



WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION NETWORK (WESNETWORK)

Jan-March 2022 Issue

WESNetwork Newsletter



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Water and Environmental
Sanitation Network

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INSIDE

1. Note from the National Coordinator
2. The Secretariat and the new board
3. Member Stories
3. 2021 Pictorial Focus

NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR



Mr Willies Mwandira

It is with gratitude that I congratulate you for the year 2021.

Looking back from where we are coming from and where we are now as a sector, I can testify that we have achieved a great milestone and we are moving towards the right direction in providing quality WASH services.

The WASH sector in Malawi has had quite a number of challenges; poor funding, high vacancy rates, vandalism of public facilities, the Covid-19 pandemic and dissolving the WASH Cluster has been the most agonising. However; as a passionate WASH actor I am satisfied with the direction we as a sector are going.

For the past three financial years, the sector's allocation of the National Budget has amicably increased. The trend which has been from K30 billion to MK90 billion and then to about MK151 billion in the 2022/23 FY is a great stride in the history of the sector.

The Eswathini declaration indicate that Malawi requires an annual allocation of MK93 billion for her to achieve SDG6 by 2030.

I should say that this is the right direction and if the right systems and mechanisms must be deployed, by 2030 we would have achieved SDG6.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey reports that 12.2% of households in the country have access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene.

There is therefore a need to do even more.

As you may be aware, the WASH sector now has a stand alone Ministry, Ministry of Water and Sanitation. Our Minister; Hon. Abida Sidik Mia is very accomodative and keen to learn and do more.

It is therefore my sincere hope that collectively with one voice; we shall continue to support the Minister and all other departments and agencies.

The pace has been set! Let's run with the vision.

ENJOY

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mr. Willies Mwandira

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Gloria Nyirenda

CONTRIBUTORS

Gloria Nyirenda

Dr. Russel Chidya

Chikondi Phambala

Ladies & gentlemen

WESNetwork Board of Directors



Yankho Mataya
The board Chairperson



Hector Chilimani
Director of Partnership



Mary Maere
Board treasurer



Chizaso Nyirongo
Legal advisor



Wongani Chimbali
Director of resource mobilisation



Panganani Njolomole
Vice Chairperson



Olivia Kachuma
Director of Programmes

Congratulations

Access to safe & clean water for all in Malawi

WESNETWORK STRUCTURAL ORGANISATION

The Research & Knowledge Exchange Thematic Working Group (RKE TWG) and the Policy & Advocacy Thematic Working Groups (PA TWG) are WESNetworks main operational hubs.

The key mandate of these TWGs is to enhance member condibnation and interventions in either Policy & advocacy or knowledge sharing & learning.

Depending on focus area, members belong to either of the two.

The Malawi Menstrual Hygeine Hub (MHM Hub) specifically focuses on mensrual health as an independent arm composed of members and partners in both TWGs .

WES ORGANOGRAM

THE BOARD

THE SECRETARIAT

**RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE
THEMATIC WORKING
GROUP**

**POLICY & ADVOCACY
THEMATIC WORKING
GROUP**

MEET THE SECRETARIAT



Willies Chanogza Mwandira
National Coordinator



Gloria Nyirenda
Communications & Program Officer



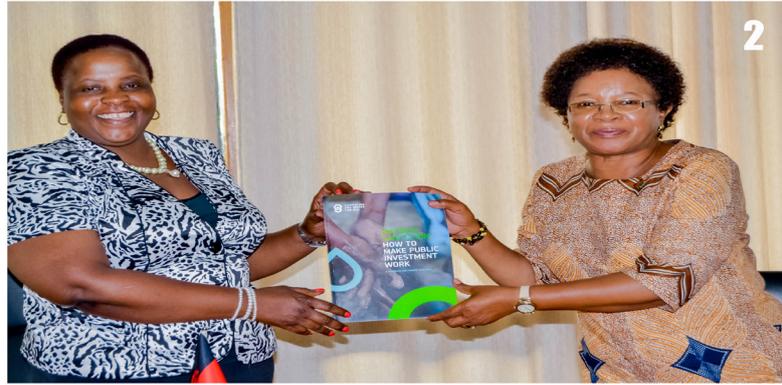
Angelina Chikoko
Finance & Administration Officer



Hopeson Chaima
Policy-Advocacy & Program Officer

2021 IN PICTURES

Along with our members and partners, several activities were jointly conducted and we are glad to share a glimpse



Pictures 1, 2, 3 & 4: Honorables Felix Mlusu, Nancy Tembo and Khumbize Kandodo (former Minister of Finance, Forestry & Natural Resources and Minister of Health), WES Network Members, government official and donor actors preparing for the Financial Ministers Meeting (FMM) which WES Network facilitated.

Picture 5 & 6: Hon, Nancy Tembo along with Khumbize Kandodo and Hon. Felix Mlusu virtually attending the FMM



ADVOCACY AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING IN PICTURES



ADVOCACY!
KNOWLEDGE SHARING!
We are advocates!
WE ARE WESNETWORK



Experts for increased Wash funding

By BRENDA MURRAY
Social Services

Water is essential for life and health. It is also a scarce resource. In Malawi, access to clean water and sanitation is a challenge. Experts are calling for increased funding for water and sanitation (WASH) services. They argue that WASH is a cost-effective way to improve public health and reduce the burden of disease. The experts also call for a more integrated approach to WASH, one that takes into account the needs of all communities. They believe that with the right funding and leadership, Malawi can achieve universal access to WASH services.



CSO network, parley committee propose regulation for water industry

December 9, 2021 | Fazlita Tembo - Nyasa Times Be the first to comment

Water, Environment and Sanitation-Network (WES-Net) and the Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources and Climate Change have proposed that a public institution should be set up to regulate water tariffs in the country.

WES-Net Chairperson Kate Harawa told Nyasa Times on Wednesday that a regulatory body would help water boards to operate properly and work on full cost recovery as well.

Girls in menstruation trouble

Many Malawian girls struggle to afford their daily menstrual needs. They often use unhygienic materials like rags or old clothes, which can lead to health problems. A group of girls in a school in Malawi are sharing their experiences. They say that they often feel embarrassed and ashamed of their menstrual cycle. They also say that they often miss school because they do not have enough money to buy sanitary pads. The girls are calling for more support from the government and the community to help them with their menstrual needs.



KEY ADVOCACY ISSUES AND OUTCOMES

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Malawi has for the past decade been characterised with:

1. The lowest funding from the National budget allocation
2. Lack of political prioritisation
3. Tax on essential WASH valuables; water and sanitary pads
4. Lack of adequate Health Surveillance Assistance (HSAs) and Water Monitoring Assistants (WMA)
5. Inadequate resources (funds, vehicles, etc) in district and regional water offices
6. Poor service delivery especially borehole drilling by stakeholders
7. Politicising borehole

We advocated! held meetings with key stakeholders, made publications, held press conferences and demonstrated.

OUTCOME

1. Increased allocation of the National Budget; from 30 billion to 90 billion to 150 billion Malawi Kwacha for the past three financial years
2. Establishment of a stand-alone water Ministry
3. Removal of VAT on drinking water and exercise duty & VAT on sanitary pads
4. Development of MOUs in districts to ensure quality service delivery and accountability
5. Approval of the Lilongwe Salima Water Project

THANK YOU MEMBERS FOR PATRONIZING THE PROCESSES!
AND CONGRATULATION

It is even now that we need to deploy resources much more than before

STORY IN PICTURES: The AGM

AGM BRIEF & HIGHLIGHTS

WES Network Annual AGM was held on 7 December 2021.



Group photograph



presentation of the financial report



Plenary session



Networking



Awardees



Plenary session

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The following member NGOs were awarded for their exceptional contribution to the secretariat and the WASH sector which mostly has been the financial support which is the key driver for operations of both sector activities and those of the secretariat.

To WHH, United Purpose, Baseflow, CPAR, WaterAid and World Vison, THANK YOU is an understatement. The certification obtained is a testimonial that you are the key WASH Champiogns



PICTURE OF THE YEAR 2021



BASE



This is the worthy Best

BASEFLOW

has excelled in being the most active member to WES Network Secretariat

WES NETWORK
ANNUAL MEETING

"Defining
Transformative

(Re-aligning
Actions w
(MW2063)

MEMBER STORIES

THE EASY FARM PUMP—by Chikondi Phambala



Irrigation farming increases crop yield and it protects from famine. Without irrigation “farming” is very limited or if the rainfall decreases to less than 30cm, agriculture becomes impossible without irrigation (King 1953).

Thomas is a farmer and more especially an irrigation farmer; he started farming in the year 2010 and farming was not that easy compared to how it is now.

In the past, my method of irrigation farming system was through use of watering canes to water crops. This affected the way I carried my work; the piece of land I cultivated was limited as I could not manage to cover a huge piece of land because I couldn’t carry heavily loaded watering canes repeatedly and at a far distance from where the well was. It was very demanding and tiring and it made my work hard,” said Thomas.

He continues to say that there was once a time he had a chance to use a treadle pump; although there was some positivity, he still faced some difficulties



“Are you a farmer in need of an easy to operate irrigation pump? You will not go wrong with “Easy Farm Pump” from Beyond Water,” says Thomas Chikweza from Nkwinda village T/A Njombwa of Mchinji district. My life has been made simple when it comes to irrigation farming, I can’t complain anymore,” said Thomas.

“At the very beginning I was very excited to the idea of moving from watering canes and migrating to treadle pump, but it turned out to be a lot harder using a treadle because it required extra effort and strength and it was time consuming. At the end of watering session, I would go back home very tired and come the following day I was not even looking forward going back to use the treadle pump and sometimes the other day would go by without using it,” said Chikweza.

Chikweza’s farm plot is located along-side the Kasungu M1 road and it was chosen and set up as one of the Easy Farm Pump Demonstration Plot for Beyond Water in Kasungu. Thomas has seen change and positivity in using the pump.



cially I started using the pump this year 2020 because as of last year it encountered with the rainy season. I am not just saying this just to spice it up, but I have used this pump and have seen its goodness, in short, I can say that I like it.

I can water a huge amount of land at a minimal given time, and it is easy to operate,” said Thomas.

Thomas was very happy to say that he is no longer bothered when it comes watering the crops.

“The pump was given to me in the year 2019 but I can say that offi-

“Like I said, the pump is very easy to operate and when I am away, it no longer bothers me that I would find the crops almost drying due to being unwatered because, my wife is able to operate on the pump and my children as well so they can easily water the crops when I am away.



The other thing is, I am able to water the crops in time and use the rest of the time to do other things of which was not possible in the past,” Said Thomas

Chikweza this year planted crops such as Tomato, Onions and Okra (lady fingers) he says he is very grateful to have been given this opportunity to use the pump and he hopes and looks forward to yielding more. “My words to those that would want to purchase the pump are that, they will not regret buying the pump as it is simple, flexible and affordable with flexibility in terms of payment because one is allowed to pay in installments,” said Chikweza

NEW KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT WATER, SANITATION CHALLENGES

By Dr. Russell Chidya

For many years, water has been considered as an inexhaustible natural resource. It is, therefore, not surprising that a lot of people take it for granted that there is still more water to sustain the life of all living organisms.

Without water, economic, industrial, and domestic activities will be affected. Sadly, water has no substitute and degrading water through pollution means destroying the life of organisms as well as compromising other activities that need water.

In order to have safe water, issues of sanitation and hygiene must be considered too.

To share knowledge on the strides made in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Malawi, the Water and Environmental Sanitation Network (WESNET) in conjunction with Mzuzu University through the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWAS) organised a two-day workshop from 23-24 September, 2021 at Crest Illala Lodge in Mzuzu.

The aim of the workshop was to disseminate information on WASH research projects conducted within the Northern Region which also allowed those from the other regions to learn from the projects.

The presentations tackled various issues such as; assessment of bio-sand filter efficiency in treating water; investigation on physiochemical and presence of pathogenic bacteria in wastewater treatment in plant effluent; determination of water quality in re-used plastic bottles and sachets; assessment of the potential for the integrated development of hydropower and water supply operation on Lunyangwa Dam; assessment on the impacts of waste management practice on public health and the environment.

The findings from the research studies revealed that access to safe water and improved hygiene remains a challenge in Malawi.

There is need for collective effort to solve these issues. The workshop was successful as the feedback from the participants highlighted the interventions that would make a difference in the lives of people.

Among the recommendations, there is need for concerted efforts to ensure water protection and improved access to sanitation and hygiene services are achieved. The possibility that new challenges will always be identified, there is need for increased research and innovations to protect water and the environment, and also forge more collaborations to promote WASH in Malawi and beyond.

The workshop targeted district WASH coordinators, representatives from the Civil Society Organisations (CSO), Mzuzu University WASH researchers, and other stakeholders.

Mzuzu University team was led by Dr Russel Chidya, and the presenters from the University were Dr. Grace Ogbonna, Colness Dinga, Nelia Chikwakwa, John Chavula, Arthur Nyasulu, Ashan Kagwa, Davie Kapinda, Lizzie Thondoya, and Madalitso Ng'ombe.

The workshop was also attended by officials from Mzuzu City Council, district WASH Coordinators and of WASH stakeholders in Malawi

2021 PAID UP MEMBERS

1. CYECE
2. AgCare
3. BASEDA
4. BaseFlow
5. CCODE
6. Circle for Integrated Community Development (CICOD)
7. CPAR
8. DAPP
9. Evidence Action
10. Feed the Children
11. InterAide
12. Mzuzu University (WATSAN)
13. Rural Development Partners
14. Water for People
15. WASHTED- Polytechnic University of Malawi
16. Water Mission
17. WaterAid
18. Welthungerhilfe
19. CCAP Smart Centre
20. Orant Charities Africa
21. Fisherman's rest
22. United Purpose
23. Tubepoka Development Initiative
24. GOAL Malawi
25. World Vision
26. Heart to Heart
27. Pump Aid
28. Express Moyo

2022 PAID-UP MEMBERS SO FAR

1. CPAR
2. NACRO
3. BASEDA
4. Evidence Action
5. DAPP
6. Welthungerhilfe
7. AGCare
8. Orant Charities
9. Habitat for Humanity
10. MAGGA
12. PumpAid
13. TearFund

2022 KEY WESNETWORK PLANS

Organise a national debate

Conduct academic trainings

Hold a sanitation Conference

Share government guidelines

Conduct a National WASH Fair

Hold a media workshop

Conduct exchange visits

Policy Reviews

“Leadership is a process that involves setting a PURPOSE AND DIRECTION which inspires people to combine and work towards willingly; paying attention to the MEANS, PACE AND QUALITY OF PROGRESS towards the aim; and upholding GROUP UNITY and INDIVIDUAL EFFECTIVENESS throughout.” James Sculle

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW WESNETWORK?

What WESNetwork really is...

Water and Environmental Sanitation Network is a **MEMBERSHIP BASED** network of NGOs, Academic Institutions and Individuals that are implementing WASH in Malawi

Is the secretariat WESNetwork?

No!

Then who is WES Network?

Members.

What is the role of the secretariat?

To **COORDINATE** member activities and sectoral events.

What is your responsibility as a member?

Patronise the activities.

Fund the secretariat

Plan and budget for the operations of the secretariat

Current funding.....

WHH

Member subscription (2021 subscription total: K3.7million)

Funding has been key to drive the in-country WASH agenda and advocacy by the network....

Imagine what the sector would be like without WESNetwork?

Let us therefore all take responsibility.

