



# MALAWI

## Water and Sanitation Profile

POPULATION AND HEALTH STATISTICS	
Population (2006)	13.6 million
Proportion of population living in urban areas	18%
Urban/Rural population growth rates (1980-2000)	7.9 / 1.9%
Diarrheal deaths/year (2004)	17,100
Under age 5 mortality rate	175/1000 live births
Under age 5 mortality rate due to diarrheal disease (2000)	18.1%

### SECTOR OVERVIEW

Malawi is considered a water stressed country with less than 1,700 m<sup>3</sup> of freshwater per capita. In addition, Malawi is experiencing remarkable population growth, especially in its urban and peri-urban areas. Consequently, as the country grows, water availability further declines. Future water demand projections predict that Malawi will fall to less than 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> of freshwater per capita by as early as 2015, making it a “water scarce” nation. Water scarcity will severely limit agricultural productivity and access to water for people in a country with an “ultra” poverty rate of 22 percent.

Only 65 percent of Malawi’s population has access to improved water and sanitation. To achieve Malawi’s 2015 MDG targets for water and sanitation (WSS) more than six million additional residents will require access. The challenges to meeting the MDG include aging water systems, growing urban and peri-urban populations, high levels of non-revenue water and low cost recovery within the utilities (exacerbated by the non-payment of Government bills). 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.

A focal point of donor activity in the WSS sector is the Second National Water Development Project (NWDP II). The project includes \$50 million from the World Bank and an additional \$25million from the Africa Catalytic Growth Fund. NWDP II addresses water supply and sanitation investments and rehabilitation in Blantyre and Lilongwe (the largest cities), water supply and sanitation for the market centers and small towns, water resources management, and sector management and urban water sector reform (including urban sanitation planning). NWDP II is a SWAp or Sector-Wide Approach program designed to provide a framework for multi-donor financing and coordination. The EU, EIB, CIDA, AfDB, Netherlands, UNICEF, UNDP, JICA and others are all participants in NWDP II.

### SECTOR FRAMEWORK

Malawi’s institutional framework for the WSS sector is centered around the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development (MIWD) and five parastatal water boards (WBs). Two of these are found in the cities of Blantyre and Lilongwe, whereas the remaining three are found in the northern, central, and southern regions of Malawi. The MoIWD is functionally weak

WATER AVAILABILITY IN MALAWI	
Renewable water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (1960-2007)	1,285
Water withdrawals, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year (2000)	74
Projected water resources per capita, m <sup>3</sup> /person/year in 2015	937
Note: 2015 projected water resources per capita is a straight-line regression calculation based on population growth rates with no adjustment for consumption or technology changes	

## KEY AGENCIES

Agency	Description	Contact Information
The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development (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 265 (0) 1 – 770-344
Ministry of Health and Population (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</li> <li>WBs supply water to cities and towns</li> </ul>	Robert Hanjahanja LWB 265-01-754-760 <a href="mailto:Rhanjahanja@lwb.mw">Rhanjahanja@lwb.mw</a> Patrik Makonyola BWB 265-01-671-616 <a href="mailto:pmakonyola@bwb.mw">pmakonyola@bwb.mw</a>
District Assemblies (DAs)	Under decentralization, increasing responsibility for water and sanitation service	
Privatization Commission	Responsible for public private partnerships within the infrastructure sector in particular. Responsible for many of the water-related studies.	Charlie Msusa 265-01-623-655 <a href="mailto:msusa@privatisationmalawi.org">msusa@privatisationmalawi.org</a>

with often vacant district posts and generally low institutional capacity to implement national water and sanitation policies. Nevertheless, the MoIWD has developed a new Water Policy (August 2005) and retained the responsibility to carry-out some WSS functions in rural areas. Malawi is currently decentralizing its WSS sector with the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) responsible for implementing WSS sector decentralization at the district assembly (DA) level. The Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) has an active role in sanitation and hygiene, but specific sanitation responsibilities between MoIWD and MoHP have only just been defined through a new national sanitation policy.

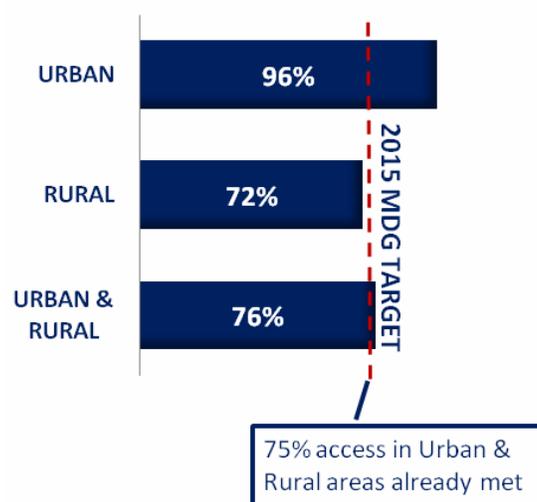
In the urban areas there is overlap between the District Assemblies and the Water Boards in terms of responsibility for sanitation – these issues are created by certain ambiguities in the legislative environment. Regulation is generally weak and provided by a variety of institutions including the National Water Resources Board, the MIWD, and the Ministry of Finance (overseeing the parastatal WBs).

## THE URBAN SUB-SECTOR

Only 2 percent of Malawians have access to piped water inside their dwelling, and 70 percent of these households are located in the urban areas. The Lilongwe (LWB) and Blantyre (BWB) Water Boards provide urban WSS service. Despite their basic corporate structure, the Water Boards in Lilongwe and Blantyre have not been able to cover operating costs through user fees, much less service loans or reinvest. The situation in the other WBs is slightly better as they do cover operating costs.

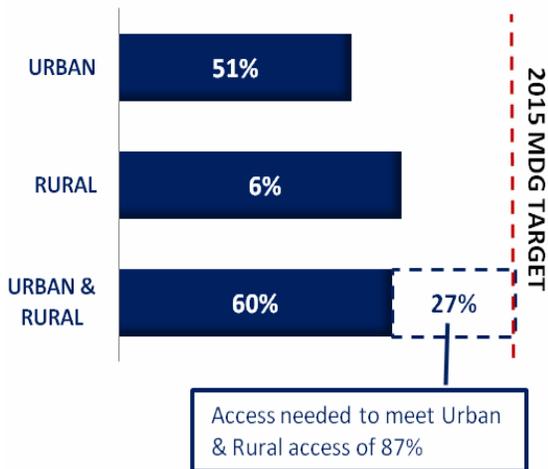
All WBs require capacity building, restructuring, investment planning and capital (including new source development), increased customer focus, efficiency improvements, and support in reaching low-income consumers. In terms of low-income service, the Lilongwe Water Board has experimented with a new model of kiosk management, which has potential to be replicated in other urban areas.

## Meeting MDG 7: Access to Water in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

### Meeting MDG 7: Access to Sanitation in 2006



Data Source: UN MDG Indicator Database

Even in the urban areas, piped sewerage is negligible. Strategic sanitation planning has not yet been done in Malawi but is planned as part of the preparations to operationalize the new Sanitation Policy. There is increased attention to on-site sanitation and hygiene promotion rather than piped sewerage.

### THE RURAL SUB-SECTOR

Almost 85 percent of Malawi's total population is rural or located in market centers and small towns. This population is served by the three Regional Water Boards and by District Assemblies. Several hundred civil society, faith-based organizations, and international non-governmental organizations are working, often in an uncoordinated fashion, to increase water access. The government plans to move toward district-based, point source water supply and sanitation, and to work to expand rural piped systems. In both cases, the Districts own the assets, but the Districts are directly responsible for managing the implementation of point sources in individual villages, whereas the Districts delegate the management of rural piped systems to the MIWD, using the expertise of the RWBs as needed.

### DONOR INVOLVEMENT

Malawi's past Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper did not emphasize water and sanitation, therefore, outside donor assistance for the WSS sector had not been at the needed levels. The NWDP II now

provides the platform for donor coordination within the WSS in Malawi and addresses some issues of transparency and accountability.

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</li> <li>▪ Low income service provision</li> </ul>	Timothy Gilbo Country Manager <a href="mailto:tgilbo@worldbank.org">tgilbo@worldbank.org</a> Tel: 265-1-770-275  Midori Makino (Washington DC) <a href="mailto:mmakino@worldbank.org">mmakino@worldbank.org</a> 202-458-2492
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>	Chris Ingelbrecht <a href="mailto:Christopher.ingelbrecht@cec.eu.int">Christopher.ingelbrecht@cec.eu.int</a> 265-1-773-199
UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rural water supply, sanitation, and hygiene</li> </ul>	Amose Kudzala <a href="mailto:akudzala@unicef.org">akudzala@unicef.org</a> Tel: 265-1-770-788

Additional information and sources: Statistics were compiled from the WHOSIS database, WRI-Earthrends Water Resources and Freshwater Ecosystems database, and the UN MDG Indicators database. Other sources include the 2006 African Development Bank's "Getting Africa on Track to Meet the MDGs in Water Supply and Sanitation," 2007 OECD-Malawi Annual Economic Outlook Report, the World Bank, Second National Water Development Project Appraisal Document for Malawi (2007). WaterAid – Malawi Country Profile, Water for People – Malawi Country Information.

This Water and Sanitation Profile was prepared under the **Advancing the Blue Revolution Initiative (ABRI)**. ABRI is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and addresses some of the most challenging water issues in the Middle East and Africa, including the lack of access by the poor to improved water and sanitation services, inefficient and nonproductive water use, and transboundary river basin management. ABRI works closely with host country governments, actively pursues co-investments from the private sector, reaches out to like-minded foundations, and partners with regional institutions.