

In the context of Mangochi (Malawi), resilience can be defined as the unwavering strength and courage to persevere through challenges, rooted in self-belief and obedience to God and His promises, and characterised by love, care, understanding, and a calm, supportive spirit that forgives and refrains from judgement.

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

### Similarities:

- 1. Faith and Trust in God:** Across all regions, there is a strong emphasis on faith, trust in God, and holding on to divine promises as central to resilience. This spiritual foundation is a consistent theme, reflecting the importance of religion and spirituality in coping with challenges.
- 2. Perseverance and Endurance:** The idea of enduring hardships and not giving up is a common thread. Whether it's expressed as perseverance, holding on, or simply keeping faith, the concept of enduring through difficult times is a shared understanding of resilience.
- 3. Courage and Strength:** Resilience is also associated with inner strength and courage in all regions. Whether it's the bravery to face challenges in Mangochi or the strength mentioned in Lusaka and Livingstone, the need for courage is universally acknowledged.
- 4. Calmness and Understanding:** Maintaining calmness and understanding in the face of adversity is another recurring theme. This is seen as crucial to navigating crises without being overwhelmed.

### Differences:

#### 1. Contextual Emphasis:

- **Gaborone:** Emphasised being unshakeable and immovable, with a focus on perseverance against all odds.
- **Livingstone:** Included the concept of resilience being rooted in family and community, with a focus on bouncing back and being prepared.
- **Lusaka:** Highlighted the importance of wisdom, humility, and listening, adding a reflective and community-focused dimension to resilience.
- **Lilongwe:** Added elements of sacrifice, obedience, and grace, reflecting a more relational and spiritual depth to the understanding of resilience.
- **Mangochi:** Focused on obedience to God and His promises, with an emphasis on forgiveness, love, and not judging others, which brings a more relational and compassionate aspect to resilience.



## 2. Cultural Nuances:

- **Mangochi and Lilongwe** particularly emphasise forgiveness and love, aligning resilience with relational harmony and spiritual obedience.
- **Livingstone** incorporates the idea of resilience as a community and familial trait, showing a broader social perspective.
- **Lusaka** introduces patience and humility, suggesting a more introspective approach to resilience.

## 3. Action-Oriented vs. Reflective:

- **Gaborone and Livingstone** focus more on action-oriented resilience—persevering, bouncing back, and being strong.
- **Lusaka and Lilongwe** add a reflective dimension—patience, listening, understanding, and relational harmony.

These similarities and differences highlight how the concept of resilience is both universally understood and contextually nuanced, with each region bringing its own cultural and spiritual depth to the definition.

