

## Appendix 1: Question guides for Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT FLOODING

- a. How often, when and why do floods happen in your community
- b. How does flooding impact your community?
- c. In your opinion, are floods increasing, decreasing or they are the same in your community?
- d. In your opinion, what characteristics and structure does your community have that helps you in managing flooding?

### 2. LOCAL KNOWLEDGE FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

- a. What do you understand by the term local knowledge for flood management?
- b. What is the local knowledge that helps your community with flooding?

#### SUBQUESTIONS

- i. What is this local knowledge you are using BEFORE the flood?

#### PROMPTS

- How do you know flood is coming?
- Can threshold be distinguished? (water levels for impacting agriculture, livestock, roads, houses?)
- How do you prepare? What actions do you take and what makes you decide so? Provide more explanations of these actions.
- How much these actions help (in terms of impacts and losses)?
- Any specific construction practices?
- Indigenous flood zoning (how do they determine the line where the houses are not built?)
- In terms of livelihoods- will they change how they plant and harvest? Will they store food? Will they prepare their houses? If moving uplands, where do they move?
- Any organisations or individuals within the community that help them?

- ii. What is this local knowledge you are using DURING the flood?

#### PROMPTS

- What do you do?
- How do you evacuate?
- How do they decide to evacuate?
- How do you decide to leave the house, move the cattle?
- Where do you go when you evacuate?
- Who do you listen to tell you what to do in times of flooding?

- iii. What is this local knowledge you are using AFTER the flood?

#### PROMPTS

- How do you rebuild the houses? Are they in the same place?
- How do you go back to the situation prior to flooding?

- c. What is the most useful local knowledge for you?

### 3. STATUS OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE/ LOCAL KNOWLEDGE: NOW AND THEN

- a. In your opinion, is there a difference in the use of local knowledge for flood management now compared to in the past?

### 4. CREATION, HOLDERS AND TRANSMISSION OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

- a. Where do you get the knowledge in relation to flood risk management in general?
- b. What are the ways in which local knowledge is shared in your community?
- c. What factors influence the use of local knowledge by community members?

#### PROMPTS

- Age, occupation, education, level of poverty, being a part of a specific community group

### 5. BARRIERS FOR LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCEMENT OF USE

- a. What do you think are the problems with using local knowledge for flood management in your community?
- b. How can these problems be solved?
- c. In your opinion, can local knowledge improve flood risk management/ disaster risk reduction in Malawi

6. ADDITIONS

- a. Is there anything else you would like to add?