

## Two-phased approach to GWL stakeholder consultations in Malawi

### Introduction

The foundational activity of the Global Water Leadership Programme (GWL) is the development of response strategies that holistically address the most pressing bottlenecks to WRM and WASH. In Malawi, achieving this was guided by the following two factors:

- That the strategies are accepted across Malawi, at all levels.
- That the strategies capture multiple voices, not just the national level.

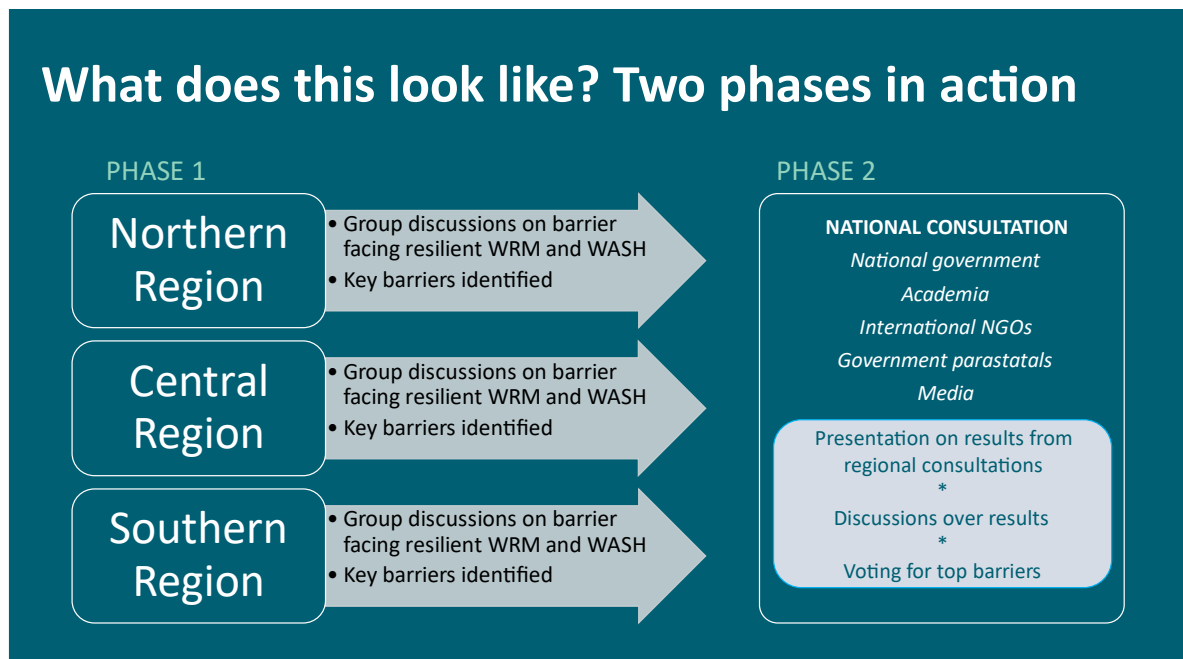
The programme implemented a two-phased stakeholder consultation process in Malawi, conducting three separate regional consultations before convening a national workshop. The regional consultations were held in the following three regions:

- Northern region
- Central region
- Southern region

### Why this decision?

- Different regions face different challenges.
- Stakeholders are free to speak within their comfort zone and there's no external influence.
- Information is gathered from the horses' mouth, as these people implement various WASH programmes on the ground.
- If only a national consultation is held, results may skew towards those with influence.
- Most times, marginalized groups are not consulted - yet they are the ones on the ground.

## What does this look like? Two phases in action



## Who does this include that were not before?

1. **Community Groups-**
  - Internally displaced people due to floods
  - Water User Association from rural water supply
  - Farmers club
2. **District government offices-**
  - Front line staff
3. **Local CSOs with no financial capacity to make it to national level meetings**



### Outcomes

The regional consultations identified several barriers from which three were prioritized at a national stakeholder consultation:

**Barrier 1:** Low investment in climate-resilient water infrastructure and financing

**Barrier 2:** Lack of political will and water leadership

**Barrier 3:** Weak coordination, policy enforcement and regulation

### Advantages of the dual-phased approach

- The nation receives a true picture of what is on the ground.
- Data that is collected is accepted at the local level where implementation happens. There is ownership.
- Front-line staff have confidence that long-awaited solutions will come.
- There is national-level enthusiasm to make a difference.

### Things to consider in a dual-phased approach

- Extra requirement to follow up with stakeholders.
  - Sharing of documents
  - Feedback sessions
  - Validation of results
- Requires enough, dedicated staff as there are time commitment requirements, logistics to be undertaken.
- Feasibility depends on the size of the country.
- There is need for a government-led-focal point.
- Important to note that innovation takes time and money!