community leaders and the front-line agricultural staff living in communities. The discussion sought to further validate the local context challenges, climate trends, impacts experienced, local adaptive capacity and ongoing climate resilient interventions. Validation of community leader and frontline extension staff confirmed that interventions were feasible to local context, gender sensitive and take the concerns of the most vulnerable population.

102. **Consultations at district level:** At district level 4 consultations were held through the District Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee (DAECC). Members of DAECC include officials from forest, agriculture, fisheries, gender and social welfare, irrigation, livestock, agri-business, environment, climate change and meteorology and nutrition sections among others. DAECC officials were informed of the SCRP objectives and the need for their respective input.

103. Discussions were held face to face through a checklist questionnaire. Issues discussed included prevalent agricultural production systems and challenges to agricultural production, vulnerable groups and factors exuberating climate vulnerability; common occurring climatic hazards, impact on vulnerable communities (segregated by gender); most vulnerable areas at district level; current interventions in enhancing climate resilience at district level; ongoing interventions to enhance women and youth empowerment at district level, including social and gender dynamics challenges to improve gender equality; suggestion of proposed objective and interventions; and district capacity needs to ensure effective implementation and sustainability. A total of 30 women and 33 men attended the DAECC consultations.

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~~62.~~104. **Consultations at national-level involving government ministries and other stakeholders:** Two format of discussion were held. Individual government ministries or departments ~~targets in~~ meetings were held. The main purpose of the meeting were to understand different ongoing projects or interventions implemented by different stakeholders, capture lessons, discuss and assess gaps that SCRP would address, and obtain inputs and contributions for overall design and relevance of interventions, including relevance to national strategies, efforts and guidelines in enhancing women and youth empowerment, social and environmental considerations. The consultations was done face to face with a list of prepared questions checklist.~~is achieved.~~

105. A preliminary selection criterion emphasizing on social inclusion was formulated from discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture with inputs from other stakeholders, such as the RedCross Society; the Department of Disaster Management Affairs; The Ministry of Gender. The national stakeholders were mostly from climate change, agricultural disaster risk, farmer apex organisations and agricultural financing institutions. A total of 15 women and 17 men participated in individual institutions' consultations. A second national stakeholder meeting was arranged through the ministry of agriculture, where the CN suggested interventions, level of interventions were validated after district and community consultations.

~~NNN.~~ Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

~~221.~~106. The agriculture sector remains a key contributor to Malawi's economy, employing around 85% of the workforce, contributing 40% of GDP and 80% of export earnings. However, the sector still faces several challenges, including climate change. Future scenarios indicate increased incidences of rainfall variability, floods and droughts. Considering that agriculture is the main and sometimes the sole livelihood option of the many intended beneficiaries, having limited adaptive capacity due to high poverty levels, overdependence of rainfed agriculture, environmental degradation, limited knowledge of improved agricultural practices and limited opportunities to diversify their farms will further worsen the poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition status, unless financial support is provided. Table 10 below summaries justification for providing that financial support.~~These challenges, considering the resource limitations faced by the vulnerable are expected to be financed from public and other multilateral funding agencies, such as the Adaptation fund.~~

Table 10: Scenario without and with adaptation cost

~~The beneficiaries of the project are among the most vulnerable communities to climate change impacts. As these communities face strategic constraints to climate resilience, notably, i) land degradation and low soil fertility, ii) limited access to improved technologies and farm inputs, iii) limited access to markets and value addition opportunities, iv) limited access to productive resources and economic empowerment for youth and women to engage in micro-enterprises and derive employment; v) limited generation and access to climate change information for informed decision making; and, vi) limited institutional capacity in disaster risk management, their livelihoods and survival are tied to effective climate change adaptation and is imperative to seeking financial support from multilateral financing institutions.~~

~~63. Selected communities face huge environmental problems that impact on the fragile ecosystem and landscape. Land degradation is Malawi is rapid and urgent efforts are required to address it. The Adaptation Fund financing would be timely to rehabilitate catchment and protect the ecosystem, land and water resources upon which most community livelihoods depend. This would lead to an increase of agricultural productivity, in addition to improvement of ecosystem services and reduction in environmental degradation.~~

~~63. Issues seeking redress in this project include sustainable agricultural practices, integrated landscape and innovative climate change and gender responsive financing. In the course of the project, it is expected that new innovative solutions, lessons and best practices will be found or refined for further upscale in future interventions. If no action is taken, there is considerable threat, as climate change risks and their intensities will increase thereby further negatively affecting the most vulnerable communities.~~

~~63. Malawi has submitted the updated NDC (GoM 2021) and highlighted the adaptation, mitigation~~

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and technological needs to fulfill its commitment under the Paris Agreement. To fully implement the mitigation and adaptation contributions highlighted in the updated NDC, Malawi requires support in the form of finance, capacity building and technology transfer. The estimated cost for adaptation measures only is about 4.5 billion USD, which requires contribution from multilateral funding agencies.

Comprehensive presentation of Scenario Without Intervention and Justification for Adaptation Cost by components:

Business as usual scenarioComponent & Outcome/Output	OutputsScenario Without Intervention	Justification for Adaptation Fund additionalityCost
Vulnerable communities, particularly women and youth and persons with disabilities, suffer disproportionately from climate change impacts. Women and youth continue being segregated from productive work, have less access to extension services and other information susceptible to increase their productivity.Outcome 1.0: Increased farmers' climate resilience in agriculture, nutritional sensitive production systems and sustainable landscape management	Output 1.1 and throughout the projectWithout support, smallholder farmers continue to face climate change risks, poor market linkages and degraded landscapes, leading to reduced productivity and resilience.	Affirmative action, targeting and gender empowerment training through GALS improves inclusivity and empowerment for women, youth and people with disabilities • **10'000 households are mentored on GALS** • **250 extension workers and 500 local facilitators are trained on GALS** • **5% of the targeted farmers are with disabilities** • **50% of the targeted farmers are women** • **30% of the targeted farmers are youth**Investment ensures sustainable agricultural practices, improved livelihoods and enhanced ecosystem health, offsetting long-term environmental and economic costs
Without participatory approaches at landscape levels, individual farmers continue to use resources for individual households with no coordination with other users nor concern for long-term availability of the resource and the ecosystem services it provides. Natural resources will continue to degrade, with high negative impacts on yields through reduced soil fertility, reduced water absorption capacity, and increased exposure to floods and strong winds.Output 1.1 Climate resilient value chains and climate sensitive market dynamics assessment conducted considering gender impacts.	Outputs 1.2 and 3.1Lack of climate resilient value chains leads to continued exposure to climate risks and market volatility, affecting farmers' incomes and food security. Stakeholder mapping, needs assessments and workshops delivered, ensuring an adequate gender balance and representation of vulnerable groups to determine regional priorities and appropriate actions	Participatory approaches help to identify uses of landscape for improved coordination among the users, and to sensitise them to the importance of sustainable management and restoration so they may continue benefitting from ecosystem services and protect their crops and livelihoods. • **80 groups involved in participatory rural appraisals, each associated with one micro-catchment**Funding for assessments and development of resilient value chains ensures sustainable agriculture, benefiting farmers economically and environmentally.
Agro-advisory and climate-resilient interventions are shaped based on blanket recommendations or based on large-scale climate models not reflecting the specificities of the soil, terrain, exposures of the communities. Theoretical impacts on agriculture production differ from what farmers actually experience. Farmers following agro-advisory continue to	Outputs 2.1 and 1.2Low adaptive capacity results in continued use of unsustainable agricultural practices, affecting crop yield and quality.	Seasonal agro-advisory is informed by participatory diagnosis with communities and a seasonal workshop between agriculture stakeholders, disaster-risk management stakeholders in each district, to tailor agro-advisory to the climatic projections and potential impacts in the specific location. Farmers adopting the recommended practices see

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Business as usual scenarioComponent & Outcome/Output	OutputsScenario Without Intervention	Justification for Adaptation Fund additionalityCost
experience yield losses and impacts of climate changeOutput 1.2 Adaptive capacity for climate-smart, nutrition-sensitive production systems and gender transformative approaches enhanced	Awareness raised through the production of leaflets, posters, radio, TV and internet campaigns	improvement in yields or reduction in the impact of climate change on their productivity. • **150 groups are consulted to specify impacts of climate change on their production throughout the seasons**Enhancing adaptive capacity through training and technology transfer leads to better crop yields and sustainable practices, justifying the cost with long-term benefits.
Climate change extreme events such as droughts and floods become increasingly frequent and intense, and growing periods become shorter, agro-pastoral systems are put at risk, with decreasing fertility and increasing pressure on resources (land and water). Vulnerable households and other farmers continue practicing agriculture following the same BAU models (no adapted varieties, no soil and water conservation, etc.) and resort to maladaptive practices (accelerated charcoal production), resulting in decreasing yields, accelerated environmental degradation, loss of livelihoods and possible outmigration/conflict.Outcome 2.0: Enhanced climate resilience and gender responsive financing	Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 3.2Without intervention, smallholder farmers remain vulnerable to climate change impacts and lack access to gender responsive financing, hindering growth.	Farmers are provided with appropriate information, training and material to improve their practices so that environmental degradation is reduced and vulnerability to climate change subsequently lowered. • **58'876 farmers have improved access to agro-advisory on climate-resilient practices** • **39'000 farmers are trained through FFS for climate-resilient practices** • **4'000 households are provided with training for making their own charcoal kiln and are provided with efficient cookstoves**Providing climate resilient financing and support for commercialization of farming systems empowers farmers, especially women, to adapt to climate change and improve their livelihoods.
Farmers cannot access agro-advisory due to lack of connectivity for digital advisory or access to extension officers. They continue implementing agricultural practices based on knowledge shared by peers or from own experience. Practices are not adapted to the changing climate nor to the increased deterioration of soils, hence yields are low and impacts of climate change threaten their livelihoodsOutput 2.1 Farmers group established or strengthened to adapt to impacts of climate change with 50% participation of women.	Output 2.1Farmers continue to work in isolation, facing climate change impacts without support, resources, or knowledge to adapt. Famers group mobilised and trained on group dynamics for business.	Resource centres are upgraded to access digital and physical information. Print media is complemented with radio and TV programs to ensure perennity of information. • **58'876 farmers have improved access to agro-advisory on climate-resilient practices** • **21 Resource Centres are upgraded**Strengthening farmer groups provides a support network, shared resources, and knowledge, leading to better climate change adaptation and collective resilience.
Farmers receive training and have access to advisory but cannot implement the recommended practices due to lack of access to inputs.Output 2.2 Climate and gender responsive and sustainable financing through Farmer Challenge Fund (FCF) to address climate resilience provided	Outputs 2.1 and 3.1Limited access to financing constrains farmers' ability to invest in climate resilient practices and technologies. * Ensuring gender equity in accessing financing under the FCF	Lead farmers graduating from the FFS are provided with the inputs necessary to continue implementing the practices, offer them to other farmers and reproduce the seeds and share inputs necessary to continue implementing IPM and ISFM. Beneficiaries are also able to access and multiply their seeds to maintain genetic diversity on the farm as per the FFS recommendations. Agro-dealers and seed providers are also informed of the seasonal agro-advisory so that inputs can be stocked accordingly. • **1'950 lead farmers are provided with inputs following FFS curriculum**

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Business as usual scenarioComponent & Outcome/Output	OutputsScenario Without Intervention	Justification for Adaptation Fund additionalityCost
	Beneficiaries – women and men – identified and grant equivalent assets distributed for innovative climate resilience technologies	• 25 community seed banks are created for farmers to multiply and access seedsThe Farmer Challenge Fund enables access to necessary financing, driving the adoption of climate resilient practices and technologies.
Climate change extreme events such as droughts and floods become increasingly frequent and intense, and growing periods become shorter, agro-pastoral systems are put at risk, with decreasing fertility and increasing pressure on resources (land and water). Vulnerable households and other farmers continue practicing agriculture following the same BAU models (no adapted varieties, no soil and water conservation, etc.) and resort to maladaptive practices (accelerated charcoal production), resulting in decreasing yields, accelerated environmental degradation, loss of livelihoods and possible outmigration/conflict.Outcome 2.0: Enhanced climate resilience and gender responsive financing	Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 3.2Without intervention, smallholder farmers remain vulnerable to climate change impacts and lack access to gender responsive financing, hindering growth.	Farmers are provided with appropriate information, training and material to improve their practices so that environmental degradation is reduced and vulnerability to climate change subsequently lowered. • 58'876 farmers have improved access to agro-advisory on climate-resilient practices • 39'000 farmers are trained through FFS for climate-resilient practices • 4'000 households are provided with training for making their own charcoal kiln and are provided with efficient cookstovesProviding climate resilient financing and support for commercialization of farming systems empowers farmers, especially women, to adapt to climate change and improve their livelihoods.
Hilltops and landscape are degraded, charcoal production and agricultural expansion continue to drive deforestation. Flood water flows downstream at increased speeds, bringing sediments into downstream water bodies and physical damages to crops and infrastructure. Where afforestation activities take place, they are unsustainable as farmers resort to deforestation for charcoal production and the cycle repeats.Outcome 3.0: Strengthened institutional capacity in knowledge management, agriculture extension and disaster risk management.	Outputs 3.1 and 3.2Without strengthening, institutions remain ill-equipped to manage climate change impacts, lacking capacity in knowledge dissemination and disaster risk management.	Critical parts of the landscape are restored. Woodlot serve as flood mitigation and windbreaks structures, so climate impacts are reduced. They also provide income-generation opportunity, and other services, so the community continues to manage it sustainably and the benefits are maintained. In the same community, household use more efficient cooking techniques so their need for cooking wood is reduced • 150 groups are supported with afforestation in the form of community woodlots, and associated management plans • All community woodlots include trees and foster activities that support income-generation from trees • 4'000 households are provided with training for making their own charcoal kiln and are provided with efficient cookstovesInvesting in institutional capacity and knowledge management ensures effective climate change adaptation strategies, reducing long-term climate-related risks.
Water resources continue to be depleted or inaccessible due to weather hazards, while large-scale irrigation infrastructure does not serve the most vulnerable communities and existing infrastructure is deteriorated. Yield	Outputs 2.1 and 3.2Inadequate staff training and poor coordination lead to ineffective	Farmers adopt water saving measures on the farm. Small-scale water collection and storage infrastructure are available at shorter distances. Existing infrastructure is restored. Women have

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Business as usual scenarioComponent & Outcome/Output	OutputsScenario Without Intervention	Justification for Adaptation Fund additionalityCost
productivity subsequently reduces, alongside health and sanitation quality in households. Women continue to walk longer distances to fetch water for their households, further increasing their exposure to climate hazards, increasing their insecurity levels and reducing their time and access to productive resources and knowledge. Output 3.1 Capacity staff and institutions in climate related modern agricultural extension systems and disaster risk management enhanced with participation of both women, men and youth:	implementation and monitoring of climate change adaptation strategies.	time to attend other productive activities and are less exposed to sun. • **20 small-scale community irrigation schemes are built, serving 600 households** • **50 solar-powered boreholes with tanks provide WASH water for 5'000 households** • **50 gullies are reclaimed after having suffered from erosion, sedimentation or other impacts from climate change**Training staff and improving coordination enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of climate change adaptation strategies, offering long-term benefits.
Yields improve but farmers lack capacity to store harvest for long enough until it can be sold or used. Resources used in producing the harvest, including land, water, nutrient and time from the farmers are lost as the harvest quality degrades rapidly due to pest, sun, heat or humid conditions following floods.	Outputs 3.2	Climate-resilient storage facilities help farmers conserve their harvest for longer. Incomes increase from selling their harvest and health improves from consuming less aflatoxin. • **125 climate-resilient storage facilities are build**
Lack of capacity in modern agricultural extension and disaster risk management leads to poor dissemination of early warning systems and ineffective risk management and response. DRM advisory and EWS do not reflect farmers' needs and are not provided on time, agriculture extension officers and farmers cannot interpret the implications of alerts received, so farmers cannot protect their farm and livelihood accordingly.Output 3.2 Knowledge management and M&E on climate change adaptation strengthened considering the specific requirements of women and youth	Outputs 4.1 and 4.2Lack of capacity in modern agricultural extension and disaster risk management leads to poor dissemination of climate information and ineffective risk management.	Disaster Risk Management Officers and Agriculture Department for Extension services are collaborating directly. Early Warning System is received on time and tailored to farmers' needs in each district. Farmers are able to interpret the information provided and act in a timely manner to protect their farm and/or are able to access the right resources to rebuild after disasters, with the support from their extension officers. • **150 extension workers are trained on disaster risk management and early warning systems** • **50 workshops are taking place to coordinate disaster management and early warning systems' design with agricultural calendars and needs so advice is responsive to the sector** • **250 villages are sensitized by extension officers on improved disaster management processes and early warning systems, and the role of agriculture extension in supporting farmers preparing for and responding to disasters. Village Civil Protection Committees Action Plans are revised accordingly** • **5 policy papers or regulatory documents are supported or enhanced following improved coordination between disaster management department and agriculture extension officers in each district**Building capacity in these areas ensures better preparedness and response to climate

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Business as usual scenarioComponent & Outcome/Output	OutputsScenario Without Intervention	Justification for Adaptation Fund additionalityCost
		change impacts, safeguarding agricultural productivity and community well-being.
Component 1: Increased smallholder productivity and climate resilience		
Output 1.3 Sustainable management of landscapes and restoration of degraded micro catchments enhanced emphasizing inclusive participation	Continued land degradation exacerbates soil erosion, flood impact, and loss of biodiversity, affecting agricultural productivity. • Gender-sensitive training programmes designed, trainers of trainers and male and female beneficiaries trained	Restoration of landscapes and micro-catchments prevents further degradation, enhances ecosystem services, and supports agricultural sustainability.
Component 2: Promoting commercialization of climate smart smallholder farming systems		
Component 3: Strengthened institutional capacity and knowledge management systems		

EEEE.J. Describe how the sustainability of the project outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project.

107. **Environmental sustainability** is embedded in the project, notably through the adoption of a soil regeneration and ecosystem-services restoration approach both at farm and wider landscape level, respectively through the promotion of climate resilient practices in line with the principles of integrated soil fertility management under the first component and the promotion of the integrated planning of micro-catchment resource management and ecosystem restoration measures under the second component.

108. **Social sustainability** will be fostered through **community engagement** throughout the project. SCRP is designed and will be implemented through farmer groups and participatory approaches. This ensures, among others, that access to capacity building initiatives is improved as it is often accessed in groups; sharing of lessons between farmers is facilitated through connections made in groups; and planning and delivering of interventions and investments' is conceived as a joint commitment and responsibility among community members, promoting ownership. This approach relying on community engagement will improve the sustainability of the interventions throughout the project, either informally through continued community interactions or formally through management plans designed to sustain the group interventions. The GALS approach is also built to ensure deep-rooted cultural norms and assumptions regarding women participation are within communities and households, beyond the project's interventions only. This ensures that the project's focus on women participation and subsequent improvements in their decision-making role can be sustained once the activities are over, as households' perception of women themselves will have changed.

109. **Economic sustainability.** In the case of afforestation, the intervention will be specifically designed to promote community woodlots that would not close-off an area from the community and deprive them of valuable resources. Instead, these woodlots will be able to provide income sources and/or raw materials needed in the community, so that the benefits from trees are directly perceived and reverting to deforestation

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is dis-incentivised. To maintain this beyond the project lifecyle, **management plans** will be drawn with the community to guide what, when, and how much can be used/extracted from the woodlot so that it continues yielding in the long-term. A similar management approach will be adopted for water infrastructure-. Several **income-generating activities** have also been embedded in the project, including charcoal-making kilns, beekeeping and other products that may be sold from community-woodlots. As farmers are rational economic decision-makers, tying interventions to income generation is key to ensure they continue implementing them.

110. **Institutional sustainability**. While the SCRP coordination will be undertaken by PMU, the actual implementation at the community level will be through the existing government structures and staff. Firstly, adequate capacity building based on capacity needs will be undertaken for all frontline staff in the project areas, who will be technically backstopped by technical staff at district, PMU and respective ministry or departments. Secondly, as frontline government staff are permanent staff, their guidance and support to farmers will continue beyond the project period, informed by the learnings from SCRP. To secure the knowledge gained through the implementation of SCRP, extension manuals and good agricultural practices guidelines will be updated. Other farmers receiving extension services will hence also benefit from the learnings and material developed under SCRP beyond the project's lifetime, as those documents are the basis for extension services' support.

Having assessed the impact and the potential of climate hazards, the project highlighted future climate change risks in selected regions and identified and recommended the key adaptation options to build resilience. A Targeted Adaptation Assessment will be conducted to provide guidance during project implementation and ensure that the investments made are cushioned against climate change impacts, hence enhancing financial feasibility and sustainability of the project results.

64. Secondly, capacity of both farmers and public institutions at district level and local community institutions, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, District Council under the Ministry of Local Government, Village Civil Protection Committees in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction will be enhanced. Rather than targeting individuals, as much as feasible capacity building initiative will involve ToT, groups and committees for sustainability. Additionally, as the institutions are permanent, they will outlive the project duration and continue to be functional in future.

64. Of particular importance to sustainability of the project is the vital need to increase agricultural productivity to improve the effectiveness of the various investments and enable rainfed crops to be produced sustainably without high levels of subsidization. Three of the four main thrusts of SCRP will directly address the twin issues of productivity and government support levels, which underpin the move towards a more sustainable future for the sector: (i) a shift in emphasis from subsidized input supply to improved productivity; (ii) more effective and sustainable service delivery through community-based farmer-to farmer extension services; and (iii) institutional and management innovations improve the access to key agricultural inputs through commercial channels.

64. SCRP will place emphasis on active community participation in the implementation and management of project interventions. This approach will ensure that the communities are at the centre of the project, owning activities that are directly beneficial to them, and in the course increasing their knowledge and adaptive capacity to climate change. As a result, resilient climate activities will sustainable beyond the project's life. Additionally, project activities such as the restoration of landscapes, rehabilitation, and better management of small-scale community irrigation schemes, have long-term lifespan with continuous benefits, if well maintained.

64. Additionally, the selected value chains will have been developed to ensure financial feasibility and sustainability. Farmers will be trained in business management and growth. As farmers will work in groups, they will have larger volumes of production and increased bargaining for better markets. Farmer groups are also better off to access credits or loans from financing institutions that individuals.

64. The FCF will be transparent and competitive. Thereby offering support to groups that meet the sustainability criteria. Oversight of the FCF will be managed by the Fund Manager with support of the Ministry and Districts Councils. The replenishment of the CFC will be in phases where a particular farmers group has fulfilled certain activities, such as undertaking relevant value chains trainings and made own contributions. As an example, a farmer group on livestock will have been trained in livestock

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managements, allocated land for folder and constructed livestock facilities before livestock is delivered. Additionally, there will be delivery of services and goods and not cash to ensure that the support received in snot diverted.

The FCF while providing medium opportunities to selected farmers groups have multiple benefits for sustainability. Firstly, selected groups will have capacity in business management and may transition into a formal legal entities entity that may easily access loans from lending institutions. Secondly lessons will be developed and shared on how to improve climate resilient financing of small-scale farmers who are most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being ~~relevant to the project.~~

~~66.~~111. A preliminary screening of the project was conducted to identify risks and mitigation measures and to determine the need for additional studies. The environment and social risk category of the project is rated as a Moderate risk (Category B) according to the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (PCN, section D~~).~~), with the main risks including, resource efficiency and pollution prevention, labour and working conditions and, community health, safety and security.

~~67. Preliminary climate risk of the project was done and rated as substantial. The programme interventions aim to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and populations. A targeted climate risk assessment, outlining future impacts and adaptation options on selected value chains will be further developed (section J) which is in line with SECAP requirement for project with substantial climate risk to produce targeted adaptation assessment.~~

~~68.~~112. During the full proposal development stage, the Project Development Team (PDT) will confirm the risk categorization and develop an Environment and~~,~~ Social~~, Climate~~ Management Framework, (ESMP~~Plan (ESCMP~~), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). Should the risk categorization change during the full proposal development, the PDT will develop additional studies and documentations in accordance with Government of Malawi Guidelines and Adaptation Fund Social and Environmental Policy standards. All~~As previously stated, all~~ the sub-projects will undergo environmental and social safeguards screening and formulation of specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). The project will conduct gender-disaggregated data collection and a gender specialist will be recruited to ensure gender considerations in project design and implementation.

~~68. As outlined in the project interventions, the project will go beyond doing no harm, with activities including catchment and ecosystems conservations, enhance access to clean energy sources, including solar panels, and efficient energy stoves" (PCN, section B). Recommendation: At the full proposal formulation the project will assess the project greenhouse emission potential using the EX-ACT carbon tool.~~

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Compliance with the Law ~~National Environmental Acts (2014) and Adaptation Fund Social and Environmental Policy 15 principles~~	X ~~(low risk)~~	**No risk** The project will ensure strict adherence to National Environmental Acts (2017~~2014~~) and Adaptation Fund Social and Environmental Policy 15 principles and other international obligations~~. Where required Environmental~~ Social and Climate Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed at~~the~~ full proposal development, whereas specific project interventions will have Environment, Social and Management Plans at the time of execution. SCRP ~~to ensure its implementation the project~~ shall collaborate with MEPA during implementation of specific ESMPs. Other laws~~the Environmental Affairs Department~~ and regulations have been identified in Section D Part II. The small-scale of SCRP interventions limits the risks of not being compliant. Each law and regulation will nonetheless be reviewed, and compliance will be ensured at procurement and implementation. It will be verified during monitoring/supervision missions~~other stakeholders~~.

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Access and Equity The project will conform to Malawi Gender Equality Act 2023) and Social Welfare Policy (2028) and confirm to Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (2017)	X (low risk)	**Low risk** Some risksrisk that may arise due to cultural norms regarding community dynamics with regards to participation of women and youth participation, where. However, the project will develop a targeting and social inclusion strategy at the full proposal formulation stage that ensures equitable access to project benefits in an inclusive manner among women and(50%), youth do not have equal access to the project's resources(30%) and/or their participation is only performative. The government and the Ministry of Agriculture already have a number of guidelines and policies to ensure gender equality and empowerment. Affirmative men through affirmative action to ensure women and youth participation will be taken to ensure 50% ofat the beneficiaries are women and 30% are youth.full proposal develop. Selection of project interventions shall conform to all gender needs and participation, such as adequate timing and location of capacity-building activities, etc. to remove barriers to women and youth. Additionally, IFAD will widely promote its grievance procedures, providing a means for anyone who believes they have been wronged to seek appropriate remedies. By prioritizing transparency and accountability, the project aims to mitigate any adverse effects on affected individuals and ensure their rights are protected.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups *Project will follow Malawi Gender Equality Act (2023) and Social Welfare Policy (2018)*	X (low risk)	**Low risk** The programme aims to target the vulnerable and resource restricted but physically able individuals forming groups in conformity with Social Welfare Policy (2018). As stated, a BeneficiarySocial Inclusion Target Strategy will be developed to guide beneficiary. Further the selection of beneficiaries. At least 50% of them will be women, 30% will be youth and 5% will be with disability. The project does not have any components that may bring disproportionate adverse effects on the marginalized and vulnerable groups in particular women and youth, people with disabilities and HIV affected groups. This, but will be informed by consultations. The project will ensureensures participation and equal access to resources. Additionally, this project will respect land, property and customary rights. Cultural norms may still present a risk. By prioritizing transparency and accountability through its Grievance Procedure and disaggregated M&E, the project aims to mitigate any adverse effects on affected individuals and ensure their rights are protected.
Human Rights *The Project will be conformity with Human Rights Charter and the Malawi Constitution*	X (no risk) The programme will respect international human rights charter and Malawi. It integrates overarching human rights principles to enhance climate change resilience, equal access to productive resources and enhancement of Sustainable Development Goals	**No risks** The project affirms the rights of all people and does not violate any pillar of human rights. No activities will be proposed that could present a risk of non-compliance with either national requirements relating to Human Rightsfurther studies, or with International Human Rights Laws and Conventions.analysis needed.

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment *Project will follow Malawi Gender Equality Act 2023) and Social Welfare Policy (2028) and confirm to Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (2017).*	X (moderate risk) Project incorporates gender sensitive decision-making process and women and Youth Empowerment. The project ensures that both men and women participate equally, equal sharing of benefits and that men and women do not suffer disproportionate effects for project development processes. Project also includes interventions such as clean energy access, water harvesting which burden women involvement in productive work.	**Low risk** Some risks may arise due to cultural norms regarding women, where women do not have equal access to the project's resources and/or their participation is only performative. Key considerations have been taken into account through the initial gender assessment conducted at Concept Note stage. AHowever, a detailed gender analysis will be further conducted at the full proposal development to ensure that all gender aspects are further fully incorporated. Women will make up 50% of the beneficiaries and their participation in the project will be monitored. The implementation of the gender strategy and action plan will be monitored. Through the GALS approach and through gender-based targeting, the project will seek to achieve women empowerment through three strategic pathways: (i) promote economic empowerment to enable rural women and men to have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from profitable economic activities; (ii) enable women and men to have an equal voice and influence in rural institutions and organizations; and, (iii) achieve a more equitable balance of workloads and the sharing of economic and social benefits between women and men. In addition to GALS, specific interventions such as community-based water infrastructure of smaller scale and energy efficient stoves have been inbuilt in SCRP specifically for their potential to reduce women workloads.
Core Labour Rights *Project will conform with the Malawi Labour Act (GoM*	X (low risk) Sometimes there is isolated incidences of child labour.	**Low risk** SCRP will be bound by ILO Regulations, the Malawi Labour Act (GoM 2000)[94] and Malawi Employment Act (2014). As there are some isolated incidences of child labour, the project will raise awareness and forbid children's work among beneficiaries. This will be laid out in the ECSMP and associated to specific monitoring processes. The programme will ensure that all appropriate health and safety measures are taken in accordance with both national and

94 Ministry of Labour (2000). Malawi Labour Act. https://invest.mitc.mw/images/downloads/Employment-and-Labour-Acts-of-Malawi.pdf

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
~~2000)[93], Malawi Employment Act (2014)~~	~~However, project will comply with National Labour Act 2000) that ban child labour.~~	international standards. ~~The project will raise awareness on prevention of child labour.~~
Indigenous Peoples	X ~~(no risk) Not applicable to the project and in the country.~~	**No risk** Intensive consultations with government, NGOs and communities confirmed that there are no people categorized as indigenous in Malawi. In any case, project will adhere to issues of Free and Prior Informed Consent to all beneficiaries and social inclusion without segregation of people's orientation~~further studies~~ or tribes.~~analysis needed~~
Involuntary Resettlement	X ~~(no risk) No involuntary resettlement is foreseen. The programme will collaborate with communities in their locations and on a voluntary basis. Therefore, no resettlements or even displacement to new locations is expected.~~	**No risk** ~~However,~~ No involuntary resettlement is foreseen. The programme will collaborate with communities in their locations and on a voluntary basis and only include small-scale works. Therefore, no resettlements or even displacement to new locations is expected. FPIC will be sought from each~~by~~ individual group members as they ~~shall be deduced by their agreement to~~ join the respective farmer groups. IFAD's grievance procedures will be widely promoted, providing a means for anyone who believes they have been wronged ~~freely or obtained through prior~~, to seek appropriate remedies.~~project start up~~
Protection of Natural Habitats ~~*Environmental Management Act 2017 and the Malawi National Park and Wildlife Act amended 2017*~~	X ~~(no risk) Project has not involved protected areas or habitants. Additionally, the proposed project seeks to enhance landscape, ecosystem restoration and livelihood enhancem~~	**No risk** The project is not expected to have any negative impact on critical natural habitats including those that are (a) legally protected; (b) officially proposed for protection; (c) recognised by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or (d) recognised as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities. Site selection criteria to be further elaborated at project proposal stage will de-facto exclude such sites from project interventions.~~studies or analysis needed~~

~~[93] Ministry of Labour (2000). Malawi Labour Act. https://invest.mitc.mw/images/downloads/Employment_and_Labour_Acts_of_Malawi.pdf~~

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	~~ent thereby bringing positive benefits to degraded ecosystems. Project shall be in conformity of stated laws.~~	
Conservation of Biological Diversity	X ~~(no risk) There is minor risk to the conservation of biodiversity as no invasive plant or animal species will be promoted. On the other hand, deliberate efforts will be taken to ensure that interventions are compliant with all relevant national and international laws on conservation of biological diversity.~~	**Low risk** Only minor risks to biological diversity may arise from use of pesticides and/or introduction of pests and diseases. The project will not promote any invasive plant or animal species. It will abide by the Pest act and have its own Integrated Pest Management Plan. It will only use indigenous or proven locally adapted species of trees and crops. Improvements in biological diversity may be seen from increased habitats (through community woodlot and improved soil cover) and pollination (through increased diversity on the farms and beekeeping.)~~No further studies or analysis needed.~~
Climate Change	X ~~(no risk) The programme interventions don't involve large scale agriculture, construction, large afforestation. Additionally, project has CSA adaptation options that~~	**No risk** The project's interventions do not involve large scale agriculture, construction works, nor large afforestation requiring extensive land preparation. Additionally, project has CSA adaptation options including improved soil fertility and environmental restoration, which can act as carbon capture. Clean energy technologies such as solar will be promoted (in water infrastructure, storage, etc) to reduce GHG emissions. ~~However, the selected project areas have high risks of climate events in this case a detailed analysis of VCs adaptation options shall be undertaken.~~

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	~~actually reduce incidence of GHG emissions~~	
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency ~~*Environmental Management Act 2017 and the Malawi Pesticide Act (2014)*~~	~~X (low risk) There is possibility of minor but unlikely pollutions due to use of fertilizers and pesticides at limited scale. Generally, the Programme activities will not generate pollution and loss of resources. On the other hand, activities will contribute to sustainable land management, efficient water use, clean energy sources and prevention of soil and water pollution.~~	**Low risk** No farming interventions will expand into non-agricultural areas. However, there is a possibility of minor but unlikely pollution due to use of fertilizers and pesticides at a limited scale. A~~A~~t proposal development project will develop an ESMF~~, and~~ including a pest management plan ~~will be elaborated~~ with the necessary mitigation measures and monitoring mechanism for pesticide use. IPM practices will also be promoted to reduce use of pesticides, and ISFM practices promoted should contribute to reduced needs of chemical fertilisers. Where inorganic fertiliser cannot be avoided, precise application techniques to be promoted The specifications of fertilisers and pesticides contracted by the PMU will be required to operate in line with the specifications in IFAD SECAP VOL 1 Annex 4 and the WHO-FAO codes for safe labelling, packaging, handling, storage, application and disposals of pesticides~~.~~
Public Health	~~X (no risk). Project seeks to promote food and nutrition security and household income which will include public health and~~	**Low risk** SCRP will not and does not envisage any activities that will negatively impact on public health directly. However, potential health and food safety concerns may arise from the production of chosen crops along the value chains in case practices promoted are not fully adopted. For example high aflatoxin content of groundnuts and other grains; increased agricultural productivity from the use of inorganic and pesticides can result in increased use of agrochemicals. Poor agrochemical handling and application can increase the risks to the health of pesticide-exposed people and agricultural product consumers. The project will promote practices that reduce the need for pesticides and chemical fertilizer used. The use of organic fertilisers and pesticides will be promoted where possible. Where it cannot be avoided, precise application techniques will be promoted. Farmers will also be trained on health and safety requirements for safe application and storage, using the protocols provided by the Ministry of Health.~~No further studies or analysis required~~

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	~~livelihoods~~	
Physical and Cultural Heritage	X ~~(no risk) The programme will avoid areas with physical and cultural heritage for implementation of its activities. While the project will incorporate local knowledge and species in adopting modern technologies, the programme will not permit and does not envisage implementation of activities that will target specific physical assets in the project areas~~	~~**No risk**~~ The programme will not take place in areas with physical and cultural heritage. While the project will incorporate local knowledge and species in adopting modern technologies, the programme will not permit and does not envisage implementation of activities that will target specific physical and cultural heritage assets in the project areas. Where feasible, local knowledge will be promoted, for instance in control of pests~~further studies~~ or climate projections and forecasting.~~analysis required~~
Lands and Soil Conservation	X ~~(no risk) The programme aims to improve vegetative cover, introduce soil and water conservation, landscape restoration, and improve community resilience through climate~~	**Low to no risk** The project will promote sustainable land management practices at landscape (micro-catchments) and farm level. Soil conservation, fertility and health will be the primary focus of capacity-building interventions for improved resilience to climate hazards. Activities are focusing on small-scale farmers, with low potential to impacts soil health at large. Only small localised impacts may occur if the practices promoted are not adopted successfully. This will be carefully monitored and addressed through the ESCMP monitoring plan. Even then, impacts are not expected to be worth than the baseline scenario without the project. Erosion is also expected to be limited through improved vegetation cover in micro-catchment and on the field, reducing soil loss. ~~No further studies or analysis is needed~~

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Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
	~~smart agriculture~~	

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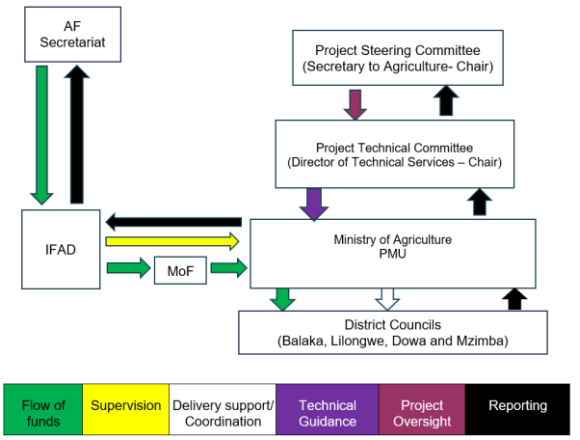
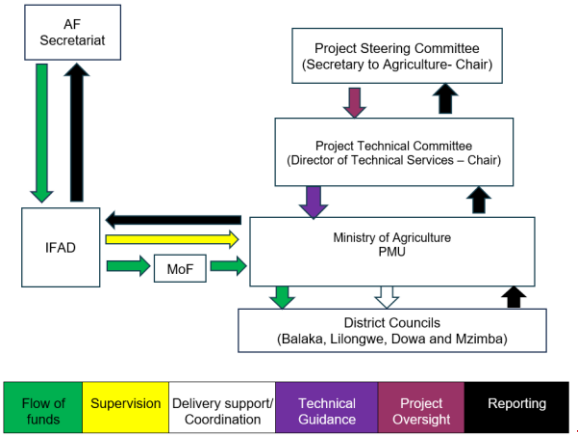
PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

IFAD

113. ~~FAD~~ will be the implementing entity responsible for the fiduciary and supervision of the project while the Ministry of Agriculture will be the executing entity in partnership with District Councils and support of relevant stakeholders.





Roles and responsibilities

Programme Steering Committee	The project will adopt the existing SAPP II Programme Steering Committee, which will provide for project oversight. The Ministry of Agriculture Permanent Secretary will be the Chairperson of the Project Steering Committee (PSC). Other members of the PSC include Principal Secretaries for Ministries of Trade and Industry, Local Government, Unity and Culture; Gender, Child Protection and Social Welfare; Youth and Sports; Natural Resources and Climate Change; Chief Executive Officers from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR); National Association of Smallholder Farmers in Malawi (NASFAM); Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI);

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	Farmers Union of Malawi (FUM), Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) and Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET).
Programme Technical Committee	The project will adopt the SAPP II Programme Technical Committee (PTC), which will provide technical support to both the PSC and the Programme Management Unit (PMU). The Director of Agricultural Planning Services will be the chair of the PTC. The members of the PTC will mirror the membership of the PSC and other technical Directors of the Ministry of Agriculture, including the Head of the National Agriculture Investment Programme (NAIP).
Ministry of Agriculture	The Ministry of Agriculture will host the PMU. The Ministry shall nominate a senior officer who will be a focal point to support, address or relay project issues requiring the redress by the Ministry. The ministry through its extension and research will directly support or undertake implementation of some of the SCRP activities. The Ministry will also provide technical guidance to the frontline extension officer in the district assemblies. The Ministry shall be responsible for reviewing and approving progress reports to IFAD.
IFAD	As per Adaptation Fund procedures IFAD will be the implementing entity responsible for the fiduciary and supervision of the project. IFAD shall ensure financial disbursement in a timely manner, provide supervision and implementation support and reporting to the Adaptation Fund.
Project Management Unit	The SAPP II PMU established under the Ministry of Agriculture, will be responsible for day-to-day project implementation. The PMU led by a Programme Coordinator will deliver through an M&E Officer, Assistant M&E Officer, Knowledge Management Officer, Programme Accountant and Assistant Programme Accountant, Gender, Youth, Nutrition and Social Inclusion Officer, Grants Management Officer, Environment and Climate Officer, Procurement Officer, Assistant Procurement Officer, Agribusiness Officer, Administrative Officer/Assistant, Messenger and four Drivers. The PMU will work closely with the technical departments of MoA who will support programme implementation by providing technical expertise in the relevant technical areas of the programme including crop development and animal health & livestock development, agriculture extension & agribusiness, research, land resources conservation and natural resources management.
District Commissioners	In line with the decentralization efforts of the Government of Malawi, the district entities will play an important role in the implementation of the project. The Government Ministries are also represented in different ways at the district levels. At the district level the various government departments all report to the District Commissioner even though they still belong to the line ministries. The District Commissioner aids in the planning and implementation of all developmental activities at the district levels. Among other aspects they provide extension workers who provide technical assistance to farmers on the ground. District Commissioners will provide project implementation oversight through the office of the Director of Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, working closely with the Directors of Planning and Development.

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Demonstrate how the project aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Impact: Contribute towards wealth creation, and improve food and nutrition security among the rural population of Malawi

Goal: Build adaptive capacity and resilience of rural men and women in Malawi, and enhance disaster risk management along the agriculture value chain to increase food and nutrition security for smallholder farmers

Project Outcomes[95]	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1. Sustainable and inclusive natural resource management solutions support farmers' resilience beyond SCRP	• Individuals demonstrating an improvement in empowerment • Households reporting they can influence decision-making of local authorities and project-supported service provider	Critical to the achievement of outcomes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 listed below	Critical to the achievement of outcomes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 listed below	558'000
Outcome 2. Improved resilience and productivity of men, women and young farmers	• Persons provided with and accessing climate information services (disaggregated by gender and age group) • Number of ha brought under climate-resilient practices	**Outcome 3.** Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at local level **Outcome 8.** Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies.	**Outcome 3.** Percentage of targeted population aware of predicted adverse impacts of climate change, and of appropriate responses Percentage of targeted population applying appropriate adaptation responses **Outcome 8.** Innovative adaptation practices are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated at regional, national and/or subnational level	4'000'000
Outcome 3. Enhanced resilience through ecosystem services improvements and social inclusion and empowerment	• Number of farming HH trained in micro-catchment and sustainable soil fertility management (disaggregated by gender and age group) • Number of farming HH accessing natural resource assets built under the project, for own use or income generation (disaggregated by gender and age group)	**Outcome 5.** Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress **Outcome 6.** Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	**Outcome 5.** Ecosystem services and natural resource assets maintained or improved under climate change and variability-induced stress **Outcome 6.** Percentage of households and communities having more secure access to livelihood assets	2'860'000
Outcome 4. Reduced agricultural losses from extreme weather events	• National DRM and/or EWS policies and/or processes revised to better respond to agricultural sector needs • Government staff trained on disaster preparedness,	**Outcome 2.** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses **Outcome 7.** Improved policies	**Outcome 2.** Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related events from targeted institutions increased **Outcome 7.** Climate change priorities are integrated into national development strategy	1'000'000

95 The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology, but the overall principle should still apply

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	mitigation and timely response	and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures		
Project Outputs[96]	**Project Output Indicator(s)**	**Fund Output**	**Fund Output Indicator**	**Grant Amount (USD)**
Output 1.1 Strengthened inclusivity and women empowerment	• People trained on GALS	Critical to the achievement of outcomes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 listed below	Critical to the achievement of outcomes 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 listed below	198'000
Output 1.2. Community ownership over on-farm and catchment-based natural resource management for climate resilience	• Number of groups consulted in the development of interventions, and associated number of households			360'000
Output 2.1 Timely, accessible, inclusive and climate-informed agro-advisory services	• Number of Resource Centres upgraded with new climate information and climate-sensitive agro- advisory • Number of workshops focused on climate projection review and seasonal climate-informed agro-advisory development • Number of communication products developed	**Output 3.1.** Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities **Output 3.2.** Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	**Output 3.1.** No. of news outlets in the local press and media that have covered the topic **Output 3.2.1.** No. of technical committees/associations formed to ensure transfer of knowledge	700'000
Output 2.2 Improved capacities and inclusive access to resources for climate-resilient and gender-sensitive agriculture practices	• Households reporting adoption of environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices • Number of HH benefiting from sustainable soil and water conservation practices	**Output 8.** Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	**Output 8.1.** No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	3'300'000
Output 3.1 Restored natural resources and genetic diversity, empowering women and youth	• Number of community seed banks built • Ha of community woodlots created	**Output 5.** Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	**Output 5.1.** No. of natural resource assets created, maintained or improved to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by type and scale)	641'000
Output 3.2 Reduced pressure on natural resources, alleviating women burden	• Number of water infrastructure built or restored • Number of charcoal kilns built • Number of group storage facilities built	**Output 6.** Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	**Output 6.1.1** No. and type of adaptation assets (tangible and intangible) created or strengthened in support of individual or community livelihood strategies	2'219'000

[96] The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology, but the overall principle should still apply

Output 4.1 Inclusive Disaster Risk Management mainstreamed in extension services	• Number of policy briefs produced, with recommendations on DRM and EWS in agriculture	**Output 7.** Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	**Output 7.1.** No. of policies introduced or adjusted to address climate change risks (by sector)	400'000
Output 4.2 Inclusive Disaster Risk Management processes devolved through the agriculture sector	• Number of Village Civil Protection Committee Action Plans reviewed • Number of extension officers trained in EWS and DRM in each district • Extension officers reporting increased coordination with disaster response groups in the district	**Output 2.1.** Strengthened capacity of national and sub-national centres and networks to respond rapidly to extreme weather events	**Output 2.1.1.** No. of targeted institutions with increased capacity to minimize exposure to climate variability risks (by type, sector and scale)	600'000

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PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

~~PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY~~

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[97]

2

Mr. Nations Msowoya Director - Debt and Aid Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Department of Economic Planning and Development	Date: 20 December 2023

B. Implementing Entity certification

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans of Angola and Namibia and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this programme.	
Juan Carlos Mendoza Implementing Entity Coordinator Director, Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division International Fund for Agricultural Development	
Date: 22 December 2023	email: Juancarlos.mendoza@ifad.org
HQ Focal point Ms Janie Rioux Senior Technical Specialist (Climate Change) AF Coordinator ECG Division, IFAD	Email: j.rioux@ifad.org
Project Contact Person: Mr Claus Reiner, Regional Climate and Environment Specialist East and Southern Africa, ECG Division, IFAD Tel: +254 793 484 367	
Email: c.reiner@ifad.org	
Ms Bernadette Mukonyora Country Director for Malawi, ESA, IFAD	
Email: b.mukonyora@ifad.org	

[97] Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities

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Annex A. Letter of Endorsement

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Telephone: 01 789 355
Telefax: 01 789 173
Telex: 44407
Email:secmof@finance.gov.mw

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 30049,
CAPITAL CITY,
LILONGWE 3, MALAWI

Ref. No. FIN/DAD/5/1/7/NC

20th December 2023

The Adaptation Fund
1818H Street, NW,
MSN 7N-700
Washington, DC 20433,
USA

Dear Adaptation Fund Secretariat,

Subject: Endorsement for "Smallholder Climate Resilience Project (SCRP)"

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Malawi, I confirm that the above national grant proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Malawi.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and executed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Nations Msowoya
DIRECTOR
FOR: SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

Telephone: 01 789 355
Telefax: 01 789 173
Telex: 44407
Email:finance@finance.gov.mw

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 30049,
CAPITAL CITY,
LILONGWE 3.
MALAWI

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Yours Sincerely,

Mr. Nations Msowoya
DIRECTOR
FOR: SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

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Annex B: Preliminary. Stakeholder consultations Gender assessment

Stakeholders	Issues discussed	Suggestions
Meeting with Technical Department under Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Research Services; Department of Animal Health and Livestock; Department of Agricultural Planning; Department of Agricultural Extension Services; NAIP Secretariate; and Land Resources Conservation Department, SAPP PMU, TRADE PMU) 12 -14 June 2023	Discussed project components and focus intervention; project targeting criteria; potential target districts; emerging climate vulnerability, risks and impacts in Malawi, capacity needs and potential project interventions; country strategic plans and priorities; lessons from ongoing interventions (programmes and projects on climate resilience); possible synergies with other ongoing programmes, funding mechanisms, grants management); possible implementation arrangements;	Targeting criteria particularly for households and group selection to be refined at proposal stage. Project to follow existing implementation arrangement for SAPP, SAPPII under Ministry of Agriculture
Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) 13 June 2023	Environmental Assessment Procedures; guidelines on access to biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use; threatened species records, location, migratory routes, threats, human wildlife conflicts in areas of intervention and measures to prevent it; Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) committees' activities in SAPII areas; Support rendered to ensure adherence of environmental procedures to development projects	EAD ready to support project interventions and ensure adherence to national laws; EAD staff will support monitoring and supervision of ESMPs as necessary; NEMA has been recently established to review, issues necessary approvals and inspect adherence as necessary.
Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) 14 June 2023	Technologies on climate resilient seeds and breeds (in particular those resilient to drought), adoption rates by farmers; agro zone suitability; yield assessment and challenges on uptake; Status on development of bio-fortified crops for nutrition and adoption rates by farmers; Post harvest and storage technologies; (technical, economic and social feasibility) + costs adoption rates and related challenges; Water use efficiency and irrigation technologies, uptake and maintenance, success, challenges; Assessment of CSA technologies promoted (technical, economic and social feasibility) and costs; Agro ecological zone based soil fertility assessment maps and recommendations; Pest and diseases outbreaks records, impacts, integrated pest technologies ; Use of ICT4D in providing services (extension, market prices, weather forecasts etc) to	Need to include integrated pest management in the project as has been missed in previous interventions; special consideration when selecting small-scale livestock for pass on (breeding traits should be considered); inclusion of labour-saving technologies (not much support was rendered in previous interventions); Community seed banks require close monitoring to ensure seed purity; demonstrations on new fertiliser recommendations to ensure farmer awareness and adoption

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	villages/household ; Evidence of pass on programme success (data analysis and results); Adaptive research results and challenges faced under SAPP	
Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) 14 June 2023	Disaster Management and Coordination in Malawi (from national level to local communities); recently approved Disaster Management Act and its implication; existing committees, critical stakeholder and mandates; Disaster Maps (flood, droughts mapping); Land use plans; Disaster contingency plans (status, Level of planning and current issues); shelter maps; Local stakeholder capacity needs; information is currently communicated to farmers regarding climate, seasonal changes, projections, extreme events, channels used, outreach; response time; local critical stakeholders; financing disaster management in Malawi; Community organisations and linkages to district and national committees; coordination in disaster communication to potential would be affected targets; frequency in occurrence and impact of previous climate related disaster on national economy, livelihood particularly agriculture, people and assets.	Need to disseminate new Disaster Act to stakeholder for increased awareness; Absence of Disaster Zoning and Maps affect stakeholder awareness; Support required to targeted districts and communities without Disaster Contingency Plans (formulation and capacity for implementation)
Land Resource Conservation Department **(LRCD)** 14 June 2023	Updated Land cover and land use maps; Land use plans; Updated forest cover maps; Soils Fertility Assessment; Watershed maps – catchment delineation, soil nutrient atlas, hotspots degraded areas at district level; deforestation rate and hotspots; training guide/training content on environmental management and on land resource management and gaps; current areas under conservation and plans to put future areas under conservation; current practices for soil restoration and challenges; assessments of soil, land restoration and climate smart activities	Manuals and training materials are available on SLM and Land restoration; LRCD at district and EPAs level will support identification of micro hotpot degraded areas when beneficiary groups are selected (already have list of potential areas);
Balaka District Council and District Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee 15 June 2023	Discussed climate related disasters, district vulnerabilities and impacts; ongoing district interventions to address climate resilience; success and challenges under SAPP; implementation of Farmer Challenge Fund; potential interventions to further build climate adaptive capacity and resilient in most vulnerable communities.	Need to upscale the Farmer Challenge Fund as farmers have used it to invest in their selected VCs, increased productivity, raised small-scale livestock ownership and moved out of poverty. Previous initiatives like SAPP achieved 30 outreach, however huge poverty levels to those not targeted; Need to enhance women empowerment through household planning approach; pass on programmes; irrigation and need for climate change information very high ranking on farmers needs
Meeting two potential beneficiary groups in Balaka district	Farmer not previously targeted expressed limited knowledge on climate information and how to adapt to recent hazards particularly cyclones and droughts; dire need for water availability for agricultural	Huge disparities in poverty levels between farmers who were targeted and those not targeted in climate

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15 June 2023	production, rehabilitation or construction of irrigations schemes; requested support to access improved inputs to improve primary production for food security. Farmers previously targeted shared knowledge and improvement in productivity from adopting CSA technologies; livestock ownership immensely increased; previous farmers graduated from project support and still continuing with project intervention on their own; requested for support and capacity to establish cooperatives; value addition especially in oil seed value chains. Women farmers expressed increased burden in fetching water due to floods and firewood due to increased deforestation. Women participants appreciated GALS and Household Approach in improving participation in decision making.	resilience interventions. Farmers expressed great need for improved inputs and marketing opportunities
Blantyre District Council and District Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee 16 June 2023	Discussed climate related disasters, district vulnerabilities and impacts; ongoing district interventions to address climate resilience, success and challenges under SAPP; implementation of Farmer Challenge Fund; potential interventions to further build climate adaptive capacity and resilient in most vulnerable communities	Need to upscale the Farmer Challenge Fund as farmers have used it to invest in their selected VCs; Previous interventions particularly SAPP was successful in FCF approach in promoting farmer investment. pass on programmes; irrigation; climate change information, post-harvest especially on horticultural very high ranking on farmers needs
Meeting two potential beneficiary groups in Balaka district 16 June 2023	Farmers expressed challenges from huge land degradation and erosion, floods that destroy crops; had limited knowledge on climate information and how to adapt to recent hazards particularly cyclones and droughts; lost household assets and cyclones even damaged community irrigation structures; rehabilitation or construction of irrigations schemes was ranked high. Visited farmers could produce particularly crops without external support but faced challenges from pest and post harvest losses; request for storage and transport facilities; support for market linkages and buyer contracts.	Huge disparities in poverty levels between farmers who were targeted and those not targeted in climate resilience interventions. Farmers expressed great need for improved inputs and marketing opportunities

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	Previously targeted farmers shared knowledge on CSA had increased livestock ownership targeted farmers reducing poverty levels. Request for capacity to create dairy and horticultural cooperatives	
Red Cross 19 June 2023	Disaster Response Management and coordination with District Councils and Village Civil Protection Committees; Effectiveness and challenges in current EWS; Areas of improvement particularly at community level; Recommendations for institutional capacity building on DRM; Feedback from the rural community on needs and barriers to disaster risk and response	Huge capacity needs for communities including behavioural change to disasters and EWS; improvements in packaging EWS and advisories, usually only covers time and area with less context; need to build EWS through participatory scenarios with communities;
Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) 20 June 2023	Type of climate information generated, disseminated to farmers including how regular and dissemination channels used; availability and accessibility of climate related data (observed and projected climate trends including precipitation, temperature and extreme events distribution); resolution of data (district, EPA level); Climate vulnerability maps; gaps to strengthen EWS and use of the information	Department issue regular seasonal forecast usually at regional level but specific community/EPA needs are possible; developed training materials on PISCA and capacity can be upscaled to target districts; climate vulnerability maps not available but required by stakeholders;
Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) 20 June 2023	Current agricultural extension models in Malawi; Location of FSS and related capacities; Costings for FSS; Mainstreaming climate change information in agricultural extension services; current challenges	DAES has manual and training materials for Tot on FFS; Lead Farmer and Farmer FFS manuals covering different training areas.
Total Land Care (TLC) 21 June 2023	Land restoration interventions and lessons; Suitability of CSA technologies based on agro ecological zones; Value chain suitability based on agro ecological zones and market availability; adoption rates of CSA technologies by farmers; performance of different CSA technologies in different agro ecological zones; extension service models used and effectiveness	CSA promotion should be agro ecological based. Has some data on CSA performance and will be able to share later

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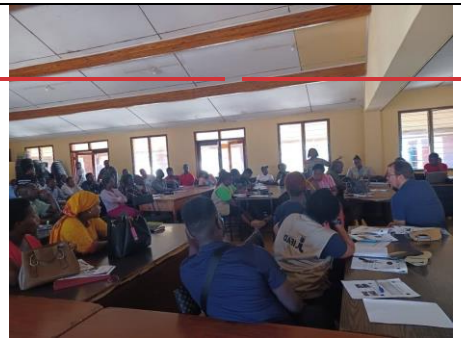
~~Pictures from stakeholder meetings~~

		
~~Figure 1: Balaka District Beneficiary consultation~~	***~~Figure 2: Blantyre district council~~***	***~~Figure 3: Balaka Field visit~~***

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~~Balaka Field Visit~~	~~Balaka consultation with communities~~	~~Blantryre consiltations with stakeholders~~

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~~**Annex C:**~~

a) Key gender statistics

Around 59% of employed women and 44% of employed men work in agriculture in Malawi, which is the largest employment sector[98]. However, significant gender productivity gaps exist, with men's agricultural plots yielding 25% more than women's, due to unequal access to resources and participation in value chains. In Malawi, female wage workers earn approximately 64 cents for every dollar earned by men, highlighting a significant gender wage gap. The gender parity ratio in secondary education enrolment is 84%, and women face disadvantages in various areas of economic participation. Malawi ranks 111 out of 151 countries in the Economic Participation and Opportunity index, according to the 2021 World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report[99].

Malawi has one of the highest child marriage rates globally, with 46% of girls married before turning 18. This contributes to a cycle of early marriage, pregnancy, and a lack of formal education. Women, while contributing significantly to agricultural labour, rarely own the land they work on, leading to economic disadvantages compared to male counterparts. The HIV prevalence rate among young women is significantly higher than that of their male counterparts, and period poverty is a major issue due to the stigma surrounding menstruation and lack of access to menstrual products.[100]

~~c)~~b) Impacts of climate change on women and girls~~of gender~~

In Malawi, climate change disproportionately affects women and girls, intensifying existing gender inequalities and exposing them to increased risks. Ranked fifth in the Global Climate Index 2021 for nations most affected by climate-related extreme weather, Malawi faces significant climate change impacts, including more erratic and extreme weather events like droughts and floods. These environmental challenges exacerbate food, water, and financial insecurity, particularly for those dependent on rain-fed agriculture, like the 65% of smallholder farmers who are women. This dependency makes them especially vulnerable to food insecurity and economic shocks.

Women, due to their social status, limited income, education, and resources, are more likely to live in poverty and have less decision-making power and access to finance. As a result, when harvest yields are reduced, women struggle to provide for their families, making them susceptible to sexual exploitation in various forms, such as transactional sex or trafficking. Additionally, gender roles in Malawi, like the responsibility of gathering water and firewood, often fall on women and girls. Environmental degradation leading to scarce resources forces them to travel further, using time that could be spent on income generation or education.

Malawi, women are often marginalized in agricultural productivity. Despite women's high participation in

98 Malawi (MWI) - Demographics, Health & Infant Mortality - UNICEF DATA ~~Malawi (MWI) - Demographics, Health & Infant Mortality - UNICEF DATA~~

99 Unlocking Malawi's Economic Growth by Bridging the Widening Gender Gaps in the labour workforce (worldbank.org) ~~Unlocking Malawi's Economic Growth by Bridging the Widening Gender Gaps in the labour workforce (worldbank.org)~~

100 Women's Rights in Malawi - The Borgen Project ~~Women's Rights in Malawi - The Borgen Project~~

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labour, they generally have lower access to farm labour, inferior access to improved agricultural inputs and technology, and lesser participation in cash crop/export crop value chains. The gender gap in agricultural productivity stems from women having unequal use of land inputs, which contributes to a substantial burden on the economy. This disparity is critical as agriculture is a major contributor to Malawi's GDP[101].

Women tend to have fewer rights to farmland. This unequal ownership of quality farmland has significant implications for the country's rates of hunger and malnutrition. Addressing this disparity is crucial since women play a vital role in agricultural consumption decisions and household food decisions[102].

Gender inequality in Malawi is also evident in the science, technology, and innovation (STI) sector. This inequality is rooted in inequitable laws, norms, and practices, which hinder women and girls' access to opportunities, resources, and power. Strengthening gender and inclusivity in STI in Malawi is seen as essential for addressing these disparity gaps[103].

Reducing

~~e)~~c) ~~The~~ vulnerability and building adaptive capacity

Women lack technical and financial support to formalise and scale up their livelihood activities. Women proposed interventions included increased access to water in the form of solar powered irrigation schemes where feasible, solar powered boreholes, restoration of degraded land and access to improved farm inputs to improve crop productivity. Due to low ownership of livestock, women indicated having limited opportunities to diversify from crop production. To reduce increased burden and time on fetching energy for household use, women also expressed the need for capacity to establish, manage and conserve communal woodlots~~There is potential to transform the agricultural sector to implement programmes to achieve economic empowerment, while prompting more gender equitable norms and practices to advance gender equality.~~

Modernization of agriculture through the incorporation of ICT and other modern energy saving technologies and tools can also~~to~~ make agriculture attractive to the youth and time-efficient for women.~~should be encouraged.~~ This would~~will~~ reduce workloads for women as highlighted during consultations.

Furthermore, GALS can be implemented to

~~SRCP will facilitate access to productive assets, such as land preparation tools and technologies, as well as access to agricultural land and other factors of production for the youth, women and vulnerable groups who fail to access these resources due to culture, gender and or other socio-economic factors. Furthermore, GALS will~~ empower women economically through improved access to and control of household productive assets and benefits, strengthening women's decision-making roles in the households and community and achieving a reduced workload and an equitable workload balance among women, men, girls, and boys as well as persons with disabilities.

The promotion, provision and dissemination of youth and gender tailored information and provision of agricultural support and extension for advanced training targeting out of school youth for increased agricultural production, agro-processing and marketing is recommended.

101 https://mwnation.com/malawi-gender-gap-widens-report/
102 https://foodtank.com/news/2021/06/research-in-malawi-shows-how-access-impacts-female-farmers/
103 https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/items/18972bb6-99f5-460e-af2c-d8645bb0cd75

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~~g)~~d) Considerations for design

To ensure gender considerations during implementation, a gender action plan will be developed during design which will include the following:

- Assessments during inception phase, and how to commence implementation of the gender monitoring framework for the project in line with AF Gender Policy.
- Recruitment of a Gender expert in the project management to ensure all activities and interventions comply with, Adaptation Fund and national government gender guidelines.
- A detailed gender monitoring framework for the project in line with AF Gender Policy with specific outlay of indicators and monitoring mechanisms. Monitoring and Evaluation, will ensure gender-disaggregated indicators.
- The project will undertake a baseline. Mid-term and end term evaluation. Gender lessons learned will be assessed at MTR and end evaluation.

Develop reporting framework on risk assessment for the programme indicators in addition to tracking compliance with ESMP and gender policy. Emphasis will be on ensuring outreach strategies that achieve active participation of women in committees, capacity building and policy discussions. Resource management capacities of women will be explored as an essential basis for designing responses to climate change and disaster risk reduction through the challenge Fund.

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