

Capability Statement

Resilient Livelihoods & Food Security

August 2025



Resilient Livelihoods and Food Security

NACRO supports Governments to improve the livelihoods and resilience of communities in its geographic areas of operation. NACRO specifically supports Governments in improving food security and disposable income for vulnerable households. The UN recognizes the importance of livelihoods and resilience of communities to the wellbeing, security and safety of individuals. UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 2 aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030.

Agriculture plays a crucial role in achieving SDGs, with a particular focus on the following:

- SDG 2 (Zero Hunger),
- SDG 1 (No Poverty),
- SDG 5 (Gender Equality),
- SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation),
- SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities),
- SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production),
- SDG 13 (Climate Action), and
- SDG 15 (Life on Land).

NACRO has positioned itself to contribute to the livelihoods and resilience thematic area through the provision of technical and capacity development support aimed at contributing to:

- Promoting sustainable ecofriendly agriculture and other nature-based enterprises
- Promoting production and utilisation of nutritious foods
- Improving access to markets for smallholder farmers
- Improving financial literacy and business knowledge and capacity of vulnerable households
- Improving resilience of households to environmental, socioeconomic, and other external shocks.



The challenge

Southern Africa faces food security challenges regularly, with millions experiencing food insecurity due to factors such as drought, climate change, and economic instability, leading to widespread malnutrition and hunger, particularly among children. In Southern Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and Angola are particularly affected by the drought and face a high risk of acute food insecurity.

The key livelihood issues and challenges that Southern Africa faces are outlined below.

Widespread Food Insecurity:

An estimated 27.4 million people in Southern Africa face food insecurity, the situation tending to worsen due to poor harvests and drought.

Malnutrition:

Child malnutrition, particularly stunting, remains a major concern, with high rates in most countries in the region.

Poverty and Inequality:

Poverty and inequality are major causes of food insecurity, with many people lacking access to sufficient food and resources.

Climate Change:

Southern Africa regularly faces droughts in many places and floods in other areas, often adversely impacting agriculture and other livelihood activities. For instance, the 2023/24 drought, driven by an intense El Niño phenomenon, severely impacted crop and livestock production, causing inflation, economic decline, and increased unemployment across the region.

Climate change, including prolonged dry spells, frequent droughts, and floods, exacerbates food insecurity by impacting agricultural production.

Economic Factors:

Global price shocks, volatility in commodity markets, and increases in energy and fertilizer prices, further complicate the situation and lead to increased food prices.



NACRO's approach

In the livelihoods and resilience thematic area, NACRO aims to support communities in the countries of operation – Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe – in reducing poverty, ending hunger, and mitigating climate related damage. NACRO's approach involves investing in reducing poverty, ending hunger and improving community resilience and economic empowerment. NACRO focuses on supporting vulnerable communities to access and develop the capabilities, services, and opportunities needed for a productive and fulfilling life, while promoting sustainable use of natural resources. NACRO also supports establishment and training of community-based organisations with focus on economic empowerment (through, e.g. savings groups, farmer cooperatives, financial literacy, promoting farming as business, etc). The key areas of focus of NACRO's approach to livelihood services are:

- Enhanced Livelihood and Resilience: NACRO develops and promotes and sustainable agroecological intensification practices, food security and nutrition, and innovative production technologies to improve livelihoods and build resilience in communities.
- Financial inclusion: NACRO facilitates financial and business knowledge among smallholder farmers and other vulnerable groups, especially women and youth, to improve their access to affordable financing, productive inputs and services, and participation in agribusiness along the agri-food value chains, contributing to diversified livelihoods and decent jobs.
- Enterprise Development: NACRO supports the development of viable and profitable enterprises, empowering individuals, and communities to establish and run sustainable group or individual small-scale businesses and generate income and improve their livelihoods.
- Sustainable Markets: NACRO promotes access to markets, ensuring that producers produce in an environmentally sustainable manner and can sell their goods and services at fair prices.
- Sustainable Natural Resource Management: NACRO emphasizes the importance of sustainable resource utilization, ensuring that communities can continue to benefit from their environment.

NACRO provides technical and capacity development to livelihoods and resilience specifically through.

- Promoting sustainable farming, including climate smart and regenerative agriculture practices
- Promoting good climate and environment management
- Promoting use of low-maintenance water abstraction, reticulation and storage systems including construction or rehabilitation of mechanised borehole water systems and irrigation schemes
- Provision of implementation support in production, technology, value addition.
- Support to market access including facilitation of crop and food bulking/aggregation for markets.
- Promoting availability of and access to healthy nutritious food for nutrition and food security including sensitisation on production, preservation and consumption of healthy foods.
- Promoting group savings and lending including establishment of Village Savings and Lending Groups and cooperatives
- Providing financial education including training target groups in farm businesses management through methodologies such as farmer business school and farmer business simulation
- Supporting establishment and management of nature-based activities and businesses.
- Promoting disaster prevention, readiness, and relief, and providing associated training.



NACRO's experience

[Mtendere Smallholder Irrigation Scheme | Ntcheu, Malawi | 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026 | \(€383,977\) | NAK-karitativ](#)

The main objective of the project was to improve rural livelihoods by raising the productivity of smallholder farms and incomes of 200 farming households at Mtendere Irrigation Scheme in Ntcheu.

The 15 hectares irrigation scheme whose construction works started on 1st October 2024 has been done. Two weirs and a network of irrigation pipes have been constructed. The key results of the project include:

- 200 farming households accessing irrigation for increased production.
- A Water Users Association (WUA) established and trained in scheme management, equipping 45 farmers with knowledge on operation of irrigation systems, water usage, and leadership skills.
- 5 savings groups established, enabling farmers to save money and access small.

Contact: Anthony Ngwira | cpc.malawi@nacroz.mz

[Facilitating Climate Risk Adaptation - Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Barotse Sub Basin under the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience | Nalolo and Shangombo, Zambia | 2014-2021 | €207,350 | Government of Zambia Ministry of Natural Resources & The World Bank.](#)

The New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO) worked as a Climate Risk Adaptation Facilitator (CRAF), under the Strengthening Climate Resilience in the Barotse Sub Basin project under the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilient (PPCR). NACRO assisted vulnerable communities in Nalolo and Shangombo districts in Western Province to identify and mitigate and address climate risks and hazards through local development plans. The results of NACRO's contribution included the following:

- 147 adaptation sub-grant projects were identified and funded in Nalolo district including 47 projects involving mechanized boreholes for domestic water supply and watering of livestock mostly cattle, and canal clearing facilitating improved production of rice and other wetland crops.
- 102 integrated adaptation sub-grant projects were identified and funded in Shangombo district, 68 of which were infrastructure and other physical projects.
- 80 project members were trained in financial management, farm planning, and applying an experience-based approach in agricultural business (Farming as a business).

Contact: Katungu Mukelabai | ed@nacroz.mz

[Forest and Landscape Restoration in the Mpira Dam Catchment Area | Ntcheu, Malawi | 1 March 2024 to 31 August 2025 | MK101,677,791 \(€50,839\) | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

The Forest and Landscape Restoration project aimed to contribute to improved access to and increased adoption of irrigation by targeted communities in the Mpira Dam Catchment area in Ntcheu district, for improved agricultural production. Among other results, the project achieved the following:

- 4 small scale irrigation schemes have been rehabilitated
- 1,000 mango seedlings, 1,000 banana suckers, 205 bamboos and 1 tonne of vetiver shrubs were planted as part of landscape restoration and reforestation
- 312 farmers have been trained in irrigation, water management, climate-smart agriculture, and nutrition, and are benefitting from irrigated crop production
- 9 village savings groups were established and trained, and savings are in progress.

Contact: Anthony Ngwira | cpc.malawi@nacroz.mz



[Empowerment of Women through Savings Self-Help Groups – Chipata, Katete, Petauke, Sinda and Nyimba Districts | Eastern Province, Zambia | 1 March 2024 - 30 March, 2027 | € 200,157.00 | NAK-karitativ](#)

The project being implemented in Eastern Province, aims to empower women and other vulnerable groups through communal savings and lending and investment. The project targeted to register 20 women groups. So far, the savings groups intervention in the Eastern Province has registered the following results:

- 77 savings and lending groups have been established and are saving and lending
- In the first six months of 2025, the savings groups had mobilized savings amounting to a total of ZMW 442,205.00 and have an outstanding loan amount of ZMW 664,766.90
- Over 380 people are benefiting from savings and lending, enabling households to invest in trading and small businesses and to better meet household needs e.g. education for schoolchildren.

Contact: Alfred Chushi | cpc.zambia@nacrozmbz.com

[Energy Cooperatives for Smallholder Farmers | Petauke, Zambia | 2018-2020 & 01.05.2023-01.04.2025 | 481,833.10 | Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development \(BMZ\) and NAK-Karitativ](#)

The project was implemented in Nkhundye community of Petauke District in Zambia, to provide clean energy (biogas) and water to five targeted villages. The investments provided include:

- Three solar powered water systems and six water kiosks have been provided, benefitting over 2,000 people (about 400 households) from water for domestic and irrigation purposes and biogas.
- Two 75m³ biodigesters have been installed, supplying gas for cooking for over 100 households
- Two sets of cattle sheds, sheltering communally over 500 cattle
- Seven hectares of land being farmed for vegetables and seasonal crops, and fruit trees, expected to contribute to improved incomes and nutrition for targeted households

Contact: Katungu Mukelabai | ed@nacrozmbz.com

[Promoting small-scale entrepreneurship and climate resilience in various districts | Malawi | 1 March 2023 - 31 March 2026 | MK8,910,372 \(€4,455\) | German Sparkassenstiftung for International Cooperation \(DSIK\)](#)

NACRO partnered with DSIK to implement the Farmer Business Simulation Games (FBS), a practical approach that improves participants' knowledge of income and expense management, and financial planning and applying an experience-based approach in business. Results of the FBS intervention include:

- 573 farmers (114 men and 459 women) have been trained in FBS and the related *Managing Climate Resilient* (MCR).
- The 573 farmers have also been trained in crop selection based on market price and demand, production cost and land requirements, and assisted to establish village savings groups.

Contact: Anthony Ngwira | cpc.malawi@nacrozmbz.com

[Support People Living with Disabilities \(Amputees Support Programme\) | Harare, Zimbabwe | 2023 - 2024 | US\\$700.00 | Pride Amputees.](#)

NACRO partnered with Pride Amputees to supply shoes to 70 amputees, under the One Shoe Project.

Contact: Vincent Chikomo | cpc.zimbabwe@nacrozmbz.com

IMAGES OF NACRO LIVELIHOODS IMPROVEMENT AND RESILIENCE BUILDING INTERVENTIONS

Mtendere Smallholder Irrigation Scheme -Malawi

Installation of gate valve
and construction of
sedimentation chambers
at the irrigation scheme,



Rehabilitated weirs at
Kudyerakulimba and
Nankhonga schemes.



Forest and Landscape Restoration Project - Malawi

Practicals - Vetiver
planting at Tiyesenawo
and Kudyera Kulimba
irrigation scheme, and
Mbeya Manure making at
Mpamadzi scheme



Managing Climate Resilience (MCR) Training - Malawi

MCR training in Mchinji
and Mzuzu



Strengthening Climate Resilience In The Barotse Sub Basin under the Pilot Programme For Climate Resilience; -Zambia

Solar driven water supply borehole as part of the climate resilience building infrastructure provided.



Communal gardens and small livestock enterprises as examples of climate resilient businesses supported.



Energy Cooperatives For Smallholder Farmers - Petauke District, Zambia

Utilities from the biogas and water supply installations at Nkhundye in Petauke District:

- ∞ Cattle holding pens
- ∞ Biogasa for cooking and other uses, and
- ∞ Water for domestic use and irrigation.
- ∞ Bioslurry as organic fertiliser and soil conditioner.



Empowerment of Women through Savings Groups – Eastern, Zambia

A savings group counting savings and another counting returned loans.



Some enterprises started with investment from savings – food stall, hardware shop. Poultry, and goat keeping.



Amputees Support Programme under One Shoe Project for People Living With Disabilities) – Harare, Zimbabwe.

