



WATER SCARCITY IN MALAWI

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PARLIAMENTARY WOMEN CAUCUS IN
MALAWI

Situation Analysis of water in Malawi

- ❖ Malawi is endowed with a variety of natural resources which includes;
 - extensive network of water systems covering more than 21% of the territory.
 - Lake Malawi (28750 km²)
 - Lake Malombe (303 km²)
 - Lake Chilwa (683 km²)
- ❖ Approximately 30 cubic km of fresh water are renewed every year. The Country has renewable freshwater resources of about 3,000 cubic m per capita per year;

CONT'D



- ❖ Ninety percent of the run off in rivers and streams occurs between December and June, and only 0.1% of this is estimated to be captured for later use.
- ❖ Main sources of water in rural communities are;
 - Boreholes covered/protected and;
 - open/unprotected shallow wells;
 - gravity-fed piped systems;
 - springs and lakes and rivers

CONT'D



2.5 million (26%) draw their water from shallow wells, 2.1 million (21%) use either piped water or communal. Standpipes and the remaining 1.6 million (16%) use other water sources such as rivers, and lakes.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



- ❖ Water sanitation is estimated at 65% of the country's population which is about 13 million, (85% urban and 45% rural).
- ❖ In urban areas coverage is greatest, with approximately 30% of the population having access to adequate sanitation.
- ❖ According to Ministry of Health, about 80% of school going children in Malawi lack clean and safe drinking water leaving many of them infected with or dying of diarrhoea from water borne diseases

An example of unprotected Well



- ❖ 3,000 children were infected with diarrhoea in 2005 and 1,000 of them died.
- ❖ 43 % of the population obtains water from wells, streams and other unreliable water sources leaving them prone to water-related diseases including cholera.
- ❖ nearly 50% of all illness is related to water borne diseases



❖ CONT' D

- ❖ 40% of Water facilities have fallen into disrepair
- ❖ One-third of community water points are not operational at any point in time due to these frequent breakdowns.
- ❖ poorly functioning wells are all too often not installed, as implementing organizations do not take local variables into consideration and rural communities do not have access to repair spare parts or training to fix the problem.

CONT'D



- ❖ Water sources are located very far away from the homes which takes about 3 to 4 hours walking
- ❖ Women are the ones who are affected most and are prone to HIV and Aids which is contracted through rape on their way to collect water hence leading to broken marriages due to mistrust which occur

Challenges Facing Water Resources In Malawi

- ❖ Although the country is endowed with a relatively vast amount of water resources, it is encountering a number challenges which includes:-
 - Deforestation and environmental degradation of water resources;
 - **Inadequate service coverage;** Due to increasing water demand as a result of increasing population;
 - **Inadequate financing of the Sector;**
 - **Limited Capacity in the Water and Sanitation Sector;** for. e.g:- **vacancy rates over 60%** , number of qualified people is small , few local NGOs or CSOs who are active in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

CONT'D



- ❖ **Climate change and climate variability**
- ❖ **Lack of mitigation measures for water related disasters**
- ❖ **Inadequate promotion of hygiene and sanitation;**
- ❖ **Inappropriate discharge of industrial and domestic wastes; and**
- ❖ **Poor coordination in the sector**

Initiatives/ Progress made to meet the Challenges

- ❖ The government has participated actively in the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)
- ❖ Among others, the government has participated in the following initiatives
 - The Ministry has implemented a number of development projects that have improved water and sanitation service delivery in the country;
 - Irrigation and water development has been prioritized as the second key priority area contributing towards poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth

Malawi's Policy Response

- ❖ The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development has come up with policies and guidelines for proper implementation of various activities in the Water and Sanitation Sector as follows:-
 - The National Water Policy of 2005,
 - The National Sanitation Policy of 2008
 - The Ministry's Strategic Plan (2006-2011)
 - The Integrated Water Resources Management/Water Efficiency Plan (2008-2011);

Interventions to be Taken by the Parliamentary Women's Caucus



The Parliamentary Women's Caucus in Malawi realizes that access to clean potable water sustains a healthy population and it contributes to the quality of life of household's. The Caucus also notes that access to portable clean water would reduce time devoted for the collection of water for domestic use which is mostly done by women.

Young girls are often taken out of school to help with this chore as a result, their education and the promise of a better life are hampered.

The Caucus also notes that women with access to clean portable water are less likely to contract water-related illnesses, HIV/Aids which is contracted through rape on their way to collect water.

CONT'D



- ❖ The Parliamentary Women's Caucus in Malawi in realizing its goal of Empowering the women and the communities at large from the problems of water scarcity are embarking on the project called "*Securing Sustainable Access to Clean Water*".
- ❖ The initiative is being supported by a Scottish NGO called Active Learning Centre (ALC).
- ❖ The project mainly focus on identifying practical ways to improve access to clean water for the poorest women and to make recommendations for action to relevant bodies.

CONT'D



- ❖ Specifically, the Caucus intends to dwell on the following activities in order to meet the objective their project :-
 - Identify areas in need of boreholes, gravity water and sanitation in their constituencies;
 - Identify development partners and local institutions who deal with water issues in the country;
 - Call for interface meetings with development partners and the local institutions to brief them on the situation of water need in the constituencies



CONT'D

- ❖ Due to limited resources the MP's had just conducted sensitization and consultative meetings with the people on the grassroots in the constituencies and had also formed committees to be following up on issues of water

Areas Requiring Support

- ❖ Invest at scale in sanitation and hygiene, and play a significant role in enabling Malawi to achieve the MDG sanitation target
- ❖ Provide support to Malawian Government Ministries in implementing the National Sanitation Strategy to ensure its success – particularly in rural areas and providing water and sanitation in schools, where the need is very high
- ❖ Provide direct support for Districts to deliver their District Strategic Investment Plans for water and sanitation;
- ❖ Invest in existing water and sanitation infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, which is in need of major rehabilitation



CONT'D

- ❖ Strengthen the partnership between the Women's Caucus and development partners





Wayforward

- ❖ Government should ensure that the set standards and guidelines advocated by the new policy are adhered to
- ❖ Government should encourage active participation of local service providers and operators into the Water and Sanitation Sector
- ❖ Women Caucus to work closely with the players in the water sector to effectively address the problem of water scarcity
- ❖ Mapping water points to be prioritised in all areas



CONCLUSION

- ❖ Investment in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are essential to making progress towards a multitude of development areas
- ❖ Funds permitting, the Women's Caucus would like to engage more and continue with its plans of addressing water challenges in Malawi and also in securing sustainable access to clean water for all.