



MAJOR OUTCOMES AND ASKS FROM PRE COP28 MEETINGS WITH MALAWI RURAL WOMEN ASSEMBLIES IN ZOMBA DISTRICT



Malawi Rural Women Farmers in Zomba discussing issues they would want COP28 to address.

Oxfam in Malawi is actively implementing a Gender Transformative Climate Resilience Project funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB), with the goal of fostering improved gender-transformative, low carbon, and climate-resilient development in vulnerable communities, particularly benefiting women and girls in Africa. This initiative involves strategic partnerships, including collaboration with Rural Women Assemblies (RWA). Recently, Oxfam supported RWA community-based interface meetings ahead of COP28, supporting rural women and communities affected by Climate Change to advocate their concerns at COP28. The key focus areas during the RWA meetings in Likangala and Malosa in Zomba district centered on climate financing, loss and damage, adaptation support, and advocating for a bottom-up approach to climate negotiations. The RWA present their asks for COP 28 and Post COP 28 as follows:

1. Climate financing

i. Adequate Funding for Inclusive Climate Change Interventions:

Climate change-related funds allocated during emergency response must be sufficient to address the needs of all affected districts and areas. Past trends have left out numerous affected individuals, leading to prolonged suffering and delayed recovery, especially on the part of women and children and those with disabilities.

ii. Enhanced Allocation for Climate-Smart Social Cash Transfer Programs:

Climate financing should prioritize Climate-Smart Social Cash Transfer programs during the rebuilding phase, with increased budget allocations to accommodate the rising costs of living. Women, the elderly and the marginalized should be prioritized in the programs.

iii. Targeted Financing for Rural Women in Climate Change Projects:

Deliberate efforts in climate financing should focus on addressing the specific needs of rural women in affected communities. In the Assemblies held, women emphasized that often, women bear a greater responsibility for household issues and suffer disproportionately in disasters, therefore they deserve priority in climate financing programs.

iv. Comprehensive Coverage of Economic and Non-Economic Losses:

Climate change funds should encompass both economic and non-economic losses to provide holistic support to affected communities.

2. Loss and Damage

- i. Disaster preparedness programs should be prioritized to avoid magnitude losses and strategies of dissemination of right and accurate weather information should be transmitted to the community members through their phones and local radio stations.

3. Gender and Climate Justice

- i. Integrate gender-specific services in climate change response, ensure equitable distribution of resources regardless of socio-demographic factors, promote gender balance in decision-making on climate issues, and allocate climate funds to address specific impacts on vulnerable groups.

4. Agriculture and Food and Forestry

- i. Prioritize gender-inclusive climate change interventions through commercially viable projects, such as small-scale solar pump irrigation for women in agriculture.
- ii. Reform agricultural climate interventions by replacing hard collateral arrangements with soft collaterals, utilizing collective groups and cooperatives instead of individual household assets.
- iii. Direct support to agriculture should focus on smallholder farmers in rural communities, addressing the gap where current support predominantly benefits large-scale farmers in schemes.

Other pictures of the meeting can be accessed here:

<https://oxfam.box.com/s/grz5gvfyjokh8t7s14sosvbq7uwhi9>