

WFP Malawi/Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Establishment of Climate Change Information Centers

What are Climate Change Information Centres?

Climate change information centers are being established by the Malawi Government through the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services with support from UN World Food Programme (WFP). The centres will help to address the impact of climate change on all spheres of economic development. This will be achieved through storage and provision of timely information (forecasts and analysis) for users to help mitigate the hazardous impacts of climatic change.

Background

Over the past few years, several efforts have been made by various stakeholders to respond to the effects of climate change. However, most of these efforts have not been well coordinated which in turn has hampered their effectiveness. Unavailability of information combined with limited capacity in understanding climate change issues has implied stand alone approaches as well as duplication of efforts. In most cases, Government has not been involved.

To address these issues, Government in collaboration with its development partners, conducted a risk assessment to determine the most effective response and locations where a targeted response to the effects of climate change would best be initiated.

Objectives

The climate change information centres aim to help all stakeholders at district level to manage risks associated with climate change through dissemination of up-dated and reliable information tailored to local needs. Activities at the centres will mainly focus on communication outreach through provision of reading materials, briefing services, raising awareness through video shows, topical discussions and dances, and public lectures and discussions with communities on climate change related issues.

Specifically, the centres aim to:

- serve as knowledge centres for data related to vulnerability to climate change
- provide response measures at district level related to land use planning, health, water and other sectors and ensure that all programmes implemented incorporate climate change considerations.
- serve as centers for sharing best practices and approaches to addressing climate change risks based on experiences through community-based programs.
- support all partners in the district in planning programs that are related to climate change adaptation. Provide information to targeted users related to weather and climate change including daily weather forecasts and seasonal climate forecasts.



WFP Malawi/Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Establishment of Climate Change Information Centers



Operational set up

- The District Assembly buildings or nearby in the targeted districts. The District Assembly is responsible for providing space, a librarian to manage the centres, and all other associated costs for managing the centre. In the absence a librarian, the Programme Officer, National Initiative for Civic Education or District Agricultural Development Officer will manage the centre.
- The centre will open for eight hours each working day (Monday through Friday).
- The Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services will coordinate the availability of information to the centre from their newly established National Climate Centre in Blantyre. This centre will receive data information from the districts at a station, process it to meet local demands at district level and produce climate information relevant for local needs.
- Anticipated patrons of the centre include government departments, NGOs, and the community including political and traditional leaders.
- Equipment for use at the centres will include mobile phones, land-lines, computers connected to the internet.

Information Dissemination

The Information will be disseminated through video and radio documentaries, notice boards, teaching and training materials, research and publications, books, booklets, brochures, posters and calendars. Information will focus on: (1) Indigenous knowledge on climate change adaptation and forecasting; (2) Physical and socio-economic data at district level; (3) Data on current and ongoing programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation; (4) Information on climate change response measures related to land use planning, health, water and other .

Contact

Duncan Ndhlovu
Programme Officer
World Food Programme
Email: Duncan.Ndhlovu@wfp.org

Elina Kululanga
Senior Meteorologist
Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
Email: ekululanga@yahoo.co.uk

