MINISRTY OF AGRICULTURE, IRRIGATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

2025/2026 PERFOMANCE REPORT FOR WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE SECTOR

THEME:

Reimagining WASH Financing: Ensuring Inclusive, Gender-Sensitive Services for All

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights progress the performance of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector (WASH) during the 2025/26 Financial Year. It focuses on the sector's headline indicators, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and progress made across the key subsectors of water resources management and development, water supply services, sector financing and staffing, Sanitation and Hygiene and Civil Society Organization (CSO) participation. The report also provides an assessment of progress on undertakings agreed upon during previous Joint Sector Review (JSR) meetings and identifies key challenges affecting sector performance.

The sector financing and staffing component indicates that the WASH Sector continuously face funding and human resource challenges. During the period under review, the sector was allocated MK169 billion, representing 1.97% of the national budget, compared to 3.35% in the previous financial year. Development expenditure remained heavily dependent on foreign financing, which accounted for 80.7% of the total sector budget. At district level, the sector received MK2.73 billion, representing 1.5% of total council budgets. Staffing levels under the Department of Water Development showed a vacancy rate of 36%, an increase from 33% in the previous year, largely due to retirements and staff attrition.

The water resources management and development sub-sector recorded mixed results during the year under review. Compliance of drinking water samples with national standards stood at 87.7%, while compliance of wastewater samples was recorded at 44.7%. Ambient water quality compliance improved to 92.6%. The Department constructed 82 boreholes against a target of 70, representing an achievement of 117.1%, while seven water harvesting structures were completed against a target of twelve. Progress was also registered in groundwater monitoring, early warning systems, and catchment management initiatives. However, challenges related to inadequate funding, limited monitoring activities, declining wastewater compliance, and delays in the review of strategic sector documents continued to affect performance.

According to the National Statistical Office Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2024, national access to improved drinking water sources rose to 88.5%, with a 96.7% access rate in urban areas and 87.0% in rural areas. While urban residents primarily rely on piped connections (43.0%) and communal standpipes (22.2%), rural areas depend heavily on boreholes (73.8%).The rural water supply sub-sector continued implementing programmes aimed at increasing access to safe drinking water and improving functionality of water supply systems. Significant investments were made through the National Water and Sanitation Project, Malawi Water and Sanitation Improvement Project, Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project, and several district-level interventions. Progress was also made in the rehabilitation and expansion of water supply infrastructure, groundwater development, and implementation of Joint Sector

Review undertakings. Despite these achievements, challenges such as inadequate financing, functionality issues of some water points, staffing constraints, and increasing demand for water services remain significant concerns.

For urban water supply services, the Water Boards continued to invest in infrastructure rehabilitation, expansion, and service improvement programmes. Major projects implemented during the period included the Lilongwe Water and Sanitation Project, Northern Region Water Board Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project, Rumphi Water Supply and Sanitation Project, and the National Water and Sanitation Project. These investments have contributed to improved service delivery, enhanced water quality management, and increased access to safe water in urban centers. However, challenges relating to non-revenue water, ageing infrastructure, population growth, and financing requirements continue to affect service delivery.

Data from the 2023 Joint Monitoring Program and 2024 Malawi Demographic Health Survey indicates a concerning decline in sanitation access, with 40% of the population having at least basic sanitation in 2024 compared to 49% in 2023. While the 2023 JMP reported 46% safely managed sanitation, the 2024 MDHS shifted focus to "at least basic" due to difficulties in verifying offsite treatment, highlighting a downward trend from a 55% peak in 2015-16

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) remained important partners in supporting water, sanitation and hygiene interventions across the country. CSOs contributed to water supply development, sanitation and hygiene promotion, emergency WASH responses, research and knowledge generation, and capacity building initiatives. Through their programmes, CSOs complemented Government efforts in expanding access to WASH services, responding to emergencies and outbreaks, and promoting innovative approaches to service delivery. The report highlights several best practices and success stories implemented by CSOs, while also identifying funding and coordination challenges affecting the sustainability of interventions.

Recent findings from the Joint Sector Review Assessment provided additional insights into sector governance, coordination and accountability arrangements. The assessment highlighted progress in sector planning and stakeholder engagement while identifying opportunities to strengthen implementation tracking of Joint Sector Review undertakings, improve sector monitoring and information systems, enhance financing accountability and strengthen mutual accountability mechanisms. Several of these findings have informed the analysis and recommendations presented in this report (**IWMI, 2026**).

The overall performance of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Sector during the 2025/26 Financial Year can be characterised as one of moderate progress under increasing resource and service delivery pressures. The sector recorded important achievements in expanding access to improved drinking water services, strengthening water resources management, rehabilitating and expanding water supply infrastructure,

and advancing several strategic investments through Government and Development Partner-supported programmes. National access to improved drinking water services increased to 88.5 percent during the reporting period. However, access to safely managed drinking water services remained low at 18.7 percent, highlighting persistent service-level gaps despite gains in infrastructure coverage. Drinking water quality compliance high at 87.7 percent, ambient water quality compliance improved to 92.6 percent, and borehole construction exceeded annual targets.

However, these achievements were accompanied by several emerging risks that require urgent attention. Sector financing declined from 3.35 percent to 1.97 percent of the national budget, while dependence on external financing remained high at over 80 percent of development expenditure. Human resource capacity continues to weaken, with vacancy levels in key technical positions rising to 36 percent. Wastewater quality compliance remains low at 44.7 percent, signalling growing environmental and public health concerns. The sector is also facing increasing pressure from rapid population growth, urbanisation, catchment degradation, climate variability, ageing infrastructure and rising demand for services.

Particularly concerning is the reported decline in sanitation access, which fell to 40 percent of the population with at least basic sanitation services. This suggests that progress in water supply is not being matched by equivalent gains in sanitation and hygiene, creating a risk of widening imbalance across the WASH sector. Similarly, although significant infrastructure investments are underway, challenges related to water point functionality, non-revenue water, operation and maintenance, and sustainability of services continue to affect long-term sector performance.

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The evidence presented in this report therefore suggests that Malawi's WASH sector is transitioning from a phase primarily focused on infrastructure expansion towards one that increasingly requires attention to service sustainability, financing resilience, institutional capacity, wastewater management, and accountability for sector results. Future progress will depend not only on mobilising additional resources but also on strengthening coordination mechanisms, improving implementation of Joint Sector Review undertakings, enhancing monitoring systems, and ensuring that investments translate into sustained service outcomes for communities.

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The forthcoming Joint Sector Review therefore provides an important opportunity for stakeholders to agree on practical actions to address financing constraints, accelerate sanitation improvements, strengthen sector accountability mechanisms, improve

functionality and sustainability of WASH infrastructure, and enhance resilience to climate-related risks.

Table 1: Key Sector Risks, Implications and Priority Response Actions

Risk Area	Evidence from 2025/26 Performance	Potential Implications	Priority Response Action
Declining Sector Financing	Sector allocation declined from 3.35% to 1.97% of the national budget.	Reduced capacity to expand services, rehabilitate infrastructure and sustain sector investments.	Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and improve alignment between sector priorities and budget allocations.
High Dependence on External Financing	Foreign financing accounts for 80.7% of development expenditure.	Increased vulnerability to fluctuations in donor funding and sustainability risks.	Diversify financing sources and expand private sector and innovative financing mechanisms.
Human Resource Constraints	Vacancy rate increased from 33% to 36%.	Reduced capacity for planning, supervision, monitoring and implementation.	Prioritise recruitment, retention and capacity development in critical technical positions.
Declining Sanitation Access	Access to at least basic sanitation declined to 40%.	Increased public health risks and slower progress towards SDG 6.2.	Accelerate sanitation investments, behaviour change programmes and urban sanitation initiatives.
Low Wastewater Compliance	Wastewater compliance remained at 44.7%.	Environmental degradation and increased health risks.	Strengthen wastewater treatment infrastructure, compliance monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
Climate Variability and Environmental Degradation	Increasing climate-related pressures on water resources and infrastructure.	Reduced water security and increased infrastructure vulnerability.	Scale up climate-resilient infrastructure, catchment restoration and water security investments.

Risk Area	Evidence from 2025/26 Performance	Potential Implications	Priority Response Action
Ageing Infrastructure and Service Sustainability	Ongoing rehabilitation requirements across the sector.	Increased service interruptions and maintenance costs.	Increase investment in rehabilitation, preventive maintenance and asset management systems.
Monitoring and Information System Gaps	Integrated WASH MIS, under development.	Reduced ability to support evidence-based planning and accountability.	Accelerate implementation of sector-wide monitoring, information and reporting systems.
Delays in JSR Undertakings	Several undertakings remain ongoing or incomplete.	Slower implementation of sector reforms and accountability commitments.	Strengthen implementation tracking, reporting and follow-up mechanisms for JSR undertakings.

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
AHP	Analytical Hierarchy Process
BASEDA	Basic Services Development Agency
BOD5	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
BMZ	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
BH	Borehole
BWB	Blantyre Water Board
CAGR	Compound Annual Growth Rate
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CMC	Catchment Management Committee
CODcr	Chemical Oxygen Demand
CRWB	Central Region Water Board
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DP	Development Partner
DPs	Development Partners
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
E-Licensing	Electronic Licensing
FY	Financial Year
G4DR	Groundwater for Drought Resilience Project
GEE	Google Earth Engine
GoM	Government of Malawi
GW	Groundwater
ICP-MS	Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry
IoT	Internet of Things
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JSR	Joint Sector Review
LWB	Lilongwe Water Board
MAR	Managed Aquifer Recharge
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
MIP-1	Malawi Implementation Plan I
MIS	Management Information System
MK	Malawi Kwacha
MoAIWD	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MRDRMP	Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project
MUBAS	Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences
MW2063	Malawi 2063
MWAMIS	Malawi Water and Sanitation Management Information System
MWASIP	Malawi Water and Sanitation Improvement Project
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NGORA	NGO Regulatory Authority
NIHR	National Institute for Health and Care Research
NOCMA	National Oil Company of Malawi
NRW	Non-Revenue Water
NRWB	Northern Region Water Board
NSHIPS	National Sanitation and Hygiene Investment Plan and Strategy
NWRA	National Water Resources Authority
ODF	Open Defecation Free
ORT	Other Recurrent Transactions
PE	Personal Emoluments
PRM	Professionalized Repair and Maintenance
PTC	Project Technical Committee
QGIS	Quantum Geographic Information System
RCRP	Regional Climate Resilience Project
RGHI	Research for Global Health Initiative
RMSI	Remote Sensing Management Information Systems
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC GMI	SADC Groundwater Management Institute
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHA	Self Help Africa
SPR	Sector Performance Report
SRWB	Southern Region Water Board
SW	Surface Water
T.A.	Traditional Authority
TORs	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UKRI	United Kingdom Research and Innovation
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHTED	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Technologies and Development Centre
WESNET	Water and Environmental Sanitation Network
WHH	Welthungerhilfe
W/O	Water Office
WUA	Water User Association
WPC	Water Point Committee
WQ	Water Quality

WRA	Water Resources Area
WRMIS	Water Resources Management Information System
ZAMCOM	Zambezi Watercourse Commission

1. INTRODUCTION

The Government of Malawi (GoM) and its partners continue to implement strategic interventions aimed at strengthening the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector and improving the sustainable delivery of water supply, sanitation and water resources management services. These efforts are guided by key policy and legal frameworks including the overarching National Development Vision, the Malawi 2063 and it's 10 year implementation Plan; the National Decentralization Policy (1998), which promotes the management of service delivery at the lowest appropriate level; the National Water Policy (2023), which provides the long-term vision for sustainable management and utilization of water resources; the National Sanitation Policy (2008) currently under revision, which seeks to improve hygiene and sanitation outcomes; and the Water Resources Act (2013), which provides the legal framework for water resources regulation and management.

This report provides a comprehensive account of the performance of the WASH sector during the 2025/26 Financial Year. It presents achievements and progress made across the key sectors of water resources management, rural and urban water supply, urban water supply, sector financing and staffing, sanitation and hygiene and contributions by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

During the period under review, the sector continued to register progress in the implementation of various programmes and projects aimed at improving access to safe water and strengthening water resources management. Significant investments were made through both Government and Development Partner-funded initiatives, including the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project, the National Water and Sanitation Project, and other water supply and sanitation interventions. However, the sector continues to face challenges related to declining budget allocations as a proportion of the national budget, staffing gaps, inadequate financing at district level, and the need to improve wastewater management and compliance with environmental standards.

The growing demand for water resources, coupled with population growth, climate change impacts, and environmental degradation and increasing urbanization, continues to exert pressure on existing water and sanitation infrastructure. Degradation of catchment areas, declining water quality in some locations, and inadequate wastewater treatment remain major concerns that require sustained investment and strengthened regulation. Furthermore, achieving the aspirations of Malawi 2063 and Sustainable Development Goal 6, which calls for universal access to safe water and sanitation services, will require accelerated implementation of sector reforms, increased financing and enhanced coordination among stakeholders.

Despite these challenges, the Ministry remains committed to its mandate of managing and developing water resources and facilitating the sustainable provision of safe water

and sanitation services. Through continued collaboration with Development Partners, Local Authorities, Water Boards, Civil Society Organizations and communities, the sector will strive to improve service delivery, strengthen resilience to climate-related shocks and contribute to Malawi's socio-economic development agenda.

The Sector Performance Report (SPR) provides a critical assessment of the sector's achievements, challenges and emerging priorities. It serves as an important reference document for deliberations during the Joint Sector Review (JSR) and supports evidence-based decision-making aimed at improving sector performance. This Annual WASH Sector Progress Report for the 2025/26 Financial Year has therefore been prepared to inform the Joint Sector Review and guide future sector interventions.

The report therefore has been divided into 8 main chapters of as follows: Introduction, Financing and Staffing levels, Water Resources, Water Supply Services, Urban Water Supply Sanitation and Hygiene, WASH civil Society Organisations and Conclusions

2. FINANCING AND STAFFING LEVELS

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a detailed analysis on the budget allocation and expenditure to the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector. The chapter includes budget estimates, allocations, and trends from the fiscal years 2021/2022 to 2025/2026. The analysis focuses on identifying key trends in budget allocations, growth rates, and sector-specific indicators. It also highlights staffing levels in the key sub-sector and further reports progress of undertakings as agreed during the 2023/2024 Joint Sector Review meeting. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector has two headline indicators whose progress is tracked in sector financing and staffing levels.

2.2 Headline Indicators

The Coordination and Management Technical Working Group respond to the sector's Headline indicator number 12, 15a and 15b and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicator 6.a.1 and 6.b.1. Table 2 and Table 3 below show the progress on the headline indicators and SDG indicators respectively.

Table 2: Finance Sector Headline Indicators

Indicator 15a and 15b: ***% of national budget allocated to the sector and % of council Budget allocated to the subsector at District level.***

- ✓ During the 2025/2026 financial year the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector was allocated 1.97% of the total budget.
- ✓ During the review period at district level the Water and Sanitation Sector was allocated 1.5% of the council budget

Indicator 12: ***% vacancy rate for irrigation, water and sanitation staff at both district level and national level***

- ✓ During the review period the Water Sanitation and Hygiene sector had 36% vacancy rate of professional establishment positions

Table 3: Finance Sector SDG Indicators

Indicator 6.a.1: ***Amount of water and sanitation related official development assistance that is part of a government- coordinated spending plan.***

- ✓ During the year under review, water and sanitation sector was allocated 2.91% of the total development budget.

Indicator 6.b.1: ***Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of communities in water and sanitation management.***

- ✓ During the year under review, *of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of communities was at 17.9%*

Table 4: Progress on Headline Indicators for the past 5 years

No	Headline Indicator	Achievements					
		2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/2026	2026/27
12	% of national budget allocated to the sector	1.62%	5.31%	3.39%	3.35%	1.97%	1.36%
15a	% of council Budget allocated to the subsector at District level	3.69%	3.25%	2.54%	N/A	1.5%	
15b	% vacancy rate for, water and sanitation staff at both district level and national level	46%	63%	51%	33%	36%	

Table 5: Financing Sector SDG Indicator

No.	SDG Indicator	Achievement					
		2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
6.a.1	Amount and percentage of water and sanitation related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan	3.40%	1.44%	4.83%	2.91%	3.01%	
6.b.1	Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of communities in water and sanitation management	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.9%

2.3 Overview of Financing in the Sector

The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sector financing mainly consist of public funding through the National Budget and Support from various Development Partners. Non-Governmental Organizations and other Private Organizations also play vital complementary roles in the overall sector financing. In recent years, a substantial amount of Donor Funding is channeled to the Non-Governmental Organizations working within the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector as well as other sectors. The Ministry of Finance attempts to quantify resources from the Development Partners (DP) channeled through these non-state actors but it is quite difficult to quantify the utilization of these resources by these non-state actors. Therefore, the SPR dwells much on the analysis of the financing provided by the government. However, as a way of improving accountability in the sector, efforts have been made to include performance of the non-state actors through the report submitted by WESNET.

The national budget has shown significant growth over the years, increasing from MK 1.99 trillion in 2021/2022 to MK 8.589 trillion in 2025/2026. The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) for the national budget over this period is approximately 44.1%, indicating a very strong upward trend in government spending. However, the percentage of the national budget allocated to the water and sanitation sector continues to decrease

from the highest which was recorded in 2022/2023 at 5.31% to 1.97% in the 2025/2026 Financial year.

Table 6 below illustrates total budget for the Ministry of Water and Sanitation and has shown significant fluctuations over the years. It increased from MK 43 billion in 2021/2022 to MK 151 billion in 2022/2023, followed by a sharp decrease to 47 billion in 2023/2024.The next two years after that were followed by an increase only to decrease to 169 billion in 2025/2026 from the 202 billion in the preceding year. The year-on-year change in the total budget has been highly volatile, with a dramatic increase of 251% in 2022/2023, followed by an increase of 172% in 2023/2024, and then a decrease of 16% in 2025/2026. The volatility in the total budget suggests inconsistent funding levels, which could hinder long-term planning and project implementation in the water and sanitation sector.

Table 6: Trends in Ministry of Finance Budget Estimates for Water Development (in Billion MK)

Budget Type	2021/2022 (MK Billion)	2022/2023 (MK Billion)	2023/2024 (MK Billion)	2024/2025 (MK Billion)	2025/2026 (MK Billion)	2026/2027 (MK Billion)
Personal Emoluments	0.72	1.57	1.4	2.09	1.28	3.31
ORT	0.36	0.54	0.54	0.66	0.39	0.69
Total Recurrent Budget	1.08	2.11	1.94	2.75	1.67	4.00
Development Budget (Local)	3.83	11.65	16.3	17.9	17.28	52.28
Development Budget (Foreign)	38.38	137.51	110.24	181.72	149.93	92.68
Total Budget	**43**	**151**	**128**	**202**	**169**	**149**

Figure 1 below shows the proportion of the national budget allocated to the water, sanitation and hygiene sector. This visual highlight the declining share of the sector's budget over time.

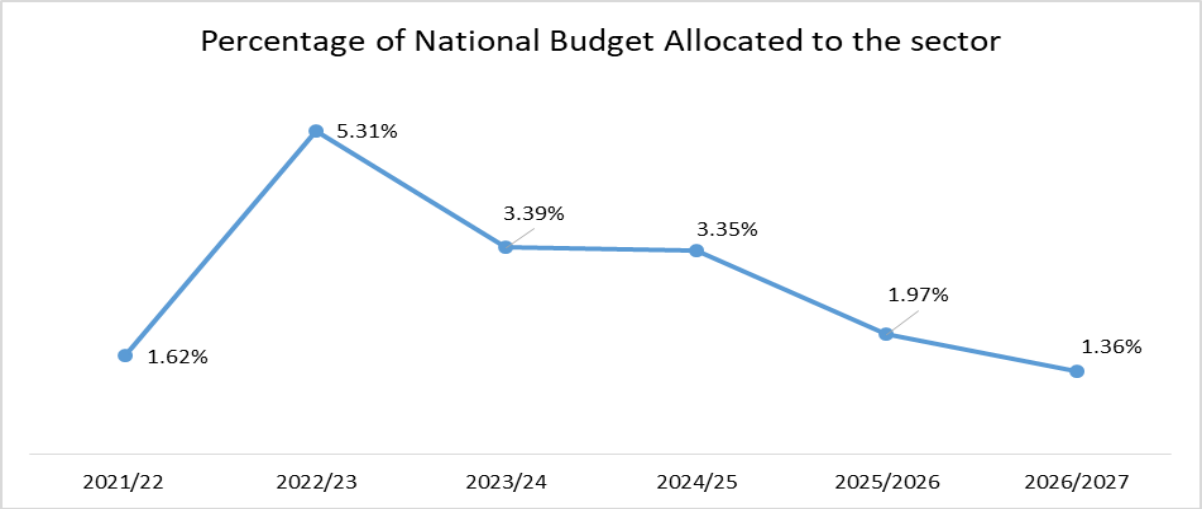


Figure 1: Trend in percentage of budget allocated to the sector

The substantial growth in the national budget reflects the government's commitment to increasing public expenditure. However, the fluctuating allocation to the water and sanitation sector suggests a need for more consistent funding to address sector-specific challenges.

The recurrent budget, which covers operational costs such as salaries and other recurrent transactions (ORT), continues to fluctuate over the years, increasing from MK 1.08 billion in 2021/2022 to MK 2.11 billion in 2022/2023. This was followed by a decline in the 2023/2024 financial year and then a slight increase in 2024/2025.

Figure 2 illustrates the recurrent budget, which covers ongoing operational costs, has fluctuated over the years, reaching MK 4 billion in 2026/2027.

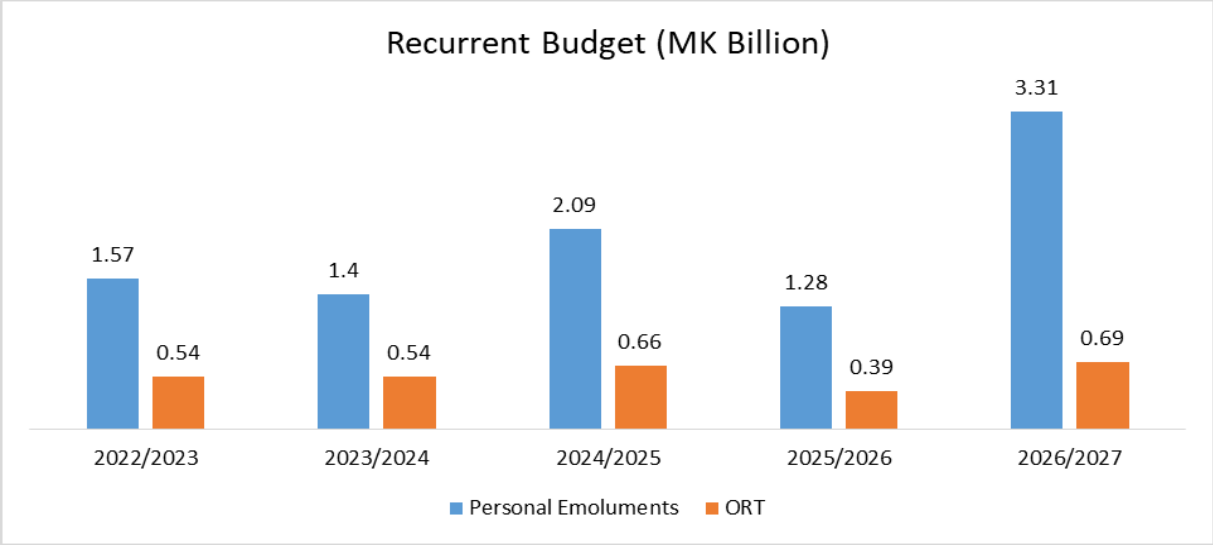


Figure 2: Recurrent Budget allocated to the sector

The development budget, which includes both local and foreign funding, has seen substantial growth, particularly in foreign-funded projects. The foreign development budget increased from MK 38.38 billion in 202/2022 to MK 149.93 billion in 2025/2026. Local development funding has also grown, but at a slower pace, increasing from MK3.83 billion in 2021/2022 to MK 17.2 billion in 2025/2026.

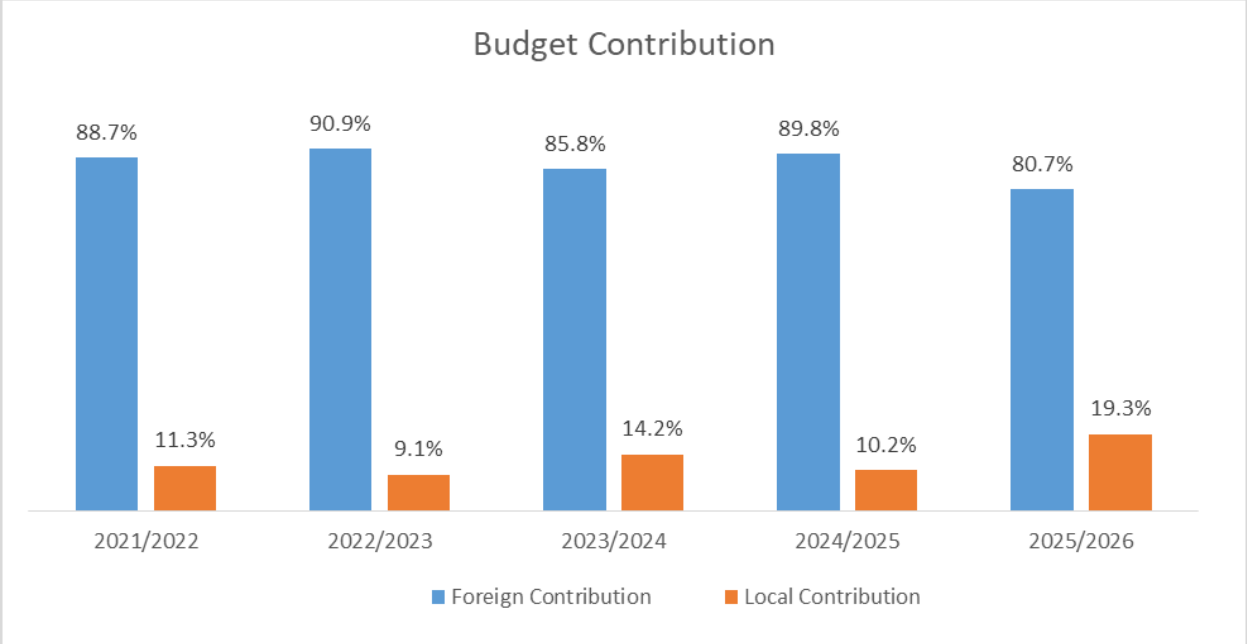


Figure 3: Budget Contribution between Foreign and Local Resources

Figure 3 above shows the heavy reliance on foreign funding for development projects highlights the sector's dependence on international aid. While this has enabled significant

investment in infrastructure, it also poses risks related to donor dependency and alignment with national priorities.

Foreign contributions have consistently accounted for the majority of the total budget, ranging from 80.7% in 2025/2026 to 90.9% in 2022/2023. Local contributions, while increasing in absolute terms, remain a small proportion of the total budget, peaking at 19.3% in 2025/2026.

The year-on-year changes in the total budget have been highly volatile, with significant fluctuations. For example, the budget decreased by 15% in 2023/2024, followed by an increase of 58% in 2024/2025. This was followed by another decrease by 16% in 2025/2026.

This volatility could be due to changes in donor funding, shifts in government priorities, or external economic factors. It highlights the need for more stable and predictable funding mechanisms to support long-term sector goals.

2.4 Development Project Budget Allocations

Table 7 below shows the various projects under implementation during the 2025/26 financial year.

Table 7: Projects under implementation during the period under review

Project Name	PART II (MK)	PART I (MK)
Lilongwe water and sanitation project		28,118,291,324.00
MRDRMP		34,472,061,458.00
MWASIP		17,636,460,661.00
Rumphi Water and sanitation Project		1,959,842.00
NRWB Water Supply and Sanitation Improvement Project		24,702,590,862.00
National water and sanitation project		32,597,378,380.00
Updating Feasibility Study and Preparatory of detailed Designs for Water Supply Improvement in Mzuzu City and Parts of Mzimba District		12,034,041,892.00
Karonga Town Water Supply Project		373,455,965.00
Groundwater extraction 12520	1,192,151,102.00	
Improvement of water Supply systems Dowa 21080	500,000,000.00	
Lilongwe water and sanitation project 19250	2,000,000,000.00	
Rehabilitation of pipelines Sanjika, Kamuzu and Mtunthama palace *21580	350,000,000.00	
Salima Town water supply 26500	500,000,000.00	
Salima Lilongwe water project 24900	3,500,000,000.00	
Solar powered groundwater development	821,707,441.00	
Songwe river basin management project	350,800,000.00	
Rehabilitation and expansion of Dowa, Dwangwa, Salima, Nkhotakota and Ntchisi	2,000,000,000.00	
National water and sanitation project	3,569,041,300.00	

Project Name	PART II (MK)	PART I (MK)
Alternative Water source for Zomba (Feasibility Study)	600,000,000.00	
Construction of New Water Supply Centres Thondwe, Migowi, Ulongwe, Zalewa and Fatima	6,000,000,000.00	
Karonga Town Water Supply Project	4,000,000,000.00	
Kholongo Multi-Purpose Dam for Mponela Town	1,000,000,000.00	
NWRB Water Services Improvement Project	2,500,000,000.00	
Lilongwe Water Resources Efficiency Programme	1,000,000,000.00	
Nkhatabay Town Water Supply and Sanitation Project	3,500,000,000.00	
Proposal for Extension of Mangochi Water Supply system to Lakeshores	1,200,000,000.00	
Upgrading, Rehabilitating and Extension of Nchalo Water Supply	1,000,000,000.00	
Upgrading of Liwonde water Supply Project include Balaka	300,000,000.00	
	35,883,699,843	**149,936,240,384**

The total budget allocated for water and sanitation projects in the 2025/26 financial year was MK 185,819,940,227. This includes MK 35,883,699,843 under Part II and MK 149,936,240,384 under Part I. The significant increase in the total budget, particularly under Part I, reflects a substantial commitment to addressing water and sanitation challenges, with a focus on both large-scale infrastructure and smaller, targeted projects.

Part II projects, which accounted for 19.3% of the total budget, focused on large-scale infrastructure development, feasibility studies, and rehabilitation works.

Part I projects, which made up 80.7% of the budget, included a mix of large and small initiatives, with some projects receiving very high allocations, such as the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management project with an allocation of MK 34,472,061,458.00 and the National Water and Sanitation Project with an allocation of MK 32,597,378,380.00. The heavy focus on Part I projects suggests a prioritization of large-scale, high-impact initiatives, potentially driven by donor funding or national strategic priorities.

Under Part II through the Local Currency Bonds, the National Water and Sanitation Project received the largest allocation, with MK 3,569,041,300, followed by the Salima-Lilongwe water project with an allocation of MK 3,500,000,000.

These allocations indicate a strong focus on disaster resilience, watershed management, and urban water supply, with significant investments in both rural and urban infrastructure.

2.5 Council Budget Analysis

At district level, the total council budget Allocation for the 2025/2026 financial year amounted to MK 179,693,198,894. Of this total, the Water and Sanitation Sector was allocated MK 2,730,981,595, representing 1.5% of the overall local council budget. This comprised boreholes and water structures fund (development) and water (ORT). By March 2026, all the funding to the councils was MK 133,558,638,252. Out of this total, the WASH sector received a total funding of MK 1,032,981,595 representing 0.77% of the total council funding. This funding amount is significantly lower compared to other sectors, with the Education sector receiving the highest funding at 23.65%, followed by the health sector at 22.30%.

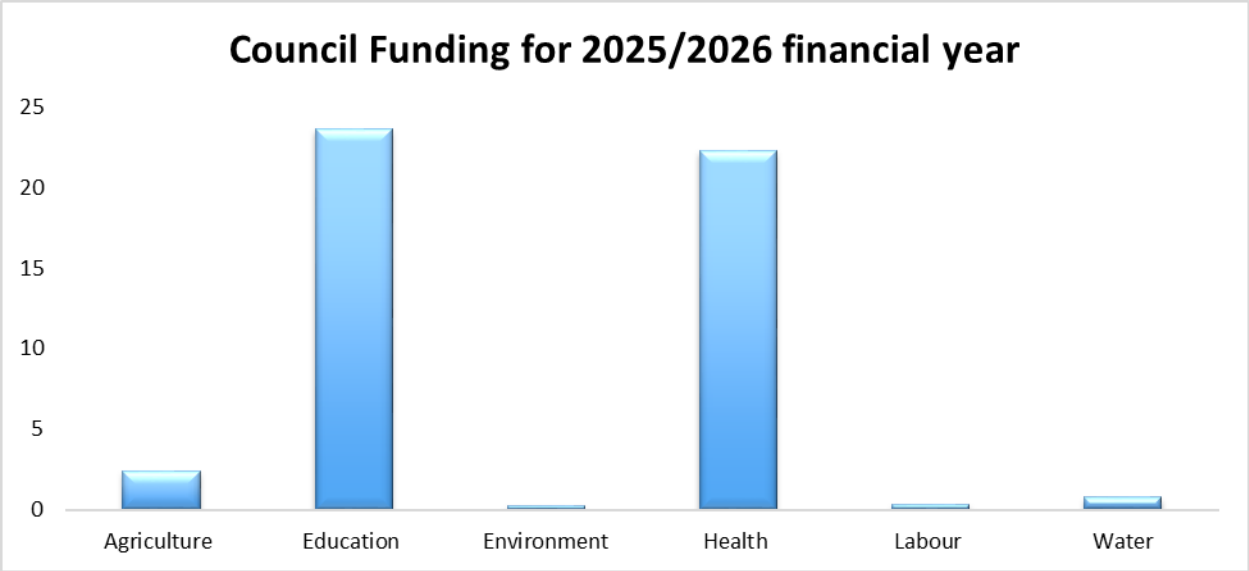


Figure 4: Council Funding among different sectors

Total Water Funding (ORT) to the councils was MK 414,981,595, representing 40.17% of the WASH sector funding, while the remaining MK 618,000,000 was funded for development component of water namely, Boreholes and water structures fund, representing 59.82% of the WASH sector funding. While ORT was funded 100% of the revised budget, Boreholes and water structures fund was only funded 37% of the revised budget. The reason for this is the economic challenges the country is facing which led to underfunding of all development budget components at both national and district level.

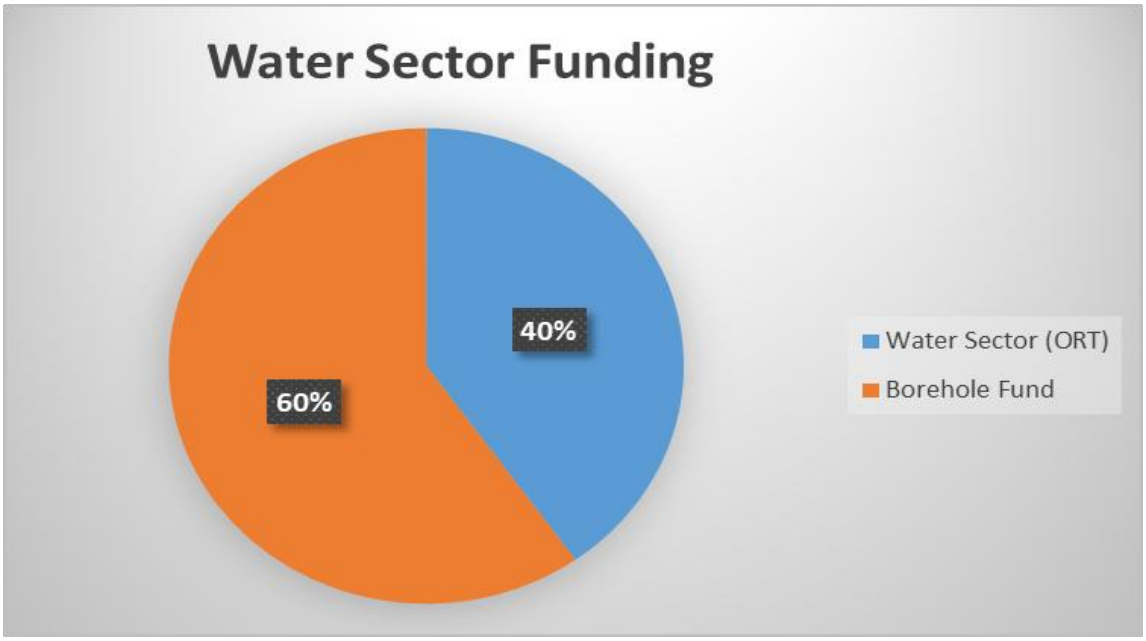


Figure 5: Council funding according to budget type

Analysis of the Borehole Fund distribution by region, as indicated in Table 8 below, shows a significant regional variation in allocation. The Southern Region received the highest share at 47.1% (MK 291,000,000 cumulative funding), followed by the Central Region at 35.4% (MK 219,000,000) and the Northern Region at 17.5% (MK 108,000,000) of the total borehole fund.

The detailed district-level distribution is provided in the Annex. At the district level, Lilongwe District Council received the highest funding at MK 54,000,000, representing 8.74% of the total borehole fund. This was followed by Thyolo (6.80%), Mangochi (5.83%), and M'mbelwa (5.34%) district councils.

In contrast, Mwanza and Neno districts each received MK 6,000,000 (0.97%), while Likoma District received the lowest funding of MK 3,000,000 (0.49%). In the case of Likoma, the relatively low funding may be attributed to its geographical context, with abundant surrounding water resources reducing the demand for borehole infrastructure.

Table 8: Borehole fund disbursements by region

No	Region	Approved Estimates (MK)	Cumulative Funding (MK)	% of the Total BH Fund
1	Northern	396,000,000.00	108,000,000.00	17.5
2	Central	219,000,000.00	219,000,000.00	35.4
3	Southern	1,044,000,000.00	291,000,000.00	47.1
TOTAL		**1,659,000,000.00**	**618,000,000.00**	**100**

Further analysis of ORT Funding by region, as indicated in Table 9 below, shows a significant regional variation in allocation. The Southern Region received the highest share at 46.0% (MK 191,844,572 cumulative funding), followed by the Central Region at 32.0% (MK 133,344,632) and the Northern Region at 22.0% (MK 89,792,391) of the total ORT funding to the WASH sector.

The detailed district-level distribution is provided in the Annex. At the district level, Lilongwe District Council received the highest funding at approximately MK 43,940,039, accounting for 10.59% of total ORT funding. This was followed by Chitipa District Council, which received MK 20,848,294 (5.02%). On the lower end, Zomba District Council received approximately MK 5,596,131, representing only 1.35% of the total ORT funding.

Table 9: ORT Funding by region

No	Region	Approved Estimates	Cumulative Funding	% of the Total Water Funding (ORT)
1	Northern	92,409,137.00	89,792,391.00	22.0
2	Central	136,940,997.00	133,344,632.00	32.0
3	Southern	196,879,797.00	191,844,572.00	46.0
		426,229,931.00	**414,981,595.00**	**100**

2.6 Staffing Levels under the Department of Water Development

During the year under review, there were 349 authorized established posts. Of these, 342 posts were filled, resulting in 130 vacant positions and a vacancy rate of 36%. The apparent discrepancy in the vacancy numbers is due to 107 excess staff members currently in the establishment. The vacancy rate increased from 33% in FY 2024/2025 to 36% in FY 2025/2026, mainly due to retirements and employee mortality.

Table 10: Staffing levels under Water Development

Grade	Description	Authorised Established Position	Estimated Posts as at 6th May 2026			Variance
			Male	Female	Total	
C	Principal Secretary	1	1	0	1	On contract
D	Directors	7	3	3	6	1 NE Position 1 vacant
E	Deputy Directors	15	7	5	12	1 NE Position 3 vacant
F	Chief positions	26	13	2	15	1 vacant 1 secondment
G	Principal positions	55	15	5	20	35 vacant
H	Senior Positions	38	17	9	26	12 vacant
I	Officer Positions	53	24	9	33	20 vacant
J	Senior Technical officers Positions	5	3	5	8	3 Excess
K	Technical Positions	45	17	16	33	12 vacant 1 contract
L	Senior Clerks Position	0	35	1	36	36 Excess
M	Clerk Position	8	26	6	32	24 Excess
N		67	17	0	17	50 vacant
O		20	29	3	32	12 Excess
P		9	34	11	45	36 Excess
R	GROUNG LABOUR	0	17	1	18	18 Excess
Q	COOK	0	2	0	2	2 Excess
TOTAL		**349**	**265**	**76**	**342**	**130**

2.7 Implications of Human Resource Constraints

The increase in vacancy rates from 33 percent to 36 percent represents a significant institutional challenge for the sector. While progress continues to be made in implementing programmes and infrastructure investments, sustained staffing shortages may affect the sector's ability to effectively plan, supervise, monitor and regulate WASH activities. Human resource constraints are particularly important given the increasing complexity of sector programmes, growing infrastructure portfolios, expanding monitoring requirements and the need for stronger coordination across national and district levels. Addressing staffing gaps will therefore remain important for strengthening service delivery, improving implementation effectiveness and supporting achievement of sector targets.

2.8 Progress on Key Undertakings under Sector Coordination and Capacity Development TWG

During the period under review the JSR identified a number of issues and undertaking to be implemented by the TWG in the subsequent financial year. Table 11 provides highlights on the progress of each undertaking.

The table below provides the summary of undertakings by the Coordination and Sector Financing Technical Working Group (TWG);

Table 11: Summary of undertakings

No.	Thematic Area	Undertaking / Issue	Specific Action Agreed	Timeframe	Progress Reported	Status	Key Constraint / Outstanding Issue	Next Step
1	WASH Financing	WASH Investment Conference	Expedite finalization of the Investment Plan	30 March 2026	Finalised	Completed	None reported	Maintain as completed
2	WASH Financing	WASH Investment Conference	Finalize the WASH Compact and get it signed	19 March 2026	Finalised, awaiting signing	Ongoing	Awaiting signing	Follow up signing of the Compact
3	WASH Financing	WASH Investment Conference	Orchestrate the conference after the WASH Investment Plan and Presidential Compact are signed	July 2026	Planned for September	Ongoing	Conference dependent on signing of Compact and Investment Plan	Confirm date and proceed after signing
4	WASH Financing	One-WASH Programme	Expedite finalization of the Investment Plan	30 March 2026	Not yet done as it was awaiting signing of the Presidential Compact and	Delayed	Dependent on signing of Compact and Investment Plan	Finalise once Compact and Investment Plan are signed

No.	Thematic Area	Undertaking / Issue	Specific Action Agreed	Timeframe	Progress Reported	Status	Key Constraint / Outstanding Issue	Next Step
					Investment Plan			
5	WASH Financing	One-WASH Programme	Finalize the WASH Compact and get it signed	19 March 2026	Finalised	Completed	None reported	Maintain as completed
6	WASH Financing	One-WASH Programme	Constitute a Task Team	June 2026	Team available to spearhead the process	Completed	None reported	Task Team to continue coordination
7	WASH Financing	One-WASH Programme	Develop a Road Map	July 2026	Road map developed as part of the Presidential Compact	Completed	None reported	Use Road Map to guide programme development
8	WASH Financing	One-WASH Programme	Review TORs	July 2026	Yet to be done	Not Started	Awaiting completion of preceding processes	Review TORs
9	WASH Financing	One-WASH Programme	Develop a comprehensive WASH Programme	December 2026	Yet to be done	Not Started	Dependent on Task Team, Road Map and TOR review	Develop comprehensive WASH Programme
10	WASH Financing	Alternative Financing Mechanisms	Sensitize the new government on the independent regulator; finalize the draft Bill and	30 March 2026	Training done on regulation	Ongoing	Bill not yet finalised and tabled	Finalise Bill and continue sensitisation

No.	Thematic Area	Undertaking / Issue	Specific Action Agreed	Timeframe	Progress Reported	Status	Key Constraint / Outstanding Issue	Next Step
			table it in Parliament					
11	WASH Financing	Alternative Financing Mechanisms	Assess the effectiveness of bond financing and how it can be applied to utilities	July 2026	Bond financing being used to finance projects in the WASH sector, including Nkholongo and Salima-Lilongwe Water Supply Project	Ongoing	Further assessment of effectiveness still needed	Document lessons from current bond-financed projects
12	WASH Financing	Alternative Financing Mechanisms	Finalise indicators and guidelines for performance-based financing	July 2026	Performance-based financing included in Investment Plan currently under development; sector has drafted specific indicators for benchmarking water utilities	Ongoing	Guidelines not yet finalised	Finalise indicators and guidelines

No.	Thematic Area	Undertaking / Issue	Specific Action Agreed	Timeframe	Progress Reported	Status	Key Constraint / Outstanding Issue	Next Step
					and water users' associations			
13	WASH Financing	Alternative Financing Mechanisms	Finalise Bill on levies on water and related products; conduct further sensitisation	July 2026	More sensitisation required	Ongoing	Bill not yet finalised; sensitisation incomplete	Finalise Bill and continue sensitisation
14	WASH Financing	Alternative Financing Mechanisms	Encourage public-private partnerships and private financing in urban water supply	July 2026	Small-scale PPPs present in urban water supply through water kiosk operators; Government held investors conference on alternative solar energy; some banks willing to support solar reticulated systems in Ntcheu and Lilongwe; Water	Ongoing	PPPs and private financing remain small-scale and require structured follow-up	Develop pipeline of bankable PPP/private financing opportunities

No.	Thematic Area	Undertaking / Issue	Specific Action Agreed	Timeframe	Progress Reported	Status	Key Constraint / Outstanding Issue	Next Step
					Witness International working with private companies to invest in watershed rehabilitation and water resources management in tea estates			
15	WASH MIS and M&E	Develop an integrated WASH MIS	Hold meetings to draw up a roadmap with UNICEF to develop the Integrated WASH MIS	July 2026	Not yet done as the handbook has not yet been finalized	Delayed	Dependent on finalisation of WASH Indicator Handbook	Finalise handbook and agree MIS roadmap
16	WASH MIS and M&E	Develop an integrated WASH MIS	Develop the MIS software	July 2026	Not done	Not Started	Dependent on roadmap and indicator framework	Commence software development after roadmap approval
17	WASH MIS and M&E	Review the WASH Indicator Handbook	Organise a meeting for review of the handbook with stakeholders	July 2026	Draft in place	Ongoing	Stakeholder review and validation not yet completed	Convene stakeholder validation meeting

No.	Thematic Area	Undertaking / Issue	Specific Action Agreed	Timeframe	Progress Reported	Status	Key Constraint / Outstanding Issue	Next Step
18	WASH MIS and M&E	Develop an integrated WASH M&E system	Work with UNICEF and Baseflow to develop the Integrated WASH M&E System	Ongoing	Not yet undertaken	Not Started	Dependent on MIS and indicator framework development	Prepare implementation plan for integrated WASH M&E system

2.9 Sector Governance, Coordination and Mutual Accountability

The WASH sector continued to strengthen coordination, governance and accountability mechanisms during the 2025/26 Financial Year through implementation of Joint Sector Review (JSR) undertakings, development of sector monitoring systems, strengthening of financing frameworks, and continued engagement among Government, Development Partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other stakeholders. Progress was recorded in several governance-related undertakings, including finalisation of the WASH Investment Plan, development of the Presidential Compact, advancement of financing reforms, and continued efforts to strengthen sector coordination and planning processes.

Despite this progress, a number of important governance reforms remain ongoing. These include development of the Integrated WASH Management Information System (MIS), review of the WASH Indicator Handbook, and establishment of an integrated WASH Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework. Successful implementation of these reforms will be critical for strengthening sector performance management and improving accountability across institutions.

Recently the sector with assistance from IWMI undertook a Joint Sector Review Assessment which highlighted the importance of strengthening follow-up mechanisms for JSR undertakings, improving coordination across sector institutions, enhancing monitoring and reporting systems, and reinforcing mutual accountability arrangements. The assessment also emphasised the need for improved tracking of financing commitments, implementation of agreed sector actions, and systematic monitoring of sector performance (**IWMI, 2026**).

The ongoing development of the Integrated WASH MIS, Indicator Handbook and WASH M&E Framework represents a significant opportunity to strengthen evidence-based planning, performance monitoring and reporting across the sector. Once operational, these systems are expected to improve data quality and consistency, strengthen tracking of Joint Sector Review undertakings, support more effective decision-making, and enhance monitoring of progress towards Malawi 2063 and Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets.

2.10 Resilience Monitoring and Evidence-Based Planning

Strengthening sector resilience will require improved monitoring of climate-related risks and resilience outcomes. Ongoing efforts to strengthen sector monitoring systems provide an opportunity to incorporate resilience indicators into routine reporting, enabling the sector to better assess vulnerability, track adaptation progress and inform evidence-based planning and investment decisions.

Going forward, priority governance actions will include strengthening implementation tracking of JSR undertakings, operationalising sector monitoring systems, improving

financing accountability mechanisms, and enhancing coordination among sector stakeholders. These actions will support more effective sector planning, implementation and reporting while contributing to improved sector performance and achievement of national and international WASH targets.

2.11 Implications for Sector Sustainability

The financing trends observed during the 2025/26 Financial Year have important implications for the long-term sustainability of the WASH sector. While substantial investments continue to be made through Government and Development Partner-supported programmes, the decline in the sector's share of the national budget from 3.35 percent to 1.97 percent suggests increasing pressure on the sector's ability to sustain and expand service delivery. This is particularly important given the growing demand for water and sanitation services arising from population growth, urbanisation and increasing climate-related pressures on water resources and infrastructure.

d sanitation services arising from population growth, urbanisation and increasing climate-related pressures on water resources and infrastructure.

The continued reliance on external financing, which accounts for 80.7 percent of development expenditure, highlights the important role played by Development Partners in supporting sector investments. At the same time, it underscores the need to strengthen domestic financing mechanisms and ensure that critical sector functions such as operation and maintenance, monitoring, regulation and service delivery support are adequately financed through sustainable national and local financing arrangements. The low share of District Council budgets allocated to WASH activities may further constrain routine maintenance, monitoring and service delivery functions at local level.

hare of District Council budgets allocated to WASH activities may further constrain routine maintenance, monitoring and service delivery functions at local level.

The increase in vacancy rates from 33 percent to 36 percent within the Department of Water Development presents an additional sustainability challenge. Human resource constraints may affect planning, supervision, monitoring, regulation and implementation capacity, particularly as the sector seeks to manage increasingly complex infrastructure systems and respond to emerging water security challenges.

Findings from the recent Joint Sector Review Assessment further highlighted concerns regarding the long-term sustainability of sector financing arrangements, including the need to strengthen mutual accountability mechanisms, improve tracking of financing commitments and disbursements, and enhance alignment between sector priorities and resource allocation. Strengthening these areas will be important for improving financing effectiveness and supporting evidence-based decision making within the sector (**IWMI, 2026**).

In essence, these financing and capacity challenges suggest that future sector performance will depend not only on mobilising additional resources, but also on improving efficiency in resource utilisation, strengthening accountability mechanisms, maintaining infrastructure assets, and ensuring that investments translate into sustainable service delivery outcomes. Addressing these issues will be critical for achieving the aspirations of Malawi 2063 and accelerating progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6.

al 6.

2.12 Financing Adequacy and Investment Gap

While the WASH sector continues to attract significant Government and Development Partner investments, available evidence suggests that current financing levels may be insufficient to achieve national and international WASH targets. According to the WASH investment plan, Malawi needs at least USD 320 million per year to achieve universal access under SDG 6. Current committed financing totals approximately USD 306.3 million broken down as follows: National Government USD 28.08 million based on Part II budget allocation in the 2026/27 Financial Year; Local Government USD 33.91 million on the assumption that at least 5% of the MK 5 billion constituency CDF funds are earmarked for WASH investments; and Development Partners and donors USD 244.29 million for ongoing projects including the Malawi Water and Sanitation Project, Rumphi Water Supply Project, and Lilongwe Water Efficiency Programme.

These resources are insufficient, with investment primarily focused on urban water supply and no significant recent investment in rural water, sanitation, and hygiene. The Government of Malawi commits to increasing investment in the WASH sector from the current 1.2% of the national budget to 5%, alongside mobilizing blended financing from development partners, philanthropy, and private capital, implementing tariff adjustments for cost recovery, and shifting to a multi-phase programmatic approach under the One WASH Malawi Programme aligned with the 5-year PSIP cycle.

2.13 Climate Finance Opportunities

Given increasing climate-related pressures on water resources and WASH infrastructure, climate finance represents an important opportunity to supplement traditional sector financing. Financing mechanisms such as adaptation funds, climate resilience investments and blended financing arrangements could support implementation of climate-resilient water infrastructure, catchment restoration, drought preparedness and water security initiatives. Strengthening project preparation capacity and investment readiness will be important for accessing such financing opportunities.

The findings underscore the importance of strengthening domestic resource mobilisation, improving alignment between sector priorities and financing allocations, enhancing

accountability for financing commitments and disbursements, and exploring innovative financing mechanisms to support sustainable achievement of national WASH objectives.

2.14 Challenges and Recommendations

i. Stable Sector Funding: there is need to ensure a more stable and predictable allocation of the national budget to the water and sanitation sector to support long-term planning and project implementation.

ii. Address Staffing Shortages: there is need to implement strategies to reduce vacancy rates, such as targeted recruitment campaigns, competitive remuneration packages, and capacity-building programs.

iii. Increase Local Investment: encouraging greater investment in WASH at the local council level to improve service delivery and infrastructure is crucial for development of WASH services at council.

iv. Monitor Budget Utilization: there is need for regular monitoring and evaluation of the utilization of both recurrent and development budgets to ensure funds are used efficiently and effectively.

v. Enhance Foreign Funding Coordination: strengthening coordination with international donors to align foreign-funded projects with national priorities is vital to ensure sustainable outcomes.

2.15 Conclusion on Financing and Staffing Levels

The financial data for the Department of Water Development reveals both opportunities and challenges. While there is significant growth in the national budget and development funding, the sector faces issues such as declining budget allocations, high vacancy rates, and underfunding at the local level. The graphs provide clear visual evidence of these trends, reinforcing the need for strategic planning and targeted interventions. Addressing these challenges will be crucial for achieving the ministry's objectives and improving water and sanitation services across the country.

3. WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents achievements in water resources management and development during the year 2024-2025 and 2025-2026. These achievements are presented against the water resources indicators, and some achievement as per performance contract agreement. It also presents other information of critical importance and recommendations for improved water resources management and development in Malawi.

3.2 Headline Indicators

The Headline indicator for the water resources management and development is on the quality of drinking water and water in the environment expressed as:

- *% of water and wastewater samples that comply with National Standards*

The table 12 indicates the trend observed on the headline indicator for the past two years compared with results obtained in the previous years.

Table 12: Water Resources Results on Headline indicators

WATER SOURCE TYPE /SAMPLING POINT	PERIOD OF REVIEW						
	2019/20	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Tap, borehole, protected shallow well	91.1%	No report	86.37%	81.2 %	88.7%	90%	87.7%
Wastewater at discharge point (effluent)	7.9%	No report	48.03%	22.2 %	46.7%	59.1%	44.7%

3.3 Sustainable Development Goals Indicator

The water resources management and development reports on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 6 which is on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Specifically reporting on sub indicators namely:

- Proportion of wastewater safely treated;
- Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality;

- Change in water use efficiency over time;
- Level of water stressed; fresh water withdraw as a proportion of available water resources;
- Degree of Integrated water resources management implementation;
- Proportion of trans-boundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation and
- Change in the extent of water related ecosystem.

The table 13 indicates the trend observed on the SDG indicators

Table 13: Results on the Sustainable Development Goals Indicators under water resources management development

Headline Indicator		SDG Indicator	SDG Definition	Baseline	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/2025	2025/26
% of water sample that comply with national standards taken at the point of water collection, and wastewater discharge points	6.3.1	Proportion of wastewater generated both by households (sewage and faecal sludge), as well as economic activities (based on ISIC categor	(1) The current definition only focuses on wastewater. (2) The sample used is not representative due to the limited resources. (3) Negligence to follow	8.3%	12.1%	9.78%	7.94%	48.03 %	22.2%	46.7%	59.1%	44.7%

		ies), that is not safely treated compared to total wastewater generated both through households and economic activities.	standard									
	6.3.2	Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water	Proportion of water bodies (area) in a country with good	8.3%	12.1%	9.78%	7.94%	48.03%	22.2%	90%	92.6%	93.2%

		quality	ambient 6.4.1water quality compared to all water bodies in the country. "Good" indicates an ambient water quality that does not damage ecosystem function and human health									

			according to core ambient water quality indicators.									
	6.4.1	Change in water use efficiency over time	The change in the ratio of the value added to the volume of water use, over time.	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data
	6.4.2	Level of water stress; fresh water withdrawal as	The ratio between total freshwater withdrawn by	85,2%	76.8%	81.7%	58.64 %	56.15 %	38.31 %	70.55 %	140%	No data

		a proportion of available freshwater resources	all major sectors and total renewable freshwater resources, after taking into account environmental water requirements. This indicator is also known as water withdrawal intensit									

			y.									
	6.5.1	Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0-100)	Process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable	35.3%	53%	64.7%	67%	100%, all strategic plans take into account IWRM and implementation of projects for example the 2 world Bank projects under one program management namely Malawi Resilient	100%, all strategic plans take into account IWRM and implementation of projects for example the 2 world Bank projects under one program management namely Malawi Resilient	100%, all strategic plans take into account IWRM and implementation of projects for example the 2 world Bank projects under one program management namely Malawi Resilient	100%, all strategic plans take into account IWRM and implementation of projects for example the 2 world Bank projects under one program management namely Malawi Resilient	100%, all strategic plans take into account IWRM and implementation of projects for example the 2 world Bank projects under one program management namely Malawi Resilient

			manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.					Disaster Risk Management Project and Malawi Watershed Services Improved Project are done in line with IWRM principles).;	Disaster Risk Management Project and Malawi Watershed Services Improved Project are done in line with IWRM principles).;	Disaster Risk Management Project and Malawi Watershed Services Improved Project are done in line with IWRM principles).;	Disaster Risk Management Project and Malawi Watershed Services Improved Project are done in line with IWRM principles).;	Disaster Risk Management Project and Malawi Watershed Services Improved Project are done in line with IWRM principles).;
	6.5.2	Proportion of trans boundary basin	The proportion of trans boundary	9.1%	18.2%	18.2%	18.2%	92% (Commission in place for	92% (Commission in place for	100% (Commission in place for	100% (Commission in place for	100% (Commission in place for

		area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation	basins area within a country with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.					Songwe River Basin (Malawi and Tanzania), Availability of Strategic Action Plans for Shire River Basin (Malawi and Mozambique	Songwe River Basin (Malawi and Tanzania), Availability of Strategic Action Plans for Shire River Basin (Malawi and Mozambique	Songwe River Basin (Malawi and Tanzania), Availability of Strategic Action Plans for Shire River Basin (Malawi and Mozambique	Songwe River Basin (Malawi and Tanzania), Availability of Strategic Action Plans for Shire River Basin (Malawi and Mozambique	Songwe River Basin (Malawi and Tanzania), Availability of Strategic Action Plans for Shire River Basin (Malawi and Mozambique

								and ZAMCOM):	):	) and now Ruvuma Basin is under agreement between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania:	) and now Ruvuma Basin is under agreement between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania:	) and now Ruvuma Basin is under agreement between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania:
	6.6.1	Change in the extent	Change in ecosyst	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data

		of Water Related ecosyst ems	ems over time includi ng vegetat ed wetlan ds, rivers and estuarie s, lakes, aquifer s and artificia l water bodies.									

The growing national demand on water resources and concern on its availability, particularly during the dry season is calling for better management of the water resources to ensure that it is available and does not limit the social and economic development and poverty alleviation in the country. The country has in the recent years been vulnerable to floods and droughts, in some of the catchment areas, ranging from mild to severe impacts mainly due to lack of storage dams and reservoirs and uncontrolled settlements in flood prone areas and places below the restricted contour line. If water resources can be properly managed, vulnerabilities and hazards could be addressed and result in intensified agricultural production, better services and secured homesteads thereby transforming these places to become economical nuclei of Malawi, and help in uplifting many people out of poverty. Accurate information on the condition and trends of the country's water resources (surface and groundwater) in terms of quantity and quality is required as a basis for socio-economic development, and for maintenance of environmental quality through a proper understanding of the hydrological cycle in time and space.

The Government has placed a high priority on irrigation, and water resources management and development in order to ensure food and water security at the household level through among other things enhancing water-harvesting technologies, promoting catchment protection and management including disaster risk reduction measures.

The Government had the following water resources sub-sector performance contract indicators for 2024-2025 Financial Year: construct 60 boreholes by Borehole Construction and Groundwater Management Fund ; 12 water harvesting structures constructed; 4 times Data on water resources collected ; 4 Early warning monitoring stations upgraded and 2 Sensitization and awareness campaigns on water resources monitoring systems done, On the achievements made, a total of 77 boreholes (128.3 %) were constructed (60 wet and 17 dry boreholes), 10 water harvesting structure (83.3%) was constructed, 2 times Data on water resources collected (50%) were collected; 8 Early warning monitoring stations (200%) were upgraded or improved ; and 2 Sensitization and awareness campaigns on water resources monitoring systems (100 %) was done.

While for the 2025/2026 financial year government had the following water resources sub-sector performance contract indicators: construct 70 boreholes by Borehole Construction and Groundwater Management Fund ; 12 water harvesting structures constructed, 4 times Data on water resources collected ; 4 Early warning monitoring stations upgraded and 2 Sensitization and awareness campaigns on water resources monitoring systems done, On the achievements made, a total of 82 boreholes (117.14 %) were constructed (70 wet and 12 dry boreholes) . 7 water harvesting structure (58%) were constructed, 2 times Data on water resources (50%) were collected; 8 Early warning monitoring stations (200%) were upgraded or improved; and 2 Sensitization and awareness campaigns on water resources monitoring systems (100 %) was done.

Apart from the performance contract indicators and headlines indicators, the water resources management and development also report localized SDGs indicators as presented elsewhere in this Chapter. Achievements made and challenges encountered during the year under review have been reported in the subsequent subsections of this Chapter.

3.4 Water Security and Climate Resilience.

The sector continues to face increasing risks associated with climate variability and change, including droughts, floods, catchment degradation, declining water availability, infrastructure damage and increasing competition for water resources. These challenges have implications for water supply reliability, water quality, and ecosystem health and service sustainability. Ongoing investments in catchment management, groundwater monitoring, water harvesting infrastructure and early warning systems contribute to building sector resilience. Going forward, greater emphasis will be required on climate-resilient infrastructure, integrated water resources management, catchment restoration and climate-informed planning to safeguard progress towards Malawi 2063 and SDG 6.

3.5 Compliance Rate on Water Quality for Water and Wastewater Samples with National Standards for Water and Wastewater (Effluent) To Be Discharged into Water Bodies

The Water Quality Services Division provides the water and wastewater quality data used for analysis. This data is generated from activities of the Ministry as well as Development Partners (DP)/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Water samples are mainly from newly constructed and rehabilitated boreholes country-wide, protected shallow wells and taps from both rural gravity-fed piped water supply schemes, Urban treated water supply and Market Centre schemes. Wastewater samples are in most cases collected from domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facilities/plants.

This part also includes water flowing into rivers, streams, and lakes. Water Quality Services Division collected and analyzed a total of 1720 water and wastewater samples; 1364 drinking water samples, 180 surface water samples for ambient surface water and 176 wastewater samples in year 2024/2025. While for the 2025/2026 financial year the water quality division collected and analyzed a total of 842 water and wastewater samples; 618 drinking water samples ,148 surface water samples for ambient surface water and 76 wastewater samples in year 2025/2026.

Physical, chemical, and biological parameters are used to check compliance. In compliance assessment, the laboratory data generated is normally compared with the set National Standards for drinking water and wastewater to be discharged into water bodies. The decline in the number of water and wastewater samples analysed in 2025/26 due to funding constraints impacted the comparability of the data with previous years and may understate actual compliance challenges.

Table 14: Results of Analysis on Water Quality Compliance Rate for two different categories (Drinking water and Wastewater)

Year	Water Samples			Ambient water samples			Wastewater Samples (Pollution Monitoring)			Total Samples		
	Number of Water samples analysed	Number of Samples that complied	Compliance Rate (%)	Number of Ambient Water Samples analysed	Number of Samples that complied	Compliance Rate (%)	Number of wastewater samples analysed	Number of samples that complied	Compliance Rate (%)	Total Samples Analysed	Target	% of Target samples achieved
2013-14	1470	1367	92.9				307	52	16.9	1777	1,800	98.7
2014-15	904	778	86.13				166	15	9.04	1070	2,000	53.5
2015-16	1832	1611	87.9				266	23	8.65	2098	2,000	104.9
2016-17	1,976	1804	91.3				469	39	8.3	2445	2,000	122
2017-18	1443	1272	88.1				502	61	12.1	1945	1,800	108.1
2018/19	1146	1024	89.35				491	48	9.78	1637	1,800	90.9
2019/20	1066	971	91.08				214	17	7.94	1280	1,800	71.1
2022/23	1507	1224	81.2				63	14	22.2	1670	2000	75.3

2023/24	2235	1983	88.7				77	36	46.7	2312	2000	115.6
2024/25	1364	1227	90	180	162	90	176	104	59.1	1720	2000	86
2025/26	618	542	87.7	148	137	92.6	76	34	44.7	842	2000	42.1

It can be noted from Table 14 that 90 percent of the drinking water samples in the year 2024/25 were compliant while only 59.1 percent of the wastewater samples were compliant. While for the year 2025/26, 87.7 percent of the drinking water samples were compliant while only 44.7 percent of the wastewater samples were compliant. The water samples from drinking water points were collected from all the parts of the country. The results are showing an increased trend (90%) in water quality compliance of water samples in the year 2024/2025 compared to the previous year (88.7%). The increased trends observed could be attributed to increased number of piped and boreholes water tested in the major cities of Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Zomba and Blantyre as well as selected districts. The increased in percentage of wastewater compliance with the Malawi standards could be because of increased use of efficient and effective wastewater treatment system in some companies as well as increased rate of enforcement/monitoring activities by the National Water Resources Authority.

In the year 2025/2026 the water samples from drinking water points were also collected from all the parts of the country. The results are showing a decreasing (87.7%) in water quality compliance of water samples in the year 2025/26 compared to the previous year (90%). The decreased in percentage of ambient and wastewater samples analyzed could be as a result of decrease in the number of ambient and wastewater sites visited which was mainly due to lack of financial resources. It should be noted that exclusively ambient water samples started being collected in the year 2024/25 unlike before when the samples were categorized together with wastewaters. The trend in ambient water compliance increased from 90% in 2024/25 to 92.6% in 2025/26.

In the financial year 2024/2025, the wastewater samples were collected from selected domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facilities in Karonga, Mzuzu, Nkhotakota, Salima, Lilongwe, Chikwawa, Zomba, Machinga and Blantyre districts. The results show an increase in compliance rate (59.1%) as compared to the previous year (compliance rate of 46.7%). The samples that complied include those from some sites in Karonga district for NOCMA, Lilongwe district for NOCMA and JTI, Chikwawa district for Illovo and Blantyre districts for NOCMA. Wastewater from some domestic treatment system like Zomba City Council, Liwonde Wastewater domestic systems did not comply with Malawi Standards. Comparing with previous years' compliance rate, 2024/25 data indicate an increase in drinking water quality which can be attributed to the increased number of drinking water samples collected and analysed of which most of them were from piped water systems. Data generated also indicate an increase in the number of wastewater samples analysed. The increased trends in number of times waste waters were tested is as a result of increased number of monitoring activities.

While 2025/2026, the wastewater samples were collected from selected domestic and industrial wastewater treatment facilities in Karonga, Nkhota-Kota, Salima, Lilongwe, Chikwawa, Zomba, and Blantyre districts. The results show a decrease in compliance rate (44.7%) as compared to the previous year compliance rate of 59.1%. The samples that complied include those from some sites (NOCMA) in Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu and Salima district. Wastewater from some domestic treatment system like Zomba City Council and Chikwawa (Prescane) did not comply with Malawi Standards. Comparing with previous years' compliance rate, 2025/26 data indicate an increase in drinking water quality despite a decrease in the number of samples analysed. The decrease in number of water samples analyzed could be attributed to decreases in financial support from various donor which made it difficult to conduct water and wastewater monitoring programs. Data generated also indicate a decrease in the number of wastewater samples analyzed. The decreasing trends in number of wastewaters tested is as a result of a decrease in the number of monitoring activities during the 2025/2026.

Noteworthy, Malawi, just like any other developing country, its urban rivers are more prone to contamination mainly due to their proximity to many pollution sources like domestic wastewater discharge points, industrial effluent discharge points, and indiscriminate solid-waste disposal. Where urban agriculture is practiced, agricultural lands are an additional source of pollution to urban rivers. Obsolete wastewater

treatment plants and failure to enforce water resources regulations and bye-laws where applicable are other reasons for such state.

Figure 6 depicts the trend in compliance of water and wastewater samples analyzed during the period 2013/14 to 2025/26 Financial Years. The compliance rate for the quality of drinking water shows a decreasing trend in the year 2025/2026 (87.7 %) compared to 2024/2025 (90%).

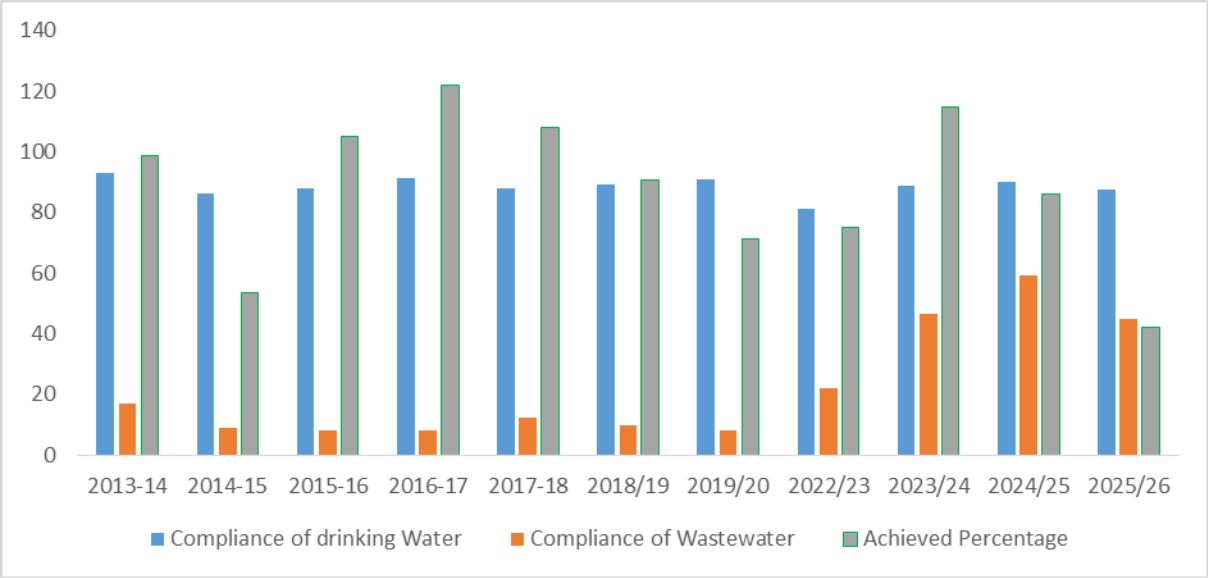


Figure 6: Water Quality Compliance Rate on Water and Wastewater Samples

From figure 6, compliance to national standards has always been lower for wastewater than for drinking water between 2013/14 and 2025/26. The non-compliance is based on such parameters like Dissolved Oxygen (DO), power of hydrogen ions (pH), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5), Chemical Oxygen Demand (CODcr), and Suspended Solids which were consistently above their individual permissible limits for discharge according to MS 539: 2013 and MS691:2005. The poor quality of effluent is attributed to inadequate treatment prior to discharge, overloading of the systems, poor maintenances of infrastructure and inadequate enforcement of regulations as well as the by-laws.

An analysis of the drinking samples collected shows that there has been a decrease in drinking water quality compliance in the year 2025/26 (90%) compared to the previous year (87.7%). However, much as there has been an increase in compliance rate, very few samples have been collected and analyzed during the year 2025/2026 due to lack of stakeholders and donor financial support to monitoring programs.

The low wastewater compliance rate of 44.7 percent remains a significant concern for environmental sustainability and public health. Continued discharge of inadequately treated wastewater may contribute to deterioration of water resources, ecosystem degradation and increased health risks for downstream users. The findings underscore the

importance of continued investment in wastewater treatment infrastructure, compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental standards.

This chapter has also considered reporting on other indicators under water resources management and development core activities which include:

- Number of boreholes constructed.
- % annual decline in surface water and groundwater levels in vulnerable areas.
- Number of permits processed, and revenue collected.

These are presented and discussed directly or indirectly under the following sections:

3.6 Water Resources Regulations and Licensing

The National Water Resources Authority (NWRA), which was created through the Water Resources Act, 2013 as an institution responsible for water resources regulation and water resources management in the country, now fully operational and is operating from Taurus House in City Centre. The regulation is done, inter alia, through:

a) Management and issuance of water abstraction permit,

b) Management and issuance of effluent discharge permits, and

c) Issuance of certificates of easement in case of shared ownership.

d) Establishment of Catchment Management Committees.

e) Water Quality monitoring in water resource bodies in the country

f) Carrying out bathymetric surveys

With respect to management and issuance of water abstraction licences and effluent discharge permits, the Table 14 below provides a summary of data on the licences issued in the year under review in comparison with the previous years.

Table 15: Water Licenses

Type of Water Licence/ Permit(s)	Achievement in 2015/16FY	Achievement in 2016/17FY	Achievement in 2017/18FY	Achievement in 2018/19FY	Achievement in 2019/20FY	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
New Surface Water abstractions	28 (temporary)	57 (temporary)	100 (temporary)	20 permanent	28	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Renewal of surface water abstraction	0 (temporary)	83	44 (temporary)	10 permanent	154	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Cancellation of surface water abstraction	0	0	0	1 permanent	0	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
New Groundwater abstractions	79 (temporary)	134 (temporary)	52 (temporary)	90 permanent	176	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Change of ownership on surface licenses	0	10	4	0	0	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Renewal of groundwater Abstractions	55 (temporary)	55 (temporary)	25 (temporary)	2 permanent	32	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Cancellation of groundwater	0	0	0	0	11	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

Type of Water Licence/ Permit(s)	Achievement in 2015/16FY	Achievement in 2016/17FY	Achievement in 2017/18FY	Achievement in 2018/19FY	Achievement in 2019/20FY	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
abstractions								
Consents for new applications to discharge wastewater/effluent	3 (temporary)	8(temporary)	**3 (temporary)**	**5** permanent	1	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Consents for renewal to discharge wastewater/ Effluent	5 (temporary)	18 (temporary)	**14 (temporary)**	**12** permanent	24	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Total Licenses processed	**170**	**365**	**242**	**140**	**437**	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

The data in Table 15 indicates that since the Financial Year 2015-16 to 2024-25 only temporary licenses were issues due to the absence of the Board. However, since 2023/24 there has been no reports on all the areas that needed to be reported even when the Board of Directors and the Executive Director are in place.

Table 16 provides data on the achievements in terms of revenue collected from licences and rentals in the reporting years in comparison with the previous years.

Table 16: Water License fees accrued to Treasury Account

License Type	2015/16FY (MK)	2016/17FY (MK)	2017/18FY (MK)	2018/19FY (MK)	2019/20FY (MK)	2022/23FY (MK)	2024/25FY (MK)	2025/26FY (MK)
Generation (Hydro-power)	68,818,861	68,818,861	0	0	292,140,280.42	300,000,000	Not reported	Not reported
Irrigation	23,374,729.90	19,811,952.14	24,600,000	103,258,930	30,976,387	110,000,000	Not reported	Not reported
Irrigation & Domestic	2,749,755.34	1,203,888.30	5,400,000	6,000,000	6,500,000	35,000,000	Not reported	Not reported
Water Supply	796,449.56	321,118.14	3,500,000	3,151,000	35,000,000	120,000,000	Not reported	Not reported
Smaller clients, collective (Irrigation, Industrial & Domestic)	Not reported	121,005.07	900,000	1,000,800	10,000,800	40,000,000	Not reported	Not reported
Total Revenue Collected	**92,829,514.28**	**95,739,795.80**	**34,400,000**	**113,410,730**	**365,717,467**	**600,000,000**	**Not reported**	**Not reported**
Total Active clients	**228**	**233**	**242**	**311**	**459**		**Not reported**	**Not reported**

The data in the Table 16 indicates in the years under review there has been no reports on all the areas that needed to be reported under this category even when the Board of Directors and the Executive Director are in place.

3.7 Surface Water Development and Management

In Malawi, surface water is available in lakes, rivers and streams. However, this resource is of variable quality and quantity, unevenly distributed in time and space, and is being subjected to poor conservation and management. Hence there is need to address the challenges through promotion of good catchment management strategies and plans to develop and manage the resource for irrigation, sanitation, water supply, hygiene and ecosystem biodiversity. During the year under review, the Department had planned to implement construction works for six (6) water harvesting structures under Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP).

Three dam constructions were completed whilst the other were halted for various reasons including contractors unable to meet their deadlines. These completed water harvesting structures are Kasangazi in Mzimba, Thendo in Ntchisi, and Phalombe Minor in Phalombe. The Department also planned to continue implementing the Nkholongo Multipurpose Dam construction project in conjunction with the Central Region Water Board. The project progress as at 31st March 2026 was at an average of 66% with an expected completion in 2026.

During the year 2025/2026, the Department under the Regional Climate Resilience Project (RCRP) embarked on a project to rehabilitate 18 hydrological monitoring stations. The stations are all located in the Shire River Basin and as of 31 March 2026, detailed designs of the stations were under review. Construction is expected to commence in the second half of 2026 and completion and site handover in 2027.

3.7.1 Surface Water Monitoring

As pressure on the surface water increases, the need for reliable hydrological data becomes more important. Over a hundred hydrometric stations are operated for monitoring the trends of the available surface water resources country-wide, which are essential for making decisions that concern water quantity, considering that there are varying hydrologic characteristics across the country. However, to get a general outlook of surface water conditions, the Lake Malawi levels, which are average levels from 3 stations of Chilumba, Nkhatabay and Monkey Bay are normally used. A Comparison of the Lake levels (above sea level) for the past ten years (2014/2015 to part of 2025/2026) is depicted in the figure 7.

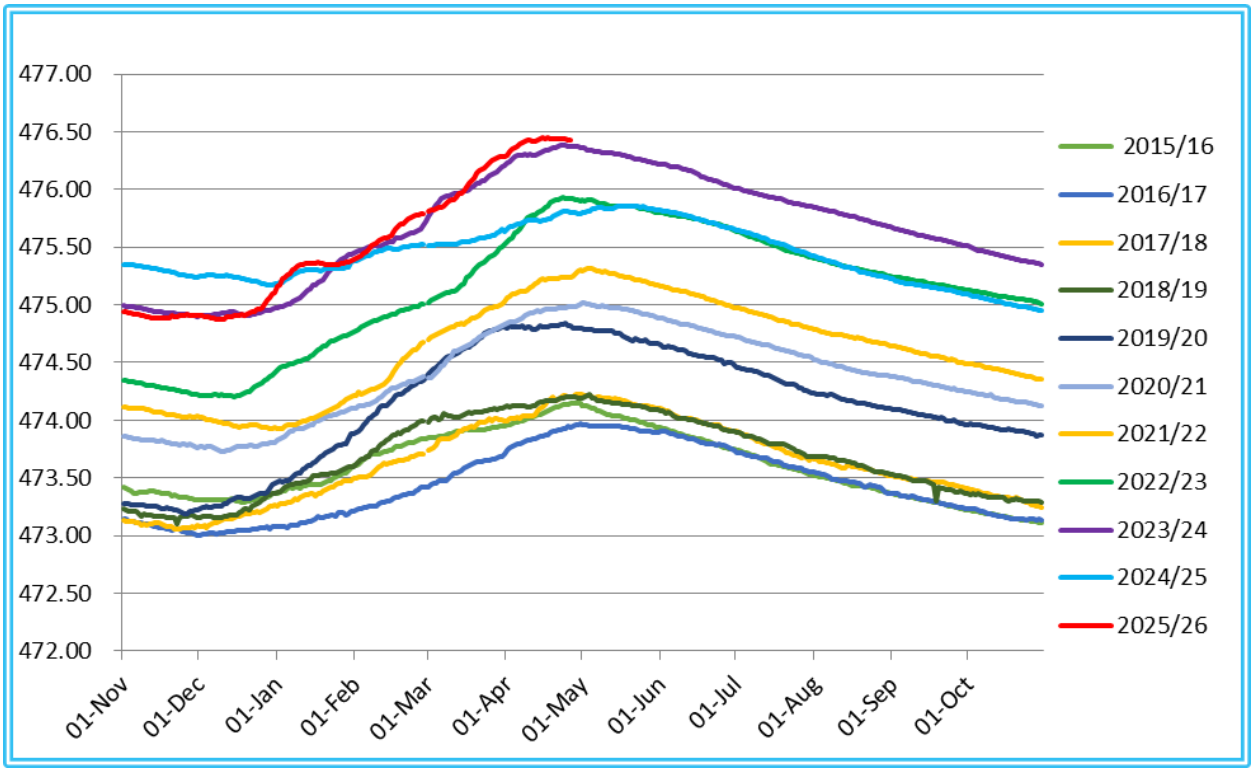


Figure 7: Daily Lake Malawi Levels 2011 to part of 2025

Figure 7 shows the daily water levels of Lake Malawi for the water years 2015/16 to part of 2025/26 and presents a picture of the general surface water resource situation, which followed an increasing trend since last reporting period (2024-2025). The daily Lake Malawi levels (2015/16–2025/26) shows a continued upward trend since 2024/25, with the 2025/26 reporting the highest lake levels in the past 10 years. Prudent operation of the Kamuzu Barrage and implementation of water-saving mechanisms continues to be critical to sustain current gains and prevent a return to low water levels.

3.8 Groundwater Development and Management

Groundwater in Malawi occurs in three main aquifers, namely, Weathered Basement, Fractured Basement and Alluvial aquifers (Atlas for Hydrogeological and Water Quality Maps 2015 and 2018). It provides a significant contribution to rural water supply in form of point source hand pump boreholes and protected shallow wells. They also contribute towards urban and market centres water supply systems through motorized boreholes reticulated to piped water supply systems.

The groundwater resource is also used for provision of water for irrigation schemes to contribute towards water for production. According to information for the year 2024/2025, reports for boreholes constructed by other players were not received however there are records that 77 groundwater sources were developed through Borehole Construction and Groundwater Management Fund and 82 groundwater

sources were developed in the year 2025/26 through the same Borehole Construction and Groundwater Management Fund.

3.8.1 Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater availability in the country is monitored through a network of 85 groundwater monitoring wells established by government throughout the country. The objective for establishing the groundwater monitoring network is to collect reliable data for analysis to assist in the understanding of groundwater behavior, quality and distribution so that effective sustainable planning, development and drought management can be carried out in Malawi. Water level data is collected from the monitoring stations manually, and automatically using data loggers.

Monitoring is also done using discrete data from borehole siting and construction. Some Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other organizations also carry out drilling programs and have some hydrogeological data.

It was planned to collect groundwater level data from data loggers 4 times in the year under review. Manual data has been used to draw groundwater trends as manual measurements are taken in all regions, unlike automated data, which is mainly concentrated in WRA 1. Nevertheless, automated data is presented in figure 8 to provide an overview of the automated system's functionality.

A significant amount of manual data has been collected in 20 monitoring wells, including Kakuyu Dam, Mchinji W/Office, Balaka 1 & 2 W/Office, Kasolo Primary School, Mwanza Prison, Mulanje W/Office, Nansomba Primary School, Khwalala Primary School, Nsambang'ombe Primary School, Malaka Primary School, Champhira Admarc, Nselema Police , Nsanje W/Office, Ngabu W/Office, Chileka Water Office ,Chikwawa Post Office, Mpatse Abwire Primary School, Chidoole Primary School, Chitipa W/O and Mokhotho Primary School. However, other wells exhibit significant data gaps for the year under review.

3.8.2 Groundwater Level Fluctuations and Trends

Groundwater monitoring levels have been analyzed starting from the first day each station was monitored. The locations monitored indicated that the lowest water level was 45.47m below ground level (mbgl) observed at Chilomoni Police Station and the highest water level was an overflow observed at Kakuyu dam in Lilongwe. Hence, over all, according to the monitored stations, the groundwater level ranged from 0 mbgl to 45.47 mbgl. The biggest fluctuation (refer Figure 3) ever observed was at Ngabu (14.19m) in the Southern part of the country. The lowest fluctuation (refer to figure 4) was observed at Khwalala Primary School monitoring well (0.462m) in Southern part of the country.

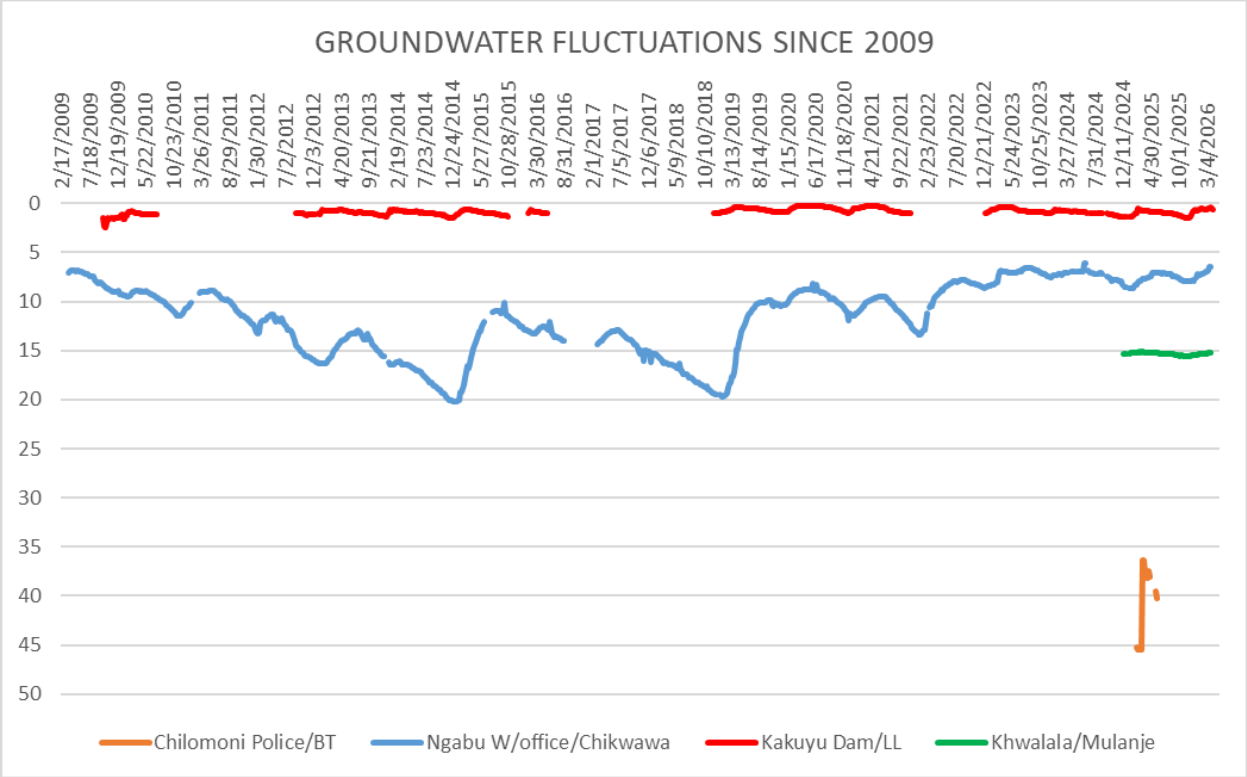


Figure 8: Fluctuation of groundwater level

Automated Data from data loggers at 19 monitoring stations was retrieved in 2024/25 these include, Chilomoni Police Station, Chikwawa P/Office, Mpatse Abwire Primary School, Nsambang'ombe Primary School, Chidoole Primary School, Nsanje W/Office, M'manga CDSS, Ntaja W/O,Nselema Police Station, Balaka W/Office 2, Kawiya CCAP ,Mikalati Primary School, Malaka Primary School, Mwanza Prison, Nansomba Primary School, Mulanje W/office, Chilayeni Primary School ,Sekeni Primary School and Khwalala Primary School.

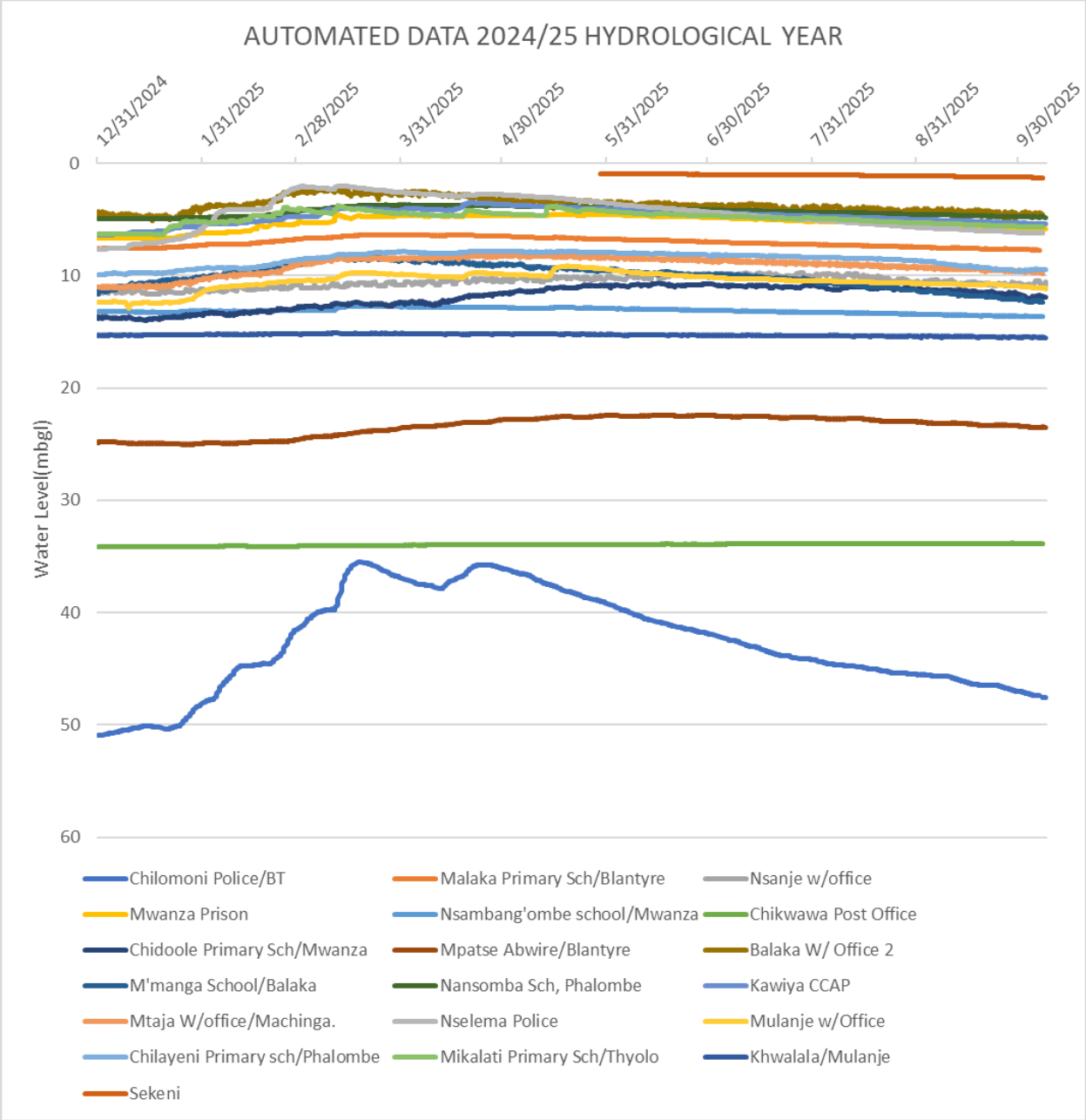


Figure 9: Automated data collected in 2024/25.

The general trend across the country is that on average groundwater levels decreased in 2024/25 considering maximum water levels while in 2025/26 there is a rising trend. This has been arrived at after noting that 88.89% of the sites monitored in 2024/25 showed a decrease in groundwater level in comparison with 2023/24 groundwater levels while in 2025/26, 44.44% showed an increase. In general, the lowest water levels are recorded in the months of November, December and January with the highest water levels recorded in January, February, March, April, May, June and July.

The trend of water fluctuations since monitoring started are presented in ***Figure 10***. Since monitoring started there has been unstable trend of increase and decrease in groundwater levels with a decreasing trend in 2024/25 hydrological year followed by increasing trend in 2025/26 though the current cycle is still underway.

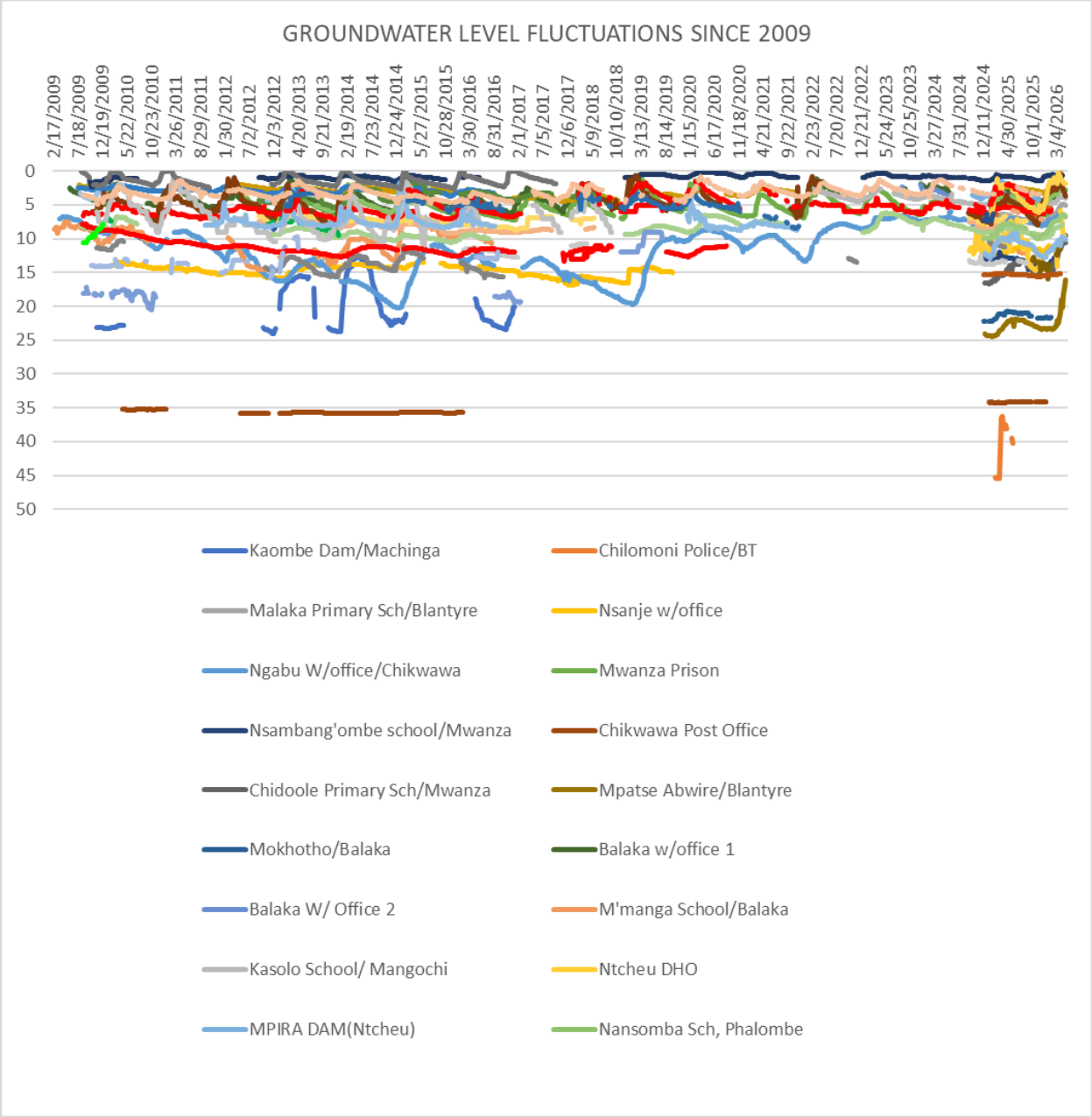


Figure 10: Groundwater level fluctuations since monitoring started

3.9 Proposed Needs and Projects Prepared and Submitted for Consideration to Development Partners

(a) Surface Water Development Proposed Interventions

i. Capacity Building

- Long term trainings in Water Engineering, River Engineering, Flood Risk Management, Early Warning Systems (Flood and Drought), Hydrological Modelling and Analysis Engineering, Instrumentation Engineering, Water Balance,
- Short courses in water resources management and development, hydrology, Research, Communication and Outreach Strategies; Hydrology Methodologies and Technology etc.

ii. Hydrological Equipment

- Upgrading hydrological monitoring equipment for flood early warning
- Investing in advanced stream flow gauging station e.g. flow meters, sediment samplers and other relevant equipment for measuring and monitoring water flow and sediment levels.
- Investing in advanced modelling software
- Survey Equipment (Hydrographic and Topographic)

iii. Infrastructure Development

- Construction of small-medium multipurpose Dams to tackle issues of drought and
- Procurement of Hydrological Equipment

(b) Proposed Groundwater Development and Management Intervention

i. Plant and equipment

- Drilling rig and all accessories (drilling rods) targeting deeper aquifers
- Compressor
- Pumping test equipment for high yields
- Groundwater prospecting equipment capable of exploring deeper aquifers
    - Electromagnetic equipment
    - Electrical resistivity equipment
- High powered computers for groundwater modelling and data analysis
- Hands on training in using new groundwater prospecting and drilling equipment

(c) Projects proposed for support

i. Project for groundwater development exploring deeper aquifers.

The following activities are proposed to be carried out:

- Assessment and identification of areas for high yields
- Construction of boreholes with reticulated water supply systems
- Formation and training of water users' committees

Target areas to include: Kasungu, Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Neno, Mwanza, Thyolo, Zomba, Ntcheu, Ntchisi

ii. Project on developing Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) mechanisms.

The following activities are proposed to be carried out:

- Assessment and identification of groundwater recharge hotspots
- Identifying mechanisms to enhance aquifer recharge in areas where rainfall/ recharge is poor
- Construction/installation, commissioning of the artificial recharge systems
- Implementing community based managed aquifer recharge strategies
- Establishment of groundwater Monitoring & Meteorological stations
- Staff training on techniques of MAR, management of Managed Aquifer Recharge systems developed
- Training of local communities on operation and maintenance of the MAR systems

iii. Optimisation of the groundwater monitoring network.

The following activities are proposed to be carried out:

- Assessing the existing groundwater monitoring network's design and identifying the current challenges.
- Developing and implementing an optimised groundwater monitoring network plan, including appropriate geostatistical techniques to estimate groundwater levels and quality.
- Procuring and installation of appropriate data loggers in all the selected sites
- Updating the groundwater monitoring database, making the information accessible to stakeholders through an interactive website.
- Training of officers in the installation and use of monitoring equipment (data loggers).

(d) Laboratory Equipment

The following laboratory equipment have been proposed for support:

- Multi-Quadrupole ICP-MS SYSTEM for analysis of metals and trace elements (2)
- Atomic adsorption spectrophotometer 1 and Lamps for metals and trace elements
- Filtration pumps for filtering water samples (4)
- Laboratory Microbial Bench Incubator (8)
- Fume hood (3)

- Multi meters (3) with probes for pH, EC, TDS, DO, Turbidity, Nitrates, Ammonia, Chlorides, Phosphates and Sulphates
- Strengthening of Water Quality Monitoring including Lake Malawi
- Laboratory equipment (Refrigerators (6))
- Sampling and monitoring equipment including vehicles (3)
- Installation of telemetric monitoring stations
- Training of staff in water quality monitoring and pollution control
- Accreditation of central water laboratory
- Construction and rehabilitation of regional laboratories (in Mzuzu and Blantyre) and central water laboratory (in Lilongwe).

3.10 Water Resources Undertakings for 2025/2026 FY

Table 17: Progress on Water Resources Undertakings for 2025/2026 FY

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
Need for Review of Strategic Documents	Review of Water Resources Act 2013	The activity is taking place but has delayed because of disbursement challenges Areas requiring improvements and new areas to include in the Act have been highlighted. The Act is currently with the Ministry of Justice	2025-2026	MoAIWD *Partners:* World Bank
	Review of Water Resources Master Plan	Review has not started due to funding challenges	2025-2026	MoAIWD
Spatial and temporal variability of water resources/ Dwindling water resources quantity	Increase water resources access for multipurpose use through construction of water harvesting structures (dams)	Construction of Kholongo dam in Dowa District is in progress. Civil works currently paused due to funds shortage. However, Grassing of dam downstream area	2025-2026	MoAIWD *Partners:* World Bank, AfDB
		Detailed Design for Lambilambi dam for Mzuzu City commenced Waiting for a new Feasibility Study since the first Feasibility Study was done almost 17 years ago	2025-2026	
		Design of 5 medium size dams under MWASIP in Zomba, Ntcheu, Blantyre and Neno. Detailed Designs completed	2025-2026	

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
	Promote and develop managed aquifer recharge (MAR) systems	*Piloting MAR in Kasungu and Ntchisi Districts, TAs Chitantha Mapiri and Chilooko:* Field assessments; Geophysical surveys; Detailed designs of Managed Aquifer Recharge infrastructures (construction underway in Kasungu; Review of the designs to include the use of dry holes as one of the recharge infrastructures done	2025-2026	MoAIWD *Partner:* SADC GMI
		Detailed designs were made. Review of designs to include the use of dry holes as one of the recharge infrastructures done. *Dzaleka Camp:* Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) was implemented at Dzaleka Camp following feasibility assessments. Due to land access constraints affecting the proposed earth dam site, only two (2) infiltration recharge boreholes were constructed.		BASEflow *Partner:* MoAIWD, NWRA

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
		Review of the designs to include the use of dry holes as one of the recharge infrastructures done One suitable site has been identified in Balaka and construction is yet to commence. The infiltration MAR borehole design required assessment of subsurface formations to determine soil or rock permeability and can also be adapted for unsuccessful dry boreholes where formations allow infiltration of precipitation runoff.		BASEflow *Partner:* MoAIWD
Catchment management (Financing-payment for biodiversity/ Environmental services)	Design the financing-payment for biodiversity/ Environmental services	The framework for the financing-payment for biodiversity has not yet been put in place. The Environmental Affairs department has the framework for financing-payment for environmental services	2025-2026	MoAIWD
	Piloting the financing and payment for biodiversity/ Environmental Services	The pilot of the financing strategy will be done under the Regional Climate Resilience Project 2. It was supposed to be implemented with the assistance of MWASIP	2025-2026	MoAIWD
	Mainstreaming catchment management in	There is integration of catchment management in water resources initiatives	2025-2026	MoAIWD

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
	all water resources development initiatives			
	Establishment of Catchment Management Committees	Formation of Linthipe, Bua and Dwangwa CMCs is done. The NWRA was working on the establishment of the Shire River Basin management committee under MWASIP. Functionality of the CMCs requires constant funding, and stakeholder collaboration is key	Shire basin CMC is underway	NWRA
Absence of some water quality standards (for domestic and production)	Development of water quality standards (irrigation, recreation, ambient, construction etc.)	The activity has not started because of the funding challenges	2025-2026	MoAIWD
	Institutional Strengthening (Accreditation of the laboratory, capacity building)	Procurement of laboratory equipment for increased laboratory analytical capacity Partial rehabilitation and partial equipping of the microbiological laboratory	2025-2026	MoAIWD

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
		Strengthening Laboratory Quality Management System Including: i) Updating Quality Control and Quality Assurance documentation (ISO17025), ii) Principles of Good Laboratory Practice, iii) Quality Control and Quality Assurance for Analytical Chemistry Lab), and iv) Development of standard operating procedures		
Data/ information gaps in water resources	Develop and integrate water resources MIS (SW, GW, WQ, E-licensing)	NWRA is in the process of developing the Water Resources Management Information System WRMIS which will handle all data related to groundwater, surface water, water quality with E licensing and permits for allocation of water resources.	2025-2026	MoAIWD
	Enforce regulations on data collection and transmission	Data collection from contractors has commenced. Enforcement has been enhanced. All contractors are required to submit borehole records as a condition to be renewed permits.	Ongoing	NWRA
	Upgrade water resources monitoring stations	Upgrading of 12 surface water monitoring stations across the country under MRDRMP/ RCRP. Installation completed and stations functional.	2025-2026	MoAIWD

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
				Partners: World Bank
	Optimization of groundwater monitoring network	BASEflow with support from Shockwave and Crap Foundation in 2025/26 supported the rehabilitation of 10 observation boreholes and purchase of 10 water level dippers. A total of 30 groundwater monitoring wells has since 2023 been rehabilitated across the Shire River Basin through multiple funding streams, using improved flood resilient designs and equipped with data loggers to monitor water levels. 3 monitoring boreholes were drilled and installed with a telemetric data transmission system.	2025-2026 Ongoing	MoAIWD *Partners:* BASEflow SADC GMI
		Monitoring capacity has been strengthened through the training of 20 citizen scientists in groundwater level reading, recording, and submission, with 13 equipped with smartphones to transmit data through water, significantly improving reporting efficiency.	2025-2026	MoAIWD *Partners:* BASEflow

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
		Under the G4DR Project, identified 4 sites for transboundary water resources monitoring boreholes construction in Shire alluvium aquifer in the Malawi side of the aquifer and another 4 in Mozambican side of the aquifer.		MoAIWD *Partner:* IWMI
		Four monitoring boreholes have been equipped with telemetric systems for real time groundwater data transmission, including: 3 in the Shire River Basin and one in T.A. Masumbankhunda in Lilongwe District.		MoAIWD *Partners:* SADC GMI BASEflow
	Update Hydrogeological and Water quality maps	Mapping groundwater potential using Geospatial Analysis Inception report approved; Suitability maps produced: Geophysical surveys conducted at 17 sites in WRA 5 & 6	2025-2026	MoAIWD *Partners:* UNICEF
	Orient newly recruited water resources		Ongoing	MoAIWD, Local Councils

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
	personnel in district councils			
	Capacity building to Ministry's Water resources personnel	Govt. officers underwent training in water resources related courses: • Processing geospatial data for groundwater modelling, in Uganda • Applying modern geospatial tools such as Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP), Google Earth Engine (GEE), and QGIS to groundwater potential mapping, in Malawi • analysis and interpretation of geophysical survey results, in Malawi	Ongoing	MoAIWD, UNICEF, IWMI
	Collaborate with NGOs that are collecting water resource data	NGOs have been engaged to constantly submit data. The engagement process is continuous	Ongoing	MoAIWD, NWRA
	Sensitize stakeholders in water resources data collection	Sensitised stakeholders surrounding 20 groundwater monitoring stations in the southern part of Malawi on water resources/ groundwater monitoring data collection, and the importance of groundwater monitoring wells	Ongoing	MoAIWD
Non-resilient water resources infrastructure (e.g. boreholes)	Review/ develop standards for water resources infrastructure	Review of Standard Operating Procedures for Groundwater Development and Management – First Draft Produced in October under MWASIP. The activity has stalled due to MWASIP ending.	2025-2026	MoAIWD

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
		Call for development partners to support this initiative as it is critical for managing and regulating the drilling industry		
	Dissemination/ Awareness campaigns of standards for water resources infrastructure e.g. drilling standards	For groundwater development standards- awaiting their review	2025-2026	MoAIWD
	Monitoring performance of old and new pump types	Joint Monitoring of performance of Afridev pumps with floating centralizers MoAIWD Approved the installation of the successfully monitored Afridev floating centralizers country wide	Ongoing	MoAIWD
	Develop standards for climate resilient water resources infrastructure	Not done	2025-2026	MoAIWD
	Design and construct climate resilient water	18 Hydrological Monitoring stations are under design by RMSI under RCRP in a climate resilience manner	2025-2026	MoAIWD

ISSUE	UNDERTAKING	PROGRESS – 2026	TIME FRAME	RESPONSI BILITY
	resources infrastructure	Review of Designs in progress (80%) BASEflow has constructed 16 flood proof or climate resilient borehole hand pumps Self Help Africa have also built 2 flood proof hand pump infrastructure in Thyolo flood prone areas.		*Partners:* World Bank BASEflow
Vandalism and theft of water resources infrastructure	Sensitization of local communities	Sensitization is being undertaken in all project rehabilitations and drilling for both production and observation boreholes	Ongoing	MoAIWD, Local Councils

3.11 Challenges, Recommendations and Conclusion

There are several challenges, recommendations and conclusions that have been drown for the period under review in order to ensure the availability and sustainable management and development of water resources for multipurpose.

3.11.1 Challenges

a) Lack of human capacity at district level regarding Water Resources management and development continued to be a setback in achieving most of the planned activities;
b) Most of the wastewater treatment facilities are old and lack proper maintenance;
c) Inadequate financial resources towards water resources management and development;
d) Inadequate support from development partners in water resources monitoring; and
e) Vandalism of water resources equipment and infrastructures.
f) Failure of some water resources monitoring stations and equipment
g) Inadequate equipment for water resources development (drilling equipment)

3.11.2 Recommendations

a) There is need for appropriate attention to fill the established positions at the district level;
b) There is an urgent need for maintenance of the wastewater treatment facilities and enforcement of the existing policies and regulations by the responsible institutions;
c) There is need to continue managing the release of water at Kamuzu Barrage basing on the request and availability of water in the Lake; and
d) The water resources situation for 2024-25 brings out the need for enhanced efforts to intensify adoption and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management programs with special focus on water resources monitoring, assessment, planning, development, conservation and protection of water resources including disaster risk reduction (flood and drought mitigation) measures.
e) There is need for continued recapitalisation of Borehole Construction and Groundwater Management Fund.

3.11.3 Conclusions

a) The water resources management and development sub-sector did manage to achieve much of its planned activities. This was due to various factors such as financial support from both Government and Development Partners in water resources management and development;

b) In general, there is evidence of an increase in water resources in the year under review as evidenced by trends in the Lake Levels and groundwater levels in monitoring stations. This is evidenced by peaks in both surface water and

groundwater levels which were observed to be higher than the previous years under review. The groundwater level situation during 2024-2025 has, been observed to be good especially in the Southern and Central parts of the country;

c) The wastewater treatment facilities in the country continue to discharge effluent of unacceptable quality into the environment due to poor maintenance. River/stream pollution has been one of the main topics in the environmental issue of the City of Blantyre, the industrial city of the country. This has been indicated by the very low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels and other measured parameters in the river/stream as well as evidence on dumping of solid waste'.

d) The prudent management of water release at the Kamuzu Barrage was observed to be effective in managing Lake Malawi levels in the year under review.

4. WATER SUPPLY SERVICES

4.1 Introduction

Access to safe drinking water is a fundamental human right and a critical determinant of public health, economic productivity and human dignity. The Government of Malawi recognises this centrality and has accordingly positioned access to safe drinking water as a key enabler within the Malawi 2063 (MW2063) national development agenda and its operational framework, the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1). This commitment is further anchored in Malawi's obligations under Sustainable Development Goal 6.1, which calls for universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD), through the Department of Water Supply Services (DWSS), provides overall policy direction and regulatory oversight for the water supply sector. This includes the development and review of policies, legislation and technical standards that govern service delivery across the country. Service implementation is carried out through a multi-stakeholder framework involving District Councils, the five Water Boards (Central Region Water Board, Northern Region Water Board, Southern Region Water Board, Blantyre Water Board and Lilongwe Water Board) as well as Non-Governmental Organizations and development partners.

The Water Boards are specifically mandated to provide water and sewerage services in urban and peri-urban areas, while District Councils, supported by partners, oversee rural water supply infrastructure. Notwithstanding the progress made, the sector continues to face significant challenges, including ageing infrastructure, inadequate financing, low functionality rates of water points and persistent urban-rural disparities in service levels. Addressing these challenges remains central to the sector's agenda as Malawi works towards achieving its MW2063 targets and SDG 6.1 commitments.

This chapter presents an overview of water supply service delivery performance during the 2025/2026 financial year. Drawing on data and reports from MoAIWD, District Councils, Water Boards and other sector stakeholders, it assesses progress against key performance indicators, highlights achievements, identifies emerging challenges and outlines priority areas for the year ahead.

4.2 Access to Improved Water Supply Sources

According to the National Statistical Office Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2024 (NSO, 2025), the national access rate to improved sources of drinking water for both urban and rural households stood at 88.5 percent during the reporting period. This reflects a positive upward trend, with access rising from 87.7 percent in 2023/2024 to 88.5 percent in 2025/2026. The proportion of urban households with access to improved water sources was 96.7 percent while for rural households it was 87.0 percent. In urban areas, piped water connections into dwellings, yards, or plots constituted the predominant source of drinking water at 43.0 percent, reflecting relatively higher levels of household-level access to piped water services. Communal standpipes accounted for 22.2 percent of the main drinking water sources in urban settings. In contrast, boreholes remained the dominant source of drinking water in rural areas, accounting for 73.8 percent, followed by communal standpipes at 5.7 percent (Table 18).

At the national level, boreholes remained the predominant source of drinking water at 64.7 percent, with piped into dwelling/yard/plot at 8.7 percent and communal standpipes at 8.3 percent. Unimproved sources and surface water accounted for 11.5 percent nationally, with rural areas still bearing a higher share of this burden at 13.0 percent compared to 3.3 percent in urban areas. There has also been an improvement in water fetching round trip. The percentage of people whose average round-trip water collection time is less than 30 minutes increased significantly from 38.7 percent in 2023/2024 to 63.4 percent in 2025/2026. This figure excludes an additional 18.7 percent of the population who have water on their premises.

Table 18: Proportion of Households with Access to Improved Water Sources at national, urban and rural level

Characteristic	Households		
	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	National (%)
Source of Drinking Water			
Improved source	**96.7**	**87.0**	**88.5**
Piped into dwelling/yard/plot	43.0	2.4	8.7
Piped to neighbor	10.4	1.0	2.5
Public tap/standpipe	22.2	5.7	8.3

Characteristic	Households		
	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	National (%)
Source of Drinking Water			
Tube well or borehole	15.6	73.8	64.7
Protected dug well	4.4	3.8	3.9
Protected spring	0.1	0.2	0.2
Tanker truck/cart with small tank	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bottled water	1.0	0.0	0.2
Unimproved source	**2.9**	**10.1**	**9.0**
Unprotected dug well	2.5	8.6	7.6
Unprotected spring	0.3	1.5	1.3
Other	0.0	0.0	0.0
Surface water	**0.4**	**2.9**	**2.5**
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Source: National Statistical Office, DHS, 2024.

4.3 Progress on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators for Water Supply

Progress towards the achievement of SDG 6.1 on access to drinking water services demonstrates gradual improvement, although notable disparities persist across service levels and between urban and rural areas. As presented in Tables 19 and 20, the proportion of the population accessing safely managed drinking water services increased from 18.4 percent in 2023/2024 to 20.2 percent in 2024/2025 before slightly declining to 18.7 percent in 2025/2026. While this reflects overall progress in expanding access to higher levels of water service, the fluctuation indicates that gains in safely managed drinking water services remain fragile and require sustained investments in water infrastructure, operation and maintenance, water quality monitoring and service reliability among other intervention areas.

Rural areas account for a larger share of the population accessing basic services at 64.6 percent, compared to 60 percent in urban areas. This suggests that while rural households may have access to improved water sources, many still fall short of the criteria required for safely managed services, particularly regarding accessibility on premises, availability when needed and water quality. Furthermore, limited-service coverage stands at 15.5 percent nationally (up from 14 percent in 2024/2025), with rural areas disproportionately affected at 18 percent compared to 3.5 percent in urban areas.

The proportion of the population using unimproved water sources remained unchanged at 9.0 percent during the review period, while reliance on surface water slightly declined from 3.0 percent to 2.5 percent, signaling modest progress in reducing dependence on the least safe water sources. Nevertheless, the continued use of unimproved sources and surface water, particularly in rural areas, underscores the need for accelerated investments and targeted interventions to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all by 2030.

Table 19: SDG 6.1 Drinking Water Service Ladder at National, Urban and Rural Levels

SDG 6.1 Drinking Water Service Ladder	Nation	Urban	Rural
Safely managed	18.7%	33%	4.4%
Basic service	54.3%	60%	64.6%
Limited service	15.5%	3.5%	18%
Unimproved service	9.0%	3.0%	10%
Surface water	2.5%	0.5%	2%

Source: National Statistical Office, DHS 2024

Table 20: SDG 6.1 Indicator Achievement by Year (2024 – 2026)

No.	Indicator	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	Remarks
SDG Indicators					
1	Population accessing safely managed drinking water services	18.4%	20.2%	18.7%	
2	Population accessing basic water service level		53.8%	54.3%	
3	Population accessing limited-service level		14.0%	15.5%	
4	Population using unimproved service		9.0%	9.0%	
5	Population using surface water		3.0%	2.5%	

Sources: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20 (NSO, 2021), DHS, 2024 (NSO, 2025)

4.4 *Sources: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20 (NSO, 2021), DHS, 2024 (NSO, 2025)* Sector-Wide Policy, Planning and Regulatory Instruments

During the year under review, the sector registered notable progress on key policy, planning and regulatory instruments with sector-wide application, spanning both rural and urban water supply:

a) Completed the review of the Water Works Act (1995), resulting in the draft Water Supply and Sewerage Bill (2025), which is awaiting formal submission to the Ministry of Justice for review ahead of presentation to Cabinet and Parliament. The Bill provides for the establishment of an independent Water Supply and Sanitation Regulator to strengthen oversight, accountability and service delivery across both rural and urban water supply sub-sectors.
b) ccountability and service delivery across both rural and urban water supply sub-sectors.
c) Progressed the review of the WASH Indicator Handbook, with a consolidated draft prepared and awaiting stakeholder validation, to support harmonised monitoring and reporting across the water supply sector.
d) Finalized the National Water Supply Investment Plan (2026–2036), which is awaiting dissemination and provides a strategic framework for prioritizing investments and mobilizing resources across both rural and urban water supply infrastructure.

e) Developed design manuals and guidelines for climate-resilient water supply infrastructure, to standardize design practices and strengthen resilience against climate variability and extreme weather impacts in both rural and urban systems.

4.5 Rural Water Supply

4.5.1 Access to safe drinking water supply services at District Level

Access to drinking water service ladders continued to vary across districts during the reporting period much as most households in most districts have access to at least basic drinking water service level. As depicted in table 21, the proportion of the rural population with access to at least basic drinking water services ranged from 51.1 percent in Kasungu to 94 percent in Likoma District. Other districts with relatively high access levels included Salima (88.8 percent), Mulanje (79.6 percent), Mangochi (78 percent), Ntchisi (77.2 percent), and Chiradzulu (77.1 percent).

However, a number of districts still recorded comparatively low access to at least basic drinking water services. These include Kasungu (51.1 percent), Mzimba (52.4 percent), Ntcheu (55.2 percent), Thyolo (60.5 percent) and Neno (62.7 percent) indicating the need for intensified investments in rural water infrastructure and service delivery in these areas. The proportion of households accessing limited water services also remained significant in several districts, particularly Balaka (27.6 percent), Zomba (25.9 percent), Mzimba (24.3 percent), Machinga (23.8 percent), and Chikwawa (22.7 percent). This suggests that while water sources may be available, many households still experience challenges related to accessibility, reliability, or collection time.

Use of unimproved water sources was notably high in Kasungu (23 percent), Thyolo (20 percent), Dedza and Ntcheu (19.1 percent each), and Mzimba (15.8 percent). Meanwhile, dependence on surface water sources was highest in Rumphi (8.6 percent), Dowa (8.4 percent), Mzimba (7.5 percent), Neno (6.1 percent) and Likoma (6 percent). Continued reliance on unimproved and surface water sources exposes communities to waterborne diseases and highlights persistent service delivery gaps in some rural areas.

Overall, gradual progress was registered in rural water supply service delivery across the country, though disparities between districts remain significant calling for increased investments improve equitable access to safe drinking water services nationwide.

Table 21: Access to Drinking Water Service Ladders by District

District	At least basic service (%)	Limited service (%)	Unimproved (%)	Surface water (%)
Chitipa	68.9	18.5	9.2	3.4
Karonga	72.7	12.8	10	4.5
Nkhata Bay	76.9	8.6	12.5	1.9
Rumphi	73.1	12.8	5.6	8.6
Mzimba	52.4	24.3	15.8	7.5
Likoma	94	0	0	6
Kasungu	51.1	20.5	23	5.5
Nkhotakota	71.8	15.1	11.8	1.3
Ntchisi	77.2	10.2	10.3	2.3
Dowa	72.2	12.7	6.7	8.4
Salima	88.8	7.3	2.7	1.3
Lilongwe	74.7	13.9	11	0.4
Mchinji	70.6	16.4	13	0
Dedza	73.3	7.4	19.1	0.1
Ntcheu	55.2	20.8	19.1	4.9
Mangochi	78	15.9	3.9	2.2
Machinga	71	23.8	4.5	0.6
Zomba	69.3	25.9	4.2	0.6
Chiradzulu	77.1	19.9	1	2
Blantyre	76.2	19.5	3.5	0.8
Mwanza	70.5	20	7.9	1.5
Thyolo	60.5	17.9	20	1.7
Mulanje	79.6	16.6	1.8	2
Phalombe	70.3	21.4	5.7	2.5
Chikwawa	68.1	22.7	4.7	4.5

District	At least basic service (%)	Limited service (%)	Unimproved (%)	Surface water (%)
Nsanje	75.6	14.2	5.1	5.1
Balaka	70.1	27.6	1.6	0.8
Neno	62.7	19.2	12.1	6.1

Source: National Statistical Office, DHS 2024

4.5.2 Functionality of Rural Improved Water Supply Sources

During the period under review, a total of 127,672 rural improved water supply sources were recorded. These comprised boreholes, taps, protected hand-dug wells, and protected springs, with boreholes constituting the predominant source of water supply in rural areas, followed by tap water supplied through rural piped water supply schemes.

With respect to functionality, of the 127,672 improved water supply sources for which functionality data were available in the Malawi Water Management Information System (MWAMIS) and verified with District Water Supply Offices, 88,962 sources were reported functional, yielding an overall national functionality rate of 68 percent for the period under review (see Table 22). This represents an increase of nine percentage points relative to the preceding reporting period, attributable to the cumulative effect of rehabilitation works undertaken, expansion of Area Mechanic coverage, and improved verification of data with District Water Supply Offices. It should, however, be noted that reported functionality rates rely on limited sampling and self-reported data in many districts, which limits the reliability of the national aggregate and may obscure significant variations in performance at district level; the district-level analysis presented below should therefore be read with this limitation in mind.

An examination of district-level performance indicates three distinct performance categories. The highest functionality rates were recorded in Likoma (99 percent), Neno (96 percent), and Mangochi (92 percent), each exceeding the national average by a considerable margin, attributable to relatively limited water point inventories and the presence of established community-based management arrangements. A second category of districts, comprising Kasungu (82 percent), Lilongwe and Ntchisi (80 percent each), and Balaka (79 percent), recorded above-average functionality rates, associated with sustained donor-financed rehabilitation interventions and comparatively consistent operation and maintenance arrangements at community level. As these figures are derived in part from self-reported district data, the margin separating districts within this category should be interpreted with caution rather than treated as strictly comparable.

Conversely, the lowest functionality rates were recorded in Machinga (31 percent), Chiradzulu (41 percent), Mwanza (45 percent), Mulanje (46 percent), and Chikwawa and Thyolo (52 percent each). These districts exhibit a number of common constraints,

including infrastructure exceeding 15 to 20 years in service age, Water Point Committees that are weak or non-operational, restricted access to spare parts and qualified Area Mechanics, and, in the case of Mulanje, recurrent damage attributable to cyclones and flooding that has exceeded available rehabilitation capacity. Chiradzulu and Mwanza, both characterised by constrained groundwater yield within portions of their respective terrains, continue to record elevated rates of borehole failure associated with over-abstraction and seasonal water table decline, while Chikwawa remains subject to siltation and flood-related damage affecting water point infrastructure in low-lying areas.

The disparity of 68 percentage points between the district with the highest functionality rate (Likoma, 99 percent) and the district with the lowest functionality rate (Machinga, 31 percent) indicates the extent of variation in service reliability at sub-national level and demonstrates that national aggregate figures do not adequately reflect localised differences in infrastructure condition and management capacity. Addressing this disparity will require two complementary interventions: first, targeted allocation of operation and maintenance resources to the lowest-performing districts, including expansion of Area Mechanic networks, establishment of reliable spare-parts supply chains, and reinstatement of functional Water Point Committees; and second, continued reinforcement of MWAMIS data verification procedures in coordination with District Water Supply Offices, to ensure that reported functionality rates remain an accurate and current representation of infrastructure condition.

Table 22: Functionality of Rural Improved Water Supply Sources

District	Borehole or tubewell		Piped into dwelling/ yard/plot/communal standpipe		Protected dug well		Protected Spring Total		Improved Water Points with Functionality Data		
	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Functionality Rate
Balaka	4,024	3,830	1,013	159	40	27			2,668	1,453	54%
Blantyre	2,566	1,871	1,889	1,125	360	181	22	15	4,886	2,836	58%
Chikwawa	3,123	1,940	1,225	342	131	34	1	1	4,480	2,317	52%
Chiradzulu	1,672	692	173	50	51	27			1,896	769	41%
Chitipa	1,334	1,114	1,708	745	0	521	29	20	2,858	1,750	61%
Dedza	2,973	2,624	351	194	605	94	7	4	2,320	1,193	51%
Dowa	2,803	2,147	94	84	452	198	1		2,147	1,526	71%
Karonga	2,784	2,159	1,478	821	2500	519	3	3	2,694	1,652	61%
Kasungu	2,830	2,374	71	55	355	240			2,228	1,472	66%
Likoma	6	1	3,107	3,072	0				119	66	55%
Lilongwe	4,738	3,605	2,556	2,325	893	624	9	7	8,196	6,561	80%
Machinga	1,561	578	537	70	72	24	4	4	2,174	676	31%
Mangochi	7,692	7,195	2,130	2,124	600	249			4,789	2,519	53%
Mchinji	1,206	831	163	102	891	608	1	1	2,261	1,542	68%
Mulanje	1,925	1,149	8,134	3,534	209	76	27	11	10,295	4,770	46%

District	Borehole or tubewell		Piped into dwelling/ yard/plot/communal standpipe		Protected dug well		Protected Spring Total		Improved Water Points with Functionality Data		
	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Total	Functional	Functionality Rate
Mwanza	599	280	164	64	9	5			772	349	45%
Mzimba	3,012	1,723	1,979	1,623	1785	1,098	2	1	6,778	4,445	66%
Neno	830	763	1,571	1,534	0	3			482	282	59%
Nkhata Bay	850	470	1,958	1,424	1031	522	2	2	3,841	2,418	63%
Nkhotakota	1,013	658	752	654	636	490	2	1	2,403	1,803	75%
Nsanje	1,989	1,472	847	621	7	7	3	3	1,657	897	54%
Ntcheu	4,205	3,617	2,110	645	69	26	28	11	2,782	1,336	48%
Ntchisi	1,214	870	871	793	0	277	14	6	1,684	962	57%
Phalombe	1,610	1,443	3,863	1,637	783	34	12	6	3,782	1,774	47%
Rumphi	825	690	5,587	3,750	587	270	9	6	6,977	4,470	64%
Salima	1,184	891	47	17	225	146	4	3	1,460	1,057	72%
Thyolo	1,884	1,077	616	243	399	181	48	37	2,947	1,538	52%
Zomba	2,345	1,960	6,630	4,718	236	80	6	5	3,302	2,381	72%
Grand Total	62,797	48,024	51,624	32,525	12,926	**6,561**	**234**	**147**	**92,878**	**54,814**	**59%**

4.5.3 MIP-1 Achievements on Rural Water Supply

The Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1, 2021–2030) sets out specific targets for rural water supply development, including investments in new and rehabilitated infrastructure, strengthening of operation and maintenance systems, and establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms. Table 23 below summarises progress recorded against these MIP-1 targets during the period under review, drawing on implementation reports from MoAIWD, District Councils and development partners. The results reflect a mix of completed milestones and undertakings still in progress, with delayed funding and forex challenges cited as the principal constraints affecting the pace of implementation.

Table 23: MIP-1 Achievements 2023/24

Intervention	Implementation Period	Progress
Develop and operationalize a digitized/cloud-based management information system for communal water supply assets to help inform allocation of new water investments	2020-2024	• MWAMIS web-based MIS being explored as a platform for storing data on rural water supply assets and to help inform allocation of new water investments. All districts currently utilizing the system.
Establishment of a maintenance trust fund for sustainability of rural water investments	2020-2025	• No significant progress was registered during the reporting period towards the establishment of this fund. However, efforts aimed at creating a financing mechanism for pro-poor water supply interventions, including sustainability and maintenance of rural water systems, were reflected in the Draft Water Supply and Sewerage Bill, which includes provisions for the establishment of a Water Supply and Sanitation Fund. This proposed fund is expected to provide a potential framework for mobilizing and channeling resources towards sustainability of water supply infrastructure and services once the bill is enacted

Intervention	Implementation Period	Progress
Construct new piped water supply systems	2020-2030	• During the reporting period, construction of small solar-powered piped water supply systems in the Constituencies, continued under the Groundwater Extraction for Rural Piped Water Supply Project which is fully funded by the Government. Out of the planned target of 21 systems, only 6 were constructed during the period, benefiting an estimated 32,000 people. The completed schemes are Mphangwe (Dowa), Msumba (Ntchisi), Therere (Chitipa), Chiputu and Kalolo (Lilongwe), and Bembeke (Dedza). • Delayed funding and forex challenges were the main reasons that negatively affected progress. • Moving forward, implementation of similar schemes is expected to be mainstreamed through District Councils under the Reformed Constituency Development Fund (CDF).
Rehabilitate all gravity water schemes	2020-2030	• Under the Regional Climate Resilience Program, financing has been secured from the World Bank for the rehabilitation of selected rural piped water systems, namely Lichenya (Mulanje), Chididi (Nsanje), and Mfundazi (Neno). Preparatory activities, including detailed design reviews and technical assessments, are currently underway. Also underway are activities on strengthening Water Users Associations to enhance operational capacity and ensure sustainable management of the systems upon completion of rehabilitation works.

Intervention	Implementation Period	Progress
Construction and rehabilitation of Boreholes	2023-2025	• Through the Global Fund COVID-19 Response Project, the Ministry successfully completed the construction of 215 boreholes across rural health facilities in all 26 districts of Malawi. The intervention was aimed at strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in healthcare settings, thereby improving infection prevention and control measures and enhancing resilience of health service delivery systems.

During the year under review, the following were achieved:

- Under the Groundwater Extraction for Rural Piped Water Development Project, 6 schemes have been completed and are operational, namely Mphangwe (Dowa), Msumba (Ntchisi), Therere (Chitipa), Chiputu and Kalolo (Lilongwe), and Bembeke (Dedza), benefiting over 32,000 people.
- Under the COVID-19 Response Mechanism (C19RM), the Ministry completed construction of 214 hand pump boreholes in rural health facilities across all 26 districts, significantly improving WASH services and infection prevention and control in healthcare settings. Under the Regional Climate Resilience Programme (RCRP-2), preparatory activities for rehabilitation of Lichenya (Mulanje), Chididi (Nsanje), and Mfundazi (Neno) schemes progressed. Key activities included consultant procurement, institutional strengthening, community sensitization, governance structure reconstitution, WUA training, vulnerability assessment and design review, with physical work yet to commence.

4.5.4 Progress on JSR Key Undertakings – Rural Water Supply

During the period under review key issues were identified to be undertaken by the Water supply TWG. Table 24 provides progress on the implementation of the undertakings.

Table 24: Water Supply Undertakings

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
1	Destruction of water supply systems by cyclones and effects of drought	Facilitate sector financing for rehabilitation of destroyed infrastructure	On-going	• Ministry continually engaging Partners to source funding. Ministry engaged ADB, for financing under the new ADF-17 financing window, commencing 2026/27 for the rehabilitation of Mpira-Balaka piped water supply system (dam and the whole system). Another proposal also submitted to ADB for rehabilitation of 12 schemes in Chitipa, Nkhata Bay, Mzimba, Salima, Mchinji, Dedza, Dowa, Lilongwe, Kasungu, Neno and Mwanza. Ministry is also	Ministry responsible for water affairs / Development Partners (DPs)

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
				engaging World Bank under the AU NEPAD WASH initiative window.	
		Validate the Water Supply Design Manual and guidelines for climate-resilient infrastructure	July 2025	• Validation meetings were held with Councils, CSOs, and Malawi Engineering Institution. •	Ministry responsible for water affairs
		Disseminate standards, guidelines, and manual for the design of climate-resilient water supply infrastructure	October 2025	To be done by end of June, 2026	Ministry responsible for water affairs
2	Policy shifts from handheld boreholes to reticulated water supply systems	Disseminate the updated water policy direction	October 2025	Being done	Ministry responsible for water affairs
		Develop a phased transition strategy from boreholes to reticulated systems		Being done	Ministry responsible for water affairs
		Develop guidelines for the operation and management of solar-powered reticulated water supply systems	2025–2026	• In progress, first draft to out by early June, 2026	Ministry responsible for water affairs

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
		Build capacity for the management and sustainability of solar-powered water systems	2025–2026	• Ministry Engineers have been trained on O&M of these systems. DWDOs also underwent online trainings within the year through UNICEF support. Apart from O&M training, Engineers were also trained on tendering and procurement of these systems	Ministry responsible for water affairs / Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
		Facilitate construction of solar-powered reticulated water supply systems	On-going	• On-going activity. • Ministry leading the way through the Malawi Government funded "Groundwater Extraction for Rural Water Supply Project". 6 completed out of the targeted 21 during the 2025/26 FY. The completed sites are	Ministry responsible for water affairs / CSOs

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
				as follows: Mphangwe scheme in Dowa, Msumba scheme in Ntchisi, Therere in Chitipa, Chiputu in Lilongwe, Kalolo in Lilongwe, Bembeke TC in Dedza. • Additionally, the Ministry has engaged the Children's Investment Fund of UK to support construction of 81 reticulated water supply systems in marginalized communities across the country. • WASH Partners, have also complemented government efforts. Below are some of their interventions: - A new JICA funded climate-resilient water supply project	

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
				has just commenced and will construct solar powered systems in Karonga, Salima, Lilongwe, and Balaka (exact number not yet known). - Water for People have constructed 8 solar powered water supply systems in the Southern Region - UNICEF have also constructed 15 solar powered water supply systems across the country. - In Zomba, Fresh Water International with support from Xylem International and Blantyre Rotary Club constructed **3** water supply systems.	

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
3	Deterioration of water quality due to heavy metals in construction materials and poor rural water quality	Review standards for water supply materials to eliminate those with heavy metals	On-going	• In progress. The Water Quality Division is being consulted on how best to address this undertaking.	Ministry responsible for water affairs
		Equip the Central Water Laboratory to detect heavy metals	On-going	• On-going. Will need to collaborate with stakeholders.	Ministry responsible for water affairs / CSOs / DPs
		Engage the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) on heavy metals in materials		• On-going. • Require collaboration with MBS which will be done.	Ministry responsible for water affairs
		Incorporate full water treatment systems in rural supplies, including dosing mechanisms	On-going	• Ministry has adopted a stern Policy and demands all water supply systems incorporate water treatment infrastructure in their designs. • Partners also assisting, e.g. Evidence Action in collaboration with the district councils, has been active in installing chlorine dosing	Ministry responsible for water affairs / CSOs

No	Issues	Undertaking	Target Timeline	Progress	Responsible Institution(s)
				dispensers on boreholes and in-line chlorination devises on piped water supply systems.	
		Build capacity of district council staff on water quality management	On-going	• Apart from installing chlorine dispensers and Inline Chlorination Devices, Partners like Evidence Action and through UNICEF support, trainings for borehole and piped water user communities were conducted.	Ministry responsible for water affairs / CSOs

4.5.5 Challenges Experienced in the Sub-Sector

The following key challenges were encountered during the period:

- Limited and delayed financial resources constrained implementation of water supply infrastructure, as well as operation and maintenance activities, affecting timely completion and sustainability of services.
- Recurrent droughts, floods, and other climate-related shocks continue to disrupt water supply services, reduce source reliability, and damage infrastructure, undermining service continuity and resilience.
- Inadequate capacity for operation and maintenance at district and community levels, coupled with poor management of rural piped water systems, has negatively affected system functionality and sustainability.
- Infrequent updates of the Water Asset Management Information System (MIS) continue to limit effective planning, monitoring, and evidence-based decision-making.
- A significant proportion of rural water infrastructure is aged and increasingly costly to rehabilitate.
- Absence of an independent Water Supply and Sanitation Regulator continues to limit effective oversight and enforcement of service standards.
- Weak regulatory and institutional capacity affects sector efficiency and accountability.
- Shortages of skilled personnel at both national and district council levels, as well as limited availability of Area Mechanics and borehole spare-parts suppliers, constrain timely maintenance and repair of water systems. Insufficient engagement with private sector actors has limited investment inflows and slowed the adoption of innovative technologies in the water supply sub-sector.
- Substandard works by some contractors have contributed to early system failures and increased long-term maintenance burdens.
- Theft and vandalism of borehole components and piped water infrastructure continue to affect service reliability and increase replacement costs.

4.6 Conclusion and Recommendations

The 2025/26 Water Supply Services performance shows continued, albeit gradual, progress in expanding access to improved drinking water services, with national access reaching 88.5 percent. Rural water supply remains the backbone of service delivery, largely dependent on boreholes and emerging solar-powered piped schemes, while urban areas continue to demonstrate higher service levels and better access to household connections. Overall SDG 6.1 indicators reflect mixed performance. While there is a slight reduction in reliance on surface and unimproved water sources, the proportion of safely managed drinking water services remains low and has shown fluctuations, indicating that improvements in access are not yet consistently translating into higher service quality, reliability, and water safety.

At implementation level, notable achievements were registered, including completion of key policy and planning instruments such as the Water Supply and Sewerage Bill (2025), the National Water Supply Investment Plan (2026–2036), and climate-resilient design manuals. In addition, significant infrastructure gains were recorded through completion of solar-powered piped water systems and 214 boreholes in health facilities, alongside progress on rehabilitation works under climate resilience programmes.

Despite these achievements, the sector continues to face structural and operational challenges. These include inadequate financing, climate-induced disruptions, ageing infrastructure, weak operation and maintenance systems, high non-revenue water, limited regulatory oversight, and capacity constraints at both institutional and community levels. These challenges continue to undermine sustainability, service reliability and equitable access, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas.

On recommendations, the following should be considered:

- Lobby for accelerate enactment of the Water Supply and Sewerage Bill (2025) to establish an independent Water Supply and Sanitation Regulator, providing formal regulatory oversight and enforcement capacity.
- Develop and deploy a dedicated financing mechanism, including the proposed Water Supply and Sanitation Fund and engagement with development partners and private sector actors, to ensure predictable, ring-fenced funding for rural water infrastructure maintenance and sustainability.
- Accelerate validation and dissemination of the Water Supply Design Manual and climate-resilient infrastructure guidelines to standardise construction quality and reduce early system failures.
- Scale up the solar-powered reticulated water supply programme by mainstreaming delivery through District Councils and the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) framework.
- Promote establishment of structured, fully-funded O&M systems at district and community levels, including Area Mechanic networks, spare-parts supply chains and Water Users Association capacity building for improved national functionality rates.
- Develop and enforce systematic Non-Revenue Water (NRW) reduction programmes across all Water Boards, setting a national NRW ceiling of 25 percent and requiring biannual reporting against reduction targets.

- Ensure regular, complete, and accurate updates to MWAMIS by all districts as a mandatory reporting requirement, and invest in GIS integration and dashboard reporting to improve planning and evidence-based decision-making.
- Strengthen private sector engagement through a formal Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework for water supply, including output-based financing instruments, to attract investment and introduce innovative technologies, particularly in solar pumping, smart metering, and low-cost household connections.
- Strengthen community-based asset protection programmes, including awareness campaigns and community watch committees, to address theft and vandalism of borehole components and piped water infrastructure.
- Increase staffing levels at national and district levels and strengthen technical training programmes.
- Build specialised capacity in water quality management, climate resilience, and system maintenance.

5. URBAN WATER SUPPLY CHAPTER

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the performance of the urban water supply sub sector in Malawi for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years, with 2023/24 serving as the baseline for assessing progress. The analysis covers key operational and financial indicators across the five Water Boards and aligns performance with the National Water Policy (2025), Malawi 2063, MIP 1, and SDG 6, which collectively emphasise universal access, efficiency, financial sustainability and climate resilient water services.

5.2 Overall Performance of Malawi's Water Utilities

The performance of Malawi's Water Boards over the two reporting years shows a combination of progress and persistent challenges. While utilities continue to demonstrate strong operational discipline in areas such as water quality and metering, the sector remains constrained by **high NRW**, **slow expansion of service coverage**, and **uneven financial sustainability**.

Compared to the 2023/24 baseline, the 2024/25 and 2025/26 results show:

- **Consistently high-water quality compliance** across most utilities.
- **Marginal improvements in service coverage**, with no utility reaching the 100% benchmark.
- **NRW remaining the most binding constraint**, with only NRWB meeting the benchmark in 2023/24.
- **Divergent financial performance**, with some utilities strengthening cost recovery while others regressed.
- **Rising staff costs** for some utilities, driven by inflation and restructuring.

These trends highlight a sector that is operationally competent but still faces structural challenges that require targeted interventions.

5.3 Water Supply Coverage

Service coverage remains below the 100% benchmark across both reporting years. When compared to the 2023/24 baseline, progress has been slow and uneven.

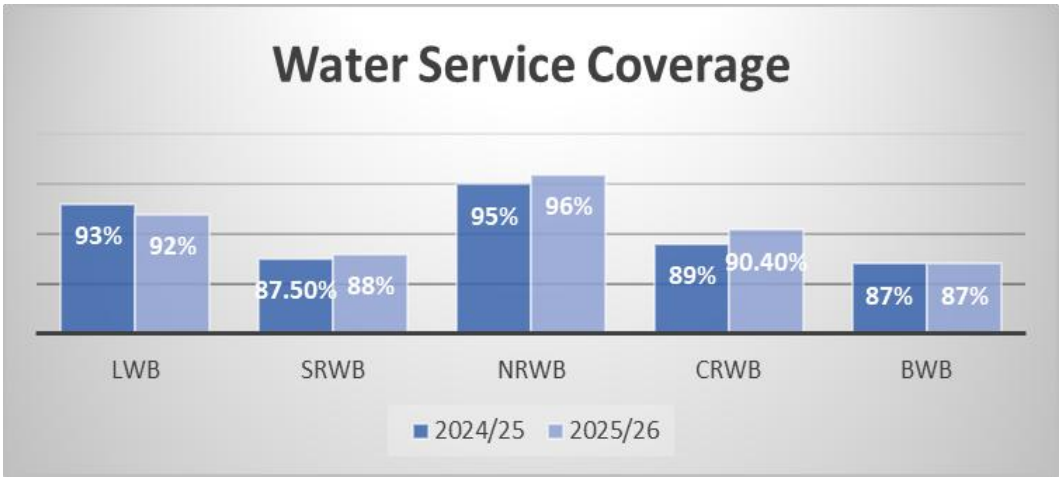


Figure 11: Water Supply Coverage

Despite the overall slow progress, some waterboards have recorded gradual improvements. **NRWB** showed the strongest progress of all utilities by increasing coverage from **87%** in **2023/24** to **95%** in 2024/25 and **96%** in 2025/26. Indicating continued investment in network expansion and service delivery. **LWB** also improved from **90%** to **93%** before slightly declining to **92%** in 2025/26 suggesting possible challenges in keeping up with the rapidly growing urban demand. **CRWB** recorded marginal improvement from **89%** to **90%,** while **SRWB** and **BWB** remained stagnant at **88%** across all three years.

Overall, the slow pace of expansion reflects the challenges highlighted in the **National Water Policy (2025)**, including rapid urbanisation, aging infrastructure and limited investment in production and distribution systems. This also aligns with **Malawi 2063's Urbanisation Pillar**, which calls for well-serviced cities and towns.

5.4 Water Quality Compliance

Water quality performance remained strong across the two reporting years, building on the already high 2023/24 baseline

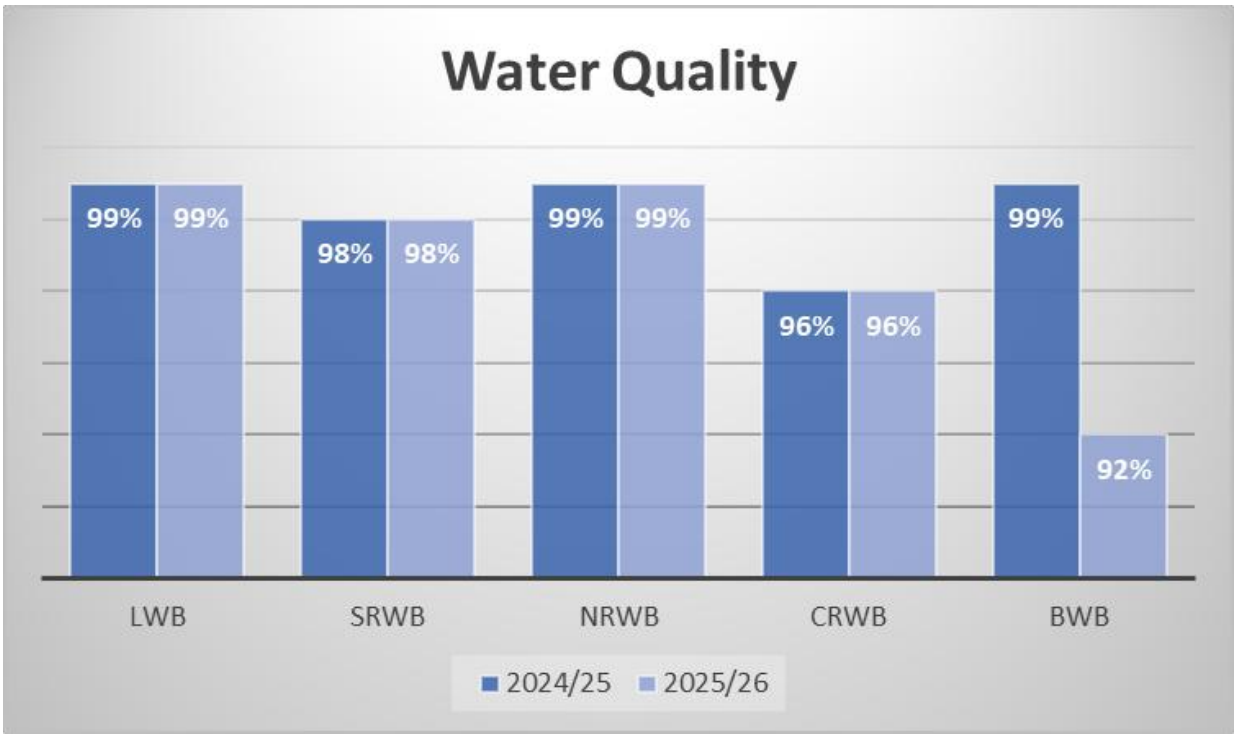


Figure 12: Water Quality

LWB and NRW maintained excellent performance at 99% compliance throughout the reporting period, while SRWB remained stable at 98%. CRWB also sustained relatively strong compliance at 96% indicating continued efforts in water treatment and monitoring. However, BWB experienced a significant decline from 99% compliance in 2024/25 to 92% compliance in 2025/26, highlighting emerging operational and monitoring challenges.

The decline in BWB's performance highlights the concerns raised in the National Water Policy (2025) regarding aging infrastructure and inadequate monitoring systems. Maintaining high water quality supports SDG 6.1 and MW2063's Human Capital Development Enabler, which prioritises improved health outcomes through access to potable water for all.

5.5 Non-Revenue Water (NRW)

NRW remains the most critical operational challenge across the sector continuing to affect the operational and financial performance of water boards.

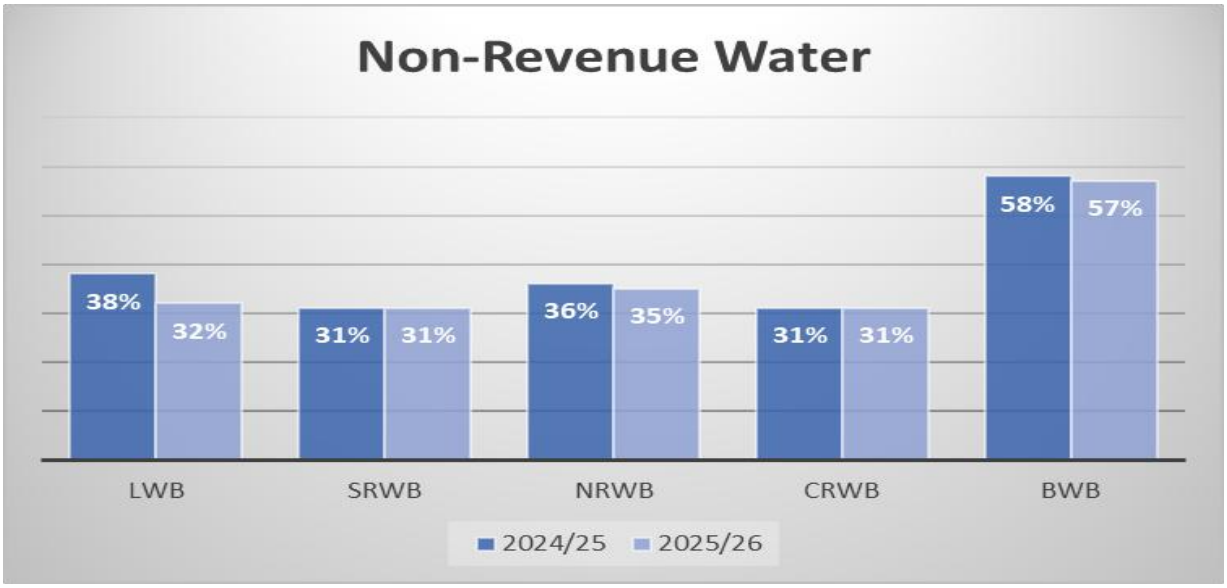


Figure 13: Non-Revenue Water

NRW levels across all water boards remain above the acceptable benchmark, indicating persistent water losses arising from leakages, illegal connections, metering inaccuracies, and inefficient distribution systems. While some utilities have recorded gradual improvements, progress remains insufficient to the sector targets. NRWB recorded a sharp increase in NRW from 25% in 2023/24 to 36% in both 2024/25 and 35% in 2025/26, revealing a decline in earlier gains in operational efficiency. CRWB and SRWB did not make any improvement with their NRW remaining on 31% for both financial years. LWB demonstrated relatively stronger progress by reducing NRW from 38% to 32% over the review period. Despite some improvements, BWB has continued to record critically high NRW levels, declining only marginally from 58% to 57%.

Volumetric NRW data confirms the scale of losses, with BWB losing over 20 million m³ annually. These losses are placing additional pressure on already constrained financial resources, increasing operating costs associated with production and treatment, and are reducing the capacity of utilities to invest in infrastructure expansion and service improvements. Although LWB, CRWB and SRWB show modest improvements, NRW levels remain far above the acceptable benchmark.

The National Water Policy (2025) identifies inefficient distribution systems and poor infrastructure maintenance as major sectoral weaknesses. High NRW also undermines SDG 6.4 on water use efficiency and limits utilities' ability to expand services.

5.6 Cash Collection Efficiency

Cash collection efficiency remains a key indicator of financial sustainability. However, values above 100% must be interpreted cautiously.

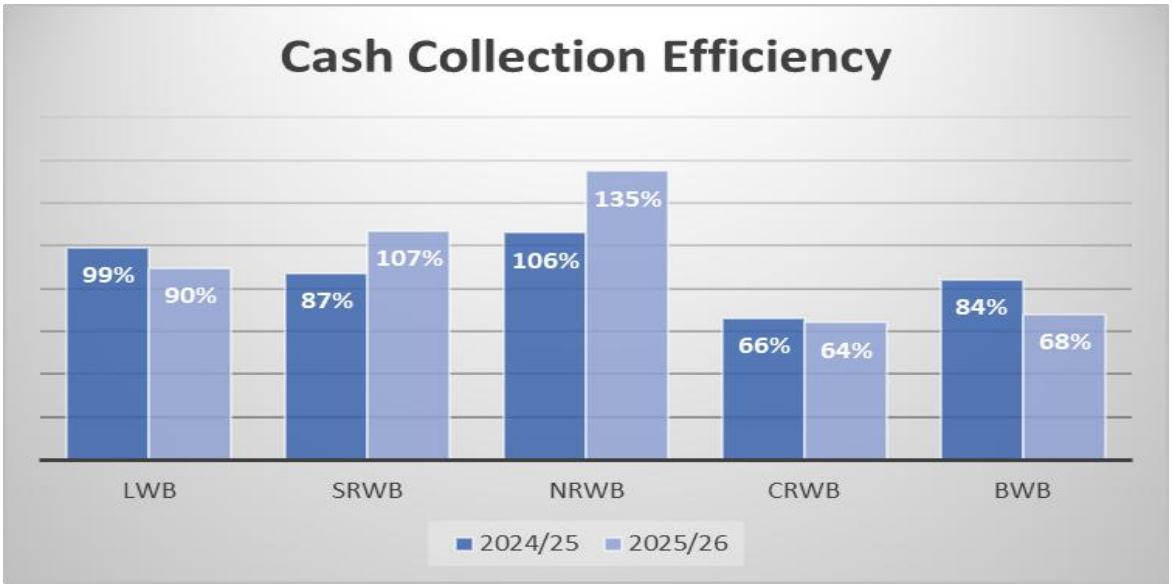


Figure 14: Cash collection Efficiency

NRWB continued to record exceptionally high collection efficiencies increasing from 106% in 2024/25 to 135% in 2025/26 after previously reaching 168% in 2023/24. Similarly, SRWB improved considerably from 87% to 107% over the review period. Collection efficiencies above 100% generally suggest successful recovery of arrears and advance payments from prepaid customers rather than improvements in current billing efficiency alone.

In contrast, BWB, and CRWB and LWB continued to perform below the desired benchmark. BWB's collection efficiency declined from 84% in 2023/24 to 68% in 2025/26, while CRWB remained consistently low, fluctuating between 66% and 64%, indicating persistent weaknesses in revenue collection systems.

Continued accumulation of arrears, particularly from government institutions remains a major challenge affecting cash flow and operational sustainability.

The weaker performance of CRWB, LWB and BWB highlights the need for improved revenue management systems, consistent with MIP 1's digital transformation agenda and the National Water Policy's emphasis on financial sustainability.

5.7 Operating Cost Recovery

Operating cost recovery reflects the ability of utilities to finance operations from internally generated revenue.

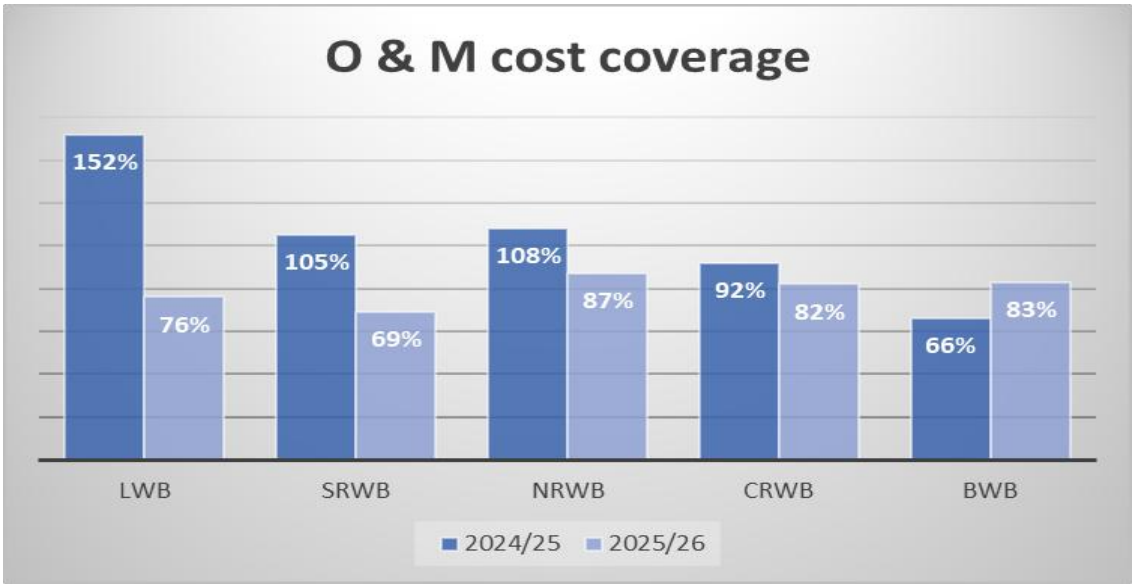


Figure 15: O&M cost coverage

Majority of waterboards experienced a decline in the operation cost coverage ratios with LWB declining sharply from 152% in 2024/25 to 76% in 2025/26 indicating a significant reduction in collections relative to billed amounts. SRWB also declined to 69% while NRWB reduced to 87%. BWB although improving from 66% to 83% still remained below the acceptable benchmark.

Persistent low-cost recovery limits the ability of utilities to maintain infrastructure, invest in system expansion and improve service delivery.

5.8 Staff Costs as a Percentage of Operating Costs

Staff costs as a percentage of operating costs showed mixed trends across the Water Boards, reflecting differences in human resource management and operational efficiency. Despite the differences, majority of the boards have indicated improvements in their staff costs. NRWB recorded prominent improvements, with their staff costs declining from 59% in 2023/24 to 48% in 2024/25 and further declining to 34% 2025/26. SRWB also experienced a decline in their staff costs from 55% to 36% over the review period. indicating improved efficiency in their staffing processes. LWB and CRWB also recorded notable reductions in their staff costs. This performance across the water boards is an indication of improved expenditure control and operational efficiency.

Figure 16: Staff Cost

BWB indicated a minor increase in their staff costs from 19% in 2024/25 to 20% in 2025/26. Any increases in staff costs, if not adequately managed may place additional pressure on the operational sustainability of the water boards by increasing operating expenditures and subsequently reducing resources available for maintenance and service improvements.

The National Water Policy (2025) calls for efficient human resource management. Rising staff costs in NRWB and SRWB contradict this principle, while improvements in LWB, BWB and CRWB reflect better cost control.

5.9 Staff per 1,000 Connections

Staffing levels remained below the benchmark of 10 across all utilities, suggesting relatively lean operational structures. LWB and SRWB maintained ratios of 4 staff per 1000 connections, while NRWB declined from 6 to 5. CRWB remained stable at 6, and BWB recorded the highest staffing ratio at 9.

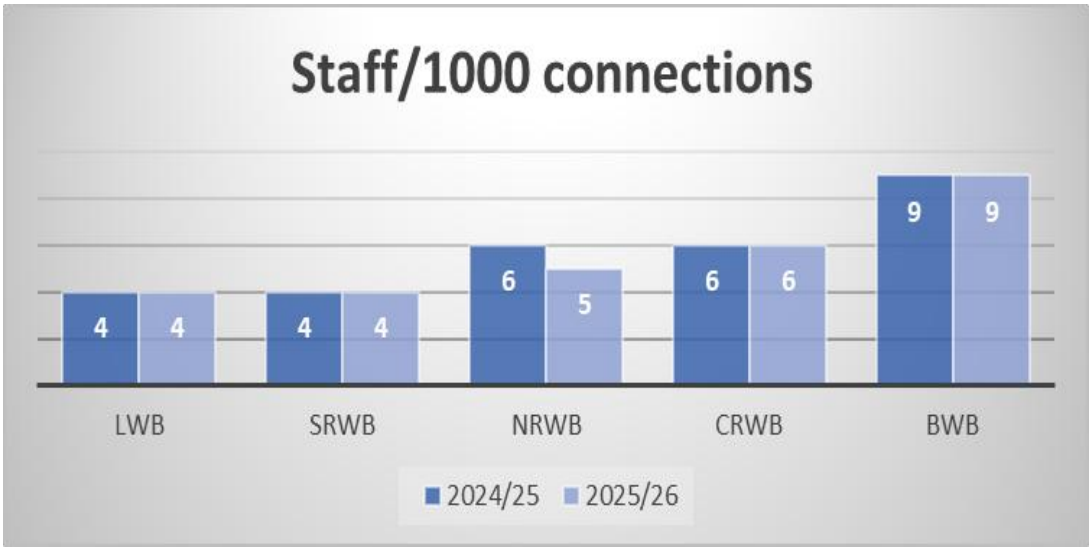


Figure 17: Staff per 1,000 Connections

Although lower staffing ratios may indicate operational efficiency and improved automation, they may also point to potential understaffing in critical areas such as maintenance, customer service, and NRW management. Inadequate staffing can affect the ability of utilities to respond promptly to leakages, infrastructure failures, and customer complaints.

Going forward, utilities may need to balance efficiently objectives with adequate technical and operational capacity to sustain service quality and improve performance.

5.10 Working Ratio

The working ratio measures the relationship between operating expenditure and operating revenue, with ratios below 1 indicating financial sustainability. During the review period, all water boards recorded working ratios above 1, indicating persistent challenges in achieving full cost recovery and overall financial sustainability across the sector.

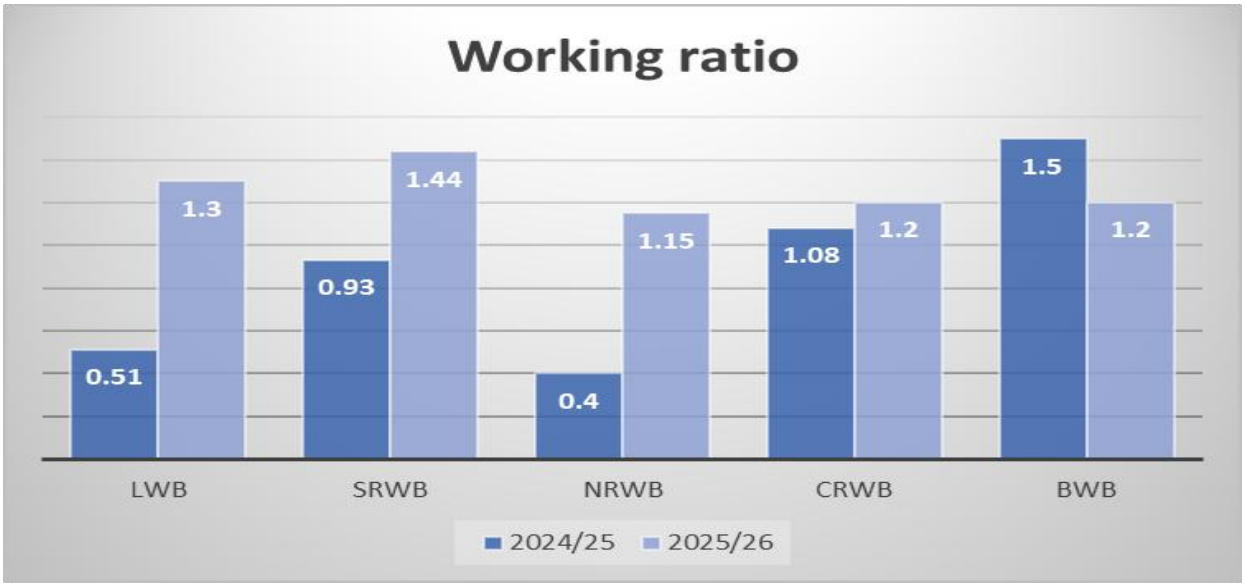


Figure 18: Working Ratio

Of all the water boards. LWB and NRWB experienced the highest increase with their working ratios moving from 0.51 to 1.3 for LWB and 0.4 to 1.15 for NRWB for 2024/25 and 2025/26 respectively reflecting rising operational costs. Whereas CRWB and SRWB recorded relatively lower increases. BWB while still recording the highest working ratio in the sector, showed some improvement, reducing its ratio from 1.5 to 1.2, suggesting partial gains in operational efficiency or revenue performance

Persistent high working ratios reflect on going financial inefficiencies and limit the capacity of utilities to reinvest in infrastructure and service improvements.

5.11 Metering Ratio and Hours of Supply

Metering remained at 100% across all utilities. The focus must now shift to meter functionality, calibration and accuracy, as emphasised in the National Water Policy (2025). LWB's meter laboratory provides a model for other utilities.

Hours of supply remain difficult to quantify due to inconsistent data collection. This limits the sector's ability to accurately monitor service reliability and customer experience. To address these challenges, utilities should adopt smart meters, IoT sensors and SCADA systems to improve reliability monitoring. This approach is consistent with the digital transformation agenda under the MIP 1 and MW2063.

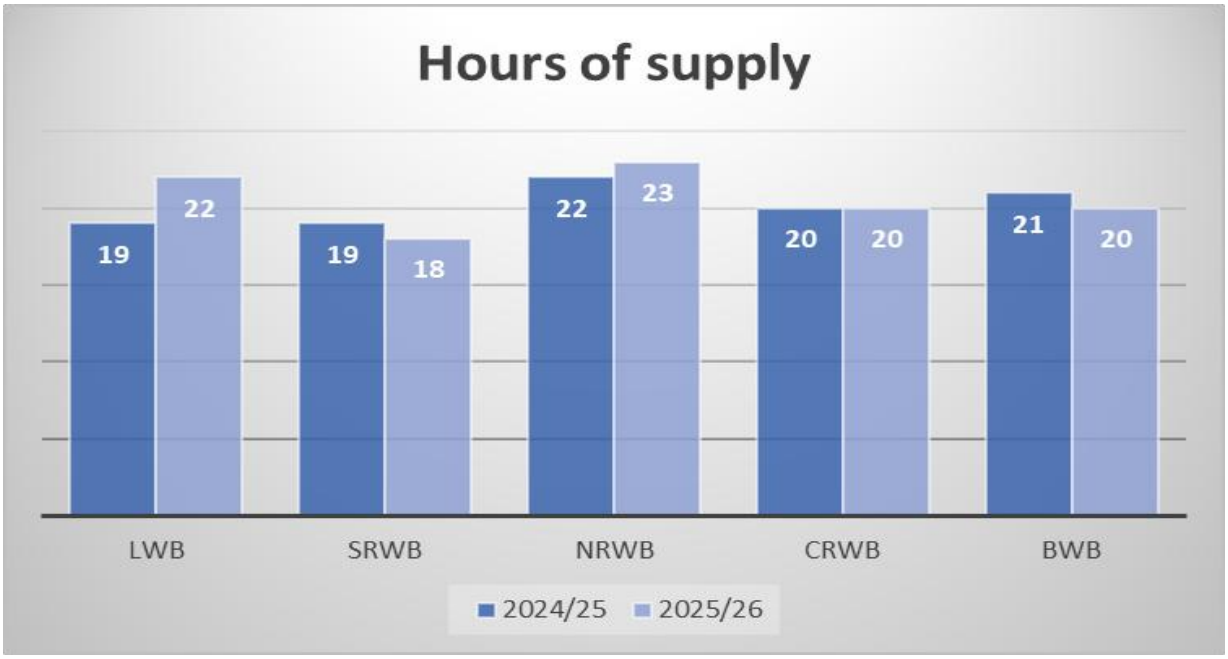


Figure 19: Hours of Supply

The hours of supply were relatively high ranging from 19 to 23 hrs. Indicating partially good service reliability. **NRWB** had the highest performance at 23 hrs. This was attributed to their use of solar powered systems that enhance the continuity of supply even during electricity interruptions.

5.12 Policy Alignment and Strategic Context

Overall, the performance of the Water Boards demonstrates partial alignment with national and global development commitments. Strong achievements in areas such as water quality compliance, universal metering, and improved revenue collection for some utilities reflect positive progress toward the objectives of the National Water Policy (2025), Malawi 2063, MIP 1, and SDG 6.

5.13 Implemented Projects by Waterboards

This section highlights key projects implemented by the Water Boards during the 2024/25 financial year.

5.13.1 Lilongwe Water Board Projects

Table 25: Lilongwe Water Board Projects

PROJECT	STATUS
Construction of Road Barriers and Guard Houses in areas 47, 18 and 49.	Contract terminated due to failure to furnish Performance Securities Procurement of Contractor to complete works is in progress

PROJECT	STATUS
Construction of a leak detection shed	Termination of contract due to breaches of General conditions of contract. Repackaging for re - tender.
Maintenance of Archive Rooms	In Defects Notification Period (DNP)
Reconstruction of a fence and Maintenance of Staff House	DNP
Maintenance of Kamuzu Dam II View Area	DNP
Bottling Plant Optimisation Works	DNP
Rehabilitation works for Lumbadzi Operators	DNP
House and Kanengo Container Conversion	DNP
Rehabilitation of Training Suite, Mtunthama, Airwing, Lumbadzi, TW I and TW II (T&R)	DNP
Construction of Kamuzu Dam II Bar Fence	DNP
Developer Projects	
Densification of Water Distribution Network in Area 43 Sectors 3 and 4	DNP
Development Partner Projects	

PROJECT	STATUS
Raising and Rehabilitation of Kamuzu Dam 1	• Taking over Certificate was issued on May 10, 2023. • The Project is in Defects Liability Period (DLP) and. • Official Commissioning took place on 8th August 2023.
Optimization of Bunda Water Supply Network (MW-LWSP-366364-CW-DIR)	• Completed and commissioned and in DNP
Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a Packaged Water Treatment Plant for Bunda Water Supply System (MW-LWSP-338857-CW-RFB)	• Completed and commissioned and in DNP
Construction of Southern Zone Main Service Centre (MW-LWSP-376578-CW-RFB)	• Remaining with ESCOM power connection and in DNP
Lilongwe City Sewerage Network Expansion – Priority 2	Network • 41.9km sewer line installed • 69.4 km HH connection pipes installed • 1029 Manholes installed • 3032 Houses connected Kauma WWTP • Finishing of civil works completed • Delivery and installation of MCC and aerators completed
Connection of Household to the sewerage network in Lilongwe City (areas 47 and 49) -Lot-1 and Lot-2	• 382 houses in Lot-1 and 407 houses in Lot-2 connected.
Construction of Lilongwe	• At the end of March 2026;

PROJECT	STATUS
Water Board Treatment Works III	• Overall progress achieved: 100% • Overall progress programmed: 74% (revised programme of 16/06/2025)) • Time elapsed – 773 days: 79% • Project is facing delays due to delayed payments at Reserve Bank of Malawi. Contractor has given Notice of Claim for Extension of Time and related Costs • The Consultant was being financed under LWSP which closed on 30 June 2025. He shall be paid under the Water Energy Framework Loan which is being delayed due to late submission of Scheme Allocation Request to EIB. The Consultant has given Notice of intention to Terminate Contract due to delayed payments

5.13.2 Northern Region Water Board Projects

Table 26: Northern Region Water Board Projects

PROJECT	STATUS
Rumphi Water and Sanitation improvement Project	• Detailed designs • Catchment management 490,000 out of 700,000 trees seedlings planted • Supported 2024/2025 Joint sector review
Malawi NRWB Water Efficiency Project (Chintheche)	Overall physical progress of the works stands at approximately 92%. The following have been complete: • Pump house superstructure, • Pressure filters, • Clear water tank, • Chemical dosing house, • Transmission Main (5.1km) • Distribution network has been completed (22.5 km) • Water treatment capacity increased (progress at 94%)
Water Supply Improvement project for Mzuzu and parts of Mzimba District	• The project has 1 Key output which are the updated feasibility studies and detailed designs.

PROJECT	STATUS
(Feasibility studies and Detailed Designs for Lambilambi Dam)	

5.13.3 Southern Region Water Board Projects

Southern Region Water Board projects are primarily focused on water development under the MIP-1.

Table 27: Southern Region Water Board projects

PROJECT	STATUS
Active water connections	75,970
Population served	507,112
New water connection	481
Total water produced	1,151,325
Water treated and supplied	849,756
Production capacity vs. actual output	Production Capacity: 77,862 Actual Output: 55,453
Enhance water supply services	• Construction of Makanjira Water Supply system • Rehabilitation and upgrading of Nchalo Water supply system • Rehabilitation and upgrading of Chikwawa water supply system • Improvement of Liwonde and Balaka Towns Water Supply Project • Construction of Zalewa water Supply project • Feasibility study and detailed designs for alternative

PROJECT	STATUS
	water source for city and surrounding areas • Construction of a Water Bottling Plant in Zomba
Progress on ongoing projects	• Makanjira Water Supply Project: 90% • Nchalo Water Supply Project: 21% (stalled) • Chikwawa Water Supply Project: 97% (stalled) • Improvement of Liwonde and Balaka towns' water supply Project: Contractor mobilizing. Advance payment funds partially paid (23% of required amount). Physical works to commence when advance payment. • Zalewa water supply project: 10% • Feasibility study and detailed designs for alternative water source for Zomba city and surrounding areas: 95% (stalled due to non-payment of the consultant) • Mbulumbuzi water supply project: 50% Construction of Water Bottling Plant in Zomba: 97% (Testing of equipment stalled due to forex challenges)

5.13.4 Central Region Water Board Projects

Table 28: Central Region Water Board Projects

PROJECT	STATUS
Construction of Kholongo Multipurpose Dam for Mponela Town Water Supply	Works are in progress; • Design **100%** • Site Establishment **100%** • Dam Works **68%** • Water Supply **54%** • Irrigation Works **11%** • Fisheries **0%** Overall Progress **66%**
Dowa Town Water and Sanitation Project	• Detailed designs were submitted for peer review by the Consultant and comments were submitted forconsideration by BEDEA and CRWB • Funding agreement not yet signed with BADEA
Salima town water	• Tender documents and specifications for goods ready for submission to EIB for review

PROJECT	STATUS
supply project	• Draft financing and subsidiary agreements were already submitted to the Ministry of Finance through the line Ministry • Draft design for integration of Senga Bay to Salima Town is ready for review by the Consultant • CRWB is procuring consultant for design review and supervision • CRWB is procuring consultant for ESIA • Waiver application for procurement against austerity measures submitted to OPC and PPDA.
Rehabilitation and expansion of Pipelines in Dowa, Ntchisi, Nkhotakota, Dwangwa and Salima schemes	• Pipe replacement and upgrading was done in Nkhotakota and Salima • Waiver application for procurement against austerity measures submitted to OPC and PPDA. To commence procurement of Contractor for Ntchisi (Reduced scope project)
Rehabilitation and expansion Ntchisi Town Water Supply (reduced scope project)	• Procurement of contractor for construction was completed but contract is yet to be signed • Financing for large scale project not confirmed • CRWB is planning for reduced scope project using PSIP funding • Waiver application for procurement against austerity measures submitted to OPC and PPDA. To commence procurement of Contractor for Ntchisi (Reduced scope project) • CRWB is internally relocating a storage tank to Ntchisi from Salima

5.13.5 Blantyre Water Board Projects

All projects for Blantyre Water Board are under the Malawi Water and Sanitation Project which commenced in June 2023 and is expected to run until March 2029.

Table 29: Blantyre Water Board Projects

PROJECT	STATUS
Water Supply Improvements	• Feasibility studies on Mudi, Mombezi and Mulanje dams completed. • Detailed designs for Mudi dam and treatment works finalized. • Evaluation for works contract for distribution network completed. • Evaluation for works contract for construction of storage reservoirs (Chilomoni, Nyambadwe, and South Lunzu) completed. • Evaluation for works contract for Solar PV installations at Blantyre stations completed
Priority Sanitation Investment	• Detailed designs for rehabilitation/upgrading of sewer network in progress. • Detailed designs for rehabilitation of Blantyre WWTP and Soche WWTP in progress. • Detailed designs for recycling plant and engineered landfill completed. • Sanitation marketing consultancy finalized. • Stakeholder engagements and public sanitation interventions ongoing. • Construction of public toilets at Limbe, Mbayani, and Makheta markets in progress. • Construction of public toilets at South Lunzu, Makheta, Chigumula clinics in progress.
Institutional Capacity Strengthening	• 7 motor vehicles for NRW and energy efficiency procured. • 20 motorcycles procured. • 8 leak detection equipment procured. • Pipes and fittings procured. • 10,000 meters for replacement procured. • Pumping equipment spares procured; pumps refurbished at Walker's Ferry and Chileka. • Price vetting committee established and functional. • Tariff review framework developed. • 11,000 new domestic connections installed. • CRM system procured; configuration in progress. • BWB Madzi Mobile App developed and functional.

PROJECT	STATUS
	• Customer sensitization on digital platforms ongoing. • ISO 9001:2015 certification activities in progress. • Detailed designs for Kabula and Soche zone offices concluded. • Billing and customer service system upgraded. • Integration with third-party revenue collectors concluded. • Organizational culture program developed; implementation ongoing. • Comprehensive training program developed; implementation ongoing. • Gender and social inclusion policy developed; implementation ongoing

5.14 Strategic Recommendations for Improving Utility Performance and Financial Sustainability

The persistent challenges in Non-Revenue Water, service coverage expansion, financial sustainability, and data management continue to undermine sector performance hence strengthening the performance of Malawi's Water boards will require a balanced approach that combines financial sustainability, operational efficiency, and institutional capacity development.

5.14.1 Benchmarking as a Tool for Utility Performance Improvement

Benchmarking should continue to be used primarily as a transparency, accountability, and performance improvement tool. By providing a consistent basis for comparing utility performance, benchmarking can help identify good practices, highlight areas that require support, and promote evidence-based decision making across the sector.

Benchmarking results should be interpreted within the operating context specific to each water board and should not be used as the sole basis for financing decisions as this may unintentionally disadvantage utilities facing structural challenges.

5.14.2 Performance Based Tariff Reforms

The sector is progressively moving towards performance-based tariff reforms that seek to strengthen the link between tariff adjustments, service delivery improvements and financial sustainability. This approach is to encourage the water boards to improve key performance areas such as non-revenue water management, revenue collection, service coverage, and operational efficiency while ensuring that tariff adjustments are supported by measurable performance outcomes.

Strengthening the revenue base of utilities is critical to ensure that performance expectations are realistic and achievable. The analysis indicates that the water boards

have been struggling with their collection efficiencies with a majority ranging between 60% to 90% with no water board attaining the 100% mark. This has increased the strain on financial resources for the utilities, limiting their ability to meet growing demand and sector performance targets.

Without adequate financial resources, utilities are most likely to struggle to invest in infrastructure rehabilitation, network expansion and service quality improvements. It is therefore important to strengthen benchmarking and cost recovery mechanisms to ensure utilities have the financial, technical and institutional capacity required to deliver sustained improvements in service delivery.

5.14.3 Non-Revenue Water

Addressing non-revenue water remains a key priority with all water boards persistently struggling with this issue; some more than others. However, meaningful reductions in NRW will require more than performance targets alone. Utilities will require sustained investments in infrastructure rehabilitation, active leakage control, meter replacement initiatives, network monitoring systems and skilled technical personnel. Capacity building, access to financing, and digital monitoring tools will therefore be essential to support long-term NRW reduction efforts.

In addition, continued support for data quality improvements is critical in ensuring that utilities can translate performance improvements into sustainable service delivery outcomes. A coordinated approach involving government, regulators, development partners and water boards will be essential in achieving the goals of the National Water Policy, Malawi 2063 and SDG 6.

6. SANITATION AND HYGIENE

6.1 Introduction

Access to sanitation and hygiene is a basic human need that underpins human well-being, public health, and socio-economic development of any Malawi. Malawi is working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 6.2 by 2030 which is about achieving access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situation''. At national level the MIP 1 (2021-2030) has 74% and 75% as targets for safely managed sanitation and hygiene by 2030, respectively. Over the years, the Government of Malawi (GoM) has demonstrated its commitment to improving the situation in the sanitation and hygiene sub-sector in the country through various inclusive interventions and initiatives which is vital in the face of the slow progress and even a decline in some indicators that have been observed in the achievement of set targets. The chapter provides the sanitation and hygiene situation in communities, institutions and some public places in the country.

6.2 Key Headline Indicators on Sanitation

Table 30: Sanitation Key headline indicators

Sub Sector	Headline Indicators	Other Indicators	SDGs Indicators
Access to and Use of Sanitation Services	• Percentage of population with access to improved Sanitation (including shared) for toilets and other at district level • Percentage of population with basic facilities for good hygiene practices at district level. • Percentage of schools with adequate WASH Sanitation facilities • Percentage of households observed to have functioning hand washing facilities with soap besides the toilet.	• Proportion of TAs declared ODF	•Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water

6.3 Access to Safely Managed Sanitation

According to the Malawi Demographic Health Survey (2024) safely managed sanitation is described as use of improved facilities that are not shared with other households and

where excreta are safely disposed of in situ or transported and treated off-site. Joint Monitoring Program (2023) reports that nationally, 46% of households in Malawi have access to safely managed sanitation. Access to safely managed sanitation is higher in rural areas (47%) and lower in urban areas (41%). Although this is the case, Malawi Demographic Health Survey (2024) suggests that data for access to sanitation services is better presented as access to at least basic sanitation alluding this to the fact that it is difficult to determine whether the treatment done offsite is properly done to classify some services as safely managed. Based on such understanding, the MDHS (2024) shows that 40% of the population has at least basic sanitation service. The statistic, however, indicates a drop from 49% as proportion of the population with access to at least basic sanitation service as presented in JMP (2023). The data presented highlights a downward trend in percentage of the population with at least basic sanitation service which had risen by 52% between the years 2000 and 2015-16, from 55% in 2015-16 to 49% in 2023 and 40% in 2024.

6.4 Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities

Improved sanitation facilities are facilities that prevent people from coming into contact with human waste (MDHS, 2024). The facilities include flush/pour flush toilets that flush water and waste to a piped sewer system, septic tank, pit latrine, or unknown destination; ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines; pit latrines with slabs; and composting toilets. According to the Malawi Demographic Health Survey (2024) 69% of households have improved sanitation facilities, while 26% use unimproved sanitation facilities and 5% have no sanitation facility. It is indicated that the statistics presents a decrease in the improved sanitation facility coverage which was at 83%.

This is a concerning development given the critical role that improved sanitation facilities play in preventing human contact with faecal waste and reducing the transmission of cholera and other sanitation-related diseases. The decline in access to at least basic sanitation services suggests that sanitation improvements are not keeping pace with population growth and increasing demand for services. The trend may also reflect challenges related to sustained behaviour change, infrastructure maintenance, affordability of sanitation facilities and rapid urbanisation. If not addressed, declining sanitation outcomes may undermine progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 6.2, increase risks to public health and environmental quality, and weaken efforts to achieve universal access to safely managed sanitation services.

6.5 Hand Washing

Washing hands with soap is among key behaviours that help in maintaining proper hygiene. Hand washing with soap has been promoted as an effective and cheap way to prevent the transmission of some sanitation and hygiene related diseases including cholera, conjunctivitis, and COVID-19. The presence of hand washing facilities facilitates the practice of hand washing because important hygiene behaviours are difficult to

practice not only as a result of lack of the right knowledge and skills, but also unavailability of the required facilities (UNICEF, 2025). According to the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (2024), 12% of the population has a hand washing facility on the premises with soap and water referred to as a basic hand washing facility and 41% has a limited hand washing facility, which is a facility without soap and water.

It is a big concern to note that the coverage of hand washing facilities with soap is very low despite washing hands with soap being the most effective way of preventing hygiene related diseases. A number of interventions are being undertaken in order to promote hand washing with soap such as conducting awareness activities through various channels of communication like mass communication during hygiene related commemoration events.

6.6 Menstrual Hygiene Management

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) forms a critical component of ensuring access to adequate and equitable sanitation for all, as outlined in SDG 6.2. Using appropriate menstrual hygiene materials is important for women's health in general and their menstrual health in particular. According to the Malawi Demographic Health Survey (2024), 92% of women have appropriate materials with a private place to change and wash.

6.7 Progress on CLTS and ODF

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is an approach, a tactic or a process to empower and inspire rural communities to intervene in open defecation situations and involve them to stop open defecation totally (Karn, 2007). The approach focuses on shaping the attitude and behaviour of people regarding open defecation. It aims at stimulating a collective sense of disgust and shame with self-respect and critics among community members as they confront the crude facts about mass open defecation leading to an open defecation free (ODF) society.

According to the JMP (2023) Malawi has a national OD rate of 3%, and 3% in rural areas and 1% in urban areas. The National Sanitation and Hygiene Technical Committee (NSHTC) formerly known as the National ODF Task Force is responsible for conducting national ODF verifications and providing certification to communities that have attained the ODF status. CLTS activities leading to the achievement of ODF status have greatly reduced since the COVID-19 era because of little support from partners towards the initiatives. This is the reason behind reduced ODF verification exercises by the NSHTC which verified 4 TAs only in 2025, 3 in Chiradzulu and 1 in Mchinji, and these were the only verifications done since 2021, after which TA Kapondo in Mchinji District was declared ODF.

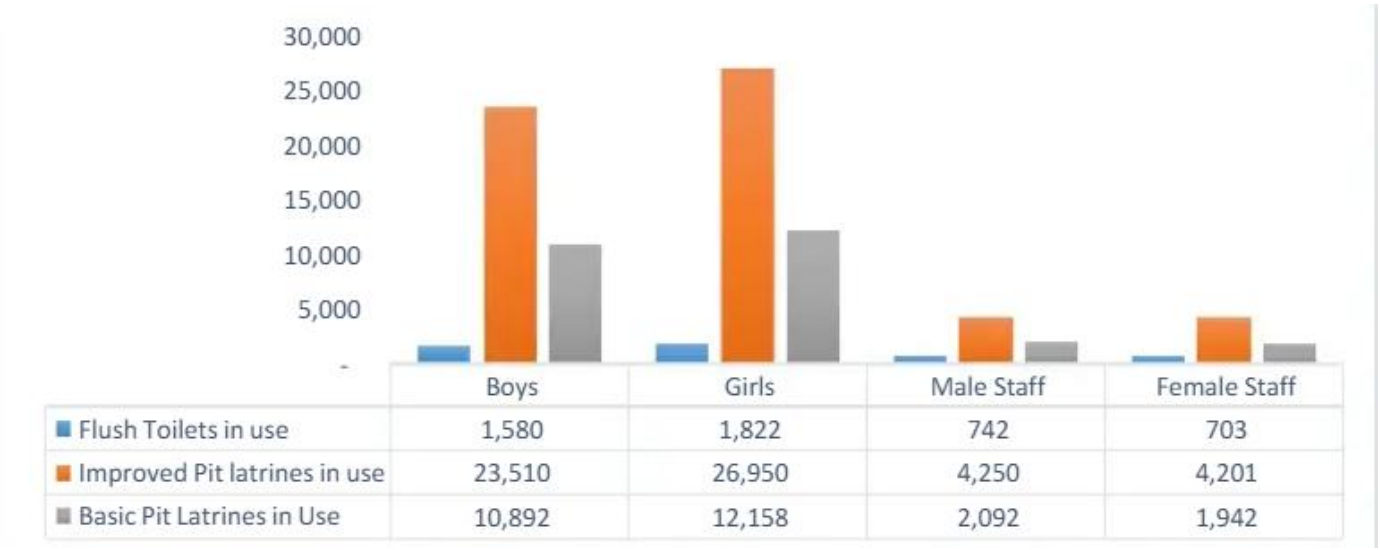
This means that the number of ODF TAs moved from 188 as presented in the NSHTC (2024) records to 189 out of a total of 323 TAs representing about 59%. However, there are sentiments that the number of ODF TAs may have dropped because of slippage, which is the biggest challenge with CLTS where open defecation is observed in a lot of communities that were once declared as ODF though there are no tangible statistics to quantify the slippage rate. Therefore, the 3% national ODF rate as reported in JMP (2023) is maintained for the country, 3% in rural areas and 1% in urban areas.

In light of the factors that lead to slippage which include frequent disasters like floods which wash away sanitation facilities or cause them to collapse; and ODF certification which focused on elimination of OD without much emphasis on the quality of sanitation facilities, some initiatives are being undertaken in order to achieve lasting results with CLTS. Promotion of sanitation marketing is one of the initiatives aimed to help communities move from use of unimproved to improved sanitation facilities which are durable and climate resilient besides the revision of the ODF verification tool to incorporate issues of quality of sanitation facilities as part of the criteria to certify an area as ODF. During the reporting period some studies commenced which are aimed at establishing a viable market-based business model which can be employed in order to achieve sustainability after ODF status attainment.

6.8 Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools

6.8.1 Sanitation in Primary Schools

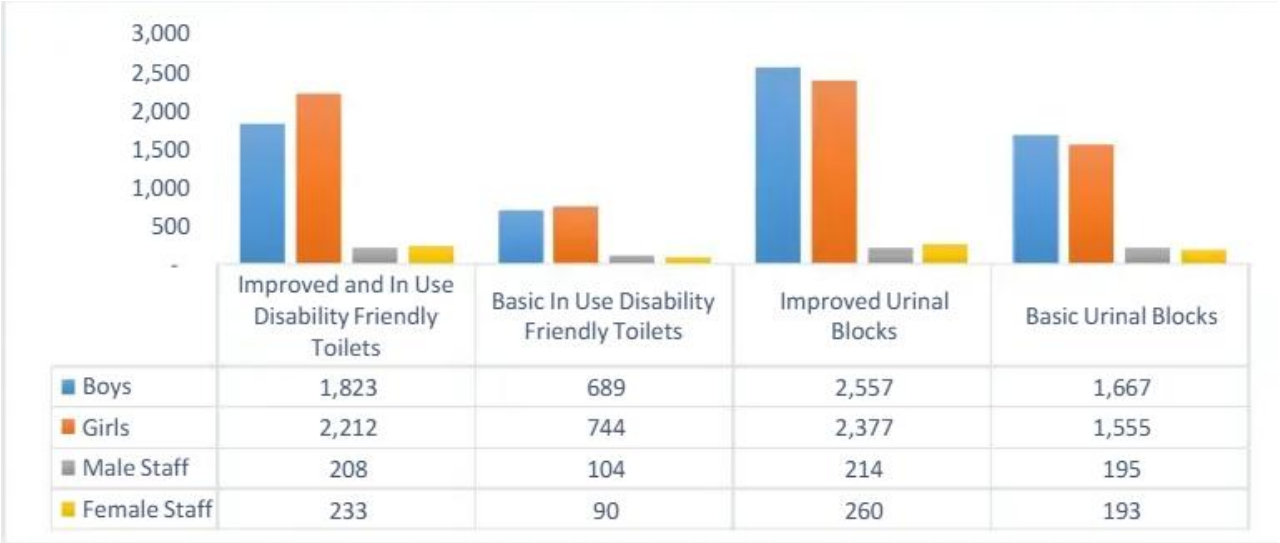
According to 2023 Malawi Education Statistics Report the number of improved latrines for boys and girls is 23,510 and 26,950 while for male and female teachers is 4,250 and 4,201, respectively. Basic pit latrines are the second most used facilities with 12,158 latrines for girls and 10,892 for boys, and 1,942 for female staff and 2,092 for male staff. Flush toilets are the lowest type of sanitation facilities found in primary schools where there is a total of 1,822 and 1,580 latrines for girls and boys, and 703 and 742 for female and male staff, respectively. The common problem observed in primary schools is that the sanitation facilities are inadequate. A lot of schools have severe shortages of toilets and where some toilets are available most of them are not in a good condition. The situation leads to a very high toilet-learner ratio of 1:72 for boys and 1:66 for girls against the recommended 1:40 where urinals are available. The status does not provide a conducive environment for learning and is problematic especially during break time where most learners prefer to use the toilets at the same time.



	Boys	Girls	Male Staff	Female Staff
Flush Toilets in use	1,580	1,822	742	703
Improved Pit latrines in use	23,510	26,950	4,250	4,201
Basic Pit Latrines in Use	10,892	12,158	2,092	1,942

Figure 20: Number of Toilets in Schools

There has been an increase in use of improved disability friendly toilets and improved urinals for both female and male learners. Specifically, girls have more disability friendly toilets than boys, while boys have a slightly higher number of urinals than girls.



	Improved and In Use Disability Friendly Toilets	Basic In Use Disability Friendly Toilets	Improved Urinal Blocks	Basic Urinal Blocks
Boys	1,823	689	2,557	1,667
Girls	2,212	744	2,377	1,555
Male Staff	208	104	214	195
Female Staff	233	90	260	193

Figure 21: Number of disability friendly toilets and urinal blocks

6.8.2 Hygiene in Primary Schools

6.8.2.1Hand washing

Schools in Malawi have more hand washing facilities with soap and water for both male and female learners compared to hand washing facilities with water only. Similarly, there are more hand washing facilities with soap and water for both male and female staff compared to hand washing with water only.

Figure 22: Number of hand washing facilities in Schools

6.8.2.2 Menstrual Health and Hygiene

In schools, the lack of dignified sanitation facilities is a significant factor contributing to the dropout rates among adolescent girls. In hard-to-reach areas, many adolescent girls face significant challenges due to poor sanitation and hygiene conditions, with facilities often being inadequate or entirely absent. The 2023 Malawi Education Statistics Report presents a total of 3,806 change rooms in 5,878 primary schools, out of which 2,349 are improved and 1,457 are basic.

Figure 23: Number of change rooms in primary schools

6.9 Sanitation and Hygiene in Health Facilities

Sanitation and hygiene facilities are imperative for provision of quality care in healthcare facilities. However, there are a lot of challenges that are experienced in public healthcare facilities with regard to sanitation and hygiene. The Situation Analysis Report for the National Sanitation and Hygiene Investment Plan and Strategy (2025) found that only about 3.8 per cent of healthcare facilities have mechanical incinerators, with most of the healthcare facilities having batch burners for medical waste management. However, only about 59 per cent of the batch burners are functional, leaving a large share of healthcare facilities unable to safely dispose of hazardous medical waste. With regard to maternity waste, 75 per cent of healthcare facilities with maternity wings have functional placenta pits. These deficiencies not only compromise infection prevention and control, but also expose communities to health and environmental risks.

6.10 Sanitation and Hygiene in Public Places (Markets, Bus Depots) `

Sanitation in public places is one of the areas of interest. The availability of sanitation facilities in these public places facilitates hygiene and environmental cleanliness. The SAR for the NSHIPS (2026-2036) indicates that 254 markets have toilets while 16 markets have functional hand washing and menstrual hygiene management facilities out of the 690 formal markets. It is a disturbing reality that 436 markets have no sanitation facilities at all which can be a serious cause for sanitation and hygiene related diseases because of compromised hygiene in a food harbouring environment.

The situation is a bit different in case of bus depots most of which have sanitation and hygiene facilities but are non-functional leading to closure of the facilities after being rendered unusable. The SAR for NSHIPS (2026-2026) highlights that 52% of the sanitation facilities in the 25 bus depots in the country are in a poor state hence the risk of low levels of usage creating an environment which is not conducive for the many people that gather in such areas putting them at risk of sanitation and hygiene related diseases.

6.11 Urban Sanitation

Urban sanitation remains significantly underdeveloped compared to rural interventions. Most urban centres continue to rely heavily on on-site sanitation systems, with only slow expansion of sewerage networks and wastewater treatment capacity. This imbalance contributes to ongoing environmental pollution and public health risks, particularly in rapidly growing areas. Greater investment in urban sanitation infrastructure, full integration of wastewater management into Water Boards' operational mandates, and increased dedicated financing and staffing for urban sanitation are urgently required to achieve more balanced and equitable sector performance.

6.12 Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management is an important aspect of sanitation that has been neglected for a long time. Little attention has been given to the provision of solid waste management facilities countrywide. Five districts, namely; Likoma, Mzimba, Nkhata Bay, Neno and Zomba have improved solid waste disposal sites across the country but none have engineered landfills, which are more sophisticated and recommended in as far as solid waste management is concerned. Lack of proper disposal sites in most districts has led to wanton disposal of waste not only affecting the scenic beauty of the country but also causing sanitation and hygiene related diseases, such as cholera.

Despite the unavailability of solid waste management facilities there is a lot of waste that is being generated within the country necessitating other forms of management of waste than disposal, including reuse and/or recycling of waste to reduce waste that goes to disposal sites. Some innovation has been noticed in-country with regard management of solid waste such as turning glass waste into tumblers, bricks, and other glass products; and organic waste into manure, and using it as a source of alternative energy like briquettes and biogas. However, the recycling is being done at a small scale so the impact is negligible. All this is a testimony that it is high time issues of solid waste management needed to begin getting the attention they needed for a clean and healthy environment.

6.13 MIP-1 Achievements on Sanitation and Hygiene

Table 31: Sanitation and Hygiene MIP-1 Achievements

Intervention	Progress
Develop and operationalise wastewater management master plan for all major cities and secondary cities	• A Sanitation and Drainage Master Plan for Lilongwe City volume 1 – Sanitation Master Plan (2022) was developed with support from Lilongwe Water and Sanitation Project. The Sanitation Master Plan (SMP) will guide future growth and development towards universal access to safely managed sanitation services in Lilongwe City by 2036 with a possible projection of 2040/50. The SMP has been and will be the basis for interventions by Lilongwe Water Board in its work in the Lilongwe City with regard to rehabilitation and expansion of Lilongwe City's sewerage systems – including sewer networks and treatment plants. • However, Blantyre City does not have an updated master plan after the expiry of the 20-year master plan for the city that was

Intervention	Progress
	developed in 1995. The situation has been the case because of lack of funding to support the development of another master plan which is one of their priorities since a lot has changed since the last master plan.
Accelerate the integration of wastewater management within operational framework of the urban water boards, including exploring PPPs for the management of the waste management facilities,	• For Lilongwe Water Board integration of wastewater management within its operational framework was done following the successful transfer of sewerage services from Lilongwe City Council to Lilongwe Water Board. • For Blantyre Water Board the process to integrate wastewater management within its operational framework is in progress as activities surrounding the transfer of sewerage services from Blantyre City Council to Blantyre Water Board are underway. • Eventually, integration will be achieved for all water boards since the government is looking forward to transferring the wastewater management services to water boards. • Resource mobilisation efforts are in progress to identify financiers for various system expansion projects, which for the sake of Lilongwe Water Board, are listed in a strategic plan ending 2030. PPPs are not being regarded as an option.
Intensify promotion of good hygiene practices	• During the reporting period a lot of hygiene promotion activities were undertaken throughout the country. Notably are the activities that are conducted during commemoration of international and national days or events. In 2024/25 and 2025/26 commemorations were done for the following days and events that are commemorated yearly: - Menstrual Hygiene Day; - World Toilet Day;

Intervention	Progress
	- Global Hand washing Day; and - National Sanitation and Hygiene Week. Activities included open air events, mass media campaigns through radios, print media publications. • Another remarkable intervention for intensifying promotion of good hygiene practices are clean-up campaigns. Following the declaration of every second Friday of the month as a day dedicated for clean-up activities, clean up campaigns are conducted monthly by various stakeholders. Most Local Authorities (LAs) have embraced the initiative and conduct clean-up campaign activities. Much as not all LAs conduct clean-up activities on the designated day monthly, the progress is commendable. For 2025/2026 three LAs conducted managed to conduct an average of 6 monthly clean-up campaigns out of the expected 12 and 25 LAs managed an average of 3 monthly clean-up campaigns
Develop national sanitation investment plan	• A 10-year National Sanitation and Hygiene Investment Plan and Strategy was developed and finalised during the 2025/26 period and is in place for use from 2026 – 2036.
Facilitate the transferring of sewerage services management from city councils to water utilities	• The transfer of sewerage service management from city councils to water utilities is on the right trajectory. After the successful transfer of the services from Lilongwe City Council to Lilongwe Water Board processes for the same for Blantyre City Council and Blantyre Water Board commenced during the reporting period and are in progress. Activities under implementation included preliminary activities in the rehabilitation of wastewater treatment plants; review of by-laws; development of a communication strategy, and a sewerage transfer framework; a sanitation tariff study

Intervention	Progress
	and local and international learning visits. • Such processes will be done for Zomba City Council and Southern Region Water Board as well. Under the Malawi Water and Sanitation Project – 1 efforts were made to develop a national sewerage transfer framework which will be applicable for other transfers than the one between BCC and BWB, so Zomba will benefit from that. • The situation is exceptional for entities in the Northern Region since there is no sewerage system so the issue of transfer of sewerage services does not apply. Therefore, Mzuzu City Council and Northern Region Water Board have been made aware that the water utility will assume responsibility of any new sewerage system developed in the area from the start. This is also the case with Rumphi District Council where there are plans under the Rumphi Water and Sanitation Services Improvement Project to construct a wastewater treatment plant.

During the year under review, the following were achieved:

- Developed the Implementation Plan for Executive Order No.2 of 2026 mandating sanitation and hygiene facilities in public, workplaces and schools, which was launched and is expected to be implemented by all people at all levels in Malawi.
- Completed the review of the National Sanitation Policy 2008, with the finalised draft National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2025 currently awaiting Cabinet approval.
- Finalised the National Sanitation and Hygiene Investment Plan (2026–2036), which is awaiting dissemination and provides a strategic framework for prioritising investments and mobilising resources to expand sanitation and hygiene services.
- Completed the Situation Analysis of sanitation and hygiene leading to the commencement of the first ever Sanitation and Hygiene Bill which is an instrument that will enable implementation and enforcement in the sanitation and hygiene sub-sector. The drafting process for the Sanitation and Hygiene Bill commenced and is in progress.

- Progressed the review of the WASH Indicator Handbook, with a consolidated draft prepared and awaiting stakeholder validation.
- Developed the Design Manual and Guidelines for Climate-resilient Sanitation Infrastructure to standardise design practices and strengthen resilience against climate variability and extreme weather impacts.
- Launched the National Sanitation and Hygiene Week in 2024 at Chinsapo UNICEF Ground in Lilongwe to be commemorated every year as one way of intensifying promotion of good hygiene practices, and the first commemoration was successfully done in 2025 at Bangwe Desert Ground in Blantyre.

6.14 Recommendations and conclusions

6.14.1 Recommendations

Since one of the factors that lead to the underperformance in the sector is limited funding for implementation of sanitation and hygiene interventions, it is recommended that there should be an increase in allocation of resources to the sub-sector which can allow for the provision of adequate sanitation and hygiene facilities, and promotion of good hygiene practices to induce positive behaviour change among the populace.

Another recommendation is improved coordination in the sub-sector since the multi-sectoral approach is key in implementation of activities because of the nature of the sub-sector. Therefore, concerted efforts are a driver to achieving much in the sector and coordination will prevent duplication of efforts and encourage leveraging of resources.

It is also important to consider integration of sanitation and hygiene in various developmental initiatives that are being implemented nationwide in order to ensure that there is an increase in the coverage and access of sanitation and hygiene facilities and services and increased adoption of good hygiene practices.

There is need for everyone to understand that sanitation and hygiene are contributors to good health outcomes therefore play a big role in the development of the country hence the need to give them prominence. This understanding should help leadership to prioritise sanitation and hygiene in planning and implementation of the government agenda and also help the general populace to do their part in ensuring that the situation with regard to sanitation and hygiene improves.

6.14.2 Conclusion

The information provided in the chapter indicate that the sanitation and hygiene situation in the country is bad as evidenced by the low coverage and access levels of various sanitation and hygiene facilities and services. The slow progress in improvement of the sanitation and hygiene situation makes it skeptical that the country will be able to achieve the MIP-1 and SDG targets which is a concern. There is definitely a great need for intensifying efforts in the sanitation and hygiene sub-sector if things were to become

different. Nevertheless, it is encouraging to note that there are efforts that are aimed at improving the situation in the sector which have been observed at all levels from the leadership to the grassroot. Important to note is the issuance of the Executive Order No. 2 of 2026 which mandates provision of sanitation and hygiene facilities in public, workplaces and schools demonstrates a high order commitment and it is anticipates that its implementation plan calling for concerted efforts will be an effective game changer.

6.15 Sanitation and Hygiene Undertakings

During previous Joint Sector Reviews (JSRs) a number of undertakings were identified, out of which five were prioritised for focused implementation and easy tracking of progress, as presented in the table 33 below.

Table 32: Sanitation and Hygiene Undertakings

Issue	Undertaking	Timeframe	Progress	Responsibility
Inadequate financing for Sanitation and Hygiene interventions.	Increase and ring fence CDF funding meant for sanitation and hygiene. This should also be the same with National and Council budgets. Include this in the policy guidelines. All components should have equal chances of funding	2025/2026 FY	• The NSHIPS proposes ring fencing a proportion of the CDF for implementation of Sanitation and Hygiene interventions	Ministry responsible for sanitation and hygiene / civil society
Lack of sustainability of ODF status in most communities that were previously declared ODF. There is need to focus on safely managed sanitation	Development of a harmonised sanitation marketing strategy	2025/2026 FY	• The Department is in the process of reviewing National Sanitation & Hygiene Strategy (2018-2024) which will include the Market Based Sanitation.	
	Promotion of post-ODF activities		• Currently the criteria used to verify ODF has a market-based sanitation component. Some projects by partners are focusing on Market Based Sanitation.	

Lack of proper reporting system on Sanitation and Hygiene and no universally agreed indicators on SH	Develop universally agreed indicators and reporting tools, and share them with implementing partners.	2025/2026 FY	• The WASH sector is developing WASH indicator handbook • The sanitation and hygiene subsector is working on localising SDG indicators	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene/ Development Partners
	Integrate sanitation and hygiene in the existing MIS like MWAMIS		• The Ministry is in the process of developing MIS and integration of sanitation and hygiene in the existing MIS	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
Policies Legislation (Review of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and Sanitation and Hygiene Bill)	The civil society to Lobby with OPC on the Cabinet approval for the Sanitation and hygiene Policy.	2025-2026 FY	• The Policy is still in custody of OPC. Request made to Secretary for Health to help in follow up	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Translation of the Sanitation Policy into local languages, produce abridged version		• To wait for approval of the Policy	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Development of Sanitation and Hygiene Bill/Act		SAR Finalised and is to be presented to Senior Management Team (SMT) for approval	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene

Capacity Building for Sanitation and Hygiene	Develop minimum standards on design of climate-resilient infrastructure and promote them through sanitation marketing	2025-2026 FY	Needs assessment and recruitment is still in progress at National level	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Lobby with Council and partners to finance recruitment of Sanitation officers at District Councils		No progress	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Engagement of partners to support procurement of tools (e.g. software) and equipment.		The Department is developing a proposal to mobilize resources for the undertaking	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Promote training and capacity building of Sanitation and Hygiene Professionals – partner with universities.		On going	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
Feasibility Assessment of Sanitation and Hygiene infrastructure	Transfer of responsibilities from Councils to Water boards	2025-2026 FY	Process of the transfer from Blantyre City to Blantyre Water Board is in progress	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Conduct feasibility assessment for waste treatment facilities (Blantyre and Mzuzu Cities).		• No progress	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene

	Conduct assessment of the status of sanitation facilities in schools and public places		• No progress	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Improve on data collection and management on Sanitation and Hygiene (reporting, tracking and sharing)		• WASH indicator Hand book is under development	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
Low uptake on hand washing practices	Sensitisation and awareness campaigns	2025-2026 FY	• On going	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene
	Improve supply of hand washing materials (buckets, soap)		• On going	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene and all partners
	Promote hand washing innovations (liaise and partner with universities		• On going	Ministry Responsible for Sanitation and Hygiene and Academia

7. WASH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)

7.1 Introduction

According to the NGO Regulatory Authority (NGORA), Malawi has close to 175 Non-Governmental Organizations that aim at complementing the work of government in the delivery of WASH activities in the country. There has been an increased number of players in the sector, which has resulted in duplication and sometimes conflicting efforts in as far as project implementation is concerned. It was also noted that there is a lack of accountability by most players. However, the annual report serves as an accountability tool while also showcasing and informing the good work that CSOs are doing in complementing government's efforts.

Using data from the NGORA database and WESNET's membership records, WESNET distributed its data collection tools to Non-Governmental Organizations with declared WASH activities. Out of 25 organizations that contributed data and reports: 17 are international organizations representing 68 per cent, 7 are local organizations representing 28 per cent, and 1 is an academic research institution representing 4 per cent of the total. The reporting rate has improved compared to the previous year, though it remains low relative to the total number of organizations implementing WASH projects in the country. The low reporting rate can be attributed to the phasing out of WASH projects by some NGOs and to other active organizations that did not provide feedback to the WESNET secretariat despite continuous reminders. It is important that the Ministry works together with the Network to ensure the enforcement of CSO reporting.

One data quality note: Heart to Heart Foundation submitted a WASH expenditure figure that exceeds their stated total organizational operations — which is arithmetically inconsistent and likely reflects a data entry error. This figure is excluded from all sector financial aggregates in this report, though the organization's beneficiary and geographic coverage data are retained where applicable.

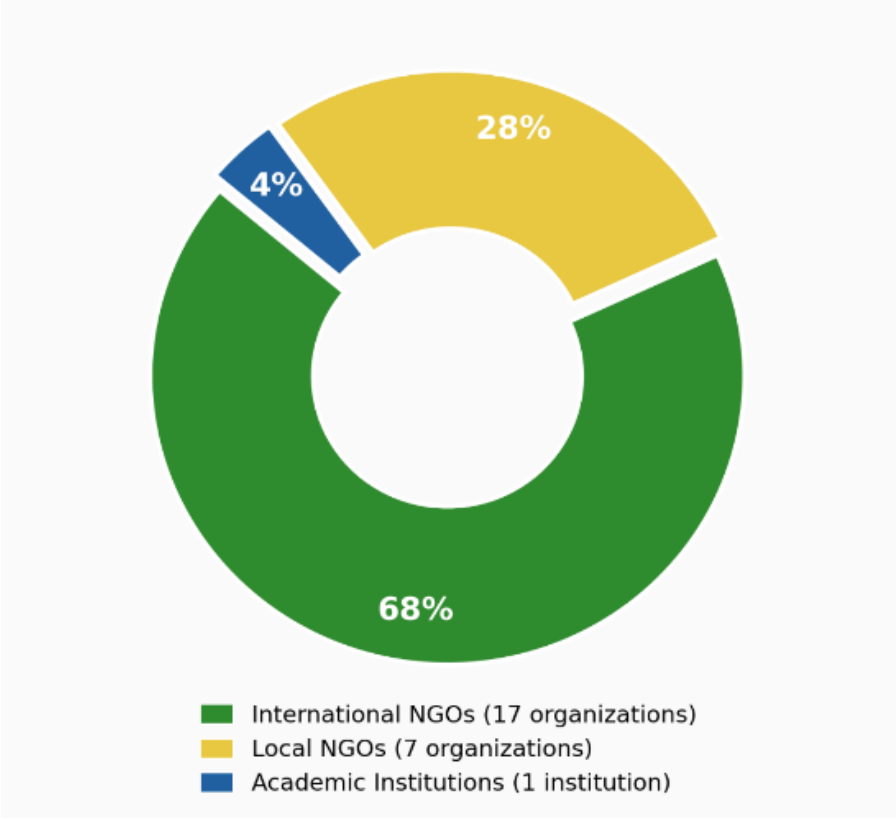


Figure 24: CSOs Contributing to the 2025 Report

7.2 Geographical Location for the Reporting CSOs

7.2.1 Districts where CSOs Operate

The CSO members have a presence in most districts of the country. However, their distribution across districts is not even, with a higher concentration of programming in Southern and Central regions driven by emergency response, development partner footprints, and infrastructure needs. Attached is how the reporting organizations are spread across the districts of Malawi. It must also be reported that no reporting organization indicated active WASH operations in Likoma District. It is therefore important that partners are identified to support Likoma District Council in the provision of WASH services, so that no one is left behind in accessing WASH services at the national level.

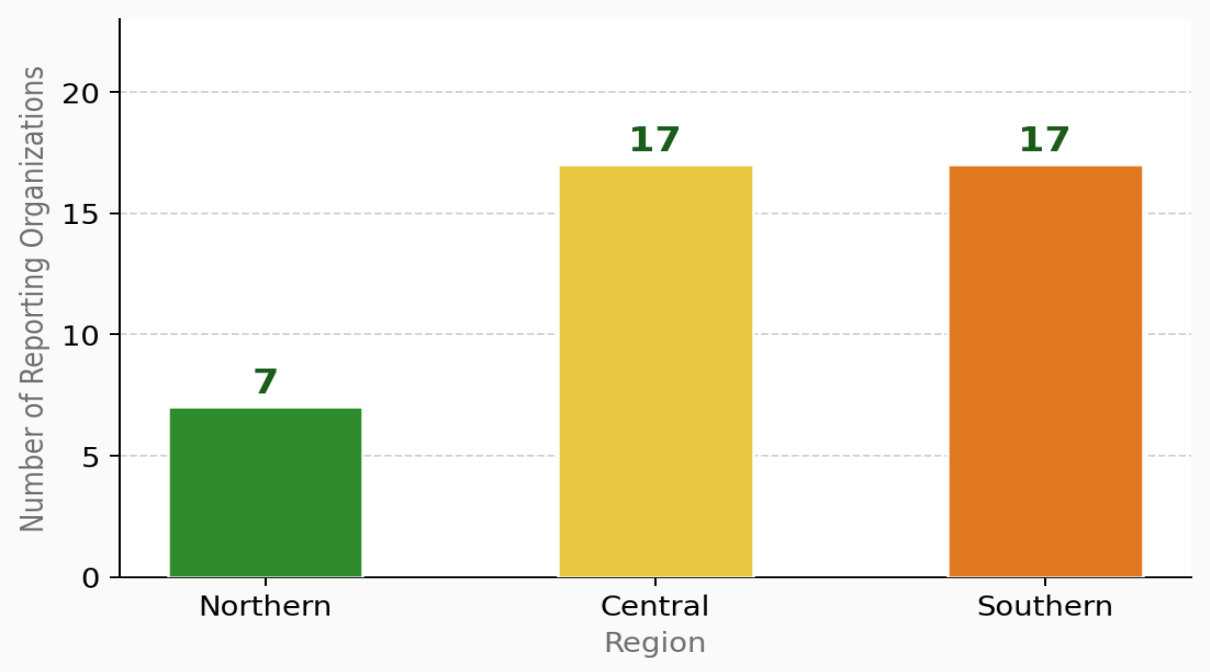


Figure 25: Regional Distribution — Number of Reporting CSOs by Region

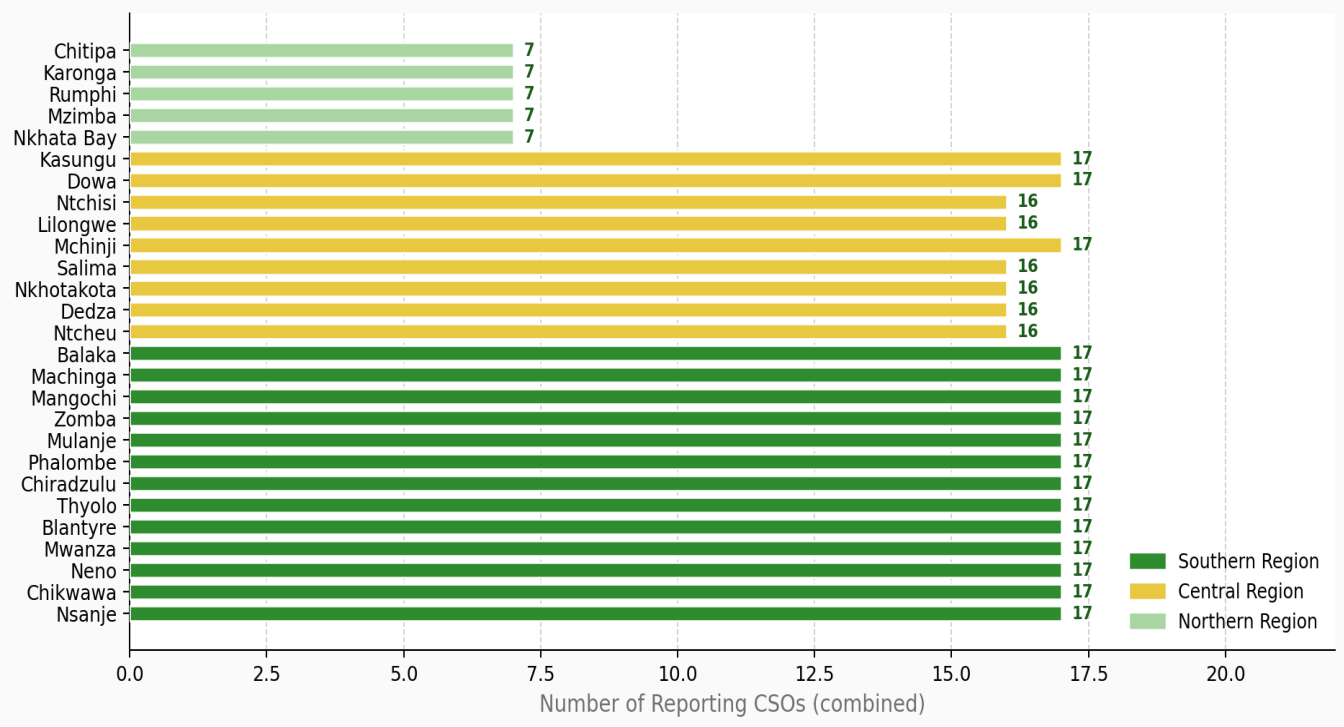


Figure 26: CSOs Districts of Operation

The findings indicate that CSO engagement in the WASH sector is widespread across Malawi, with reporting organizations operating in most districts of the country. However, the geographical distribution of these organizations is uneven, with a higher

concentration of interventions in the Southern and Central regions compared to the Northern Region. This pattern is likely influenced by factors such as population density, the prevalence of development partner-supported programmes, infrastructure deficits, and the frequency of humanitarian and climate-related emergencies that attract greater investment and operational presence. While the broad coverage demonstrates the significant contribution of CSOs toward improving access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services, disparities in geographical presence raise concerns about equitable service delivery and support to local authorities.

Notably, none of the reporting organizations indicated active WASH operations in Likoma District, highlighting a critical service and coordination gap. Given the unique geographical challenges associated with the district's island location, there is a need for targeted efforts by government, development partners, and the NGO community to mobilize resources and identify implementing partners that can support the district's WASH needs. Strengthening CSO presence in underserved districts such as Likoma will be essential to advancing inclusive WASH service delivery and ensuring that the principle of leaving no one behind is achieved in Malawi's pursuit of universal access to safe water and sanitation.

7.3 Financing & Expenditure and Key Stakeholders to the Sector

This section gives a snapshot of investments and progress made by CSOs in the 2024/25 financial year. It must be emphasized that the information presented is not comprehensive due to the relatively low CSO report submission rate. The section also shows the donors who supported the CSOs.

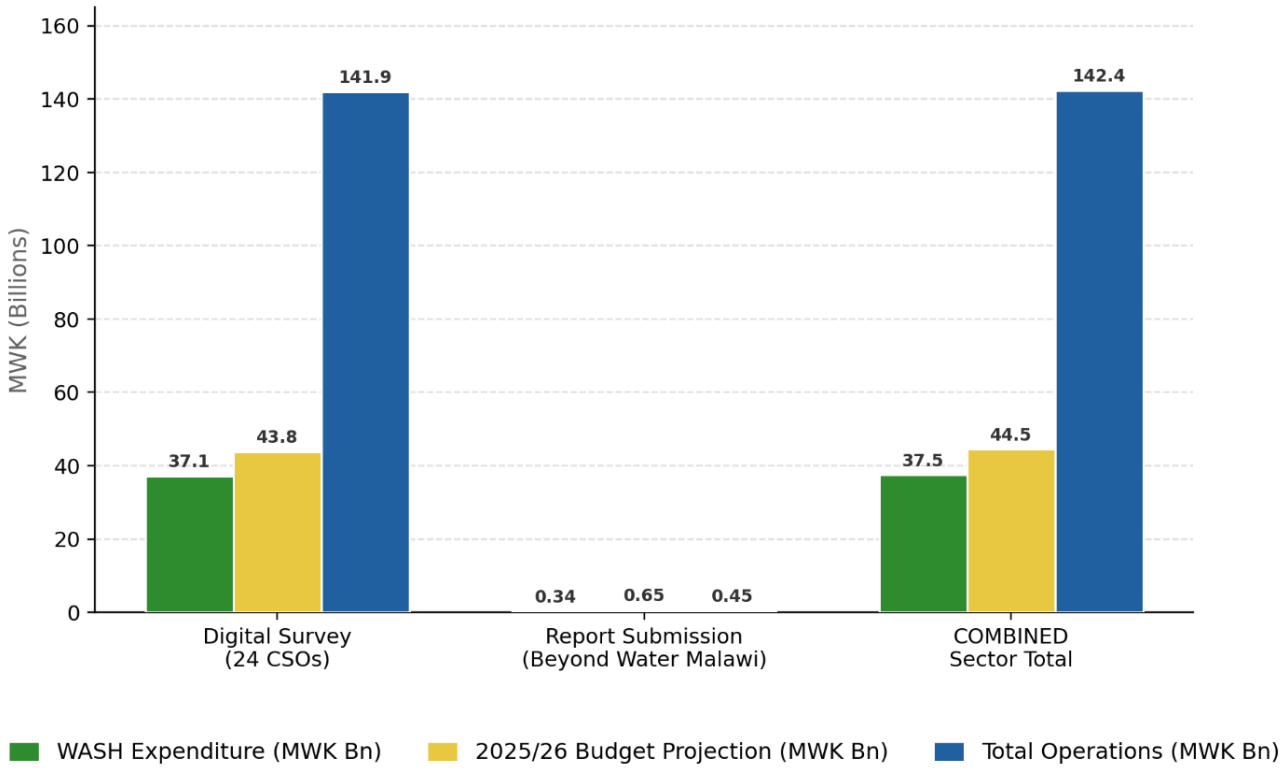


Figure 27: CSO Expenditure Overview — WASH Investment, Total Operations, and 2025/26 Projections

7.3.1 CSOs Expenditure in WASH (Excluding Personal Emoluments)

In 2024/25, reporting CSOs collectively invested MK 40.4 billion in WASH-specific activities (excluding personal emoluments), affirming the sector's continued commitment to improving water, sanitation, and hygiene services across Malawi. Leading contributions came from World Vision International, which allocated MK 14.5 billion to WASH projects, accounting for 36% of total reported WASH expenditure, encompassing water supply construction, borehole rehabilitation, and integrated hygiene promotion across multiple districts. Malawi Water Project contributed MK 5.4 billion, followed by Water for People (MK 4.3 billion) with its district wide "Everyone Forever" sustainability model, and Innovation Africa (MK 3.6 billion) focusing on reticulated water supply systems. Self Help Africa (MK 2.5 billion) integrated WASH within climate resilience and livelihoods programming, while Water Mission (MK 1.3 billion), Habitat for Humanity Malawi (MK 1.0 billion), Water Witness (MK 963.5 million), and Design Outreach (MK 850 million) made substantial contributions across all regions.

Beyond Water Malawi invested MK 343.4 million (excluding personal emoluments) in the Professionalized Repair and Maintenance (PRM) Programme across Kasungu, Dowa, and Mchinji, a 100% WASH-focused organization whose total organizational budget of MK 446.4 million is entirely directed to the sector. Smaller but impactful contributions came from New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (MK 439.7 million), Inter Aide

(MK 392.4 million), Basic Services Development Agency, BASEDA (MK 108.2 million), Orant Charities Africa (MK 109 million), Gracepads (MK 55 million), Temwa (MK 34 million), and Beyond Our Hearts Foundation (MK 200,000). Local CSOs continued to face significant resource constraints relative to international counterparts, highlighting the need for equitable funding mechanisms to ensure all regions and communities benefit from WASH investments.

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) operates six projects in Dedza, Dowa, Chitipa, and Karonga funded by BMZ, Charity Water, UNHCR, Krombacher, and ADA.

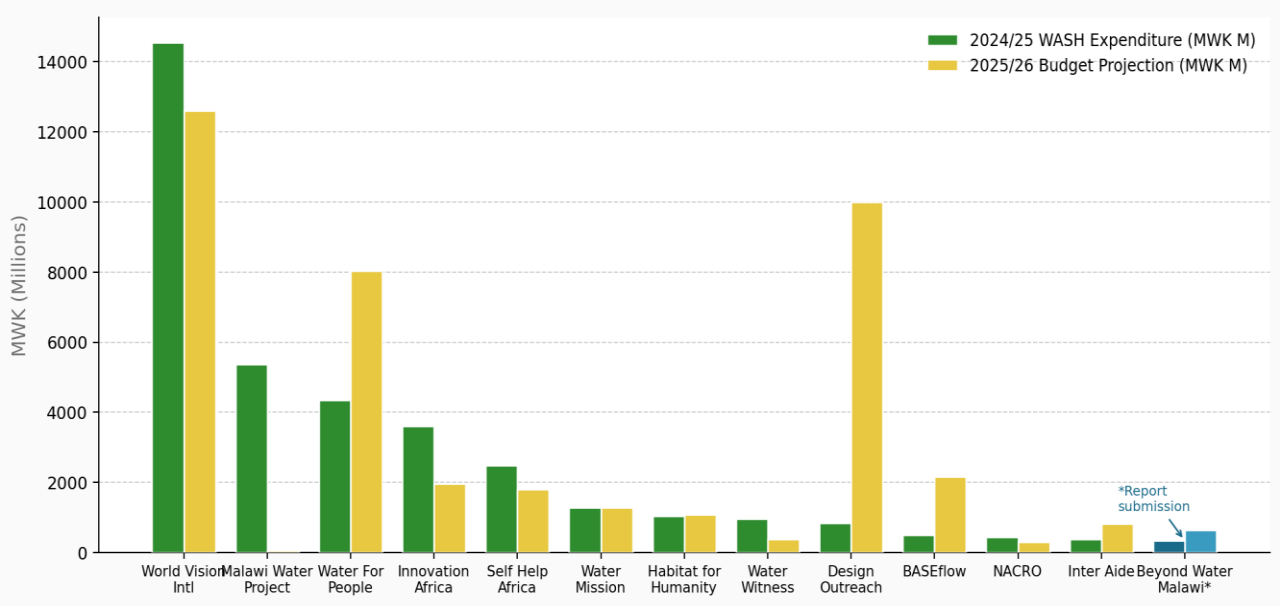


Figure 28: CSO WASH Expenditures and 2025/26 Budget Projections by Organization (Top 13)

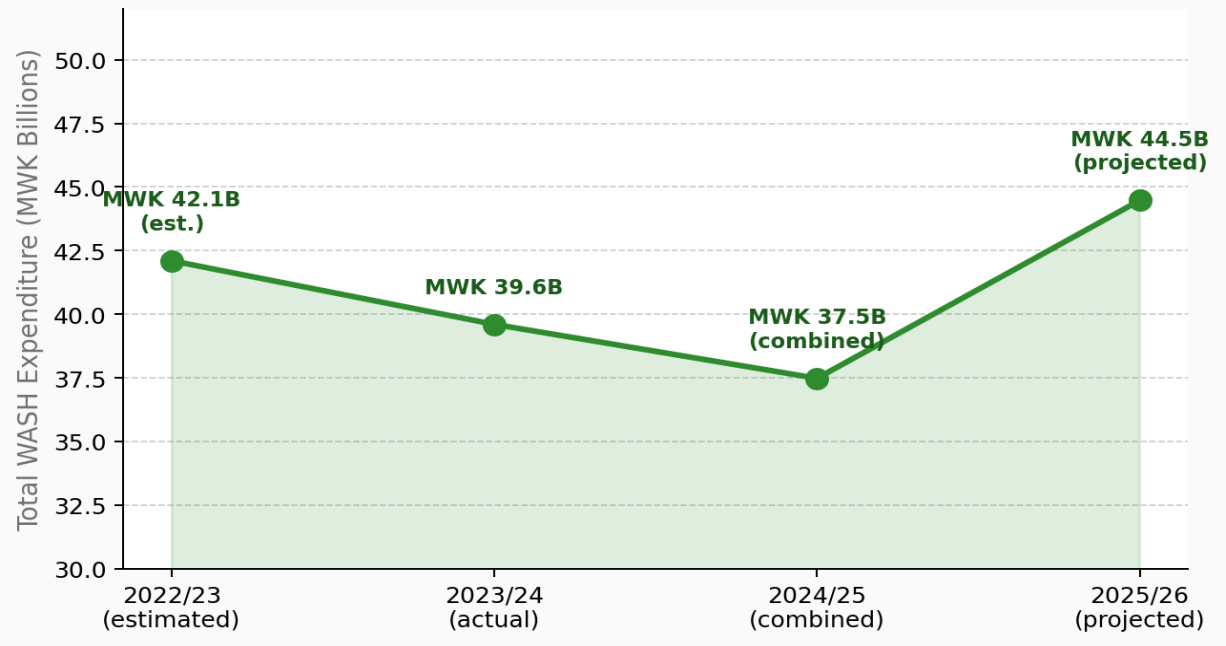


Figure 29: Year-on-Year WASH Expenditure Trend

Welthungerhilfe (WHH) operates six projects across Dedza, Dowa, Chitipa, and Karonga, project-level financial tables were provided and have been used to derive a corrected sector contribution. WHH's total WASH expenditure for the reporting period is estimated at MK 3,219,962,148 (MK 3.22 billion), comprising: MK 1,019,008,200 from the BMZ-funded WASH governance project (MWI 1070); MK 1,926,100,100 from the Charitywater water access project; MK 186,301,080 across two UNHCR-funded Dzaleka humanitarian projects; MK 87,870,300 from the ADA-funded WASH in Schools project (MWi 1087); and MK 682,468 from the Krombacher post-implementation monitoring project (MWI 1086). A sixth UNHCR project entry, stated in the summary table at MK 3.22 billion contribution is included in the sector total of MK 40.4 billion reported above.

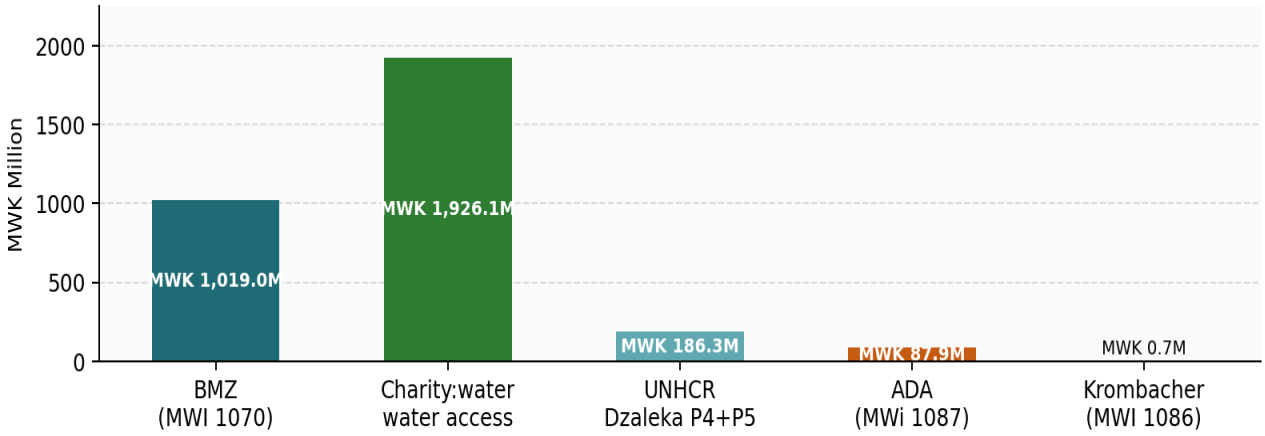


Figure 30: Welthungerhilfe WASH expenditure by project, 2024/25

7.3.2 Expenditure on Operations

Total operational expenditures for reporting CSOs in 2024/25 amounted to MK 142.4 billion, encompassing both WASH-specific activities and broader organizational costs including staff salaries, logistics, capacity-building workshops, and community engagement. World Vision International again led with MK 80.5 billion, reflecting its extensive multi-sectoral programming footprint across 18 districts. Malawi Water Project (MK 20.5 billion), Self Help Africa (MK 18.4 billion), and Orant Charities Africa (MK 3.1 billion) followed.

Beyond Water Malawi reported total operations of MK 446.4 million — entirely directed to WASH, demonstrating a lean, highly focused organizational structure. Smaller organizations such as BASEDA, Inter Aide, Temwa, and Gracepads showcased efficient resource utilization and high programmatic-to-operational cost ratios despite limited budgets.

7.3.3 Budget Projections for 2025/26

Looking ahead to 2025/26, CSOs have collectively projected a total WASH budget of MK 44.5 billion, an increase of 18.7% over 2024/25 actuals, signaling continued commitment to Malawi's water and sanitation challenges. World Vision International leads with a projected MK 12.6 billion, aimed at sustaining its integrated WASH programmes across rural and urban areas. Water for People plans to invest MK 8.0 billion, scaling its "Everyone Forever" model for district-wide water access and sustainability.

Design Outreach has projected a substantial MK 10.0 billion, a significant increase reflecting planned expansion, while BASEflow projects MK 2.2 billion for groundwater monitoring and catchment management. Beyond Water Malawi projects MK 650.2 million for the continued expansion of the PRM Programme, against an anticipated funding gap of MK 164.1 million that the organization is actively working to close through local donor match-funding. While these projections reflect optimism, achieving

them will require enhanced donor support, improved coordination with government systems, and innovative financing strategies.

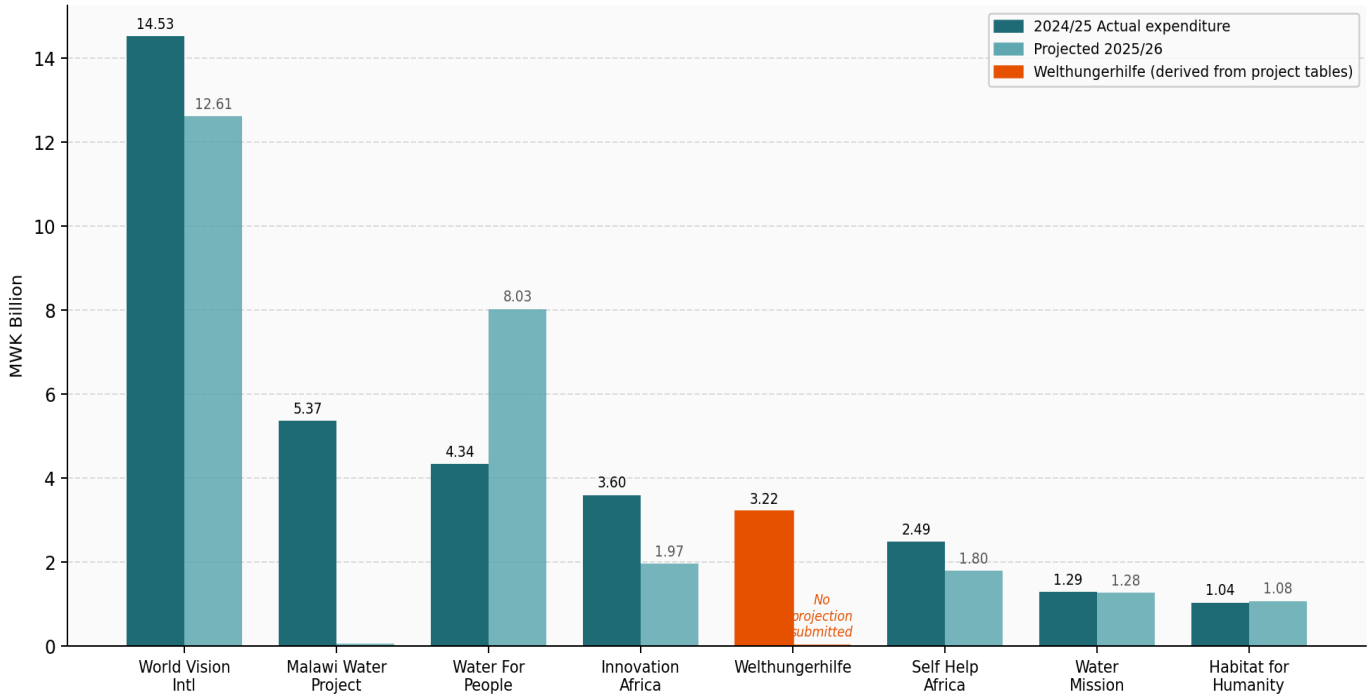


Figure 31: WASH Expenditure (2024/25 actual) vs. Projected Budget (2025/26) for top 8 CSOs by actual expenditure

The findings demonstrate the significant role that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) continue to play in financing and implementing WASH interventions across Malawi. Despite the relatively low reporting rate, participating organizations collectively invested approximately MK 40.5 billion in WASH activities during the 2024/25 financial year, reflecting substantial sectoral commitment toward improving access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services.

The expenditure patterns reveal a heavy reliance on a few large international organizations, with World Vision International, Malawi Water Project, Water for People, Welthungerhilfe, and Innovation Africa accounting for the majority of reported investments. This concentration of resources underscores the important contribution of development partners in sustaining WASH service delivery but also highlights potential risks associated with donor dependency. At the same time, national and local organizations such as Beyond Water Malawi, BASEDA, Inter Aide, Gracepads, and Temwa continued to make valuable contributions despite operating with comparatively limited financial resources, demonstrating strong community-level engagement and efficient utilization of available funds.

The data further shows that total operational expenditures (MK 142.4 billion) substantially exceeded direct WASH investments, reflecting the significant costs associated with programme management, staffing, logistics, capacity building, and community mobilization required to deliver quality WASH services. Encouragingly, projected WASH budgets for 2025/26 indicate an anticipated increase of 18.7 percent to MK 44.5 billion, signaling continued confidence and commitment among implementing organizations. Planned expansions by organizations such as Design Outreach, Water for People, and BASEflow suggest growing investments in sustainable water access, groundwater monitoring, and systems-strengthening approaches.

However, realization of these projections will depend on sustained donor financing, stronger domestic resource mobilization, effective coordination with government systems, and increased investment in local CSOs to ensure equitable and long-term sector development. The findings therefore reinforce both the importance of CSO contributions to Malawi's WASH sector and the need for diversified, sustainable financing mechanisms that can strengthen resilience and reduce funding disparities across organizations and geographical areas.

7.3.4 Donors

In the 2024/25 reporting year, CSOs in Malawi's WASH sector received substantial support from a diverse array of international and domestic donors. These included: DAI UK and Water Witness International; BMZ (Germany) and FCDO (UK); French Development Agency (AFD), AERMC, Medicor Foundation, Waterloo Foundation, Rotork, GOAC, Thirsty Planet, and Urenco; Orant Charities United States; Kirsh/Nattie Kirsh Foundation; UNHCR, Charity Water, and Austria Development Agency; Evangelical Lutheran Mission, Scottish Government, and Engineers Without Borders; Trocaire, SADC GMI, Shockwave Foundation, and The Crap Foundation; The One Foundation; World Vision US, WV Canada, P&G, and Non-Foundation; Temwa UK; Christian Ministries USA and RJ Foundation; Bjorgaas Social Welfare Fund, Trinity International, and Anglican Aid Australia; Save the Children, CAWST, and Malawi Diaspora USA; RGHI, NIHR, WaterAid, University of Strathclyde, and UKRI; NAK-Karitativ; Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA); From Wales; Made Blue; Good Neighbors Korea; and revenue from Gracepads pad sales.

These donors provided financial resources, technical expertise, and support, ensuring that CSOs could effectively address immediate needs and lay the groundwork for long-term sustainable improvements in WASH services. The diverse nature of these contributions, from bilateral governments, private foundations, NGOs, corporate sponsors, and individual donors, underscores broad-based international commitment to enhancing public health infrastructure in Malawi.

7.3.5 Key Stakeholders

In the 2024/25 reporting period, CSOs in Malawi's WASH sector collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders to enhance water, sanitation, and hygiene services across various districts. Key stakeholders included:

- Government Departments: The Ministry of Water and Sanitation (including direct Ministerial and Principal Secretary engagement), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Gender through the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development. Their involvement ensured WASH initiatives were aligned with national policies and integrated into broader public health and education strategies.
- District Councils and Local Government Units: Including District Water Offices and District Health Offices in Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji, Blantyre, Mulanje, and across all operational districts, instrumental in local governance, quarterly project performance assessments, and Joint Sector Review participation.
- Development Partners and NGOs: Collaborative partners including Water for People, WaterAid Malawi, Good Neighbors Malawi, UNICEF, and Welthungerhilfe, contributing funding, technical expertise, signed MOUs, and joint implementation of WASH projects.
- Community Structures: Village Development Committees (VDCs), Area Development Committees (ADCs), Water Point Committees (WPCs), Area Mechanics (AMs), Village Natural Leaders (VNLs), Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), and local leaders, he bedrock of community ownership, behaviour change communication, and facility maintenance.
- Academic and Research Institutions: WASHTED (MUBAS) and other research bodies contributing applied evidence that directly informs sector programming and national policy.
- Private Sector: Borehole drilling companies, spare-part suppliers, IoT technology providers (Water Mission), smartphone-based data platforms (Beyond Water MIS), and corporate sponsors (Rotork, Urenco, Thirsty Planet) — bringing technical expertise, commercial scale, and innovative solutions.

These collaborations ensured a comprehensive approach to improving WASH services, highlighting the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement in addressing public health challenges effectively. Through these partnerships, CSOs leveraged a wide range of resources, expertise, and platforms to drive progress in the WASH sector.

7.4 Key Achievements

The WASH sector has seen substantial progress in the 2024/25 reporting period, with key achievements across water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and research significantly impacting both the sector and its beneficiaries. Across 25 reporting CSOs, the combined reach was 4,514,738 beneficiaries, 3,658,560 with improved water access, 661,613 with improved sanitation, and 2,221,359 with hygiene services. These achievements span 27 of Malawi's 28 districts and represent a diverse portfolio of infrastructure, behaviour change, maintenance, and research interventions.

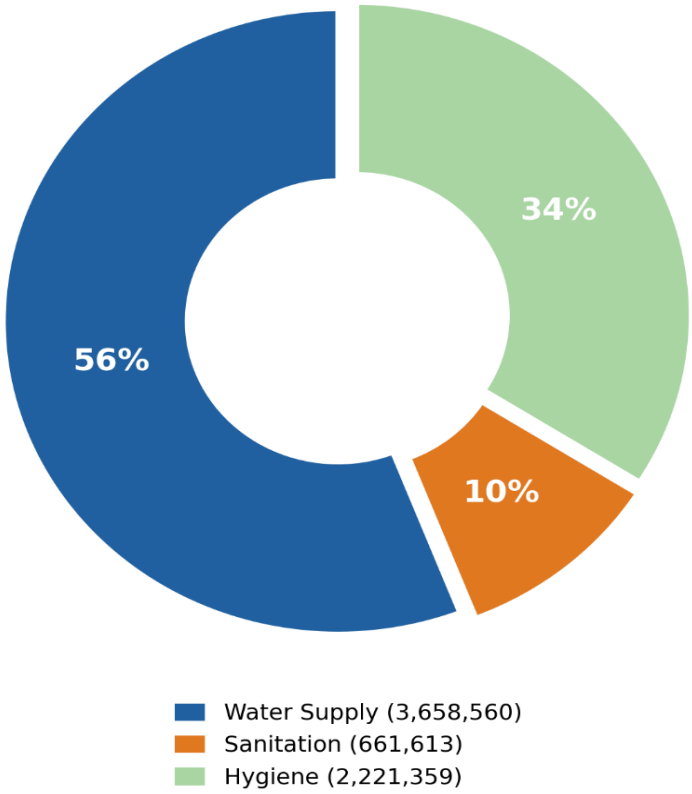


Figure 32: Number of Beneficiaries Reached by Thematic Area

7.4.1 Water Supply

Water supply achievements in 2024/25 were transformative in both scale and quality. Inter Aide reached 1,361,750 beneficiaries with improved water access through its community-based pump maintenance and repair programme across Central and Southern districts. BASEDA reached 802,750 beneficiaries; Self Help Africa, 559,218; Design Outreach, 226,250; and Amref Health Africa, 75,714. Water for People sustained clean water access for 62,000 beneficiaries in Blantyre and Mulanje under its "Everyone Forever" district-wide model. BASEflow reached 15,052 beneficiaries while piloting a Groundwater Monitoring Early Warning System in Southern Region.

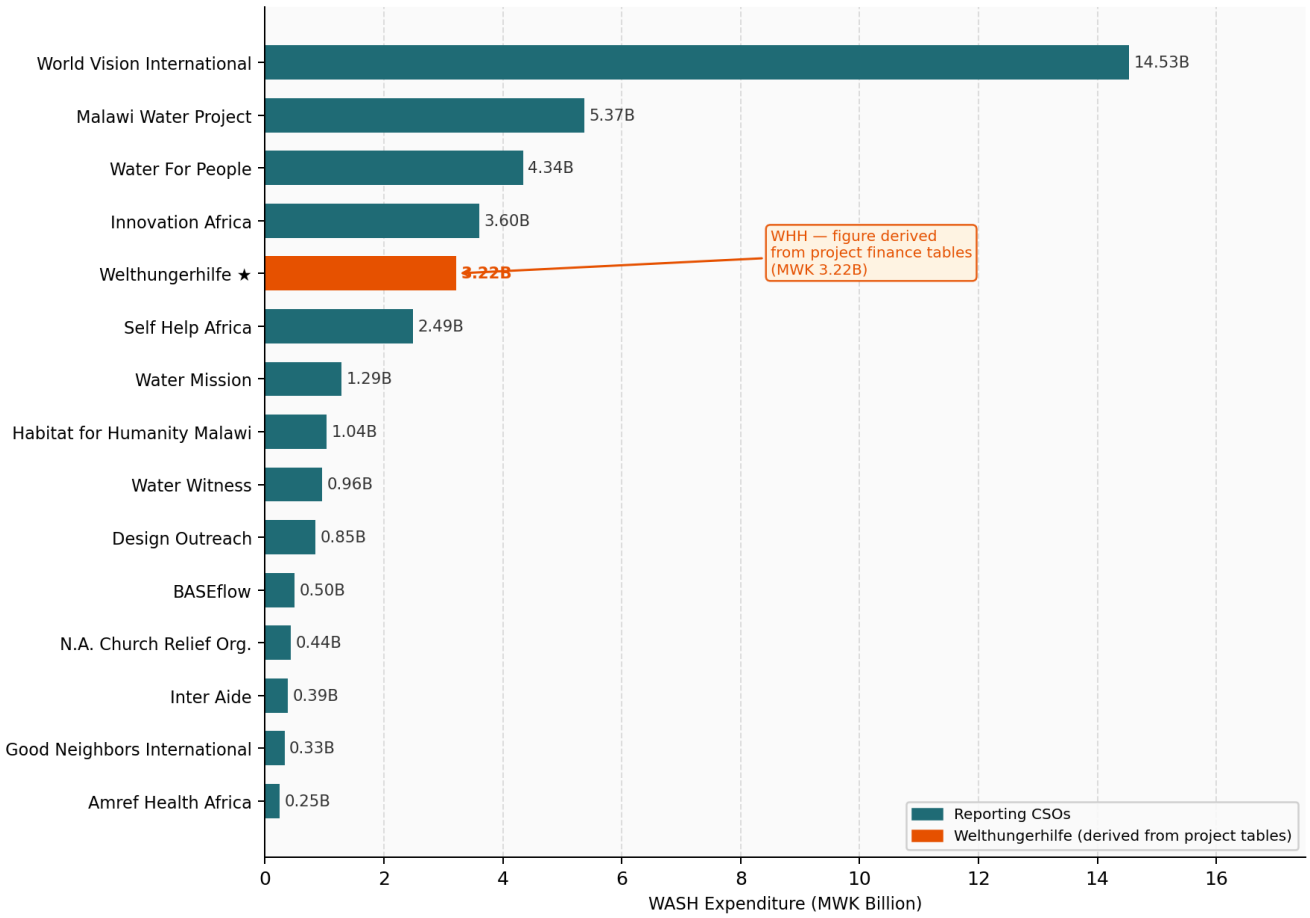


Figure 33: WASH Expenditure by CSO, 2024/25 (MK Billion).

BeyondWater reached 261,580 beneficiaries (127,651 males; 133,929 females) across 638 communities and 52,316 households in Kasungu, Dowa, and Mchinji through the Professionalized Repair and Maintenance Programme. A total of 185 previously non-functional boreholes were fully restored to functionality, achieving a 100% repair success rate. Under the PRM model, average borehole functionality across the programme's coverage area stands at 99%, compared to a pre-programme baseline of approximately 70%, a result that has been presented at national and regional Joint Sector Review meetings as a model for scaling rural water supply professionalization.

Figure 34: Water source – Zangadidya River vs. Borehole repaired (Reported by Malawi Water Project)

7.4.2 Sanitation and Hygiene

Sanitation achievements were notable across all regions. Self Help Africa reached 160,502 sanitation beneficiaries; World Vision International, 137,147; Fisherman's Rest Community Projects, 94,500; WASHTED (through healthcare facility improvements), 3,000; and Good Neighbors Malawi, 56,481. In hygiene programming, Self Help Africa reached 912,950 beneficiaries, World Vision International 137,147, Habitat for Humanity Malawi 121,648, New Apostolic Church Relief Organization 14,099, and Beyond Our Hearts Foundation 1,899.

Gracepads continued its menstrual hygiene management programming, reaching 3,000 beneficiaries with reusable sanitary pad distribution and MHM education in Lilongwe. Orant Charities Africa reached 11,500 hygiene beneficiaries in Central Region through hand pump maintenance and hygiene promotion activities.

7.4.3 Research and Knowledge Generation

Research initiatives in 2024/25 have generated deep and actionable insights. WASHTED (MUBAS) conducted applied research on sanitation and hygiene conditions in guardian shelters at district hospitals, a chronically overlooked WASH environment, translating findings directly into infrastructure improvements at participating health facilities. Results have been submitted for peer-reviewed publication and shared with the Ministry of Health for policy consideration. BASEflow advanced its groundwater monitoring evidence base, integrating hydrogeological data with climate projections to develop a predictive early warning system for water table depletion in Southern Malawi.

BeyondWater contributes to the sector's research base through Quarterly Project Performance Assessments covering all 638 water points, baseline surveys, and water point functionality data shared monthly with Water for People, WaterAid Malawi, Good Neighbors Malawi, and three district councils. Their evidence on the PRM model, showing a progression from 70% to 99% borehole functionality, directly informed the Ministry of Water and Sanitation's policy framework on professionalizing rural water supply, published in collaboration with Water for People.

The 2024/25 reporting period demonstrates the substantial contribution of CSOs toward improving WASH outcomes across Malawi, with interventions reaching more than 4.5 million beneficiaries across 27 districts. The results highlight a strong emphasis on water supply, where over 3.6 million people gained access to improved water services through a combination of new infrastructure, rehabilitation of existing facilities, and sustainable maintenance models.

Organizations such as Inter Aide, BASEDA, Self Help Africa, and BeyondWater achieved large-scale impacts by prioritizing functionality, community engagement, and long-term service sustainability. Particularly noteworthy is the success of BeyondWater's Professionalized Repair and Maintenance (PRM) model, which restored 185 non-functional boreholes and increased average functionality rates from approximately 70 percent to 99 percent, demonstrating the value of systems-strengthening approaches over traditional infrastructure-focused interventions. Progress in sanitation and hygiene was equally significant, with more than 661,000 beneficiaries reached through sanitation interventions and over 2.2 million people benefiting from hygiene promotion activities. These achievements reflect growing recognition that improved health outcomes require integrated investments in sanitation infrastructure, behaviour change, menstrual hygiene management, and community awareness.

The contributions of organizations such as Self-Help Africa, World Vision International, Habitat for Humanity Malawi, Gracepads, and Good Neighbors Malawi underscore the importance of combining hardware and software approaches to achieve sustainable behaviour change and public health improvements. Beyond service delivery, the findings also reveal an increasing focus on research, innovation, and evidence generation within the sector. Research conducted by WASHTED, BASEflow, and BeyondWater is informing policy, improving programme design, and generating practical solutions to challenges such as groundwater depletion, rural water point functionality, and sanitation conditions in healthcare facilities.

The use of evidence to influence national policy, particularly in relation to professionalized rural water supply management, demonstrates the growing maturity of the sector and its commitment to data-driven decision-making. Overall, the findings indicate that CSOs are not only expanding access to WASH services but are also strengthening the systems, knowledge base, and institutional capacities required to sustain these gains and contribute meaningfully toward Malawi's national and global WASH targets.

7.5 Emergency Wash (CSO Activities in Responding to Outbreaks and Emergencies)

In 2024/25, Malawi continued to face significant WASH-related challenges. Cholera outbreaks persisted across 14 districts, while communities in Southern Region continued to recover from the cumulative impacts of Cyclone Freddy. WASH CSOs played a crucial role in both preparedness and active response efforts. CSOs committed approximately MK 2.8 billion towards emergency WASH activities, underscoring the critical role of WASH interventions in controlling the spread of disease and mitigating the impact of natural disasters on public health infrastructure.

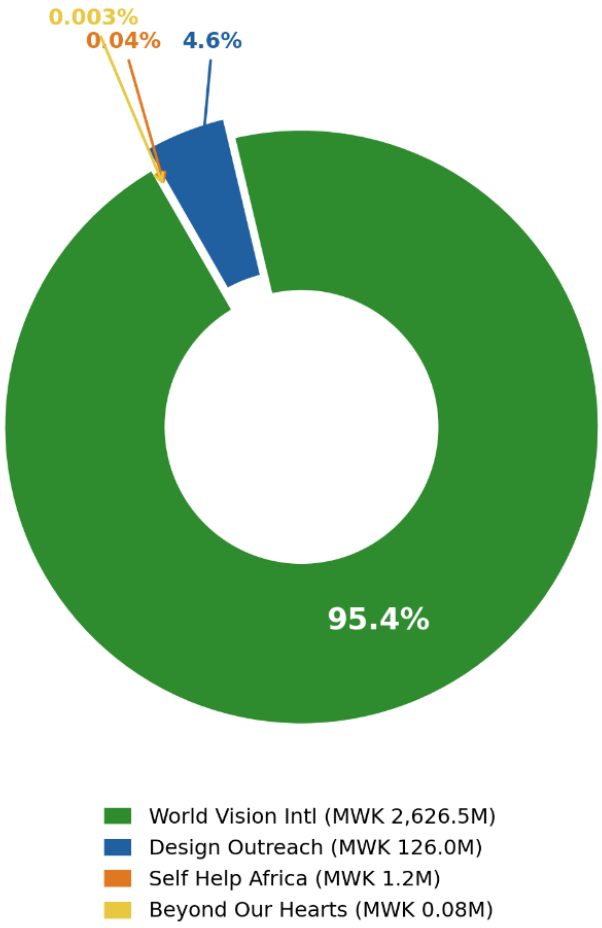


Figure 35: Emergency WASH Investment Breakdown

7.5.1 Preparedness and Response Activities

CSOs engaged in a comprehensive range of preparedness and response activities to address cholera outbreaks and flood-related emergencies. World Vision International committed MK 2,626.5 billion to emergency WASH, implementing sanitation and hygiene awareness campaigns, borehole rehabilitation, distribution of water purifiers and HTH chlorine, and rehabilitation of flood-damaged latrines across affected districts.

Design Outreach committed MK 126 million to multi-sectoral emergency activities combining food distribution, borehole rehabilitation, and hygiene promotion. Self Help Africa invested MK 1.2 million in prepositioning of WASH supplies, including water quality testing kits and pot-to-pot chlorination, ensuring rapid response capacity at community level. Beyond Our Hearts Foundation contributed MK 80,000,000 to chlorination activities, school awareness campaigns, and borehole maintenance in emergency-affected communities.

Additional preparedness measures across the sector included the elevation of hand pumps to prevent flood contamination, dissemination of cholera prevention information by environmental health officers and health surveillance assistants, and distribution of chlorine, soap, hand washing facilities, and oral rehydration salts to impacted households.

7.5.2 Achievements Registered

CSOs achieved significant milestones in emergency WASH activities during 2024/25:

- World Vision International restored WASH access to large populations across multiple districts through rapid borehole rehabilitation and the distribution of hygiene kits, water purifiers, and chlorine-based treatment materials.
- Design Outreach implemented a multi-sectoral emergency response integrating food security and WASH, demonstrating the critical nexus between nutrition and sanitation in disaster settings.
- Self Help Africa's emergency supply prepositioning enabled near-immediate response capability, demonstrating the value of embedding emergency preparedness within development programming rather than treating it as a separate mandate.

Beyond Our Hearts Foundation demonstrated that even organizations with minimal budgets can contribute meaningfully to emergency response through targeted, community-level chlorination and awareness activities.

The findings demonstrate the vital role that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) continue to play in strengthening Malawi's preparedness and response to public health emergencies and climate-related disasters. With cholera outbreaks affecting multiple districts and communities still recovering from the devastating impacts of Cyclone Freddy, the allocation of approximately MK 2.8 billion towards emergency WASH interventions highlights the sector's recognition of WASH as a frontline defense against disease outbreaks and humanitarian crises.

The significant investment by organizations such as World Vision International, Design Outreach, Self Help Africa, and Beyond Our Hearts Foundation reflects a combination of immediate response actions and longer-term resilience-building measures. Interventions such as borehole rehabilitation, water treatment and chlorination, hygiene promotion campaigns, distribution of sanitation and hygiene supplies, and restoration of damaged WASH infrastructure contributed to reducing the risk of waterborne diseases and improving access to safe water in affected communities.

Importantly, the findings illustrate a growing shift from reactive emergency response toward proactive preparedness, as evidenced by the prepositioning of WASH supplies, strengthening of water quality monitoring systems, and flood-proofing of water infrastructure. The achievements further demonstrate the value of integrating emergency preparedness within ongoing development programmes, enabling rapid deployment of resources when crises occur. Moreover, the participation of smaller organizations in localized response efforts highlights the importance of community-based actors in reaching vulnerable populations that may otherwise be overlooked during emergencies. Overall, the findings underscore the critical contribution of CSOs in enhancing community resilience, protecting public health, and supporting national efforts to respond to increasingly frequent disease outbreaks and climate-induced disasters.

7.6 Sector Building Blocks

The Sector Building Blocks framework delineates the foundational elements crucial to the advancement and sustainability of the WASH sector in Malawi. These building blocks, Government Leadership, Country Systems, Data Harmonization, and Financing, represent strategic areas essential for strengthening the overall effectiveness and resilience of WASH initiatives. This section examines how CSOs are collaborating with governmental and non-governmental partners to fortify these building blocks and characterizes whether organizations are contributing to systems strengthening or operating in parallel to government and country systems. The relatively low CSO reporting rate with only 25 out of approximately 175 registered WASH organisations reporting indicates that the presented findings represent a subset of total CSO activity.

It is noted that the development and operationalization of an integrated WASH Management Information System (MIS) is a critical sector-wide priority. It requires strong government leadership together with coordinated technical and financial support from all Development Partners and CSOs to achieve effective data harmonisation, real-time reporting, and strengthened evidence-based decision-making across the entire sector.

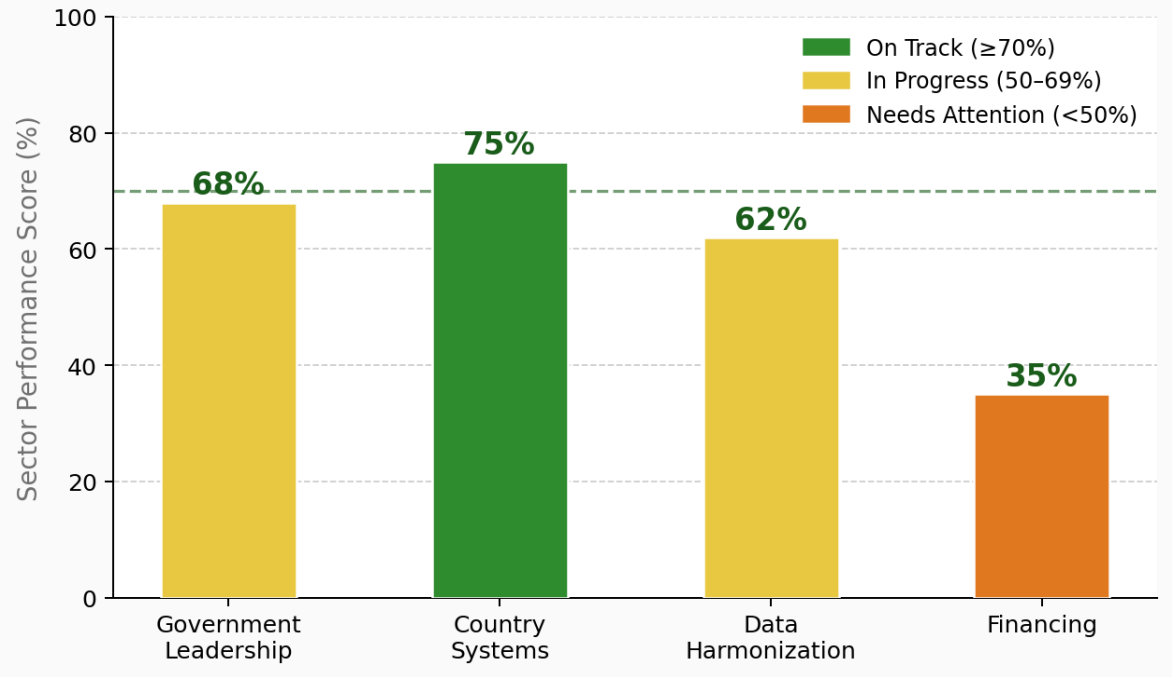


Figure 36: WASH Sector Building Blocks Performance Score (2024/25)

Table 33: WASH Sector Building Blocks

Building Block 1: Government Leadership	Building Block 2: Country Systems
The WASH sector has shown significant strides in government leadership. The majority of reporting CSOs align their projects with District Strategic Investment Plans (DSIPs) and district-level coordination structures, underscoring a strong commitment to local government priorities. Beyond Water Malawi set a high bar in government engagement: direct meetings were held with the Minister of Water and Sanitation and the Permanent Secretary during the reporting period, and District Water Offices in Kasungu, Dowa, and Mchinji were engaged quarterly through DCT meetings and project performance assessments. Beyond Water also provided resources to District Councils for participation in Joint Sector Review (JSR) meetings at regional and national level, and presented PRM programme lessons at national JSR — a model of proactive government partnership. Water Witness called for districts to be recognized as "delivery hubs, not just implementers" — a recommendation that aligns with the broader sector need for genuine decentralization and resource transfer to sub-national government.	Progress in strengthening country systems has been commendable. Beyond Water Malawi's PRM model is a flagship example: 25 Area Mechanics in Kasungu, Dowa, and Mchinji are equipped with smartphones for data logging, providing verifiable evidence of every service visit, repair, and WPC payment. Borehole functionality under PRM stands at 99% — up from a 70% baseline — and an 81% WPC contract renewal rate demonstrates genuine community buy-in for professionalized service delivery. Water For People, Inter Aide, and BASEDA maintained community-based maintenance systems at scale across multiple districts, reaching millions of beneficiaries. Water Mission piloted IoT-enabled remote monitoring on water systems, reducing downtime and enabling real-time system management. Collectively, these organizations are building the human, institutional, and technical infrastructure that will sustain water access beyond project timelines.
Building Block 3: Data Harmonization	**Building Block 4: Financing**
Data harmonization has seen progress but remains a work in progress. Several CSOs — including Habitat for Humanity Malawi and Water for People — explicitly called for finalization of MWAMIS (Malawi Water and Sanitation Management Information System) and adoption of	Financing remains a critical challenge. While combined WASH expenditure has grown, the majority of CSOs rely entirely on international donor funding with limited direct investment through government financial systems. Only a small number of CSOs are channeling any investment through district government accounts.

harmonized WASH indicators. Beyond Water Malawi operates a proprietary MIS tracking water point functionality, pump service records, WPC payment data, and Area Mechanic performance — sharing this data monthly with Water for People, WaterAid, Good Neighbors Malawi, and district councils. They noted that MWAMIS data for their operational districts was last updated in 2018–2020, highlighting a critical data currency gap, and recommended integration of their MIS with MWAMIS to create a reliable, continuously updated platform for rural water supply management. This proposal deserves urgent consideration by WESNET and the Ministry.	Beyond Water Malawi's anticipated funding gap of MK 164.1 million for 2025/26 — despite high-impact, evidence-based programming — illustrates the vulnerability of even the best-performing organizations to donor funding cycles. Multiple CSOs called for stronger advocacy for increased district-level financing. The sector-wide recommendation for 30% of CSO budgets to be channeled through district councils by 2027 remains a priority that requires concerted advocacy and incremental implementation.

7.7 Best Practices and Innovations

This section highlights innovative contributions that CSOs have developed during the course of project implementation in 2024/25. These practices represent replicable models with demonstrated impact and potential for adoption at scale.

Table 34: WASH Best Practices Registered in 2024/25

Institution	Best Practice
Beyond Water Malawi	Professionalized Repair and Maintenance (PRM) model for rural hand pumps: 638 water points under professional Area Mechanic management; 99% borehole functionality rate (up from 70% baseline); 81% WPC contract renewal rate; smartphone-based data logs providing verifiable service evidence; Area Mechanic earnings increased from MK 310,769 to MK 953,571 per annum. Endorsed by Ministry of Water and Sanitation as a model for national rural water supply professionalization.
Water Mission	IoT-enabled remote monitoring sensors deployed across water systems, enabling real-time tracking of water flow, quality, and pump functionality — improving system uptime and supporting evidence-based preventive maintenance.
BASEDA	Community-based hand pump maintenance and repair programme sustaining high borehole functionality across operational areas, with ongoing refinement of Community-Based Management (CBM) training protocols to clarify roles between Water Point Committees and Area Mechanics.
Evidence Action	Transparent, community-led rollout of chlorine dispensers with trained community "Chlorine Promoters", achieving consistently high usage rates among participating communities.
Water For People	"Everyone Forever" district-wide sustainability model ensuring service delivery and functionality for all people in a district, with focus on long-term impact, professionalized repair systems, and district-wide management structures.
BASEflow	Piloting of a Groundwater Monitoring Early Warning System integrating hydrogeological data with climate projections to generate predictive alerts for water table depletion — a pioneering approach to climate-resilient WASH planning.
Fisherman's Rest	Advocacy for improved hand pump components to reduce breakdown

Community Projects	frequency, combined with development of a nationwide parts programme in partnership with the Ministry — a public-private-NGO spare-parts supply chain model for hand pump sustainability.
WASHTED	Applied research on WASH in healthcare facility guardian shelters, translating evidence directly into targeted infrastructure improvements at district hospitals and contributing to Ministry of Health policy consideration.

7.7.1 Case Studies and Success Stories

This section features case studies and success stories drawn from CSO reports and field evidence. These narratives amplify community voices and organizational learning, providing human context to the quantitative achievements presented elsewhere in this report.

7.7.1.1 Case Study 1: Reversing Decades of Pump Failure — Beyond Water Malawi's PRM Model in Kasungu, Dowa, and Mchinji

Organization: Beyond Water Malawi | Region: Central | Districts: Kasungu, Dowa, Mchinji | Donors: Medicor Foundation, Waterloo Foundation, Rotork, GOAC, Thirsty Planet, Urenco | Partners: Water for People, WaterAid Malawi, Good Neighbors Malawi

Malawi has a longstanding rural water crisis rooted not in infrastructure scarcity alone, but in management failure. At any given time, an estimated 58.2% of rural hand pumps in Malawi are non-functional, a statistic that represents millions of people falling back on unprotected water sources despite the presence of boreholes in their communities. Beyond Water Malawi has been systematically dismantling this pattern through the Professionalized Repair and Maintenance (PRM) Programme, implemented in Kasungu, Dowa, and Mchinji districts since 2022.

The PRM model replaces the traditional Community-Based Management approach, which relies on volunteer Water Point Committees to coordinate repairs informally, with a network of certified, professionally equipped Area Mechanics who provide fee-for-service maintenance to community water points on a contractual basis. Each of the 638 water points in the programme operates under a signed service contract between the community Water Point Committee and Beyond Water Malawi. Communities pay for the service, and the results speak for themselves: 81% of WPCs renew their contracts when they expire, demonstrating that community's value, and are willing to pay for, reliable water.

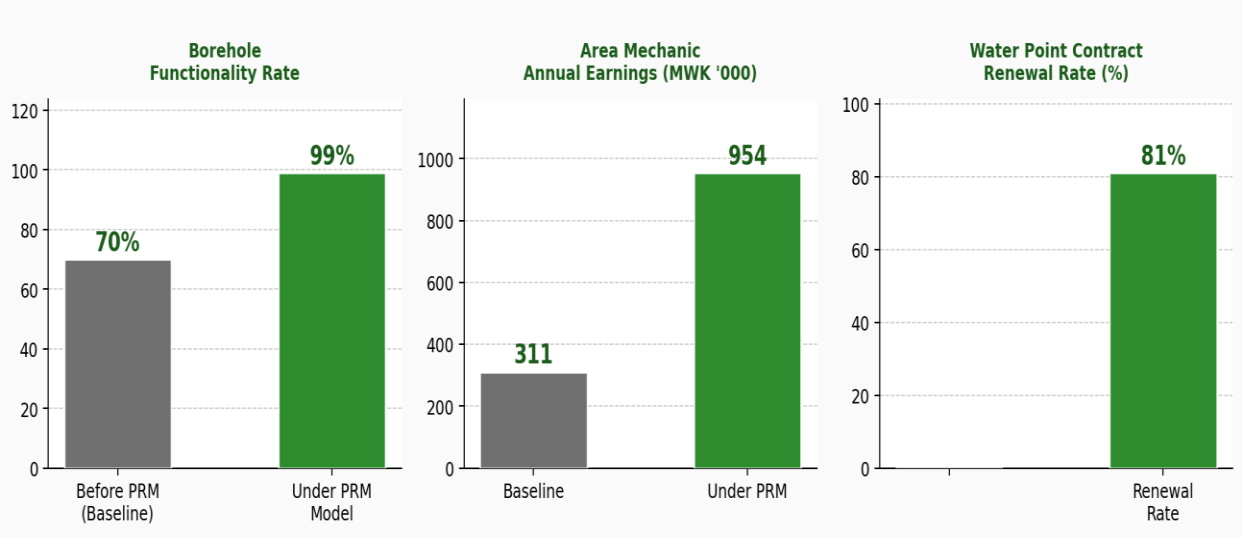


Figure 37: Beyond Water Malawi — PRM Programme Impact (2024/25)

A baseline survey before programme commencement found hand pump functionality in the operational area at approximately 70%. Under PRM management, average functionality across all 638 covered water points stands at 99%, a near-total elimination of pump non-functionality. All 25 Area Mechanics are equipped with smartphones for data logging, providing verifiable, time-stamped evidence of every service visit, part replacement, and WPC payment. This transparency has simultaneously enhanced accountability and improved the livelihoods of AMs themselves: average annual AM earnings have increased from MK 310,769 at baseline to MK 953,571, more than tripling.

Key outcomes in 2024/25: 638 water points under PRM management across 6 Traditional Authorities; 261,580 beneficiaries (127,651 males, 133,929 females) with sustained clean water access; 185 non-functional boreholes fully repaired; 52,316 households served; 25 Area Mechanics trained and equipped; 2,655 total individuals trained.

BeyondWater has also made a significant contribution to the sector's policy landscape. Their evidence directly informed the Ministry of Water and Sanitation's policy framework on professionalizing rural water supply management, and they continue to present PRM lessons at national and regional Joint Sector Reviews. They recommend that government urgently regulate service providers in the rural water supply space, to ensure adherence to operational standards while protecting service providers' path to scale and financial sustainability.

7.7.1.2Case Study 2: Self Help Africa — Embedding WASH in Climate Resilience and Livelihoods

Organization: Self Help Africa | Regions: Central and Southern | Donors: The One Foundation, Charity Water

Self Help Africa (SHA) reached 912,950 beneficiaries with hygiene programming, 559,218 with improved water access, and 160,502 with improved sanitation in 2024/25, making them one of the broadest-reach CSOs among reporting organizations. SHA's defining approach is the deliberate integration of WASH within livelihoods and climate resilience programming: water access is not treated as a standalone intervention, but as a foundational enabler of food security, nutrition, and household economic resilience. This approach positions SHA as a sector leader in the growing WASH-climate adaptation nexus, with 2025/26 priorities including water resources management, groundwater management, school sanitation, community sanitation, disaster response, and piloting of new water technologies.

SHA was also among the CSOs responding to WASH emergencies in 2024/25, committing MK 1.2 million to prepositioning of WASH supplies including water quality testing kits and pot-to-pot chlorination, demonstrating that emergency preparedness does not require large, dedicated budgets, only foresight and community-level systems.

7.7.1.3 Case Study 3: BASEflow — Pioneering Groundwater Intelligence for a Water-Stressed Future

Organization: BASEflow | Region: Southern | Donors: Trocaire, SADC Groundwater Management Institute, Shockwave Foundation, the Crap Foundation

With climate stress on water tables flagged by multiple reporting organizations, BASEflow's work in 2024/25 represents one of the most forward-looking WASH sector contributions: the piloting of a Groundwater Monitoring Early Warning System. Their SADC GMI-supported groundwater monitoring network integrates hydrogeological data with rainfall and temperature projections to generate predictive alerts for communities and District Water Offices in drought-prone areas of Southern Malawi. BASEflow reached 15,052 direct water beneficiaries while simultaneously building the data infrastructure that will protect water access for future generations. For 2025/26, BASEflow plans to scale this early warning system to additional districts while strengthening community-level groundwater governance and catchment management — a dual investment in evidence and community empowerment.

7.7.1.4 Case Study 4: Gracepads — Dignity from Chitipa to Nsanje

Organization: Gracepads | Region: Central | Funding: Revenue from sustainable reusable pad sales

Gracepads represents one of the most distinctive and financially self-sustaining models in Malawi's WASH sector. A social enterprise generating its own operating revenue through the production and sale of reusable sanitary pads, Gracepads directs proceeds into menstrual hygiene management (MHM) programming for girls in hard-to-reach communities. Operating on a total budget of MK 55 million, Gracepads reached 3,000 beneficiaries with MHM education and pad distribution in 2024/25. For 2025/26, Gracepads is implementing a Chitipa-to-Nsanje drive, a nationwide initiative targeting

the hardest-to-reach communities along the full length of the country, reflecting an organizational commitment to leaving no girl behind. Gracepads also proposed that WESNET consider organizing an annual WASH Fair to give grassroots WASH innovators a platform for visibility and resource mobilization, a recommendation WESNET has noted for 2025/26 planning.

7.7.1.5Case Study 5: WASHTED — From Guardian Shelter Research to Hospital Policy Change

Institution: WASHTED, MUBAS | Regions: Central and Southern | Donors: RGHI, NIHR, WaterAid, World Vision, University of Strathclyde, UKRI

Guardian shelters — the informal accommodation used by family members accompanying patients at district hospitals — are one of the most overlooked WASH blind spots in Malawi's health system. WASHTED's applied research programme directly addressed this gap in 2024/25, conducting systematic assessments of sanitation and hygiene conditions in guardian shelters at district hospitals and translating findings into targeted infrastructure improvements and structured hygiene education delivered by Environmental Health Officers. Reaching 3,000 beneficiaries through hospital-based interventions, WASHTED has submitted its findings for peer-reviewed publication and shared them with the Ministry of Health for national policy consideration — exemplifying how applied academic research, when anchored in real community needs, can translate evidence into infrastructure and policy change. WASHTED has called for operationalization of its MOU with WESNET to formalize this research-to-programming pipeline, a collaboration that WESNET endorses and will prioritize in 2025/26.

7.7.2 Challenges

In this reporting year, CSOs faced several significant challenges that impacted their operations and efficacy. These challenges highlight critical areas requiring strategic focus and resource allocation to enhance the sector's resilience and effectiveness.

- **Low Reporting Rate and Data Quality:** Only 25 of approximately 175 NGORA-registered WASH NGOs submitted data or reports for this reporting cycle, a rate of approximately 14%. Additionally, one organization submitted financial data with a demonstrable entry error, underscoring the need for validation checks in the data collection process. Other organizations with active projects did not provide feedback to the WESNET secretariat despite continuous reminders. It is important that the Ministry works with the Network to enforce CSO reporting obligations.
- **Duplication of Efforts and Coordination Gaps:** A significant challenge was the continued duplication of efforts, with multiple CSOs operating independently in certain districts without adequate coordination. Design Outreach called for NGOs to "gang up to implement one big project with more impact" rather than working in silos. Temwa noted that "multiple NGOs duplicate efforts in the WASH sector" and called for better information-sharing systems. This

lack of coordination not only leads to inefficiencies but also risks overwhelming community resources and creates confusion among beneficiaries.

- **Under-Resourced District Government Structures:** Water Witness described a challenge shared by many: "District WASH Offices are overstretched and under-resourced to deliver on their mandates." Beyond Water Malawi has innovated around this constraint by providing resources to District Councils for JSR participation and by engaging quarterly with district technical teams. However, this model requires individual organizational initiative rather than structural government investment, an unsustainable foundation for sector-wide systems strengthening.
- **Data Fragmentation and Platform Currency:** MWAMIS data for several operational districts was found to be severely outdated, last updated between 2018 and 2020 in some cases. Multiple CSOs operate sophisticated data management systems (Beyond Water MIS, mWater, internal platforms) that are not integrated with the national platform, creating fragmentation that impairs sector-wide analysis and resource allocation decisions.
- **Climate Vulnerability and Infrastructure Sustainability:** Climate-related stress on water infrastructure continues to intensify. Self Help Africa flagged climate resilience and groundwater management as key 2025/26 priorities. BASEflow's groundwater monitoring work is emerging as a critical response to falling water tables in Southern Malawi. The challenge of transitioning projects from construction to sustained operational phases — particularly once donor funding concludes, was noted by several organizations.
- **Funding Gaps and Localization:** Beyond Water Malawi's anticipated 2025/26 funding gap of MK 164.1 million, despite achieving outstanding programmatic results, illustrates the sector-wide vulnerability of even high-performing organizations to donor funding cycles. The persistent resource gap between international and local CSOs constrains programming depth, geographic reach, and organizational sustainability. Orant Charities Africa specifically called for WESNET and government to give local and small organizations greater visibility in sector conferences and workshops to support resource mobilization.

7.8 Recommendations

In response to the challenges faced by Civil Society Organizations in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene sector, and building on the achievements and lessons of 2024/25, the following key recommendations are proposed: Key Recommendations

- **Strengthen CSO Reporting Compliance and Sector Accountability**
  The Ministry in collaboration with WESNET and NGORA, should establish and enforce a standardized annual WASH reporting framework for all organizations implementing WASH projects. With only 25 out of approximately 175 registered WASH organizations submitting reports, the sector is currently operating with incomplete information that limits effective planning, coordination, and resource allocation. Reporting compliance should be linked to project registration, sector recognition, and participation in Joint Sector Reviews to improve accountability and evidence-based decision-making.
- **Accelerate the Operationalization and Integration of MWAMIS**

Government, development partners, and CSOs should prioritize the full operationalization of the Malawi Water and Sanitation Management Information System (MWAMIS) and integrate existing CSO data platforms into a single harmonized national system. The current fragmentation of data across multiple platforms and outdated district records undermines sector planning and monitoring. Establishing a real-time, interoperable WASH information system will improve data quality, reduce duplication, strengthen resource targeting, and support evidence-based policy formulation.

- **Increase Investment in District Systems and Local CSOs**
  Development partners and international NGOs should progressively increase direct support to district councils and local CSOs to strengthen decentralized WASH service delivery. District Water Offices remain under-resourced despite being responsible for coordinating and sustaining WASH services. In addition, local organizations continue to face significant funding disparities compared to international counterparts. A structured localization strategy, including the gradual implementation of the target to channel at least 30 percent of CSO investments through district systems, would enhance local ownership, sustainability, and institutional capacity.

- **Scale Up Proven Sustainable Service Delivery Models**
  The Ministry and sector partners should prioritize the replication and scaling of evidence-based innovations such as Beyond Water Malawi's Professionalized Repair and Maintenance (PRM) model, Water for People's "Everyone Forever" approach, Water Mission's IoT-enabled monitoring systems, and BASEflow's Groundwater Early Warning System. These models have demonstrated measurable improvements in water point functionality, service sustainability, climate resilience, and accountability, providing practical solutions to persistent sector challenges.

- **Strengthen Climate Resilience and Emergency Preparedness in WASH Programming**
  Given the increasing frequency of cholera outbreaks, floods, droughts, and climate-related shocks, all WASH programmes should incorporate disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and emergency preparedness measures as core components rather than standalone interventions. This includes prepositioning emergency supplies, strengthening groundwater monitoring, climate-proofing water infrastructure, and enhancing community preparedness systems. Greater investment in resilience-building will reduce vulnerability, protect WASH infrastructure, and improve the sector's ability to respond rapidly and effectively to future emergencies.

- **Formalise working arrangements with higher learning and research Institutions for WASH**: WESNET and the Ministry should work to develop MOUs with higher learning and research institutions in order to formalize the research-to-programming pipeline, ensuring that academic findings are systematically integrated into CSO programming, policy advocacy, and the annual CSO Performance Report.

8. PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION DURING THE 2026 JOINT SECTOR REVIEW

The preceding sections of this report highlight both the achievements recorded during the 2025/26 Financial Year and the key challenges affecting sector performance. While individual chapters contain specific recommendations relevant to their respective thematic areas, a number of cross-cutting priorities emerge that require coordinated attention across the sector. These priorities are particularly important for sustaining recent gains, addressing emerging risks, and accelerating progress towards Malawi 2063 and Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets.

To facilitate discussion and decision-making during the 2026 Joint Sector Review, table 36 consolidates the most critical actions emerging from the Sector Performance Review and identifies indicative implementation timeframes and suggested lead institutions. The matrix is intended to support prioritisation of sector actions, strengthen accountability for implementation, and provide a basis for future monitoring of progress against agreed undertakings.

Table 35: Priority Actions for Consideration during the 2026 Joint Sector Review

Priority Area	Priority Action	Intervention	Requirements	Lead Institution(s)	Supporting Institutions	Timeframe	Rationale for Prioritisation
Sector Financing and Sustainability	Strengthen domestic resource mobilisation	Utilisation of Constituency Development Fund	• Coordination with Local Authorities • Leadership advocacy	Department of Water Development (DWD)	Ministry of Finance, Development Partners, Water Boards	Short-Term (within 12 months)	Sector allocation declined from 3.35% to 1.97% of the national budget while financing needs continue to grow.
	Improve alignment between sector priorities and budget allocations	Utilisation of WASH investment and strategic plans for budgeting	Utilisation of up-to-date WASH sector plans				
	Enhance tracking of financing commitments and disbursements.	• Ensure timely reporting • MoFEPD and Development partner coordination	• Quarterly coordination meets				
Sanitation and Hygiene	Develop and implement targeted	• Community led	• Targeted funding	Environmental	DWD, CSOs,	Short-Term	Access to at least basic

Services	interventions to reverse declining access to basic sanitation services and strengthen sanitation and hygiene promotion programmes.	sanitation campaigns • Hygiene promotion in schools and communities • Behaviour change communication	• Training for promoters • Monitoring tools	Health Department / District Councils	Development Partners	(within 12 months)	sanitation declined to 40%, threatening progress towards SDG 6.2.
Wastewater Management and Water Quality	Strengthen wastewater treatment infrastructure, compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental standards.	• Infrastructure upgrades • Regular compliance audits	Regulatory framework updates	NWRA	MEPA, DWD, Local Authorities	Short-Term (within 12 months)	Wastewater compliance remains low at 44.7%, creating environmental and public health risks.
Human Resource Capacity	Address critical staffing gaps through recruitment, retention and targeted capacity strengthening.	• Recruitment drives • Training programmes	• Budget for recruitment • Capacity development plans	DWD	DHRMD	Short-Term (within 12 months)	Vacancy rates increased to 36%, affecting planning, supervision and implementation capacity.
Governance, Coordination	Strengthen implementation	• JSR action tracking	• Dedicated tracking	DWD	Development Partners,	Short-Term	Effective implementation

and Mutual Accountability	tracking of JSR undertakings	matrix • Regular follow-up meetings	team • Digital dashboard		CSOs, Water Boards, District Councils	(within 12 months)	of agreed actions is critical for improving sector performance and accountability.
	Improve sector accountability mechanisms	• Performance scorecards • Public reporting	Accountability frameworks				
	Institutionalise regular progress reporting.	• Quarterly/annual reports • MIS integration	Standardized reporting formats				
Monitoring, Information and Reporting Systems	Finalise and operationalise the Integrated WASH MIS, WASH Indicator Handbook and Integrated WASH Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.	• System development and rollout • Training and data collection protocols	• Technical support • Data infrastructure	DWD	UNICEF, Development Partners, District Councils, Water Boards	Short-Term (within 12 months)	These systems are foundational for evidence-based planning, monitoring and accountability.
Water Security and Climate Resilience	Strengthen climate-resilient water resources management through catchment	• Catchment management plans • Climate risk	Climate finance access	DWD and NWRA	District Councils, Development Partners, CSOs	Medium-Term (1–3 years)	Climate variability and environmental degradation pose growing

	protection, water resources monitoring, water harvesting, and climate-resilient infrastructure investments.	assessments					risks to water security and service sustainability.
Infrastructure Sustainability	Strengthen operation and maintenance systems, asset management practices and rehabilitation planning for existing infrastructure.	• O&M guidelines • Asset inventories • Rehabilitation programmes	• Funding for rehab • Capacity building for Water Boards	Water Boards and District Councils	DWD, Development Partners	Medium-Term (1–3 years)	Long-term sector performance depends on maintaining functionality and sustainability of existing assets.
Sector Investment and Resource Mobilisation	Develop bankable investment programmes	• Project preparation and feasibility studies • Investment catalogues	• Technical assistance • Private sector engagement	DWD	Ministry of Finance, Development Partners, Private Sector	Medium-Term (1–3 years)	Additional financing sources will be required to address investment gaps and strengthen resilience.
	Strengthen access to climate finance, blended finance and innovative financing	• Proposal development • Partnership	• Dedicated finance team • Training				

	mechanisms.	building	on climate funds				
Universal Access to WASH Services	Accelerate implementation of long-term investments and reforms required to achieve Malawi 2063 and Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets.	• Large-scale infrastructure projects • Policy reforms • Equity-focused interventions	• Multi-year investment plans • Coordination mechanisms	DWD	Water Boards, District Councils, Development Partners, CSOs	Long-Term (Beyond 3 years)	Achieving universal access will require sustained investments and coordinated sector action over multiple planning cycles.

8.1 Lessons Learned and Emerging Priorities

Implementation experience during the 2025/26 Financial Year provides several important lessons for the WASH sector. First, the continued decline in the sector's share of national budget allocations, coupled with high dependence on external financing, highlights the importance of strengthening financing sustainability, improving resource mobilisation and enhancing accountability for financing commitments and expenditures. Sustained progress towards national and international targets will require not only additional resources but also more effective allocation and utilisation of available financing.

Second, the reporting period demonstrated the importance of integrated monitoring, information and reporting systems in supporting evidence-based planning and decision-making. Ongoing efforts to operationalise the Integrated WASH Management Information System (MIS), review the WASH Indicator Handbook and establish an Integrated WASH Monitoring and Evaluation Framework provide an opportunity to strengthen data quality, reporting consistency, performance monitoring and accountability across the sector.

Third, implementation of Joint Sector Review undertakings underscored the importance of effective follow-up mechanisms, stakeholder coordination and mutual accountability. While progress was achieved in several undertakings, the experience highlights the need for strengthened tracking systems and clearer reporting arrangements to ensure timely implementation of agreed actions.

Fourth, the sector continues to face growing pressures associated with climate variability, environmental degradation, population growth and increasing demand for water and sanitation services. These challenges reinforce the importance of strengthening water security, climate resilience, catchment protection and long-term infrastructure sustainability within sector planning and investment processes.

Going forward, emerging priorities for the sector include strengthening financing sustainability, improving sector monitoring and accountability systems, accelerating sanitation improvements, enhancing wastewater management, addressing critical human resource constraints, and strengthening climate-resilient water resources management. These priorities should inform future sector planning, investment decisions and Joint Sector Review deliberations.

9. CONCLUSION

The 2025/26 Financial Year witnessed notable progress in Malawi's WASH sector despite a number of operational, financial and institutional challenges. Significant achievements were recorded in the sector. Investments through Government and Development Partner-supported programmes contributed to the expansion and rehabilitation of water infrastructure, improved monitoring systems, enhanced water quality management and strengthened sector governance. The sector benefited from the continued support of Water Boards, Local Authorities, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations, whose interventions complemented Government efforts in increasing access to safe water and sanitation services. Progress was made in the implementation of Joint Sector Review undertakings, groundwater monitoring, catchment management, infrastructure development and the adoption of innovative approaches to service delivery.

However, the sector continues to face significant challenges, including declining budgetary allocations as a proportion of the national budget, staffing shortages, inadequate financing at district level, high levels of Non-Revenue Water, low wastewater compliance, climate change impacts and growing demand for water and sanitation services. Additional challenges include continued dependence on external financing, declining access to basic sanitation services, and the need to further strengthen sector-wide monitoring, information and accountability systems. Collectively, these challenges have the potential to undermine gains already made, affect the sustainability of sector investments and services, and constrain progress towards achieving national and international development targets. Moving forward, sustained investment in water and sanitation infrastructure, strengthened sector financing, enhanced institutional capacity, improved coordination among stakeholders and accelerated implementation of policy and regulatory reforms will be critical. The sector must also prioritise climate resilience, catchment protection, water quality management, improved sanitation outcomes, strengthened sector monitoring and accountability systems, and the adoption of innovative technologies to improve service delivery and sustainability.

The findings presented in this report provide an important evidence base for discussions during the 2026 Joint Sector Review and should assist stakeholders in identifying priority actions required to strengthen sector performance, accountability, resilience and sustainability. The report further highlights the importance of translating agreed undertakings into measurable actions and ensuring that sector investments deliver sustainable and equitable service outcomes.

Overall, the sector remains committed to ensuring the sustainable management of water resources and the provision of safe, reliable and equitable water and sanitation services. Through continued collaboration, evidence-based decision-making and collective action, the sector is well positioned to contribute towards the realization of Malawi 2063 aspirations and Sustainable Development Goal 6 on universal access to safe water and sanitation services for all.

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ANNEX

Table 36: Borehole fund disbursements by district

No	Council	Approved Estimates	Cumulative Funding	% of the Total BH Fund
1.	Lilongwe District	216,000,000	54,000,000	8.74
2.	Thyolo District	84,000,000	42,000,000	6.80
3.	Mangochi District	144,000,000	36,000,000	5.83
4.	M'mbelwa District	132,000,000	33,000,000	5.34
5.	Kasungu District	108,000,000	27,000,000	4.37
6.	Mulanje District	108,000,000	27,000,000	4.37
7.	Zomba District	108,000,000	27,000,000	4.37
8.	Blantyre City	96,000,000	24,000,000	3.88
9.	Dedza District	96,000,000	24,000,000	3.88
10	Dowa District	84,000,000	21,000,000	3.40
11.	Machinga District	84,000,000	21,000,000	3.40
12	Ntcheu District	84,000,000	21,000,000	3.40
13	Chikwawa District	72,000,000	18,000,000	2.91
14	Mchinji District	72,000,000	18,000,000	2.91
15	Nkhata Bay District	72,000,000	18,000,000	2.91
16	Blantyre District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
17	Chiradzulu District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
18	Chitipa District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
19	Karonga District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
20	Nkhotakota District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
21	Nsanje District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
22	Phalombe District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43

No	Council	Approved Estimates	Cumulative Funding	% of the Total BH Fund
23	Salima District	60,000,000	15,000,000	2.43
24	Lilongwe City	48,000,000	12,000,000	1.94
25	Mzuzu City	12,000,000	12,000,000	1.94
26	Zomba City	12,000,000	12,000,000	1.94
27	Balaka District	48,000,000	12,000,000	1.94
28	Ntchisi District	48,000,000	12,000,000	1.94
29	Rumphi District	48,000,000	12,000,000	1.94
30	Mwanza District	24,000,000	6,000,000	0.97
31	Neno District	24,000,000	6,000,000	0.97
32	Likoma	12,000,000	3,000,000	0.49
			618,000,000	**100%**

Table 37: ORT funding by district

No.	Council	Approved Estimates	Cumulative Funding	% of the Total Water Funding (ORT)
1.	Lilongwe District	45,079,395	43,940,039	10.59
2.	Chitipa District	21,369,916	20,848,294	5.02
3.	Karonga District	19,862,730	19,284,607	4.65
4.	Machinga District	17,168,973	16,680,182	4.02
5.	M'mbelwa District	17,164,733	16,637,675	4.01
6.	Thyolo District	16,993,590	16,593,201	4.00
7.	Mulanje District	17,020,455	16,525,059	3.98
8.	Nkhata Bay District	17,004,784	16,509,844	3.98
9.	Blantyre District	16,960,628	16,466,974	3.97
10	Chikwawa District	16,766,812	16,382,173	3.95
11.	Neno District	16,700,841	16,214,748	3.91
12	Phalombe District	16,448,294	16,031,163	3.86
13	Mwanza District	16,467,537	15,993,768	3.85
14	Mangochi District	16,343,502	15,898,726	3.83
15	Nsanje District	15,982,782	15,665,661	3.78
16	Chiradzulu District	15,625,777	15,326,446	3.69
17	Salima District	12,248,207	12,021,540	2.90
18	Mchinji District	12,248,207	11,910,811	2.87
19	Ntcheu District	12,248,255	11,891,758	2.87
20	Dedza District	12,248,207	11,891,712	2.87
21	Ntchisi District	12,248,207	11,891,712	2.87
22	Nkhotakota District	12,248,207	11,891,712	2.87
23	Dowa District	9,186,156	8,986,564	2.17

No.	Council	Approved Estimates	Cumulative Funding	% of the Total Water Funding (ORT)
24	Kasungu District	9,186,156	8,918,784	2.15
25	Balaka District	8,664,866	8,470,340	2.04
26	Likoma District	8,573,840	8,324,291	2.01
27	Rumphi District	8,433,134	8,187,680	1.97
28	Zomba District	5,735,740	5,596,131	1.35
			414,981,595	**100%**


UNITY AND FREEDOM