

In the context of Lilongwe, **resilience** can be defined as the enduring strength and calm perseverance rooted in faith and trust in God, which empowers individuals to humbly embrace responsibilities, take risks, seize opportunities, and extend mercy and forgiveness, all while holding onto the promises of God.

Here's a comparison of the meanings of **resilience** as given by leaders in Gaborone, Livingstone, Lusaka, and Lilongwe:

## **Similarities:**

### **1. Faith and Trust in God:**

- Across all four locations, there is a strong emphasis on faith, trust in God, and spiritual strength as central components of resilience.
- In Gaborone, resilience includes "being unshakeable," which implies a deep-rooted faith.
- Livingstone highlighted perseverance, faithfulness, and courage, which are closely tied to spiritual resilience.
- Lusaka emphasised "holding on," "patience," and "faithfulness," reflecting a trust in God's presence.
- Lilongwe explicitly mentions "faith," "trust in God," and "holding onto the promises of God."

### **2. Perseverance and Endurance:**

- Perseverance is a recurring theme in all four definitions.
- Gaborone talks about being "immovable," indicating steadfastness.
- Livingstone and Lusaka both include "endurance" and "perseverance" as key elements.
- Lilongwe speaks of "endurance," indicating a capacity to withstand challenges.

### **3. Calmness and Humility:**

- Calmness in the face of adversity is valued in both Lusaka ("patience," "humility") and Lilongwe ("remain calm," "humble").
- Gaborone's definition hints at inner strength, which may encompass calmness, though it's not explicitly mentioned.



## Differences:

### 1. Community vs. Individual Focus:

- In Gaborone, resilience is described more in terms of a collective, community-based strength ("family").
- In contrast, Lilongwe and Lusaka place more emphasis on individual spiritual practices and virtues, such as faith, obedience, and humility.

### 2. Practical Action vs. Spiritual Trust:

- Lilongwe places more focus on spiritual aspects such as "obedience," "sacrifice," and "knowing your responsibilities" linked to one's faith in God, which isn't as explicitly mentioned in other definitions.
- Lusaka, on the other hand, includes more practical guidance like "listening to God and others" and "being wise," adding a dimension of active engagement rather than just spiritual endurance.

### 3. Risk-taking:

- Lilongwe's inclusion of "taking risks" and "seizing opportunities" is unique, indicating an aspect of resilience that involves proactive and sometimes bold actions, which is not a focus in the definitions from Gaborone, Livingstone, or Lusaka.

## Conclusion:

While all definitions highlight faith, endurance, and an inner strength to withstand challenges, Lilongwe introduces a more proactive aspect of resilience through risk-taking and opportunity-seeking. Gaborone's definition leans more towards communal and immovable strength, while Lusaka and Livingstone share a more balanced view of resilience, blending spiritual trust with practical perseverance.

