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Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-fourth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 8-9 October 2024

PROPOSAL FOR MALAWI

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: REGULAR-SIZED PROJECT CONCEPT

Country/Region: Malawi
Project Title: Smallholder Climate Resilience Project
Thematic Focal Area: Agriculture and Rural Development
Implementing Entity: International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
Executing Entities: Ministry of Agriculture
AF Project ID: AF00000380
IE Project ID:
Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 10,000,000
Reviewer and contact person: Dirk Lamberts
Co-reviewer(s): Imen Meliane
IE Contact Person: Claus Reiner

Technical Summary	The project "Smallholder Climate Resilience Project" aims to 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. This will be done through the three components below: Component 1: Mobilisation of rural community groups (USD 558'000) Component 2: Enhancement of agriculture advisory and capacity-building services (USD 4,000,000); Component 3: Restoration of Ecosystem Services (USD 2,860,000); Component 4: Institutional capacity building for better and more inclusive disaster risk management and response in agriculture (USD 1,000,000). Requested financing overview: Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 798,590 Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 9,216,590 Implementing Fee: USD 783,410 Financing Requested: USD 10,000,000 The initial technical review raises several issues, such as undemonstrated climate change adaptation rationale and benefits, lack of consultation, full cost of adaptation reasoning, compliance with ESP and GP, and insufficient activities

	identification, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.
Date:	23 January 2024

Review Criteria	Questions	Reviewers Comments	Response to reviewer comments
Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol, or the Paris Agreement?	**Yes.**	
	2. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	**Yes.** Malawi is particularly prone and exposed to adverse climate hazards including dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, floods, strong winds and cyclones.	
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	**Yes.** As per the Endorsement letter dated 20 December 2023. There is an inconsistency between the Endorsement letter and the proposal in that the letter states that there will be two executing entities. **CR 1:** Please clarify who the Executive Entity(ies) is/are and ensure consistency between the proposal and the Endorsement Letter.	**CR1:** The Executing Entity is Ministry of Agriculture a revised letter has been submitted with the revised Concept note.
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?	**Yes.** The proposal consists of 43 pages and 7 pages of annexes.	

	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	**No.** The language used in the description of the project components (section II.A) is unclear in several places and would benefit from revision. **CR 2:** Please clarify the description of the project components. The link between the proposed interventions and the described climate change impacts and adaptation needs is not always clear. E.g. paragraph 24 includes restoration of ecological functioning of watersheds but this is not mentioned in the description of the climate risks and vulnerabilities of the project areas. **CR 3:** Please ensure that the climate change adaptation rationale is clear and explicit for all the proposed interventions. There are inconsistencies in the descriptions of the outputs and their constituent activities. E.g. paragraph 48, the Department of Agricultural Research will undertake farm demonstrations based on recently approved agro-ecological-specific fertiliser recommendations, as an extension service. The corresponding activity 1.1.4 phrases this as "Undertake farmer participatory research on new fertiliser protocols (…)". Coherence is lacking among the elements of Component 1. Based on the numerous and	**CR2:** Language has been revised throughout the proposal and description of the project components and outputs (section II A) have been clarified. Content of the project components and outputs have been significantly revised to improve consistency and remove any USPs. Link between each project components and outputs is described for each output, and under paragraph 43 **CR3:** Relevance of each output to climate change impacts and adaptation needs is described in introduction to each output, informed by community consultations. The restoration of ecological functioning of watersheds focuses on addressing issues identified in consultations (droughts, floods and land degradation) by restoring ecosystem services. The importance of undertaking these watershed interventions *in addition to* on-farm interventions is described in paragraphs 60, 63, 65, 67 and 68, among others. Paragaph 84 also highlights that "*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 or provide windbreaks*"

		various objectives of its outputs, it is hard to see how a farmer – or anybody else for that matter – involved would be able to make sense of the multitude of simultaneous requirements and ambitions and develop relevant meaningful adaptive capacity. The activities of output 1.3 are an eclectic amalgamation of interventions ranging from smart energy stocks over community forestry to flood control infrastructure, all in support of sustainable landscapes management. **CR 4:** Please clarify the rationale and feasibility of the suggested approaches of component 1. The same concerns apply to component 2. The establishment of farmer groups is vague, and there is no information at all on their legal status or operation. **CR 5:** Please clarify the nature and operation of the farmers groups, including their legal status. These concerns are exacerbated by the second output of component 2, in which the farmer groups are the vehicle to access funds from a Farmers Challenge Fund (FCF) that is to be provided with USD 5 million of project funds. The modalities of accessing this fund (FCF) are unclear and involve a commitment of voluntary landscape and micro-catchment restoration by the farmer groups.	**CR4:** The content of the components' has been revised to improve coherence. <u>Component 1 (now 2))</u> has been restructured to focus on (i) developing agro-advisory that is informed by future climate projections, and updating extension services guidelines accordingly and (ii) building capacity for implementing the recommended practices through FFS and input delivery to FFS lead farmers. This responds to specific challenges identified in consultations and lessons learnt from previous projects (blanket advisory is being provided, capacities to implement recommended practices are insufficient and climate projections are not effective to inform agriculture practices, etc) Interventions relevant to cookstoves and forestry have been moved to <u>component 3</u>, focusing on restoring ecosystem services. They are complementary, with community-managed woodlot used to restore degraded/deforested areas and cookstoves used to reduce deforestation pressure on these same areas going forward. In combination, both contribute to the sustainable management of resources in the landscape, so that farmers can continue benefitting from ecosystem-services that tree and soil health provides in the landscape (mainly water infiltration and windshield).

		…In addition, farmer groups will have to provide some amount of 'matching grants'. There are no details on this. **CR 6:** Please clarify the structure, operations, management, oversight and accountability for the Farmers Challenge Fund. Please clarify the due diligence process that will be applied for its establishment, as well as how the IE will ensure that applicable oversight in line with the AF fiduciary obligations (e.g. on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism etc.) will be provided. Component 3 includes support to agriculture extension and disaster risk management services. For this, it will build on initiatives undertaken by the Global Center on Adaptation. It is unclear what this entails or how this would address the identified adaptation needs. … For this, it will build on initiatives undertaken by the Global Center on Adaptation. It is unclear what this entails or how this would address the identified adaptation needs. Output 3.2 addresses knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. Apart from non-specified training programmes and awareness raising activities, this output 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	Financing of these two activities and other interventions under this component follow a similar logic of focusing on community-based solutions that support sustainable resource management and ecosystem-services, as opposed to farm-based adaptation only. It will be guided by communities' micro-catchment action plans, co-designed with them. **CR5.** The groups that will be consulted already exist. Where they don't exist, their formation will follow the registration process set up with the Ministry of Agriculture and meet their minimum requirement, including having its own operational rules, a physical address, etc. The benefits of group approaches is mentioned in multiple sections, but specifically on cost-effectiveness (C) and on sustainability (J). **CR6.** These activities were significantly revised. SCRP will not establish or manage a FCF. The intervention was fully removed. **CR7**. The policy paper on insurance has been removed, as other programmes are best placed to inform this process. Still, insurance has been mentioned in consultations as a potential way to increase adaptive capacity of farmers. So while SCRP will not focus on developing insurance products nor helping farmers access them, it will

		groups and women". The issue of crop insurance has not been discussed elsewhere and seems disconnected from the other project activities. **CR 7:** Please clarify how the development of a policy paper on crop insurance is considered a concrete adaptation action, while this is already included in several policies and plans.	contribute to sensitise them to the benefits of crop-insurance during capacity building activities. Regarding the Global Centre on Adaptation, there is an ongoing work to develop knowledge products with recommendations on best tools and processes to use for disaster management and early-warning systems in agriculture. Their study will be finalised by the end of 2024. The relevance of their recommendations for SCRP will be considered at full proposal stage and embedded in Component 4 if deemed feasible through consultations.
	4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**Unclear.** The proposal states that project districts "have been selected based on specific criteria including poverty rates and chronic food insecurity". It is unclear if in this respect the most vulnerable communities have been selected. **CR 8:** Please clarify the grounds on which the project areas have been selected, reflecting in particular vulnerability to climate change impacts and adaptation capacity building requirements. The description of the economic benefits that are expected from the project is unclear and a specific, in particular for the activities of component 2.	**CR8:** The selection of areas and beneficiaries will take place gradually in several phases, as highlighted in paragraphs 29-33. Criteria for site selection have been laid out in paragraph 29 and 31, including climate exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, poverty levels and food insecurity levels. A district-specific review of climate impacts and vulnerabilities was provided for each selected districts in section A7. It should also be noted that areas that may be more vulnerable may have been excluded due to the presence of concurrent projects/programmes that would overlap with SCRP. The criteria for beneficiary selection will be fully developed at full proposal stage . The targeting strategy of including 50% women, 30% youth and 5% people with

		….. They are also in part based on activities not mentioned elsewhere in the proposal. The same applies to some of the social benefits. The anticipated gender benefits depend on positive discrimination and awareness raising. The proposal does not describe the mechanics and likelihood of achieving the stated objectives. The environmental benefits are not quantified, and it is not demonstrated in the proposal that the relevant project activities are of a scale and with an impact that are relevant and significant to the magnitude and complexity of the problems they intend to address. Beneficial impacts on biodiversity are not demonstrated. **CR 9:** Please clarify and quantify where possible the economic, social and environmental benefits of the project.	disabilities ensures that the most vulnerable communities are served. Their respective vulnerabilities have been highlighted in the proposal paragraphs 23 to 27. These beneficiaries will be selected among : a) rural food insecure households, vulnerable to malnutrition; b) moderate food insecure households involved in low-productivity subsistence crop and livestock farming. **CR9.** This section has been revised. While quantifying the benefits would require specific modelling, reference is made to a similar previous programme that increased farmers' productivity by 30%. As described, gender benefits will go beyond positive discrimination, with interventions being specifically selected for the improvements they may provide to women (para 81). Environmental benefits are described in para 87. Table 10 quantifies the outreach and target, indicating the scale of benefits that can be expected quantitatively.
	5. Is the project / programme cost effective?	**Unclear.** The claimed cost effectiveness is based on the premise that the building of any adaptive capacity is cost effective, which is not the case. The proposal states on p. 5 that "While many previous initiatives have been undertaken to improve generation, access and use of climate information, there are still huge gaps for	**CR 10:** Cost-effectiveness section was revised, highlighting how SCRP approaches are more cost-effective than potential alternatives. This review makes reference to lessons learnt from IFAD previous approaches. The economic analysis has been removed as the assumptions do not hold

		effectiveness of the available information." Clearly there are valuable and important lessons to be learned. It is unclear if this has been done and how the proposed project will avoid being similarly ineffective. The relevance of the economic rate of return and cost benefit ratio analyses presented is highly questionable considering the lack of quantitative information presented in the proposal and the high share of USPs. None of the underlying assumptions are presented. **CR 10:** Please clarify how the project outcomes will be effective both in terms of impact and cost, reflecting sustainability considerations and the lessons learned from numerous past ineffective interventions.	anymore, given the change in many interventions.
	6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or subnational development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?	**Unclear.** The proposal states that the project is aligned with the Malawi Vision 2063, the National Agriculture Policy and national climate change policies and strategies. Malawi has not submitted a NAP to UNFCCC. The updated NDC (2021) lists three pillars and three key objectives. None of the components of the proposal appear to be aligned with the strategic or concrete adaptation actions of the NDC. **CR 11:** Please clarify how the proposed project is aligned with the NDC.	**CR11.** Alignment to the NDC has been described in more details in the table. For NDC and other document, the key pillars and interventions to which SCRP contributes have been highlighted.

	7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?	**No.** The relevant section of the proposal describes compliance with certain laws and national policies but does not identify the national technical standards that apply to the project activities, with the exception perhaps of the Malawi Pesticide Act. **CAR 1:** Please identify national technical standards relevant and applicable to the project activities and describe how the project will meet these.	**CAR 1:** Additional standards are now included: EMA, pesticides act; Irrigation Code of Practice; Forest management Act; Water Resources; Seed Act; and national guidelines on integrated catchments conservation.
	8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?	**Unclear.** The close similarities between the proposed project and several other ongoing large IFAD-funded agriculture and rural development projects in Malawi are briefly described, indicating numerous opportunities for collaboration and synergies that are currently not adequately reflected in the proposal. This section is very informative as it explains several of the elements of the current proposal that lack or have inadequate justification from a climate change adaptation needs perspective. At the same time, it is unclear to what extent the proposed project is indeed specifically focused on climate change adaptation rather than an extension of the other business-as-usual development projects into new locations. **CR 12:** Please clarify further the linkages between the elements of the proposed project	**CR12.** Additional text on the ongoing or previous projects are included and linkages or synergies are explained in the output description and in the last column of Table 9. It is explained that the project complements other IFAD-funded interventions that focus on commercialisation and access to finance, by targeting beneficiaries too vulnerable to access this IFAD support and would hence be excluded from IFAD-project support in the absence of AF.IFAD-support may be perceived as a continuity of Adaptation Fund support, for AF beneficiaries to graduate into market-oriented farmers once their resilience is built. **CR13.** There are now 10 projects (described in table 9) that also take place in at least some of the same district as SCRP. Their location has been specified.

		and the other projects listed, highlighting the specific adaptation needs that are being addressed. There is no information on possible other recent or ongoing projects in the project areas. **CR 13:** Please clarify the presence of other relevant projects or programmes in the project area.	Criteria for community targeting will prevent any overlap in beneficiaries, and SCRP will complement other large projects by focusing on the most vulnerable populations and smaller-scale public works.
	9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?	**Unclear.** Component 3 has provisions for USD 1.4 million for institutional capacity building and knowledge management systems. A knowledge management strategy will only be prepared during implementation, depending on an external strategy that is being formulated under the Agriculture Sector Wide Approach – Support Programme (ASWAp-SP). It is unclear what this involves, it is not mentioned in the section on avoiding duplication. No justification is provided for not including a knowledge management strategy in the proposal and making this entire project component dependent on external achievements, whilst substantive funds are reserved for this purpose in the project budget. The few knowledge management activities that are described in the proposal involve strengthening processes at the EE. Climate change adaptation is entirely absent from the description of the knowledge management component.	**CAR 2:** Knowledge management strategy will be developed during full proposal design, specifying capacity gaps, knowledge products, systems used and budgetary requirements. The key principles have been laid out in more details in Section G. It is now described separately from the components description for better clarity. Still, link to each component is clearly highlighted The reference to ASWAp- SP has been removed. This referred to a general guidance on Knowledge Management Strategy from the Ministry of Agriculture, which already guides all other projects or programmes implemented by MoA.

		CAR 2: Please include a fully developed knowledge management component clearly describing the strategy and plan to capture the climate change adaptation lessons and knowledge the project will generate.	
	10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**No.** The proposal describes consultations that were held during its formulation. Only institutional stakeholders were consulted, except for two farmer groups that were involved in two districts. Only one of these districts is a project target area. No consultations were held in the three other project districts. The consultations held so far would not have been of a nature to solicit adequate feedback on the project design or the application of the required safeguards. That is also reflected in the annexed consultations report. **CAR 3:** Please carry out a consultative process that involves all key stakeholders, including identified marginalised and vulnerable groups. Remarkably, one consultation showed that previously supported groups reported that the GALS gender approach had increased representation of women in decision making but that most women still had limited access to credits and productive assets. Nevertheless, the proposal still intends to employ the	**CAR 3**.Extensive community consultations involving over **300 participants** with at least 2 communities per district and 18 focussed group discussion have been heard. This is described under section H. Consultation informed the identification of interventions and priority commodities to tailor the activities to. **CR14.** GALS approach does not focus on specific interventions or resources to be accessed by women. GALS approach is focused on changing norms in the households and communities. Hence, women empowerment improvements can be seen in decision-making and this was a positive outcome from previous implementation. As SCRP activities are community-based and focused on improved resilience on farm and in the village, rather than finance and assets acquisition, GALS approach still remains the most relevant to foster changes in perceptions and norms in the communities and improve women's participation and decision-making.

		unmodified GALS approach to gender mainstreaming. **CR 14:** Please clarify how the lessons learned from applying the GALS approach in Malawi have been included in the proposal design to ensure promotion of gender equality also in substantive matters.	
	11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	**No.** The proposal provides no information on the number of beneficiaries for whom adaptive capacity would be developed. The full cost of adaptation thus cannot be appreciated, not at farmer or ecosystem level, nor at district level. All project components are critically dependent on external outputs, including the FCF financing window, digitalisation of agriculture extension services, knowledge management and communication strategy, carbon incentives, etc. Without these inputs, the project would at least experience severe delays, and a number of objectives would not be achievable. This dependency goes far beyond the regular use of valuable relevant lessons learned. **CAR 4:** Please clarify the full cost of adaptation reasoning justification for the project, and/or adjust the proposal as required.	**CAR 4:** information on the number of beneficiaries have been provided in Table 10 to justify the full cost of adaptation reasoning. All interventions relying on external outputs have been removed. Digitalisation of agriculture extension services is already under way and not reliant on external outputs. Reference to GCA was only made regarding knowledge products being produced by the end of 2024, which may inform the full development of SCRP interventions at FP stage. FCF, carbon incentives etc were removed.

	12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?	**Yes.**	
	13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?	**Unclear.** Paragraph 126: "(…) 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" (reviewer's italics). Climate change resilience should be a vital element of all project interventions and be a vital design element. Carrying out such an assessment during implementation would be too late. Other sustainability arguments include elements that are not mentioned elsewhere in the proposal such as shifting away from subsidised input supply. Other arguments such as that of community-based farmer-to-farmer extension services contradict specific project objectives, in this example of digitising extension services. Paragraph 129: the project "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	**CR15.** The section has been reviewed based on additional consultations and lessons learnt. Reference to sustainability arguments irrelevant to the project have been removed (i.e. subsidies) A brief targeted Adaptation Assessment **has already** been carried out. Digitalisation of extension services is perceived as an addition to current modes of delivery to increase reach, but it is not what will ensure most sustainability. Reference to it was removed Benefits of community engagement have been detailed further. The statement of community ownership is not based on the number of farmer groups consulted, but on lessons learnt from experience in other projects. Still, further consultations have been ongoing in the revision of this CN as described in section

		capacity to climate change. As a result, resilient climate activities will be sustainable (sic) beyond the project's life". It is unclear how this is a credible statement considering that only two farmer groups in one of the four project districts have been consulted during project concept design. **CR 15:** Please clarify that and how adaptation benefits achieved with the help of the project can be sustained after its end.	
	14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**No.** Paragraph 88 states that compliance with the IE's ESMS will constitute compliance with the AF ESP, which is not the case. Regardless of the methodology used, the IE needs to demonstrate compliance with the AF ESP. The information provided in Section II.K of the proposal is not in compliance with the AF ESP and GP. The table is not correctly completed. It is unclear for each principle whether or not there is a risk. In any case, most of the risks findings are premature and lack substantiation. The ESP requires safeguards efforts to be commensurate to the risks, not based on an unsubstantiated categorization. Furthermore, the project consists mostly of USPs, in particular but not limited to those to be financed by the FCF of Component 2, representing 54 per cent of the total project cost. The use of USPs is not acknowledged or justified, and risks findings are presented as being comprehensive. There are no relevant	**CAR5:** A preliminary gender analysis has been carried out and reported under Annex 2. Gender-differentiated climate impacts are mentioned throughout the CN and output descriptions. The risks assessments have been reviewed and the table updated entirely. Absence of indigenous people was reiterated in consultations with government stakeholders and communities. The presence of different ethnic group is acknowledged, but none of these groups are singled out as "indigenous". Nonetheless, FPIC and social inclusion principles applying to all groups were highlighted as tools that will support inclusion and mitigate risks to groups that some may consider "tribes" while others call "indigenous".

		provisions for identification and management of environmental and social risks and compliance with the AF GP during implementation. Some salient points specific to the AF ESP principles: The principle on compliance with the law is interpreted to be limited to the National Environmental Acts. Marginalised and vulnerable groups have not been identified. A gender analysis has not been carried out, which is required at the concept note stage. A full proposal needs to present the findings of a gender assessment. Risks under the core labour rights should not be limited to child labour. Indigenous peoples are found to be 'not applicable', which contradicts common knowledge of the existence of a dozen ethnic groups in the country. Considering the nature of the project activities, it seems at least premature to conclude that no protected areas or natural habitats are involved. Considering the major problem of deforestation, a biodiversity risk cannot be excluded. The findings of climate change risks include risks to the project by climate change, which is not in compliance with the AF ESP.	Labour rights section was expanded to health and safety standards beyond child labour only. The project will not deliver any interventions on or near protected areas. Only on farm and community-managed land. The project is expected to bring reduction in the rate of deforestation, and remedy it through community-woodlots where needed. Hence, deforestation is not an expected risk to biodiversity from the project, but other minor ones have been highlighted. Climate risks were revised in line with AF guidelines. Risks from the inefficient use of agrochemicals were acknowledged. The programme will not take place in areas with physical and cultural heritage, hence no risks are identified. As per the guidelines, the project "is designed and implemented in a way that promotes soil conservation and avoids degradation or conversion of productive lands or land that provides valuable ecosystem services". This is what has been described in the assessment. Possibility of low risks is discussed, but this is expected to be minor, and not

		Considering the nature of the proposed activities, use and abuse of agro-chemicals including fertilisers and pesticides cannot be excluded at this stage. The risk finding for physical and cultural heritage is based on “will avoid areas with physical and cultural heritage for implementation of its activities”. This confirms that there is a potential risk, which has not been acknowledged. The risk for lands and soil conservation is found to be absent based on the envisaged positive outcomes. Regardless, even those activities do present inherent risks to lands and soil conservation in the context of high rates of soil loss and erosion. **CAR 5:** Please identify environmental and social risks of the project in compliance with the ESP and GP. **CAR 6:** Please justify the use of USPs.	worse than what would have occurred in a baseline scenario without the project. **CAR6.** USPs and interventions through FCF have now been removed.
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	**Yes.**	
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total	**Yes.** The IE Management Fee is at 8.5 per cent of the total project cost.	**CAR 7.** Done

	project/programme budget before the fee?	The budget numbers contain decimals and should be rounded to the nearest whole number. The budget figures do not add up. **CAR 7:** Please round the budget numbers to the nearest whole number and ensure that the budget figures add up correctly.	
	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	**Yes.** The project Execution Costs are at 8.7 per cent of the total project budget.	
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	**Yes.**	
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage	
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the	n/a at concept stage	

	Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?		
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage	
	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage	
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage	
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a break-down of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilised in the supervision of the M&E function?	n/a at concept stage	
	9. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it	n/a at concept stage	

	include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?		
	10. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage	

CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

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

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

Click or tap to enter a date.

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

A. Project background and context:

1. 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, principally due to the variation in rainfall across locations, with the overarching climate described as sub-tropical, which is influenced by the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) and El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)[1]. Agriculture is highly rainfed dependent.

A1. Socio-economic background

2. Based on 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 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 earnings[5]. Crop production alone is estimated to account for 74% of all rural incomes[6]. 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.]

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 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 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)

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
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=AcuteMalnutrition&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.

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.[9]

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 reduce smallholders' productivity and increase their vulnerability to climate hazards.

A3. Natural Resources

11. Malawi faces one of the highest and widest rate of natural resources and land degradation (soil erosion and loss of soil fertility)[10]. It is due to climatic conditions such as heavy rains and floods, as well as man-made deforestation, unsustainable land management and overgrazing. The annual soil loss from cropland is described as severe with 29 tons/ha (GoM 2019)[11], putting Malawi among the top 12 countries most exposed to soil erosion. In the last 10 years' land degradation has resulted in a 15% decrease in arable land[12], worsening the already dire situation of low land holding (1 hectare per household)[13]. 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 Africa[14], with almost 33,000 hectares of land cover loss annually[15] and a main driver of ecosystem and biodiversity 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[16] in some areas. In 1990s, maize yield decreases due to soil erosion was estimated at 15.6%[17]. 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[18].

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

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

17 FAO and UNEP (2019). Soil and nutrient loss in Malawi: An economic assessment.
18 Giacomo P et al (2020). Distributional impacts of soil erosion on agricultural productivity and welfare in Malawi. Ecological Economics 177 (2020) 106764.

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. The World Bank (2018)[19] 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. 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)[20]. 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[21].

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 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 million[22]. 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)[23]. 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[24]

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.[25] The 2019 floods resulted in 60 deaths, with 975,000 people affected, physical damages and economic losses of $220 million[26] [27]. 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[28].

Observed and projected climate trends

18. As highlighted in Fig 1, Malawi's observed **mean temperature** increased by 1.25 deg between 1951 -1980 (21.50 deg) and 1991- 2020 (22.25 deg) (**Fig 1 - a**). The observed average monthly temperature changes for the same period also increased by between 0.5 deg- 1.0 deg 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

19 World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes
20 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.
21 WFP (2024). Reliefweb: https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/wfp-urges-global-support-malawi-faces-looming-food-crisis-triggered-el-nino
22 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.
23 WFP (2023). Cyclone Fredy Response Update. https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/wfp-malawi-cyclone-freddy-response-update-6-april-2023-0800-cat.
24 GoM (2021). UPdated National Determined Contribution
25 GoM (2021). UPdated National Determined Contribution
26 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2019). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.
27Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.
28 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

country from 0.96 to 1.08 deg (**Fig 2- c**).

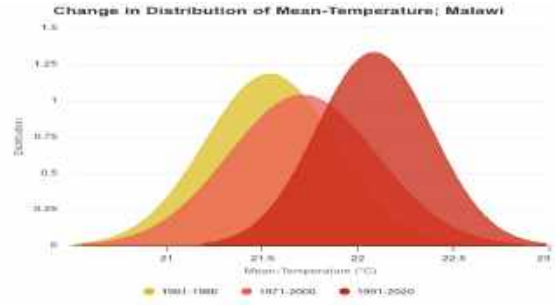


Fig 1-a: Changes in mean temperature over years.
Source: World Bank (2018)[29]

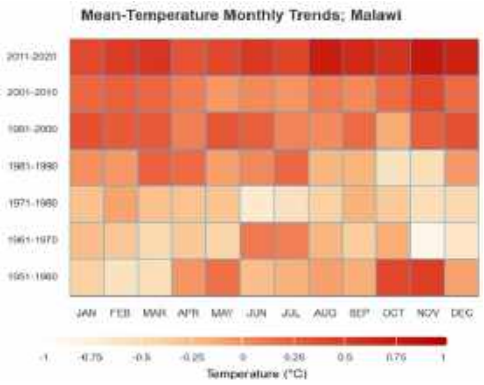
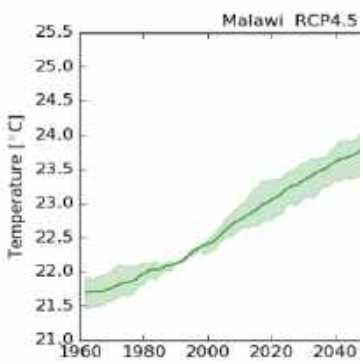
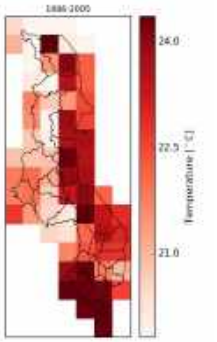


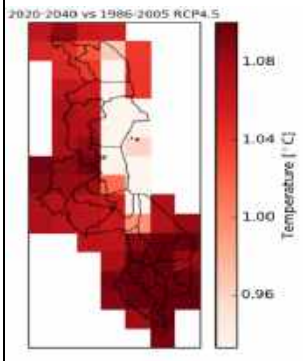
Fig 1-b: Increase in mean monthly over years.
Source: World Bank (2018)[30]



(Fig 2-a):
Mean temperature changes annual aggregates (2020-2040)



(Fig 2- b):
Reference temperature (1986- 2005)



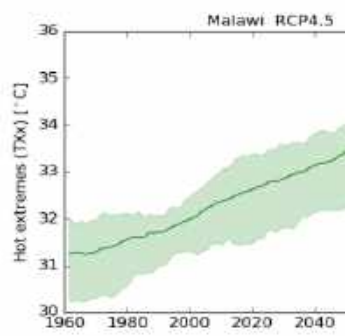
(Fig 2-c):
Future projected province changes (2020-2040)

Source: Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices[31]

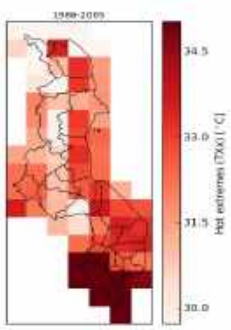
19. **Extreme average hot temperatures** have increased from around 30.0 **deg** - 32.0 **deg** in 1960s to 31.2 **deg** - 33.5 **deg** 2040s (Fig 3 - a). The projected (2030-2040) highest extreme temperatures are expected in the northern region at 1.08 **deg** (Fig 3 -c). However, the highest extreme

29 World Bank (2018). Climate Change Management Portal for Development Practitioners and Policy Makers. https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/malawi/extremes.
30 Ibid.
31 Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices

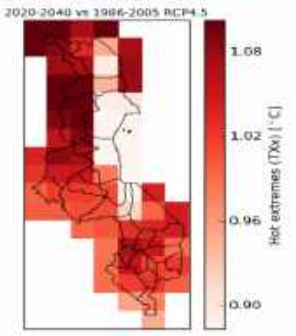
temperatures will still be expected in the southern region (Fig 3-b plus Fig 3-c).



(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 [32]

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**).

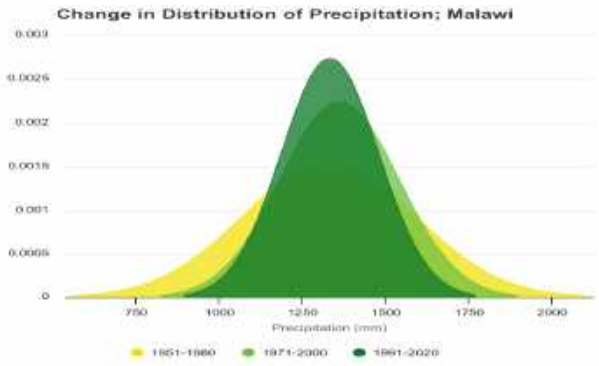


Fig 4-a: Changes in annual observed precipitation. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[33]

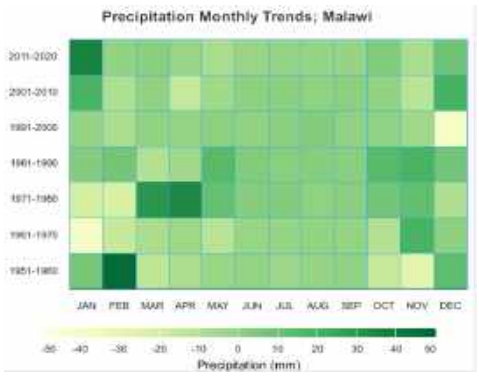
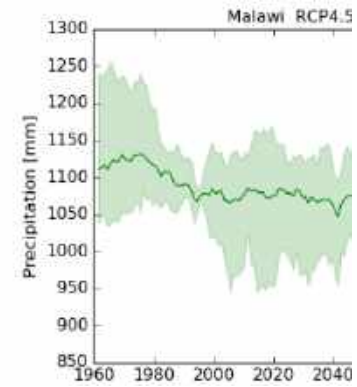
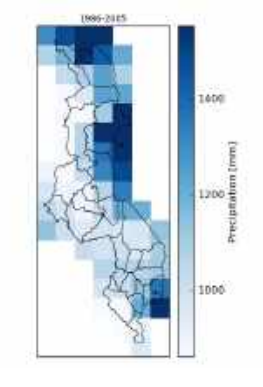
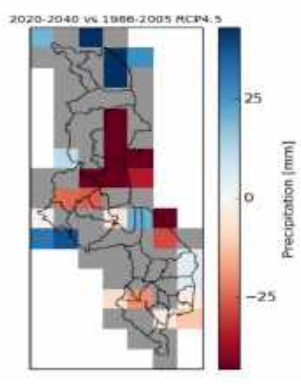


Fig 4-b: Changes in monthly observed precipitation. **Source:** World Bank (2018)[34]

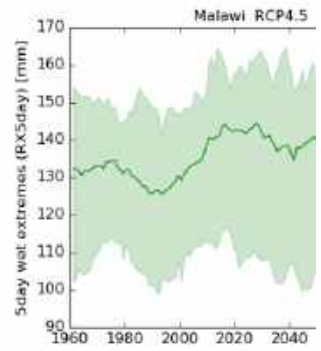
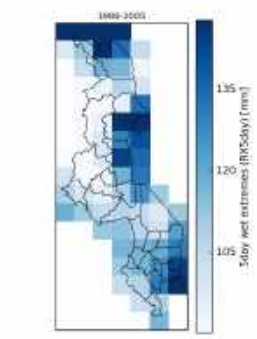
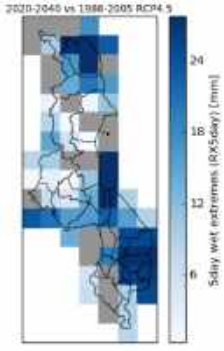
32 Ibid

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

34 Ibid

		
(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 [35]		

21. Unlike mean precipitation changes, there are changes in **extreme mean precipitation**. At national level there is a general increase in extreme precipitation from 132mm (1960s) to 140 mm (2040s) with huge uncertainties (Fig 6-a). 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 which also greatly influence the crop productivity.

		
(Fig 6- a): Extreme precipitation changes (1960- 2040)	**(Fig 6- b):** Reference extreme precipitation (1986-2005)	**(Fig 6 - c):** Projected extreme precipitation changes (2020-2040).
Source: Climate Analytics: https://regioclim.climateanalytics.org/choices [36]		

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

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

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

for climate resilient investments and increased incidences of pests, as presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Vulnerability to climate change

ID	Vulnerability factors	Description
1	**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[37], 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[38], makes the Malawi economy overly sensitive to climatic hazards. For instance, due to floods in 2024, there was a significant fall GDP (GoM 2015)[39]. 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.
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)[40]. 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%)[41], 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)[42]. In the last 10 years land degradation has resulted in a 15% decrease in arable land[43]. 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[44]. 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**	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

37 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.
38 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.
39 Department of Disaster Management Affairs (2015). Post Disaster Needs Assessment Report. Lilongwe, Malawi.
40 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.
41 UNDP (2020). Human development Index.
42 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.
43 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi
44 GoM (2019). Synthesizing Agricultural Research Findings in Malawi. Final Report. Department of Agricultural Research Services. Lilongwe, Malawi.

	technologies and investments in climate resilient infrastructure	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 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.[45] 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

23. From stakeholder consultations the following were identified as 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.

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

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

absenteeism for school going children.

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

29. **Stage one - identification of SCRP districts:** Government and IFAD selected the districts where SCRP will be implemented based on: exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity, poverty levels and food insecurity levels. 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.

30. Based on the criteria above and as further detailed below, SCRP will be implemented in the districts of Balaka, Lilongwe Rural, Dowa and Mzimba (**Fig 7**). 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.

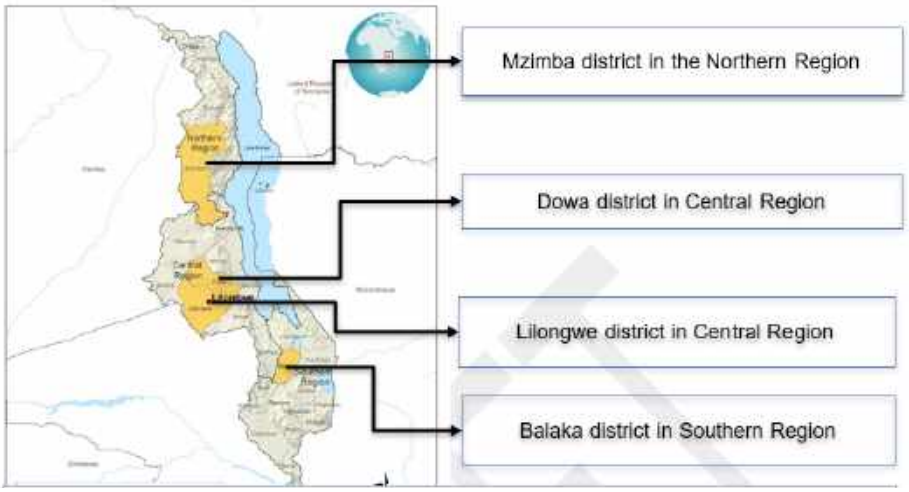


Fig. 7: SCRP Project Area

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

34. The selected districts have medium to very high exposure to climate change risks as highlighted in the Table 2 below. Balaka 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.

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	High
Rainfall variability	Very high	High	High	High
Floods occurrence	High	Medium	Medium	Medium
High temperatures	Very high	High in some parts	High in some parts	Medium
Strong winds	Very high	High is some areas	High in some parts	High is some parts
Data source: Malawi Hazards and Vulnerability Atlas - DoDMA (2016)				

37. 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
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)				

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. 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.

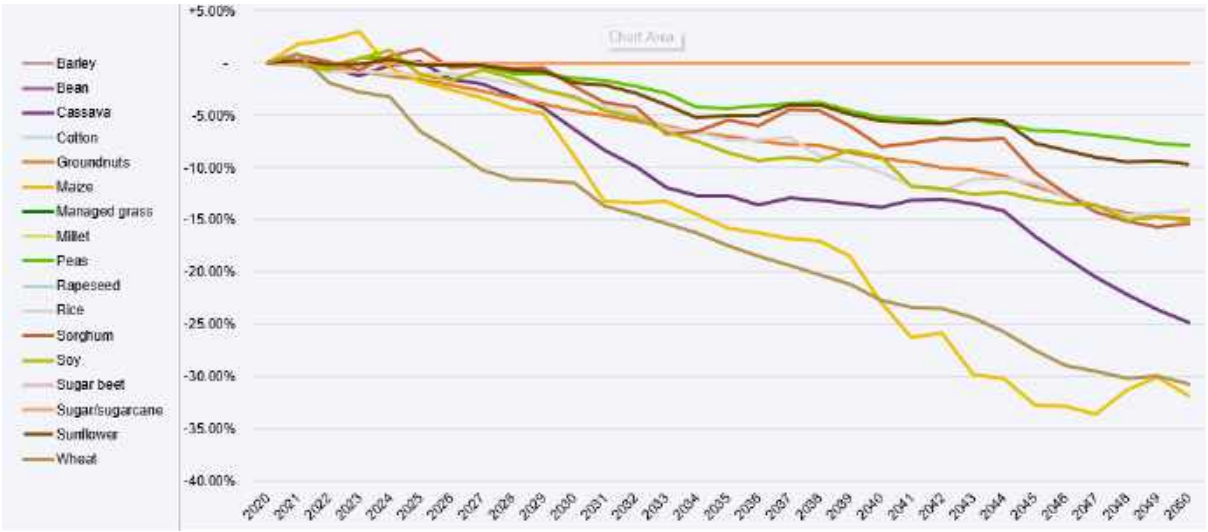


Figure 8-a: Crop yield change for Balaka

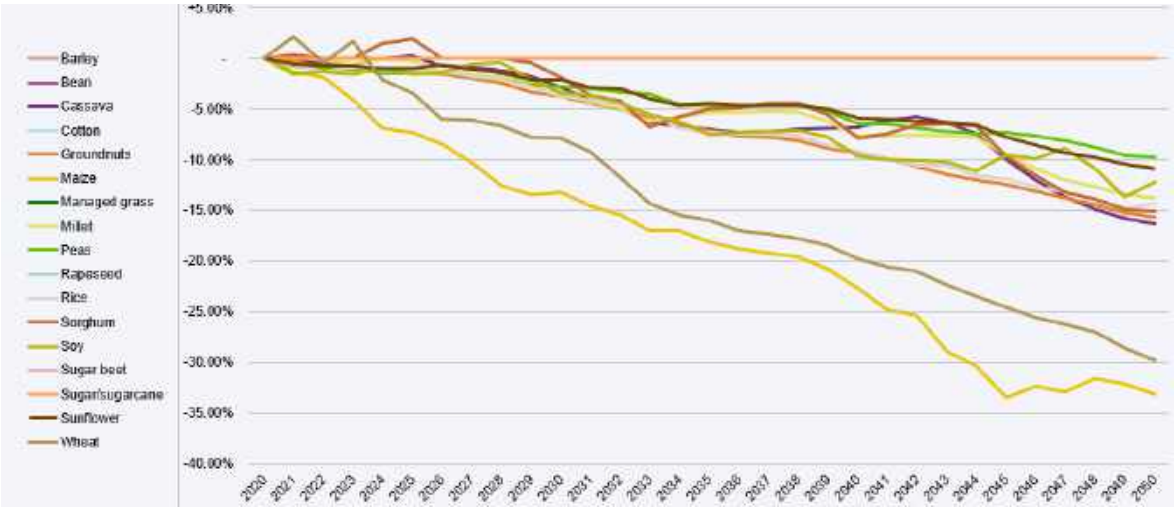


Figure 8-b: Crop yield change for Dowa

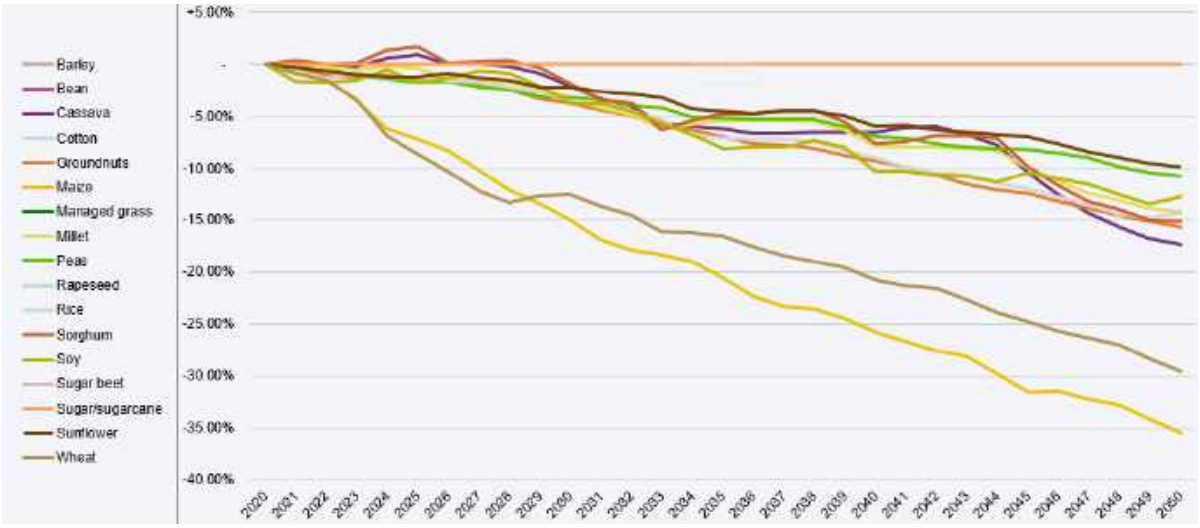


Figure 8-c: Crop yield change for Lilongwe

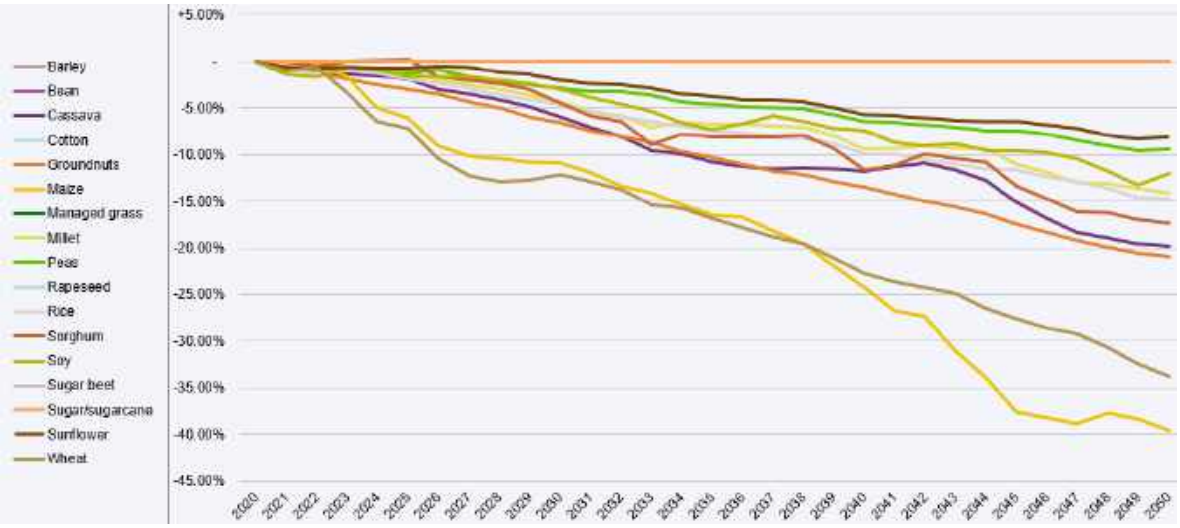


Figure 8-d: Crop yield change for Mzimba
Source: Crop Impact Assessment (CARD 2018)[46]

B. Project Objectives

40. **Project goal and objectives**: SCRP goal is to 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.

41. The goal will be achieved through the following objectives: (i) enhanced knowledge and capacities for climate-smart and resilient 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 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.

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	**Output 2.1.**	**Outcome 2.** Improved resilience and productivity of men,	4'000'000

46 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.

capacity-building services	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	women and young farmers	
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 4. 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 2025
Mid-term Review (if planned)	January 2029
Project Closing	February 2032
Terminal Evaluation	July 2033

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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

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)**[47]. 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.

48. 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.

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

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

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

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 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 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

71. 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 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 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.

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.

75. **Economic benefits:** SCRP will be designed to improve the resilience of agricultural production 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, access to climate-resilient technologies, improved farm inputs and knowledge on soil fertility management, as well as climate-driven agroadvisory in component 2, the selected beneficiaries are expected to experience increased production and household income level and/or to reduce any losses from climate disasters. Based on previous similar initiatives driven by IFAD, in particular the Sustainable Agricultural Production Programme (SAPP), productivity of farmers is expected to increase by 30%.

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.

78. **Social benefits and gender empowerment:** The project also seeks to promote gender equality in line with the National Gender Policy (2015)[48], Malawi Gender Act (2014), IFAD Gender and Women Empowerment Policy (2015) and the Adaptation Fund Gender Policy (2017) and Environment and Social Policy (2016).

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 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.

82. **Environmental benefits:** Environmental benefits are inherent to SCRP, which relies on enhancing the resilience of agricultural farming systems and increasing productivity thanks to restored ecosystem

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

services and reduced land degradation. SCRP will lead to a number of environmental benefits, including:

- **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 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.

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

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 or provide windbreaks, and in the absence of clear disaster preparedness and management plans that farmers know how to interpret.

85. Overall, in selecting value chains and defining the project interventions, SCRP adopted a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) to determine which were the most feasible options that could be implemented. The approach has taken into consideration several criteria including technical feasibility costs, social benefits, potential to address climate change risks, accessibility of options to small-scale farmers, flexibility (i.e., avoids lock-in), and transformative potential. Criteria were informed through consultation with 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.

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.

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
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.

Approaches making SCRP cost-effective	Cost-effectiveness justification	Less cost-effective alternatives
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.
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.

87. Cost effectiveness of SCRP is further strengthened by building on lessons and knowledge from previous and on-going related programmes such as Enhancing Resilience of Agro Ecological Systems Projects (ERASP); SAPP, SAPP II, PRIDE and, FARMSE (among others in Section F). The full project proposal preparation will include a comprehensive cost analysis of all components and activities, as well as an alternatives analysis to ensure cost-efficiency. This analysis will assess the financial implications of each component, taking into account factors such as implementation costs, maintenance requirements, and long-term sustainability.

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 of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist.

88. At the time when the CN was formulated, Malawi had not yet finalized the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). However, the Government of Malawi has a number of policies and strategies that 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 National Agriculture Policy (NAP 2016) and National Agriculture Investment Plan (2019); the National Climate Change Management Policy (2016); the National Resilience Strategy (2017).

89. 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.

ID	Policy/strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience	SCRP alignment
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	The Malawi 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 the main factors affecting low agricultural productivity. The Malawi 2063 therefore outlines the following as some of the interventions to improve agricultural productivity and climate resilience: sustainable land management practices (soil and water conservation, agroforestry), irrigation, crop diversification, crop insurance and promotion of climate smart agriculture technologies, access to finance.	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 implement adaptation actions to resilience of the most vulnerable Malawians.	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	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 irrigation schemes, community seed banks (Component 3); and improved DRM capacity (Component 4)

ID	Policy/strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience	SCRP alignment
		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 management	
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.
4	**National Agriculture Policy (GoM 2016) and the National 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	NAP 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.	SCRP will contribute to NAP objectives of increased food 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)

ID	Policy/strategy main objectives	Interventions in building climate change resilience	SCRP alignment
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 inadequate climate change mainstreaming as factors increasing community climate vulnerability. The NCCMP and NCCIP proposed interventions to enhance adaptive capacity of local communities through weather forecasting; afforestation and restoration of degraded lands; development of watershed management plans; increase soil fertility and reduce soil erosion; enhance sustainable irrigation in drought prone areas; promote agricultural diversification; enhance community based early warning systems, strengthen disaster preparedness at all locals including communities; enhancing gender equality to increase adaptive capacity of women and girls who are more vulnerable to climate change.	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 and girls who are more vulnerable to climate change (Component 1 and throughout the project).
	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 climate change resilience intervention: drought management through water harvesting and irrigation; climate smart and insurance product; better access to climate information and early warning; building capacity of farmer organization to resilient landscape through afforestation and micro catchments management; scaling up payment of carbon credits; disaster preparedness through community based EWS and contingency plans.	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)

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.

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

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.
2	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.
3	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.
4	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.
4	Water Resources Act	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).

ID	National Acts	Description and relevance to SCRP
	(2013)	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.
5	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.
4	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.

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. Synergies between SCRP with previous and ongoing interventions

ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions	Lessons and synergies with SCRP
1	Enhancing the Resilience of Agro-ecological Systems Project **(ERASP 2016 - 2023)** $7,397,000 by Ministry of Agriculture and IFAD 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 making	SCRP covers different districts from those or ERASP. SCRP will adopt lessons and build on the manuals developed under ERASP to improve communities' capacity in ENRM and to formulate and implement catchment 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 SAPP was implemented in Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Balaka, Lilongwe, Nkhotakota and Chitipa	SAPP's main climate change interventions included: a) adoption of CSA on farm activities; b) livelihood diversification through small livestock pass on programme; c) farmers access to finance through 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

ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions	Lessons and synergies with SCRP
			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.
3	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	SAPPII is the continuation of SAPP, focusing on scaling up interventions to support farmers that are more resilient and productive with accessing markets and finance. SAPPII main interventions from IFAD and the Ministry include (i) developing productive assets and 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.	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 adoptedand 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.
4	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 of irrigation schemes for smallholder farmers; b) Developing water management systems; c) Building capacity of small-scale farmers to manage, operate and maintain schemes; d) Building capacity of farmers on CSA in selected value chains; e) Integrated catchments areas	Even though PRIDE is mostly in different districts, SCRP will adopt lessons and knowledge products from PRIDE in irrigation schemes, construction process and standards; training manuals on WUA 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 under PRIDE due to either water scarcity or land scarcity.
5	Financial Access for Rural Markets, Smallholders and	FARMSE main interventions included: a) increase finance access	FARMSE enhanced farmers' access to finance through innovative cash transfer, which resulted in agricultural livelihood diversification through

ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions	Lessons and synergies with SCRP
	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	and saving culture among rural households; b) capacity to improve selected value chain productivity; c) enhance access to markets	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.
6	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	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.
7	Adapting to Climate Change Through Integrated Risk Management Strategies and Enhanced Market Opportunities for Resilient Food Security and Livelihoods (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	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.

ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions	Lessons and synergies with SCRP
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.

ID	Previous or on-going interventions and project areas	Project interventions	Lessons and synergies with SCRP
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.

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

92. One of the constraints the project is addressing is the limited availability of and access to consistent knowledge to adopt climate resilient technologies and to plan and effectively manage climate related disasters. Therefore, the project is embedding knowledge management and institutional capacity building throughout its components. The costs of these interventions have been mainstreamed in components' outputs and in the execution costs. In particular, the project will thoroughly document:

- 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).
- 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.

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 comprehensive Knowledge Management and communication strategy, to be formulated at Full proposal stage. 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.

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 databases accessible through the project website will be developed, adapting from the existing database already

available under the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD). SCRP will complement in financing additional hardware and software, to better store, maintain and disseminate data from 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.

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.

97. SCRP design adopted a highly consultative process with stakeholders at different levels which included: (i) at national level: government ministries and departments, financing institutions, farmer apex bodies such as Farmers Union of Malawi, local NGOs, UN agencies; (ii) at district level: involving the district agricultural extension coordination committees (DAECC); (iii) at community levels: with community leaders, potential beneficiary groups through focus group discussion segregated by gender (men, youth and women).

98. 4 key informant discussions with DAEC members were conducted (one for each district) plus one with traditional leaders in Lilongwe rural district; 6 community groups discussions (2 for each district), 24 focused group discussions with women, youth and men 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 and 27% men. The breakdown is summarized below.

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 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 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.

104. **Consultations at national-level involving government ministries and other stakeholders:** Two format of discussion were held. Individual government ministries or departments 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.

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.

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

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.

Table 10: Scenario without and with adaptation cost

Business as usual scenario	Outputs	Adaptation Fund additionality
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.	Output 1.1 and throughout the project	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**
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.	Outputs 1.2 and 3.1	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**
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 experience yield losses and impacts of climate change	Outputs 2.1 and 1.2	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 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**
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.	Outputs 2.1, 2.2, 3.2	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**

Business as usual scenario	Outputs	Adaptation Fund additionality
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 livelihoods	Output 2.1	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**
Farmers receive training and have access to advisory but cannot implement the recommended practices due to lack of access to inputs.	Outputs 2.1 and 3.1	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** • **25 community seed banks are created for farmers to multiply and access seeds**
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.	Outputs 3.1 and 3.2	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 cookstoves**
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 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.	Outputs 2.1 and 3.2	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 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**
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,	Outputs 3.2	Climate-resilient storage facilities help farmers conserve their harvest for longer. Incomes increase

Business as usual scenario	Outputs	Adaptation Fund additionality
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.		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.	Outputs 4.1 and 4.2	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**

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 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.

K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being

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).

112. During the full proposal development stage, the Project Development Team (PDT) will confirm the risk categorization and develop an Environment and Social Management Framework, (ESMP), 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 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.

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	X	**No risk** The project will ensure strict adherence to National Environmental Acts (2017) and Adaptation Fund Social and Environmental Policy 15 principles and other international obligations. Social and Climate Management Framework (ESMF) will be developed at full proposal development, whereas specific project interventions will have Environment, Social and Management Plans at the time of execution. SCRP shall collaborate with MEPA during implementation of specific ESMPs. Other laws 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.
Access and Equity		**Low risk** Some risks may arise due to cultural norms regarding women and youth participation, where women and youth do not have equal access to the project's resources 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 action to ensure women and youth participation will be taken to ensure 50% of the beneficiaries are women and 30% are youth. 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.

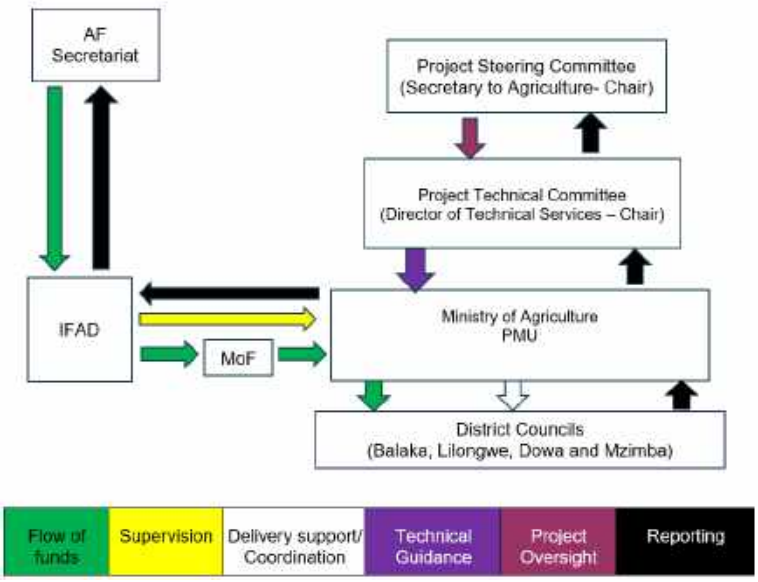
Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
		Additionally, IFAD will widely promote its grievance procedures, providing a means for anyone who believes they have 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		**Low risk** The programme aims to target the vulnerable and resource restricted individuals forming groups in conformity with Social Welfare Policy (2018). As stated, a Beneficiary Target Strategy will be developed to guide 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 will be informed by consultations. The project will ensure 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	X	**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 Rights or with International Human Rights Laws and Conventions.
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		**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. 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		**Low risk** SCRP will be bound by ILO Regulations, the Malawi Labour Act (GoM 2000)[49] 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 international standards.
Indigenous Peoples	X	**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 or tribes.
Involuntary Resettlement	X	**No risk** 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 individual group members as they join the respective farmer groups. IFAD's grievance procedures will be widely promoted, providing a means for anyone who believes they have been wronged to seek appropriate remedies.

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

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance
Protection of Natural Habitats	X	**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.
Conservation of Biological Diversity	X	**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.)
Climate Change	X	**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.
Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		**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 proposal development project will develop an ESMF, including a pest management plan 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		**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.
Physical and Cultural Heritage	X	**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 or climate projections and forecasting.
Lands and Soil Conservation	X	**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.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

113. IFAD 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); 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.

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[50]	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	• National DRM and/or EWS policies and/or processes revised to better respond to	**Outcome 2.** Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-	**Outcome 2.** Capacity of staff to respond to, and mitigate impacts of, climate-related	1'000'000

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

extreme weather events	agricultural sector needs • Government staff trained on disaster preparedness, mitigation and timely response	induced socioeconomic and environmental losses **Outcome 7.** Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures	events from targeted institutions increased **Outcome 7.** Climate change priorities are integrated into national development strategy	
Project Outputs[51]	**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,	**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

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

		including variability		
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
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

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[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	

[6.] 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.

Annex A. Letter of Endorsement

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

Annex B: Preliminary Gender assessment

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[52]. 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[53].

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.[54]

b) Impacts of climate change on women and girls

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 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[55].

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[56].

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[57].

c) Reducing 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

52 Malawi (MWI) - Demographics, Health & Infant Mortality - UNICEF DATA
53 Unlocking Malawi's Economic Growth by Bridging the Widening Gender Gaps in the labour workforce (worldbank.org)
54 Women's Rights in Malawi - The Borgen Project
55 https://mwnation.com/malawi-gender-gap-widens-report/
56 https://foodtank.com/news/2021/06/research-in-malawi-shows-how-access-impacts-female-farmers/
57 https://idl-bnc-idrc.dspacedirect.org/items/18972bb6-99f5-460e-af2c-d8645bb0cd75

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.

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

Furthermore, GALS can be implemented to 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.

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.