

CRIDF in Malawi

An overview of projects the Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) has engaged with in Malawi

Malawi is a landlocked nation with a population of 18.6 million. It is a low income country with one of the highest population densities in Africa, and is located entirely within transboundary river basins. CRIDF's interventions in Malawi build water security for the rural poor. The Facility has supported the implementation of water supply and sanitation infrastructure at the Mchinji border crossing with Zambia, and also the development of a strategy for financing water infrastructure in the Songwe River Basin, which is shared with Tanzania. CRIDF works in partnership with the Government of Malawi through the Central and Southern Regional Water Boards, the Songwe River Basin Commission and the private company Illovo Sugar.

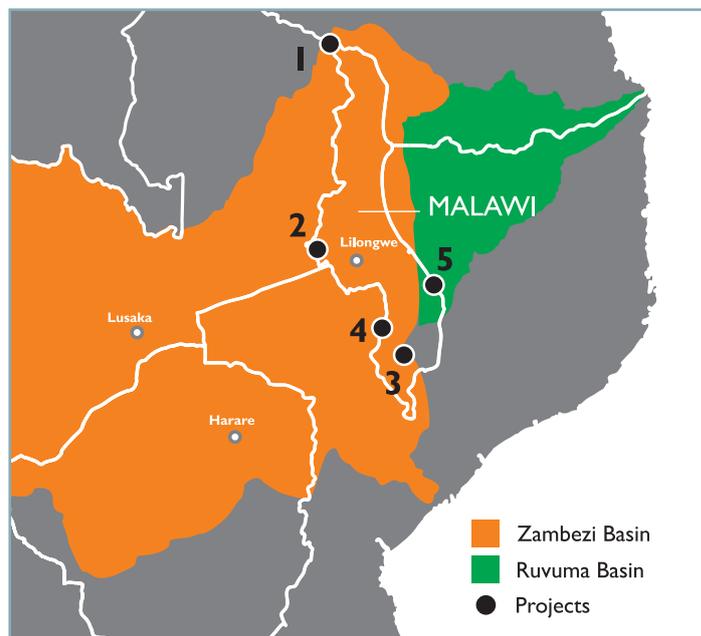
Infrastructure planning and development in the Zambezi Basin (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe)

In its support of the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM), CRIDF developed and is supporting the implementation of the livelihoods component of the Zambezi Strategic Plan (ZSP). This will ensure water and food security for the rural poor and in so doing reduce vulnerability to climate change. To achieve this, CRIDF is supporting ZAMCOM to prepare the Programme for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Zambezi Watercourse (PIDACC Zambezi) for African Development Bank funding in association with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

2017–ongoing

Water security project development at border crossings

As part of its infrastructure portfolio, CRIDF is investigating a number of water security projects at



CRIDF projects in Malawi (does not depict projects without a specific location, e.g. regional projects)

border crossings in Malawi. These include water supply projects at Mwanza and Chiponde on the border with Mozambique. Feasibility studies have been completed for these projects, which will reduce climate vulnerability for more than 50,000 beneficiaries and could also benefit 300,000 travellers a year. CRIDF is seeking to mobilise nearly US\$6 million for the implementation of these projects.

2018–2019

See map: [project numbers 4 and 5](#)

Songwe Basin development (Malawi, Tanzania)

The Governments of Malawi and Tanzania are working together to develop dams and associated hydro-power on the Songwe River, as well as irrigation schemes and social development initiatives in both countries. Through the African Development Bank, the two governments invested nearly £5 million on a detailed design project and requested CRIDF support to develop a financial strategy and provide an expert panel on dam safety. This has enabled both governments to fully explore the

potential for public–private partnerships. In addition, an application was prepared for transaction advisers to support the financial closure of the projects. The results of the CRIDF financial analysis were presented at a donor conference in May 2017. CRIDF has also provided support for the development and financing of projects that will build the climate resilience of the rural poor; this includes the completion of basin-wide district pre-feasibility studies in both Malawi and Tanzania, together with the preparation of Terms of Reference for feasibility studies and Concept Notes for potential financiers.

2013–ongoing

See map: [project number 1](#)

Mchinji water supply and sanitation

CRIDF has supported both the Central Regional Water Board of Malawi and the Eastern Water and Sewerage Company of Zambia to implement water supply and sanitation projects on the utilities' respective sides of the border town of Mchinji. This support consists of building a water supply and sanitation system consisting boreholes, storage tanks and ablution blocks with toilets, bathing and laundry facilities for those crossing the border, and supplying water to 2,000 people in the local community. The project aims to provide sustainable and equitable access to a safe water supply and appropriate sanitation. This is particularly important for reducing the transmission of water-borne diseases across borders, which can stifle trade and other commercial and social activities within the sub-region and, at an extreme, may catalyse cross-border conflict.

2016–2018

See map: [project number 2](#)

Building climate resilience for smallholder contract farmers in the sugar sector (eSwatini Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia)

CRIDF has worked with Illovo Sugar to develop strategies for increasing the climate resilience of smallholder farmers. Illovo Sugar works across the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region by contracting smallholder farmers to grow sugarcane; this provides incomes for more than 1.5 million people. More generally, smallholder farmers are important contributors to agricultural production in the SADC region. A key output of the project was a vulnerability assessment and response tool that can be used by the food and beverage industry across

the SADC region and beyond. As a result of CRIDF's support, Illovo has developed an improved outgrower (contract farmer) strategy and has integrated outgrower climate risks into its corporate risk strategy.

2015–2017

Nchalo water supply (Malawi)

CRIDF worked with Illovo Sugar (Malawi) and the German Development Cooperation GIZ to upgrade the Southern Region Water Board's water supply system for the town of Nchalo and meet the drinking water needs of up to 50,000 local people. To support the project, CRIDF provided technical inputs to find viable options for delivering the work and undertook a feasibility study. CRIDF completed a design review and cost update for the project in 2019.

2014, 2019

See map: [project number 3](#)

Useful links to the CRIDF website

[CRIDF tools and tables](#): guidance and learning produced by the programme

[CRIDF case studies](#): a demonstration of the work delivered so far by the programme

[CRIDF infographics](#): useful statistics from CRIDF countries

[CRIDF countries](#): more from the CRIDF country overview series

ABOUT CRIDF

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Development Facility (CRIDF) is a UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) supported programme working to provide long-term solutions to water issues that affect the lives of the poor in Southern Africa. Our focus is to work together with organisations to show them how they can better build and manage their own water infrastructure to improve people's lives. Because rivers, lakes and river basins cross borders, CRIDF is working with 12 different countries in Southern Africa that share water resources. In so doing, CRIDF aims to improve the lives of over 200 million people, many of them extremely poor.

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