



# MALAWI

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2008)	14.3 million <sup>a</sup>
Proportion of population living in urban areas (2008)	19% <sup>a</sup>
Average annual urban/rural population growth rates (1990-2008)	5.0 / 1.9% <sup>a</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate (2007)	110/1000 live births <sup>b</sup>
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2004)	18.5% <sup>b</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>a</sup> World Bank. 2009 World Development Indicators (WDI) Database.  <sup>b</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). World Health Statistics 2009.</small>	

### WSS SECTOR OVERVIEW

Malawi is considered a water-stressed country, and per capita water availability is rapidly declining due to remarkable population growth, especially in its urban and peri-urban areas.<sup>1</sup> The country's total population has grown by over 50 percent since 1990.<sup>2</sup> As agriculture is a mainstay of Malawi's economy, water scarcity would severely limit agricultural productivity and negatively impact Malawi's economy. Poverty remains widespread at 40 percent and the average annual income per capita is US \$250.<sup>3</sup>

Despite these challenges of poverty, rapid population growth and shrinking water availability, Malawi has made significant improvements in drinking water coverage. Progress since 1990 includes a 40 percent increase in improved drinking water coverage. This has helped Malawi meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target for drinking water access. For sanitation, Malawi has made progress but is still far behind the MDG target; total sanitation

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. *Second National Water Development Project, Project Appraisal Document, Malawi* (2007).

<sup>2</sup> Calculated from the World Bank's 2009 World Development Indicators.

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. *Malawi - Country Brief* (2009).

coverage increased by 14 percent between 1990 and 2008.<sup>4</sup> To achieve Malawi's 2015 MDG targets for sanitation, more than 600,000 people would need to obtain access to adequate sanitation facilities each year.<sup>5</sup>

Challenges to urban water supply include aging water systems, high levels of non-revenue water and low cost recovery within the utilities. Communal water points and sanitation facilities increasingly underserve market centers and small towns. Interactions between rudimentary latrines and shallow wells make sanitation particularly problematic in peri-urban areas. Financial, managerial and technical capacity are severely lacking at all levels.

WATER AVAILABILITY IN MALAWI	
Renewable internal freshwater resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2008)	1,087 <sup>c</sup>
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2002)	80 <sup>c</sup>
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	922 <sup>d</sup>
<small>Note: Most recently available data provided.  <sup>c</sup> UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i>. "Freshwater resources" refers to estimates of runoff into rivers and recharge of ground water and does not include flows from other countries.  <sup>d</sup> Note this value was calculated using a straight-line calculation based on average population growth rates (1990-2008) with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes. Data was obtained from <i>World Bank WDI Database</i> (population) and <i>FAO Aquastat Database</i> (water resources).</small>	

### WSS SECTOR FRAMEWORK

The Water Resources Act (1969) and the Waterworks Act (1995) provide the regulatory framework for water resources, supply and sanitation in Malawi. Malawi's institutional framework for the water supply sector is centered around the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development (MIWD), five government-owned Water

<sup>4</sup> WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP). *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

<sup>5</sup> African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW). *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation* (2006).

## KEY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
MIWD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall responsibility for the WSS sector;</li> <li>National policy development;</li> <li>Water resources management.</li> </ul>	Boniface Gondwe Director of Water Supply and Sanitation Tel: 265-01-770-344
MoHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sanitation and hygiene policy.</li> </ul>	Dr. H. Somanje Director of Preventative Health
City and Regional Water Boards (WBs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two city WBs for Lilongwe and Blantyre;</li> <li>Three Regional WBs for Northern, Central, and Southern Malawi<sup>7</sup></li> <li>WBs supply water to cities and towns.</li> </ul>	Robert Hanjahanja LWB Tel: 265-01-754-760 Rhanjahanja@lwb.mw Patrik Makonyola BWB Tel: 265-01-671-616 pmakonyola@bwb.mw
DAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under decentralization, increasing responsibility for WSS service.</li> </ul>	
Privatization Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible for public private partnerships within the infrastructure sector in particular;</li> <li>Responsible for many of the water-related studies.</li> </ul>	Charlie Msusa Tel: 265-01-623-655 msusa@privatisationmalawi.org
MoLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements decentralization of WSS sector to DAs.</li> </ul>	

Boards, and local/rural District Assemblies (DAs). Two Water Boards are in the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe, while the remaining three are Regional Water Boards, in the northern, central, and southern regions of Malawi.

The MIWD has been considered functionally weak, with frequently vacant district posts and a generally low institutional capacity to implement national water and sanitation policies. Nevertheless, the Ministry developed a National Water Policy that was approved by the Government of Malawi in August 2005. The policy promotes an integrated approach to water resource management, and a draft Integrated Water

Resources Management/Water Efficiency (IWRM/WE) Plan for Malawi was developed in 2007 by MIWD.<sup>6</sup>

The National Water Policy made local governments responsible for planning and coordination of the implementation of water supply and sanitation (WSS) programs at the district levels. Malawi is accomplishing this decentralization through the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG), which is responsible for implementing WSS sector decentralization. With decentralization, the MIWD intends to withdraw from implementation to concentrate on policy, regulation, monitoring, and disseminating information on water resources and sanitation.<sup>7</sup>

The MIWD gained responsibility for sanitation in 2004.<sup>8</sup> Other institutions responsible for sanitation include the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and the DAs. The allocation of specific sanitation responsibilities between MIWD and MoHP is defined through a new National Sanitation Policy, approved in 2008. In urban areas, there is overlap between the DAs and the Water Boards in terms of responsibility for sanitation. Regulation of WSS is provided by institutions including the National Water Resources Board and the Ministry of Finance (overseeing the parastatal Water Boards), but economic and service regulation is generally weak.

Monitoring and evaluation capacity is lacking in terms of sector status and performance. In addition, because WSS was not identified in the country's first Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, there are few defined linkages between WSS and core poverty indicators or benchmarks.<sup>9</sup>

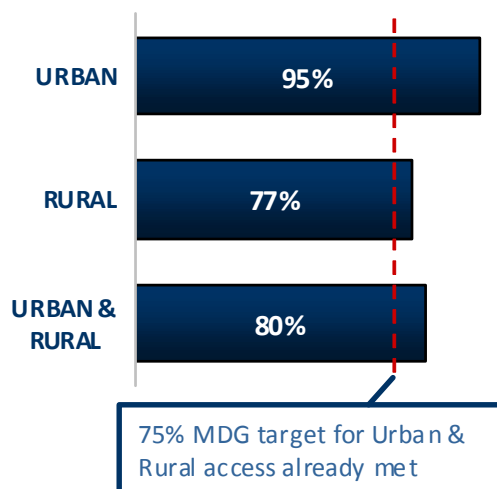
<sup>6</sup> UN-Water. *Status Report on IWRM and Water Efficiency Plans*, Table 8, Evidence of adoption and use of the IWRM approach (2008).

<sup>7</sup> Manda, Mtafu A. Zeleza. *Water and Sanitation in Urban Malawi: Can the Millennium Development Goals be Met?* International Institute of Environment and Development(August 2009).

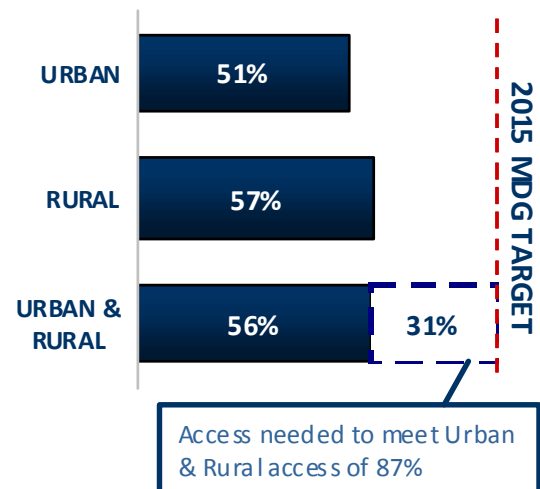
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> AMCOW. *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation* (2006).

### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2008



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Data Source: WHO/ UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP), *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*. Note on comparing baseline data from earlier reports: The JMP methodology uses all available data in each successive report. This means that estimates may be recalculated for earlier years if more data becomes available. The JMP notes that these new estimates may affect the baseline reported in earlier data sets.

#### THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Drinking water coverage is reportedly high in urban areas. However, high access estimates likely do not account for unplanned peri-urban settlements, where public tap-stands may serve several hundred people with an unreliable supply. Similarly, for sanitation, coverage may be over-estimated, as figures fail to reflect the rapidly growing populations in urban and peri-urban areas.<sup>10</sup>

The Lilongwe and Blantyre Water Boards provide urban WSS service to those cities and their peri-urban areas. The Water Boards in Lilongwe and Blantyre have struggled with weak governance and poor operational and financial performance. They have not been able to cover operating costs through user charges, and thus there is no internal cash generation available for reinvestment. The situation in the other Water Boards is slightly better as they do cover operating costs but have not been able to service their debts. All Water Boards require capacity building, restructuring, investment planning and capital (including new source development), increased customer focus, efficiency improvements, and support in reaching low-income consumers. In terms of low-income service, the Lilongwe Water Board has experimented with a new model of kiosk

management, which has potential to be replicated in other urban areas.

Even in urban areas, the use of piped sewerage systems to wastewater treatment is negligible. It is estimated that 10 percent or less of Blantyre's and Lilongwe's populations is served by piped sewerage systems; and in Lilongwe, approximately 20 percent of the population uses toilets linked to septic tanks.<sup>11</sup> Strategic sanitation planning has not yet been completed but is anticipated as part of the preparations to operationalize the new National Sanitation Policy. In addition, there is increased attention to on-site sanitation and hygiene promotion rather than piped sewerage.

#### THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

Over 80 percent of Malawi's total population is rural or located in market centers and small towns. This population receives WSS service through the three Regional Water Boards, DAs and NGOs that provide communal water points and shared sanitation facilities. It is estimated that for 24 percent of the rural population, two to five households share a sanitation facility.<sup>12</sup> The government plans to move toward district-based, point source WSS service, and to work

<sup>10</sup> AMCOW. *Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs on Water and Sanitation* (2006).

<sup>11</sup> Manda, Mtafu A. Zeleza. *Water and Sanitation in Urban Malawi: Can the Millennium Development Goals be Met?* International Institute of Environment and Development (August 2009).

<sup>12</sup> WHO/UNICEF JMP. *Progress on Sanitation and Drinking Water, 2010 Update*.

to expand rural water distribution systems. The districts own the assets, and are directly responsible for managing the implementation of point sources in individual villages, whereas the management of rural piped systems is the responsibility of the MIWD.

### DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Malawi's past Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper did not emphasize the WSS sector; therefore, outside donor assistance for the sector had not been received at needed levels. In recent years, a focal point of donor activity has been the Second National Water Development Project (NWDP II). The project includes US \$50 million from the World Bank, US \$15 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB), and additional funding from other donor countries. NWDP II includes a Sector-Wide Approach program (SWAp),

providing a framework for multi-donor financing and coordination. The NWDP II also addresses some issues of transparency and accountability. The European Union, European Investment Bank (EIB), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Netherlands, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and others are all participants in NWDP II. Recent strong donor coordination through monthly Water and Environmental Sanitation meetings led by the MIWD have resulted in improvements in harmonization, coordination of sector activities and information sharing. Other recently approved WSS projects include an AfDB project in Lilongwe (US \$47.2 million).

DONOR	ACTIVITIES	CONTACT INFORMATION
The World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban and rural sector reform;</li> <li>▪ Utility reform;</li> <li>▪ Urban and rural infrastructure investments, including community-managed village water supply systems;</li> <li>▪ Low income service provision.</li> </ul>	<p>Timothy Gilbo, Country Manager            tgilbo@worldbank.org            Tel: 265-1-770-275</p> <p>Midori Makino (Washington, DC)            mmakino@worldbank.org            Tel: 202-458-2492</p>
European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Institutional reform, particularly in regard to the sanitation sub-sector;</li> <li>▪ Potential support to urban reform and public-private partnerships;</li> <li>▪ Infrastructure investments, leak repair, and new connections.</li> </ul>	<p>Chris Ingelbrecht            Christopher.inglebrecht@cec.eu.int            265-01-773-199</p>
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.</li> </ul>	<p>Amose Kudzala            akudzala@unicef.org            Tel: 265-01-770-788</p>
African Development Bank (AfDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban and rural WSS reform;</li> <li>▪ Water resources management;</li> <li>▪ Capacity building;</li> <li>▪ Rural infrastructure development, including construction of water access points and sanitation facilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Frank kufakwandi            s.kufakwandi@afdb.org            Tel: 265-01-774-460, Ext. 6300-6329</p>

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Additional information and sources that aided in the completion of this report include: AfDB, *African Development Bank Group and Malawi: 30 years of Fruitful Cooperation* (2008); AfDB/Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), *Annual Economic Outlook Report – Malawi* (2007); WaterAid, *Malawi Country Profile* (2006); and Water for People, *Malawi Country Information*.

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