

The discussion in Lilongwe centred on understanding the concept of "polycrisis" as a situation where multiple, interconnected issues or complications arise simultaneously, creating a multifaceted problem. The key takeaways from the discussion include:

- 1. Definition and Understanding:** Polycrisis is conceptualised as arising from an accumulation of various complications that intertwine to create complex societal problems. These are not isolated issues but are interlinked across multiple dimensions, including financial, relational, and cultural layers.
- 2. Integration with Regional Issues:** The idea was related to challenges specific to other regions like Lusaka, Gwembe Valley, Livingstone, and Gaborone, suggesting a regional commonality in facing interconnected crises, although the specific details or examples of this integration weren't directly outlined in the provided text.
- 3. Cultural Impact:** In the context of Malawi, cultural aspects significantly influence the manifestation and perception of crises. Cultural practices affect family dynamics, financial decisions, and social responsibilities, leading to unique forms of crisis compared to other regions.
- 4. Financial Hardship and Cultural Pressures:** The discussion highlighted how cultural expectations compel individuals to act in financially imprudent ways, often leading to debt. This is exacerbated by an educational system that does not adequately prepare individuals to manage financial crises or to diversify economic opportunities beyond white-collar jobs.
- 5. Belief and Identity Crises:** Identity issues, linked to cultural and familial expectations, create relational and financial stresses. There's a notable division in responsibility and support based on familial ties, which are deeply rooted in cultural practices.

This discussion not only enhances the understanding of "polycrisis" as a multi-layered issue but also brings to light how cultural nuances significantly shape the crisis experience in different regions.

