

SDG 6 IWRM Support Programme

Stage 1

Stakeholder Consultation Report

SDG 6.5.1, degree of implementation of IWRM

Malawi

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Stakeholder Consultation Report for SDG 6.5.1

Executive Summary

The stakeholder consultation process started with the distribution of the survey questionnaire to various stakeholders via email. The response was not very good and mostly government stakeholders responded. The inputs of these stakeholders were consolidated to produce a draft report. A stakeholders workshop was convened to review the draft and for stakeholders to make further inputs into the draft report. Before the workshop, the questionnaire was circulated again to enable participants prepare for the workshop.

In view of existing Government COVID 19 protection guidelines, the workshop was planned as three consecutive 2.5-hour sessions, each session with a maximum of 10 people. Due to poor patronage of the first session, a decision was made to hold just one session. Poor patronage was due to stakeholders from development partners and Non- Governmental Organisations who were working from home due to the COVID 19 pandemic. In the end, 22 participants attended the workshop. These stakeholders represented academia/research institutions, Public Sector agencies, Civil Society and private sector.

While appreciating good progress in the enabling environment section this time compared to 2017 survey, progress in the other three sections has been low. Stakeholders also felt that the consultation process on IWRM should be an on-going process, with inputs coming from sub national levels. Completed survey instrument can be found in file "Malawi 2020 IWRM Report"

1. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 1: 'Enabling Environment'

Enabling policies and laws exist at national and sub national levels. Likewise, various national and sub national plans due exist to some extent. Although the National Water Resources Authority has been established, it is not yet fully functional and faces human resources and funding limitations. The challenge remains to implement the existing plans in view of human resources and finding limitations. Further, there are some water resources which do not have development/management plans and/or management structures. Key action points are as follows;

1. Review existing policies and laws to make them more sensitive to climate change issues. Review policies/laws that are more than 5 years old.
2. Operationalise NWRA at national and sub national levels.
3. Lobby with Parliament for the enactment of the sanitation and hygiene bill.
4. Promote enforcement / implementation of existing policies/laws/guidelines at national and sub national levels.

The likelihood of achieving high or very high level of implementation is high even without IWRM support.

2. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 2: 'Institutions and Participation'

Water resources development and management structures exist at national and sub national levels. This facilitates participation of various stakeholders and interest groups. Coordination structure has been established and multi stakeholder Water Sector Working Group, together with Sector Joint Review conducted annually is in place. Capacity building courses are available. Although NWRA has been established,

it is underfunded and understaffed which undermines its effectiveness. Further, some governance structures for various catchments have not yet been established and operationalized. Key action points are as follows;

1. Identify and empower various vulnerable groups to participate in water resources development and management activities.
2. Mainstream gender in existing policies, laws, guidelines and action plans.
3. Periodic monitoring of implementation and compliance of existing policies and laws.
4. Establish organisational frameworks for catchments which do not have governance structures.
5. Facilitate quarterly meetings for Water Working Group and annual meeting of Water Sector Joint Review meetings as coordinating and information sharing fora.

There is good progress in this component and more likely to achieve high implementation level by 2030. IWRM support would speed up the rate of achieving high implementation level and even very high implementation level.

3. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 3: 'Management Instruments'

Some level of water resources monitoring exists at national and sub national levels. The challenge remains demand management at all levels, pollution control, harmonised management of wetlands and adequate instruments for managing water related disasters. Key action points are as follows;

1. Improve capacity for monitoring and reporting water availability at national and sub national levels through project proposal for funding through development partners and/or private sector.
2. Promote water demand management by all stakeholders in various sectors of the economy.
3. Operationalise NWRA with capacity building (human resources, funding and equipment).
4. Harmonise management of wetlands through multi stakeholder forum such as Water Working Group.
5. Develop plans to construct infrastructure to manage water related disasters such as dams and dykes.
6. Establish/operationalize water management institutions at national and sub national levels.
7. Identify/ develop management plans for priority aquifers at national and sub national levels.
8. Standardise data collecting methods with periodic reporting system, electronic or otherwise.

This component progress is slow but better than financing component progress. This component is unlikely to achieve high or very high implementation without IWRM support programme.

4. Conclusions from facilitated discussions on Section 4: 'Financing'

With low funding from national budget (3% of national budget as opposed to preferred minimum of 10%), main funding source for national and sub national water resources development and management remains development partners and private sector. Three key action points are as follows;

1. Engage relevant parliamentary committees to lobby for more funding in the national budget, aiming for at least 10%. While it might be too late for this year's budget, the process could start now and be maintained during the budget review in January 2021, until the next budget session. This process could be led by Ministry of Water with support from various stakeholders.
2. Strategic Actions plans should be developed for priority action points and projects developed for funding by development partners and private sector. These projects could be at national level, led by the Ministry of Water or sub national level coordinated by the Ministry of Water with support of various stakeholders at national and sub national levels.
3. Develop a project proposal for Lake Malawi Trans boundary water resources. This has to be preceded by boundary resolution over the lake by Malawi/Tanzania, followed by an establishment of a

Commission for the management of the Lake. The Ministry of water will have to work with relevant Government institutions to facilitate this process.

This component progress is very slow and is unlikely to achieve high or very high implementation by 2010. There is therefore need for support programme. Stakeholders agree that this component is unlikely to get adequate funding from local resource.

5. Next steps

A key step remains full operationalization of the NWRA which will spearhead coordinated management of water resources and monitoring of implementation of IWRM at multiple levels, from sub national to national level. Equally important is the establishment of governance structure, especially at sub national level where they do not exist, to coordinate planning and implementation of IWRM at various levels. In view of limited resources from central government for implementation of IWRM, there is urgent need to prepare a strategy for mobilising resources at both national and international level.

Annex 1: List of participants

Workshop participants

Name	Organization	Position	Email
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Annex 2: Agenda

MONITORING AND REPORTING ON SDG INDICATOR 6.5.1 MALAWI COUNTRY REPORT WORKSHOP 7 September 2020, Ufulu Gardens

1. Opening prayer
2. Opening Remarks
3. Introductions
4. Opening remarks by the Ministry of Water
5. Power point presentation: Introduction of GWPSA
6. Power point presentation on Global and regional context of national reporting on SDG 6.5.1 on IWRM implementation: Malawi
7. Review of the draft Malawi SDG 651 questionnaire
8. Closing Remarks
9. Closing Prayer

Annex 3: Facilitator's Comments

A day's workshop is adequate to get inputs from various stakeholders however; this has to be preceded by advance circulation of the questionnaire so that stakeholders can submit in advance their inputs which would be summarised into a draft. The workshop would provide feedback to the stakeholders as well as provide room for additional inputs where necessary.

Participation of some stakeholders was restricted due to necessity to work from home in response to the COVID 19 guidelines. This affected the effectiveness of the original idea of holding three consecutive sessions thus ended up with one session.

The questionnaire is apparently too long for some stakeholders to attempt all sections. It might be helpful in future, to target stakeholders so that they provide input in areas relevant to them. Such inputs could then be used to compile the first draft which could be used during a consultative workshop.

Annex 4: Photographs

No consent was granted for photographs to be captured during the workshop, therefore there are no photographs to provide.