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Malawi has experienced a number of adverse climatic hazards over the last several decades. The most serious have been dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine floods and flush floods. Some of these, especially droughts and floods, have increased in frequency, intensity and magnitude over the last two decades, and have adversely impacted on food and water security, water quality, energy and the sustainable livelihoods of rural communities.

With its narrow economic base, limited agro-processing industries, over-dependency on rain-fed agriculture and biomass for household energy, Malawi is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. This situation is exacerbated by increasing poverty among rural communities, increasing population pressure on a limited land resource base, land degradation arising from agricultural expansion and the cultivation of marginal lands, and increasing deforestation to meet the increasing demands for energy, food and construction purposes.

The loss of human, natural, financial, social and physical capital, caused by the adverse impacts of climate change, especially floods, drought and landslides, among many other natural disasters and calamities, is of great concern to the Malawi Government, as it strives to ensure sustainable livelihoods for all its citizens.

Water is a critical resource for human and industrial use, and for the maintenance of ecosystems. The proposed interventions include: (i) demand side management through water allocation, (ii) construction of boreholes, (iii) water harvesting, (iv) water resource management, and (v) flood management

Given Malawi's extremely low economic capacity to cope with climate change, there is a pressing need to plan and implement urgent interventions immediately, so future adverse effects of climate change will be minimized.