

## Sukulu Malawi!

Helping schools  
live with climate change

## Welcome to Sukulu Malawi!

### It's a fact:

**Climate change is restricting children's access to school.**

**But with your support, four schools in Nsanje, Malawi, can tackle the effects of climate change on local children, families and communities.**

Through an inspiring mix of fundraising, learning and direct feedback, this unique project will help Nsanje's children back into school and help their families protect themselves from the worst effects of climate change in the future.

By joining Sukulu Malawi! you're not only making a huge difference to the lives of children in Nsanje, you'll be giving your pupils an educational and motivating experience too.



Pupils in their flood-damaged classroom, Nsanje.

### What's the need?

Climate change is hitting the world's poorest people hardest. In Malawi, southern Africa, the impact is felt through increasingly frequent and intense floods and droughts.

Communities in low-lying Nsanje are particularly vulnerable. Local rivers can flood for several weeks, badly affecting every aspect of life for children and their families – their homes, livelihoods and access to food and fresh, clean water.

**Take a look at the CD-Rom for all your Sukulu Malawi! resources.**

Here you will find your PowerPoint assembly, lesson activities, some great fundraising ideas and lots more.

## What's the need?

### **Sukulu Malawi! will be supporting Mchere, Chikali, Namiyala and Chikonje primary schools to get children back into school.**

- **Climate change is washing away bridges and roads.** Most pupils have to cross rivers to get to school, but severe flooding has washed away bridges and cut off roads. Some children try to cross the river but this is dangerous because of crocodiles.
- **Climate change is damaging school buildings.** Flooding has caused major damage to the schools. In 2008 all four were forced to close for up to three months. Floodwater eroded classroom walls and left gaping holes in the floor. Desks and books were swept away, leaving pupils with few learning materials. Some classrooms are now in such poor condition lessons have to be held outside.
- **Climate change is reducing food supplies.** Children find it difficult to concentrate when they are hungry. Flooding and drought have led to extremely poor harvests in recent years, destroying vital crops. With livelihoods lost, families are not getting enough to eat and are often too poor to afford school uniforms, books or pens for their children.
- **Climate change is reducing access to clean water.** Many boreholes have been damaged by flooding. Pupils and teachers now have to walk several miles to find clean water, taking them away from class. Flooding can also contaminate water sources, leaving pupils susceptible to malaria or diarrhoea.



A pupil drinking contaminated water from a borehole, Namiyala primary school, Nsanje.

**“Sometimes I have problems getting to school when the river is flooded. I am afraid to cross because of the crocodiles. I have few books and it can be difficult sharing with five or six others. When I’m older I would like to go to secondary school. I want to become a nurse.”**

Fales Edison, 12, standard 4 class, Chikali primary school, Nsanje.



A bridge washed away by high floodwaters, Nsanje.

## How can you help?

By raising funds, your school and ActionAid can help schools and communities in Nsanje adapt to the devastating effects of climate change so children can get the education they deserve. Your funds will help us:

- **improve school buildings to withstand flooding.** ActionAid will renovate existing classroom blocks and teachers’ houses, and construct new classrooms where necessary. The wider community will be able to use the buildings as safe shelter during floods.
- **improve access to school.** We will restore bridges and improve road access to ensure pupils can get to school easily and safely.
- **support sustainable school feeding programmes** to provide pupils with a daily school meal (sometimes their only guaranteed meal), reducing hunger and helping them concentrate in class.
- **support river dredging and de-silting schemes,** making rivers less prone to flooding, protecting schools, villages and crops.
- **install wells to provide a safe water source for schools.** This will reduce valuable class time lost to fetching water, and improve pupils’ health. The water will also irrigate crops.
- **increase awareness of climate change through songs, drama and poems** to help children and their families prepare for the effects of climate change in the future.