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The WES UPDATE is a quarterly publication that gives you sectoral updates

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ONE SIZE FITS ALL? The case of covid-19



During the global Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) webinar dialogue on eliminating inequalities in Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) response to COVID-19; Director for Water Supply and Sanitation Service from the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development-Malawi, madam Emma Mbalame who was among the panelist, outlined the various strategies, protocols and institutions that are in place to ensure that no one is left behind in accessing WASH services and facilities in the country.

Citing an example during the COVID-19 pandemic, Madam Mbalame said that through WESNetwork, Campaign for Education, Sanitation and Hygiene (CAHESH), Malawi is translating COVID-19 messages and distributing braille books for visual impairments.

According to CAHESH'S Executive Director, Mc Donald Kaluwa said the initiative has 600 beneficiaries so far but intends to scale up. Being a small and self funded institution, Kaluwa has so far called upon other players to partner with CAHESH in the scale up.

It was with great pride to note that among the panelists, Malawi was the only country that has considered the visually impaired in responding to the pandemic. According to Catarina De Albuquerque who is SWA's CEO, the pandemic is not a "one size fits all" meaning to say; what is working in another country, may not work in Malawi and therefore Malawi need to put measures that will suit its environment. "For example, do not impose stay home policies on homeless people with-

out protecting them. What we do today

lays a foundation for the future" commented Catalina. This has come when Malawi was declared a State of Emergency by the President, Peter Munthalika and later announced a 21 day lock-down.

The English dialogue was attended by over 200 from across the globe.

THE MEDIA FOR WASH



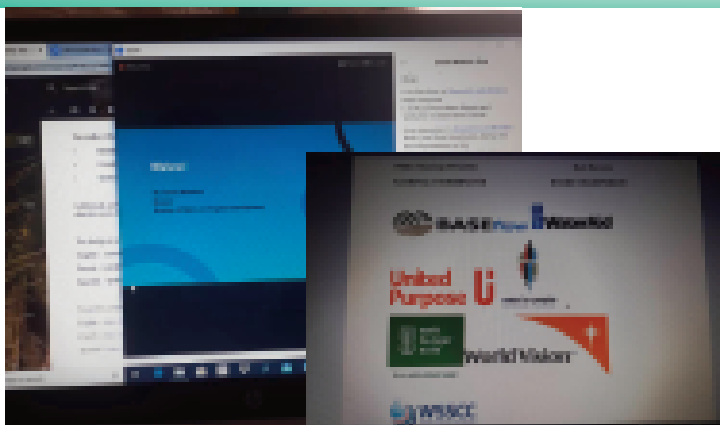
As one way of ensuring efficient and effective knowledge exchange, WASH practitioners came together to learn from one another and share the various activities the Water and Sanitation Hygiene (WASH) sector is implementing across the country. The breakfast meeting had a Donor, Government, parastatal, NGO and Media representation from across Malawi and was specifically designed for the media under the WASH Media platform.

Speaking during the function, WESNetwork's National Coordinator Mr. Willies Chanozga Mwandira said that the media specifically the WASH Media forum is an essential tool if the WASH sector is to be comprehended and voiced. According to Willies, WASH players like WSSCC, Welt Hulger Hilfe, United Purpose, WaterAid, Water for People and Mzuzu University among others who are also WESNetwork members, are doing a great job in the sector yet most of the work is being kept in the files.

It is for this reason that the WASH Media forum was established; to ensure efficient knowledge sharing. Mr Mwandira therefore called on all WASH players to engage with the platform in most of the sector's undertaking.

"It is also important to use reporters that are conversant with the sector as they will be able to follow and report factual and comprehensible based stories," he finished.

UPDATES



Through the online meetings and a press statement; WESNetwork has recommended the of moratorium on household water disconnections by Water Boards and reconnection & lowering user fees on communal water schemes through Water Boards and Water Users Associations as the country fights against COVID-19.



WESNETWORK secretariat went to Kenya on a learning exchange visit. Among others, the secretariat learnt that through the Kenyan Water Act, Kenya established the Water Sector Fund which is a statutory corporation and finances WASH projects in the country.



Through the Systems Strengthening Project, the secretariat has established four WESNETWORK district chapters thus; Zomba, Machinga and Dedza. By the end of 2020, the secretariat intends to scale up to six more districts. This is to enhance coordination of WASH entities at both national and district level.



The WESNetwork Southern Chapter plans to conduct exchange visits and media tours within the region.

WELT HUNGER HILFE



For a world without hunger



Corresponding to WESNetwork's recommendations on responses towards the COVID-19 pandemic, Welt hunger hilfe has supported Dedza District Council with 55 boreholes for rehabilitation.

WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION CORABORATIVE COUNCIL (WSSCC)



UNITED PURPOSE



With support from WSSCC, the National Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Committee assessed the Mwanza and Kameza-Blantyre COVID-19 treatment units that are being renovated with support from United Purpose.

2020 PAID UP MEMBERS SO FAR

Water and Environmental Sanitation Network is a membership based Non-Governmental Organisation that coordinates the work of Water Sanitation and Hygeine Civil Society Organisations in Malawi.

Become a member through the following annual subscription details:

Individuals: MK20 000.00

Local Institutions: MK60 000.00

International Institutions: MK250 000.00

Deposits can be made to:

Account name: WES Network General

Account number: 9032011410035

Swift code: NFBMMWMW

Bank name: My Bucks Banking Corporation

Send proof of payment once a deposit is made and contact the secretariat on +255 212 261 675

Below are the 2020 paid up members so far and subscription is still underway.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Action Hope | 12. Mzuzu University WATSAN |
| 2. AG Care | 13. NACRO |
| 3. BASEDA | 14. Rural Development Partners |
| 4. CCODE | 15. Water for People |
| 5. CICOD | 16. WASHTED |
| 6. CPAR | 17. WaterAid |
| 7. DAPP | 18. Water Missions |
| 8. Evidence Action | 19. Welt Hunger Hilfe |
| 9. Feed the Children | 20. Heart to Heart |
| 10. InterAide | 21. Pump Aid |
| 11. Express Moyo | 22. CCAP Smart Centre |