

**FINAL REPORT:**

**External Review of the Water and Sanitation**

**(WATSAN) Project in the**

**Monkey Bay Health Zone, Mangochi District,**

**Malawi**



**14-24 March 2009**



**Government of the  
Republic of Malawi**



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### I. INTRODUCTION

An external mid-term Review was conducted in March 2009 for the Water and Sanitation Project (WATSAN) sponsored by the Icelandic International Development Agency's (ICEIDA) in Monkey Bay Health Zone, Mangochi District, Malawi. Specifically, ICEIDA in affiliation with the Government of Malawi (GoM), principally represented by the Ministry of Irrigation & Water Development (MIWD), initiated the WATSAN program in 2007 based on cooperative planning dating to 2004. Activities of the cooperative WATSAN program have subsequently focused upon the Traditional Authority (TA) Nankumba within the Mangochi District, hence the acronym WASNAN.

The **overall development objective** of WATSAN is to assist the GoM to achieve its National development goal of economic growth as laid down in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). It is considered that the National MGDS goal of economic growth is linked directly to well protected and managed water resources, encompassing the reduction of water and sanitation related diseases. The WATSAN program is expected to contribute to improved health standards and an increase in the quality of life of the most vulnerable part of the population, while simultaneously being responsive to global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The **specific objectives** of the WATSAN Project Document (PD) are to:

1. Increase the number of functioning boreholes in the Monkey Bay Health Zone;
2. Build capacity among staff at district level on Water and Sanitation and the communities on Community Maintenance of boreholes and pumps by offering training;
3. Increase knowledge and information about hygiene and sanitation among the target group;
4. Increase numbers of shallow wells in the target area and improving shallow well protection;
5. Put to good use two natural springs in Mvunguti Village before the end of 2007, and build a well-functioning Community Based Management (CBM) system there;
6. Improve the CBM practices of the various water resources by offering training courses for the target group; and
7. Promote networking and a functional coordination, monitoring and reporting system between stakeholders.

The **expected outputs** of WATSAN are:

1. Up to 100 new boreholes be drilled and functional, 50 boreholes repaired and civil works on or around those areas done according to national standards by end of 2010;
2. Adequate and properly trained Water Point Committees be established and qualified to maintain boreholes and pumps (committees capable of Community Based Maintenance and repair work);
3. Adequate and properly trained committees on hygiene and sanitation are trained to train and sensitize the target group;
4. Up to 300 shallow wells are protected at household level on a self help basis;
5. Two natural springs are protected and improved for supply of safe drinking water on a community participatory basis;
6. To train committees and leaders in Community Based Management; and
7. A functioning system is put in place regarding, "Planning, coordination, monitoring, information sharing and reporting system" between stakeholders through the District Executive Committee (DEC) and District Assembly (DA).

## **II. REVIEW**

The mid-term Review is a component of the overall WATSAN Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) protocol as called for in the PD. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the external review were to

- a. Evaluate the status and progress of WATSAN/WASNAN between ICEIDA and GoM; and
- b. Make recommendations regarding the next phase of the project.

The review included

1. A review of the Project Document (PD) as well as progress reports, final reports, stakeholder reports, and annual Work Plans;
2. A review of minutes of the Project Supervisory Board (PSB), Project Steering Committee (PSC), and Project Implementation Unit (PIU);
3. Interviews with representatives of the PSB, PSC, PIU, Mangochi District representatives, Chief and leaders of the TA Nankumba, village elders and Water Point Committees (WPCs), and WATSAN Field Workers (FWs), and other stakeholders;
4. Visits and on-site inspection of installed facilities and demonstration projects; and
5. Materials related to the internal M&E process.

## **III. REVIEW FINDINGS**

To the point, WATSAN is an extremely well-received ICEIDA-sponsored program with Malawi ownership at every level of cooperation: GoM/Ministry, Regional, District, Traditional Authority, and village. Since WATSAN was originally proposed to ICEIDA in 2004, the Government of Malawi (GoM) has consolidated its National priorities into the 2005 Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The MGDS has a singular focus aimed toward economic growth, and acknowledges that the goal of economic growth is linked directly to well protected and managed water resources, encompassing the reduction of water and sanitation related diseases. Further emphasizing the role of Water and Sanitation as a key feature to address the MGDS, the GoM Cabinet is currently reviewing and gazetting a National Sanitation Policy (NSP) to advance the National commitments of poverty reduction and economic prosperity. The NSP represents the first ever coherent sanitation policy for the Republic and provides policy guidance toward a cross-sectoral approach to this fundamental issue. The NSP recognizes that the water and sanitation sector “...*transforms the lives of people across all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).*” In short, the ICEIDA-sponsored WATSAN program is more on target today than when originally conceived in 2004 with regards to the GoM National goal of economic growth through initiatives to improve human health standards and increasing the quality of life of the most vulnerable part of the population.

Perceptions and recommendations offered in the Review are minor compared to the overall positive impact of WATSAN. If this review has a single opinion, it is for the stakeholders to use the Traditional Authority (TA) Nankumba WASNAN project as a model to continue to build the momentum linking water and sanitation as a planning, policy and budget priority at the National level in the promotion of economic development, poverty alleviation, and human health standards. Concurrently, it is not too early for the ICEIDA Country Director to lay the ground for the continuance of WATSAN after Year 2010.

Specific recommendations resulting from the Review are:

A. Defining WATSAN and WASNAN

1. It is recommended that WATSAN be defined as the ICEIDA-sponsored *programme* for all projects concerning water and sanitation in Malawi, both current and future.
2. It is recommended that WASNAN be defined as a WATSAN project specific to the water and sanitation activities in the TA Nankumba of the Mangochi District.

B. Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for WATSAN

3. It is recommended that clear guidance on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for WATSAN be developed and agreed upon for the smooth functioning of the project.
4. It is recommended that concise guidelines be developed for monitoring and evaluation of expenses incurred for borehole drilling, borehole repair/refurbishment, shallow well development, and latrine building, i.e., cost per installation per location.

C. Strengthening project planning, management and monitoring

5. It is recommended that WATSAN be developed into a broader multi-sectoral program especially incorporating the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security (MAFS).
6. It is recommended that consideration be given to greater participation of the MOH and MAFS on the PSB, PSC, and PIU.
7. It is recommended that PSB, PSC, and PIU meetings be planned well in advance to maximize participation of all members.
8. It is recommended that the PM (in Monkey Bay) be proactive in communicating with District (in Mangochi) counterparts outside of scheduled meetings and planning sessions.
9. It is recommended that more care be taken in the preparation of minutes of all meetings of the PSB, PSC and PIU, plus other relevant meetings.
10. It is recommended that the contract of the current PM be extended through the current terminal date of this phase of WATSAN, i.e., December 2010.
11. It is recommended that the “acting” PC post be permanently filled.
12. It is recommended that a needs assessment be conducted to justify the addition of at least two motorcycles and 1 X 1-ton 4X4 single cab pickup to the available motor pool for the FWs, at least on a part-time basis.

D. Work Plans for 2009 and 2010

13. It is recommended that the 2005 “Water Point Survey” prepared for the Mangochi District - TA Nankumba by the MIWD be better consulted as part of the planning procedure before new boreholes are installed or old ones are repaired.
14. It is recommended that as a cost saving measure the 2009 and 2010 Work Plans consider borehole refurbishment rather than new borehole drilling (on a case-by-case basis).
15. It is recommended that WATSAN and MOH collaborate to specifically track cases of cholera, acute diarrhea, child mortality, and Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) in TA Nankumba to effectively demonstrate the human health benefits of WATSAN activities.
16. It is recommended that agricultural demonstration projects be initiated with MAFS to demonstrate the efficacy of the Ecosan latrine and use of human fecal wastes as an effective organic fertilizer, with such projects possibly to include vermiculture.
17. It is recommended that a routine water quality monitoring program for boreholes, springs and shallow wells be established in affiliation with the MOH and Monkey Bay Hospital.
18. It is recommended that a routine monitoring program be established in affiliation with the MOH, MAFS and Monkey Bay Hospital to develop a protocol for the safe handling of human fecal material to be used as organic fertilizer.
19. It is recommended that an active awareness campaign be initiated to assure that persons collecting and/or using latrine wastes are not socially prejudiced within their village.

20. It is recommended that specific supplemental training be offered to the Field Operation Supervisor, two Assistant Field Operation Supervisors, at least two other MIWD staff in WASNAN procedures, and all FWs (and by extension, Health Surveillance Assistant [HSAs]).
  21. It is recommended that a needs assessment be conducted to evaluate the efficacy of deep-borehole hand pumps.
  22. It is recommended that the program be proactive in addressing the availability of rings for shallow wells, as most shallow well issues stem from this central need.
  23. It is recommended that the full integration of FWs and HSAs into WASNAN continue on an accelerated pace.
- E. WATSAN as a National GoM priority
24. It is recommended that the TA Nankumba WASNAN project be promoted as a model to continue to build the momentum linking water and sanitation as a planning, policy and budget priority at the National level in the promotion of economic development, poverty alleviation, and human health standards as targeted by the MGDS and NSP.
  25. With regards to the latter point, it is recommended (and re-emphasized) that the PSB, PSC, and PIU expand the current memberships to become multi-sectoral, but without overburdening the current efficiency and success of WATSAN.
  26. It is recommended that the CD and PM be proactive in discussions, especially with the MIWD and MOH, to facilitate the assimilation of the FWs into GoM line positions as they represent an invaluable human resource important to the sustainability of water and sanitation sector at the National level.
  27. It is recommended that the CD and PM (representing ICEIDA) and the MIWD (representing the GoM) consider ways and means of co-partnering, planning and cost sharing with other donors to maximize the benefits to be derived by Malawi in the water and sanitation sector, while understanding that such actions will require a SOP protocol to ensure transparency and smooth functioning of such cooperative relationships.
  28. It is recommended that the ICEIDA Country Director “plan forward” with Home Office for the continuance of WATSAN after Year 2010.
  29. To facilitate the above, it is recommended that an active public relations campaign be initiated to increase the profile of the ICEIDA-sponsored WATSAN program both Nationally (Malawi) and at home (Iceland).

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## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AIDS - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome  
ASDO - Assistant District Water Officer  
CBM - Community Based Management  
CD - Country Director (ICEIDA)  
DA - District Assembly  
DEC - District Executive Committee  
DPD - District Director of Planning and Development  
FOS - Field Operations Supervisor  
FW - Field Workers  
GoM - Government of Malawi  
GVH - Group Village Headman  
HH - Households  
HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
HSA - Health Surveillance Assistant  
ICEIDA - Icelandic International Development Agency  
IIU - ICEIDA Implementation Unit  
IWRM - Integrated Water Resources Management  
MAFS - Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security  
MDG - Millennium Development Goals  
MGDS - Malawi Growth and Development Strategy  
MOH - Ministry of Health  
M & E - Monitoring and Evaluation  
NSP - National Sanitation Policy  
PC - Project Coordinator  
PD - Project Document  
PIU - Project Implementation Unit  
PM - Project Manager  
PSB - Project Supervisory Board  
PSC - Project Steering Committee  
SOP - Standard Operating Procedures  
TA (aka T/A) - Traditional Authority  
TOR - Terms of Reference  
VLOM - Village Level Operation & Maintenance  
WASNAN - Water & Sanitation Nankumba District  
WATSAN - ICEIDA-sponsored Water & Sanitation Program for Malawi  
WES - Water and Environmental Sanitation  
WEST - Water Environment and Sanitation Task Force  
WPC - Water Point Committees

## **PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET**

Country:	Malawi
Sector:	Water and Sanitation
Executing Agencies:	Ministry of Irrigation & water Development (MIWD), Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA)
Project Title:	Water and Sanitation Project
Project Period:	2007 to 31 December 2010
Total Estimated Cost:	US\$ 3,275,500
Donor:	ICEIDA
Tentative ICEIDA contribution:	US\$ 2,729,500
Tentative GoM contribution:	US\$ 546,000