



United Nations
Network on Migration

Working Better Together



UNITED NATIONS
MALAWI

Making Migration Work for All

Our Stories of Change

in commemoration of



18th December 2023

About

On the 18th of December every year, the world recognizes International Migrants Day. This is a day to celebrate migrants, to advocate for their rights, and to encourage the international community to work together to harness the power of migration.

The following stories highlight areas where UN agencies, as members of the United Nations Network on Migration in Malawi, have been able to contribute to safe, orderly and regular migration while pursuing individual mandates within their own programming.

The United Nations Network on Migration at national UN level in Malawi comprises 9 UN agencies with the objective to ensure effective, timely, coordinated UN support to the Government of Malawi in the management of thematic areas of migration in the country.

The role of the Network is to support the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Migration, prioritizing the rights and wellbeing of all migrants and their communities of origin, transit and destination. The Network places emphasis on those issues where a common UN system approach would add value and from which results and impact can be readily gauged.

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Kateness's story

Encouraged by her cousin who migrated from Malawi to South Africa in search of better opportunities, Kateness decided to follow in her cousin's footsteps and take that same path. However, once in South Africa, having been smuggled through various land borders, Kateness realized that it was difficult to find work without proper travel documentation. The jobs that Kateness did manage to find included long hours and very little pay. Having exhausted her savings, Kateness was stranded. She reached out to IOM and was assisted with return and reintegration support so that she could return home to her family. Kateness then attended business trainings and, together with her mother, now runs a profitable caster oil production business in Blantyre.

Kateness was supported through the Pilot Action on Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR), funded by the European Union and Implemented by IOM in Malawi.

As the leading inter-governmental organization promoting since 1951 humane and orderly migration, IOM plays a key role to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through different areas of intervention that connect both humanitarian assistance and sustainable development. Since 1979, IOM has been implementing Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programs worldwide, assisting more than 1.5 million migrants.





Lilian's story

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After Form 1, life became difficult for our family and my parents could no longer afford to pay my school fees until a teacher so gracefully offered to pay my Form 2 tuition fees. The teacher was eventually transferred to another school and I nearly dropped out since my parents could not fill the gap. However, through the financial support of the Naweza Project, I completed my secondary school education. I am now pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce in Internal Auditing at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences courtesy of UNHCR's Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Scholarship. If given the chance, I would like to work as an Auditor for the Government of Malawi and eventually pursue a Masters degree and PhD!

When Lilian, now 21 years old, first set foot on Malawian soil in 2005 after leaving Burundi, she did not anticipate the ebb and flow that her educational journey would be. Just as she was on the verge of giving up, she got a breakthrough. With drive and determination to succeed, she applied to various universities and landed a spot at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). She is now in her second year of studies and is among the 108 selected students under UNHCR's Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship. She is based at Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa.

UNHCR's DAFI scholarship has been supporting refugee students in Malawi since 2019.

UNHCR is mandated to find sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced persons and stateless people. UNHCR is dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution. It leads international action to protect refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.



Maria's story



I didn't know that our actions were likely to bring chaos in the community. As young people, we are now more for dialogue than confrontation.

Maria Daniel, from the job-scarce border district of Mulanje, had never taken part in a demonstration. But on one Saturday morning, Maria felt compelled to join her fellow youths in a planned protest to show their frustrations regarding the lack of economic opportunities for young people in the district. The demonstrations took place as planned. At first, they were peaceful, but they later turned violent. Police were called to intervene following reports of property vandalism and danger to the public.

Under the 'Border Districts and Community-Based Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in Malawi' Project implemented by UNFPA under the Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund, Maria and 70 other youth in her community were trained in peace building. The project aims to strengthen capabilities to mitigate and respond to existing and projected conflict, including radicalization and terrorism and the potential for Islamic radicalization directly from Mozambique, which plays on existing latent religious tensions at the community level.



UNFPA supports community networks by encouraging engagement in conflict identification, mitigation, and prevention, strengthening border security management, and increasing the capacity of the national peace architecture. UNFPA aims to build knowledge and capacity to respond to needs in population and family planning, promoting awareness in both developed and developing countries with population problems.



Angaomwewa's story

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I lost everything overnight, in that moment all I could think of was saving my life. After the cyclone, I constructed a shelter out of grass, but this wasn't enough. When I was shortlisted as a beneficiary on this project, I realized that this was an opportunity to get my life back to near normalcy. I am thankful to IOM and have used all the resources they provided to build myself this shelter.

Angaomwewa Gayanda, a 53-year-old woman from Likapa Village, Kachulu, TA Mwambo, is among 1700 beneficiaries in Zomba who received shelter support. Angaomwewa and her family lost their house and their crops to the flooding caused by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in March 2023. Angaomwewa, like many other internally displaced persons now sheltered in Kachulu Camp, lived close to Lake Chilwa. With IOM's support, Angaomwewa is slowly finding her feet again and feels she can now begin restoring her life.

IOM played a significant role in providing support to the Tropical Cyclone Freddy Response. With support from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), IOM provided much needed shelter assistance to communities who had lost their homes. IOM's distribution centered around the provision of cash for purchasing of poles and nails, as well as packages which included blankets, mats, and solar lanterns etc. IOM also provided capacity building to internally displaced persons with Emergency Shelter Construction trainings so that they had the necessary skills to construct strong shelters.



DTM
IOM DISPLACEMENT
TRACKING MATRIX

Informing border management through the DTM Dashboard

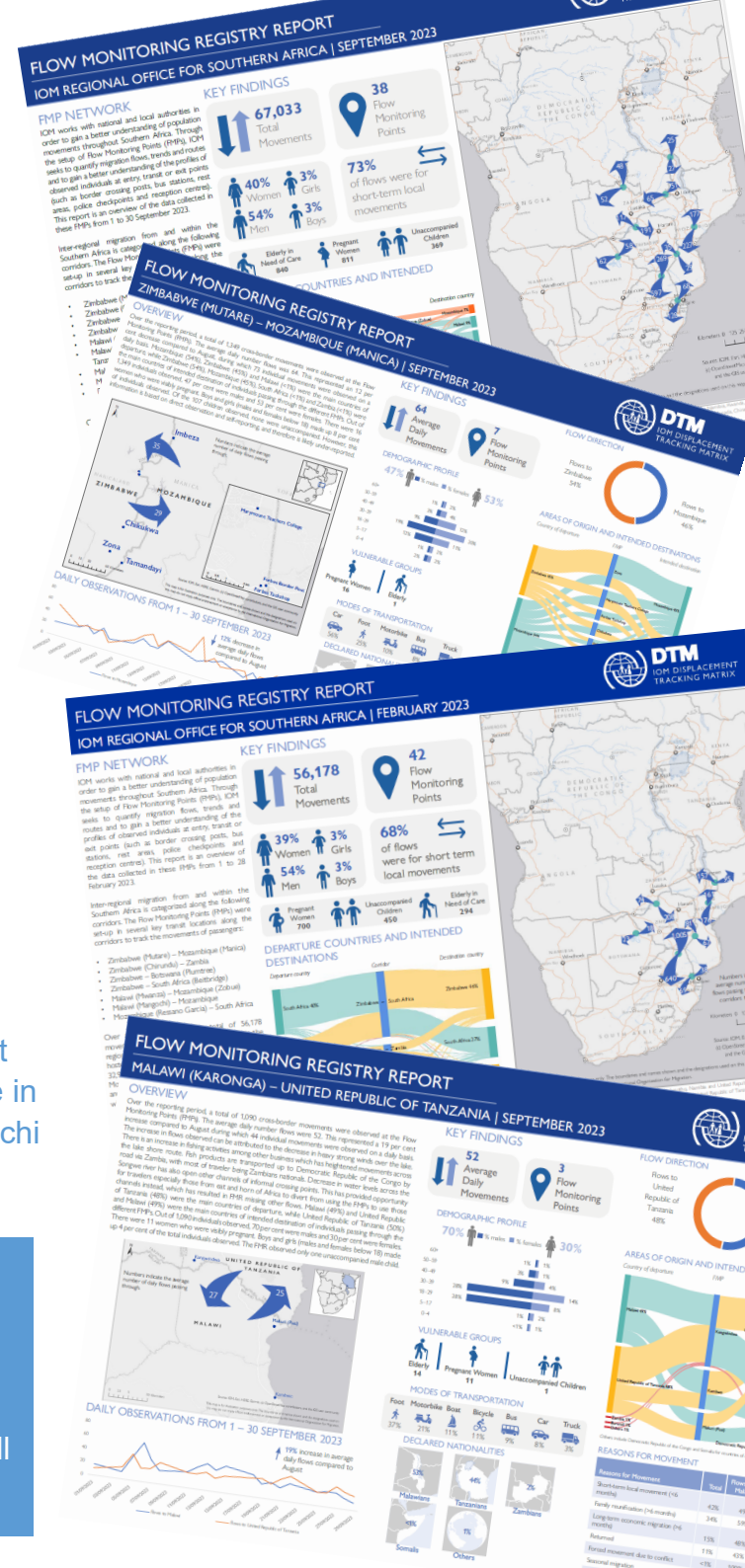


We have increased the number of patrolling officers from 2 to 4 at Nyanya, Matamanda and Akhristu informal crossing points in Mangochi district so that we can provide increased security to border communities and protect vulnerable migrants on the move. This action was informed by IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) flow monitoring tool. With the use of this tool we noticed that more travelers are using these informal crossing points, thereby increasing the risk of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in these areas and requiring greater security and migrant protection measures.

- Chiponde Border Police Patrol Officials

IOM Malawi, through the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flow Monitoring tool, collects data at Malawi's border crossing points to better understand population movements. Currently, DTM is active in Karonga district at the Songwe-Kasumula border shared by Malawi and Tanzania, and also in Mangochi at the Chiponde-Mandimba border shared by Malawi and Mozambique.

DTM gathers and analyzes data to disseminate critical multi layered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities, and needs of displaced and mobile populations that enables decision makers and responders to provide these populations with better context specific assistance. DTM data enables decision-makers and humanitarian partners to maximize resources and deliver efficiently, better-targeted, humanitarian and post crisis programs. IOM provides DTM data as a common resource to all stakeholders in humanitarian responses and those engaged in supporting populations on the move.



Zione's story

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Life is tough, and challenges will never end but I am grateful to God for sparing my life. Life is everything, being alive today is both a grace and a blessing. When I think about the imminent rains fear engulfs me, but I still feel being here (at the camp) I am better off, unlike being washed away by water. Some of us have nowhere to go nor any relations to look to living in the uplands. I am grateful to UN Women for being there in this wanting situation — for the material support, and for comforting and encouraging us that this is not the end of life.

Zione Banda is an IDP and a Tropical Cyclone Freddy survivor from Nyangu village, TA Mwambo in Zomba District. Zione is currently residing at Namisunju Camp. Her village was submerged in the waters of Lake Chilwa during the floods and she lost all her assets due to the cyclone. She had a house, goats, chickens and rice growing in her nearby field. UN Women supported Zione and other survivors with stoves, briquettes and solar lamps. Flood lights were installed around the camp for security and IDPs were provided with the support they needed.

UN Women is the global champion for gender equality and empowerment of women. UNW works to make migration safe for women and girls by contributing to reduced protection threats and ensuring that women and girls' priorities are central to migration decisions at all levels. The aim is to reach every last woman and girl.





Migrant Smuggling: a truck driver's story

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I used to transport sugar from Malawi. In 2016, I was waiting at a border crossing in Tanzania for customs checks when I was approached by a man who offered me a lot of money to transport goats. On the day I was due to leave, the man told me the 'goats' were actually 30 illegal migrants from Ethiopia. They looked very sick, tired, and malnourished. He said I had to take them to a location in Malawi close to a large refugee camp. This is how it all started, and soon it became my main business. The man would pay me and then escort me in a small car, so he could bribe corrupt police and immigration officers along the way.”

- An anonymous truck driver

Malawi is situated on the precarious 'Southern Route', used by irregular migrants who travel from the Horn of Africa towards South Africa in search of better livelihoods.

Smuggling of irregular migrants is a lucrative crime and extremely dangerous methods are often used. The risk of loss of life is significant.

UNODC and IOM work together to support the prevention of smuggling of migrants across borders and the harboring of irregular migrants within border communities. The Professional Drivers Association of Malawi asked UNODC to train its members on the dangers of transporting smuggled migrants and victims of trafficking, following a series of vehicle confiscations and arrests in neighbouring countries. A total of four courses for around 400 drivers have been conducted. Participants are informed about penalties imposed by Government of Malawi if caught. Similarly, IOM has oriented a total of 639 young women and girls between the ages of 13 and 19 from Lilongwe, Blantyre and Mangochi districts to improve their understanding of human trafficking and migrant smuggling risks and to become aware of the safer migration options available.

Individually,
we have managed to make strides to improve
the lives of migrants throughout Malawi.

Imagine

what we could achieve

together

as the UN Network on Migration in Malawi,
with **YOUR** direct support and partnership.

If you would like to play a part in helping us achieve safe, orderly, and regular migration for all in Malawi,
leaving no one behind, please contact our Network Migration focal person:

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In partnership. let's flip the narrative on migration in Malawi.



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International
Migrants
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