

What is the role of Malawian medical doctors in planetary health?

Should it be added to their medical curriculum?



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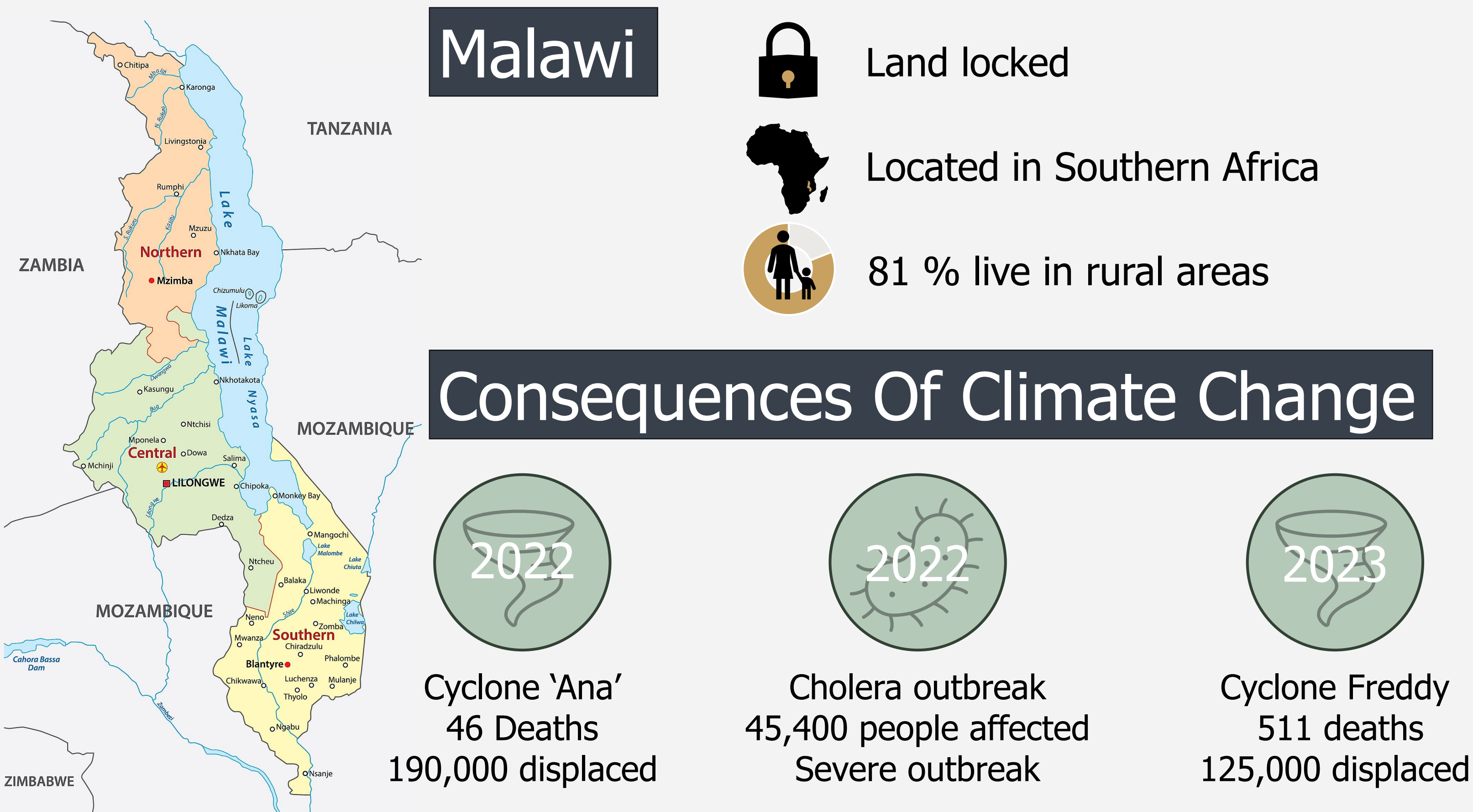
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Introduction

Planetary health in a low income country has a different focus than in high income countries. Low income countries have to deal with the consequences of climate change but also have specific opportunities to reduce their own impact. Reducing population growth by family planning, reforestation and building resilience towards disasters are some key strategies. In low-income settings, medical doctors often occupy influential positions within their communities and districts. This influential role affords them a unique opportunity to initiate transformative changes with respect to planetary health.

Planetary health and medical education

Embedding planetary health education in curricula is an essential step to achieving the transformative change needed. However, in low and middle income countries other priorities regarding the curriculum content might be of relevance compared to high income settings.



“Advocacy, prevention, disaster preparedness, disaster response, all tasks of medical doctors, but they need to educate themselves about these issues.”
Male 54 Agricultural sector

Why this study?

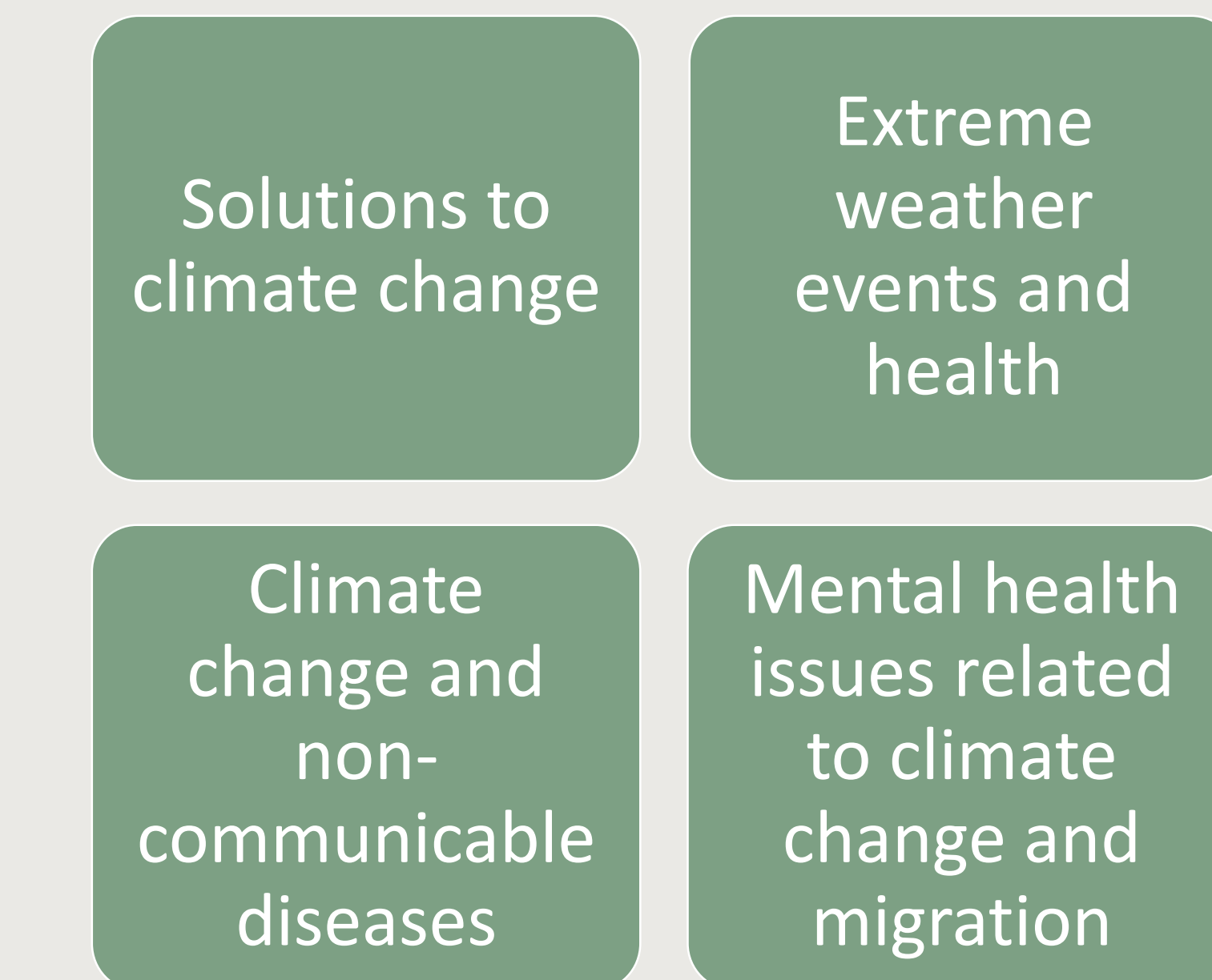
- Malawi is affected by climate change and has to cope with the consequences.
- There are opportunities to reduce the health sectors impact and mitigate negative effects from climate change.
- This study explores the knowledge and perceptions about planetary health and medical doctors among medical students and stakeholders and explores how planetary health can be incorporated into the medical curriculum in Malawi.

Results

Roles of medical doctors within planetary health according to district stakeholders



Students' subjects of interest



Methods



2 FGD with medical students



survey among 94 medical students



7 in-depth interviews with key stakeholders¹

Readiness to reform medical education towards adding planetary health in Malawi
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GET IN TOUCH!

Are you also working on Planetary health in LMIC? Let me know more about your research and what you think of this study.



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