



Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES)

Malawi

Country Setting

- Malawi continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world and is ranked among the bottom seven per cent of countries on the Human Development Index.
- Infant and child mortality rates have not improved since 2000. The top two causes of infant and child morbidity and mortality are malaria and diarrhoea.
- Cyclical episodes of drought and flooding cause food insecurity and contribute to annual cholera outbreaks that affect most of the country.

WES Sector Setting

- Malawi has abundant surface and groundwater resources, however aquifers are under stress in parts of the country due to population pressure and serious deforestation.
- Over the past five years there has been a considerable investment in water supply systems – close to US\$ 73 million according to a recent study – but sustainability is a problem with many systems inoperable due to poor construction standards and inadequate maintenance.
- In comparison, sanitation is under-funded.
- There is currently no national policy on sanitation and hygiene promotion however the Ministry of Water Development has initiated a policy formulation process with support from external support agencies.

Basic Indicators

Total population (1000s)	12,105
Under-five mortality rate (per 1000)	178
Total adult literacy rate (%)	60

Water and Sanitation Coverage

	Water (%)	Sanitation (%)
Urban	96	66
Rural	62	42
Total	67	46

UNICEF WES Programme

Main Components

- Community management capacity building using human rights-based approaches.
- School sanitation and hygiene promotion with schools as an entry point for overall improvements in sanitation and hygiene.
- Integrated and decentralized water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion through support to district assemblies, NGOs and other local service providers.
- Support for cholera prevention, control and preparedness at all levels.
- Strategies include promoting intersectoral approaches and participatory methodologies.

Programme Highlights and Achievements

- Establishment of a community-based operation and maintenance system.
- Integrated hygiene promotion and service provision in two community-IMCI districts.
- Pilot projects to support people living with HIV/AIDS: hygiene education and support to care groups.
- Draft guidelines for gender- and child-friendly latrines, urinals and hand-washing facilities.
- High acceptance of girls urinals in schools, and PHAST for sanitation promotion in schools and communities.
- Rapid response to cholera outbreaks.