



Ministry of Water and Sanitation

WATER RESOURCES AND WASH INVESTMENT AND FINANCING STRATEGIC PLAN

2023 - 2028

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

EGENCO	:	Electricity Generating Company
ESMP	:	Environmental and Social Management Plan
JICA	:	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KRA	:	Key Result Area
MBS	:	Malawi Bureau of Standards
MICS	:	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MIP 1	:	Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan.
MoWS	:	Ministry of Water and Sanitation.
NDCs	:	Nationally Determined Contributions
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSO	:	National Statistical Office of Malawi
NWRA	:	National Water Resources Authority
PPP	:	Public-Private Partnerships
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
WASH	:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WESNET	:	Water and Environmental Sanitation Network
WHO	:	World Health Organization
WRM	:	Water Resources Management

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation is mandated to provide policy direction to ensure that everyone in Malawi has access to safe water and sanitation services. This mandate is in line with the Malawi (2063) national vision becoming an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialized upper-middle-income country by the year 2063. The mandate is also aligned with the Malawi 2063 First Ten Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1), National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2015), National Sanitation Policy, National Disaster Risk Management Policy, SADC Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Africa Water Vision (2025) and the United Nations Charter on Sustainable Development Goals (2030). The MoWS draws strategic guidance from the National Water Policy (2023). Despite the various efforts that the MoWS apply to deliver on its mandate, access to safe water and sanitation remains a significant challenge to a significant proportion of the national population.



Several factors account for the limitations. One of the major factors is the inadequate investment in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure. In addition, it magnifies out the strategic priorities as covered in the overall Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Water and Sanitation (2023).

This WASH Financing and Investment Response Plan is aimed at strengthening strategic financing and investment options for a sustainable WASH sector in Malawi whilst accounting for water resources management and climate resilience building to close the current WASH infrastructure development and service gaps. The strategy builds on the strategic directions in the Malawi Sector Investment Plan (2012) and the Malawi Climate Resilient WASH Financing Strategy (2022). Over and above the financing strategies, the funding needs and the focus on water supply and sanitation in the two documents. This Strategic Response Plan identifies allied key strategic areas of policy and legal framework and data availability, access and sharing. It is envisaged that these will spur and secure investments towards the redefined key result areas.

The Government of Malawi is committed to ensuring that there is adequate financing and investment in the Water Resource Management and also WASH facilities to achieve the 6th Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. I would like to call upon all stakeholders to implement these strategies for the benefit of the WASH Sector and Malawi.

Hon Abida Sidik Mia, MP
Minister of Water and Sanitation

PREFACE

The WASH Investment and Financing Strategic Plan is a reflection of the sector's aspirations and is the product of a collaborative effort involving input from various stakeholders. This inclusive approach was aimed at ensuring the plan's relevance, sustainability, and the collective ownership of its outcomes. During this process, an assessment of financial gaps in the WASH sector was conducted, which led to the identification of successes, challenges, and key lessons, as well as best practices that could inform sector interventions and efforts. As a result of these endeavours, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, supported by Partners, has developed a comprehensive roadmap that will guide resource mobilization, strategic actions, and investments as well as respond to the challenges identified in the WASH sector.

The Ministry's dedication to WASH seamlessly aligns with the broader objectives outlined in the Ministry's Strategic Plan.



We recognize that access to clean water and sanitation is not only a fundamental human right but also a cornerstone of sustainable development. By weaving together our efforts, our goal is to achieve synergy and maximize impact as stakeholders in the sector.

The Ministry's expectations are clear: we aim for enhanced and well-coordinated resource mobilization and increased investment within the sector. This calls for a concerted effort to bolster resource mobilization and seamless injection into investments within the sector while steadfastly aligning our objectives with the commitment to close the existing gaps in financing for crucial Integrated Water Resource Management and WASH initiatives.

I would like to sincerely express our gratitude to the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and all participating institutions for their invaluable contributions to the development of this strategic plan. Their unwavering support, knowledge sharing, and dedication have been pivotal in shaping this comprehensive and forward-looking document. This WASH Investment and Financing Strategic Response Plan stands as a testament to our steadfast commitment to addressing the WASH challenges our nation faces. With a shared vision and concerted efforts, we are confident that together we can create a brighter, healthier, and more sustainable future for all.

Elias Chimulambe
SECRETARY FOR WATER AND SANITATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Water is life. Water is primarily used for domestic use including for drinking, cooking and sanitation. Beyond domestic, it is used for production. Economic sectors including agriculture, energy, tourism, transport and mining depend on water availability.

Globally, 70% of all water withdrawals go towards supporting agricultural production through irrigation activities and about 15% of the water withdrawals go towards energy production. Furthermore, most of the electricity generated across the globe is largely hydropower, accounting for 15% of the withdraws. In agriculture, both crop and livestock production require adequate amounts of water.

In Malawi, where the majority of the population are into farming, water has a far-reaching impact on people's livelihoods. During droughts, not only do people become food insecure, but also plunge into deeper levels of poverty. Similarly, the energy sector suffers severely whenever the country registers significant drops in water levels. Power production falls leading to load shedding, which raises production cost of industries, ultimately slowing down the economy.

Regarding sanitation, there is a very close correlation between frequency of waterborne diseases and availability of WASH facilities. Communities with limited access to safe water register more cases of waterborne diseases compared to where the WASH facilities are accessible. As such, water emerges at the centre of preventions of most of the harmful health risks and diseases including flu, diarrhoea, cholera and others. According to the WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring report and MICS (2021), 30% of households in Malawi do not have basic drinking water, with 76% of the population lacking access to improved sanitation and 24% of public institutions (health facilities, learning centers) do not have access to climate-resilient WASH facilities. These shortages present a serious threat to the socio-economic development of the country.

However, the Ministry faces an array of challenges to effectively deliver on its mandate. One of the main challenges is the increasing water demand due to rising population growth and degraded catchments. The 2023 estimates of per capita water resource availability shows that water availability stands at 1102.7m³/year, a drop when compared to 2016/17 estimates of 1170m³/year, raising concerns over water scarcity if there won't be notable interventions (Government of Malawi, 2023). The country's water storage infrastructure is also the lowest in the region, coupled with the failure of maintenance of existing infrastructure (Malawi Climate Resilient WASH Financing Strategy, 2022).

Climate change is also another huge challenge, which manifests through increased frequency and severity of floods and droughts. Climate related disasters have not only exacerbated the temporal and spatial variations of water resources but also led to repeated loss of years of water

infrastructure investment. Floods and droughts alone account for a GDP loss of 1.7% annually (World Bank, 2010). The institutional set-up and the funding landscape pose further challenges. The sector is characterised by an inadequate budgeting process; a fractured decentralisation process; funding that is dominated by infrastructure-focused water projects and limited attention to post-construction funding (UNICEF, 2022). In addition, district councils get much less resources in relation to the space of the work that they are supposed to cover, which inevitably affects their performance. WASH funding is generally donor driven, notably by the World Bank, pro-urban and non-reflective in implementation of the existing infrastructure landscape (UNICEF WASH Policy Brief, 2023).

With regards to the sustainability of urban water supply, which are served by the state-owned water boards, they grapple with tariffs that are regulated and way below operation and maintenance costs. The water boards also face high non-revenue water up to 50% from aged infrastructure and struggle to secure financing for capital investments. The proliferation of boreholes in their supply areas poses a new threat to the financial standing. Similarly, district councils, responsible for rural water supply and sanitation through community-based management, lack capacity to fund capital own projects let alone operation and maintenance of infrastructure. Over 30% of boreholes are non-functional (mWater, 2023). Coordination with other stakeholders has also been a challenge leading to investments that are misaligned with the district's investments plans or are placed in areas not in need of infrastructure (Water Investment Plan, 2012)

Given the significant impact of investment in water sanitation and hygiene on public health, education, and socio-economic development, the Government has and continues to develop several programs and projects to address these challenges including establishment and expansion of water supply schemes, development of multipurpose dams, rural water supply systems and sanitation facilities. Furthermore, the Department of Sanitation and Hygiene has been established to address sanitation challenges. As the Ministry of Water and Sanitation endeavours to provide the needed services in the sector, low investment and financing remains a major obstacle. According to the eThekweni Declaration and AfriSan Action Plan (2008), a minimum of 0.5% of National GDP is supposed to be allocated to the Water and Sanitation Sector. However, Malawi's budgetary allocation has persistently been low.

To bridge the financing gap, the Government has relied on support from development partners, and non-governmental organisations. These partnerships have played a crucial role in providing financial assistance, technical expertise, and capacity building to strengthen the WASH sector in the country. However, the funding gap still exists. As at 2012, Malawi needed to invest more than US\$140 million annually in water supply and sanitation up to the year 2030. This is more than four times the amount invested each year in the period 2006 to 2011 (JICA, 2022). Efforts are being made to attract private sector investment in the WASH sector through public-private partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms. These initiatives aim to leverage private

sector expertise, resources, and technologies to improve water and sanitation infrastructure and services in Malawi. By encouraging private sector involvement, the government hopes to address the financing gap and accelerate progress towards achieving universal access to safe water and sanitation.

It is evident that financing and investment are key for addressing the challenges faced by Malawi in providing access to safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, and promoting good hygiene practices. Collaboration between the government, international donors, development partners, and the private sector is crucial to mobilise the necessary resources and expertise to improve the WASH sector in the country. By prioritising WASH financing and investment and addressing structural challenges, Malawi can improve public health outcomes, enhance educational opportunities, and drive socio-economic development.

1.2 Rationale

Although the WASH sector has experienced a growing recognition with regards to its crucial role in the attainment of national development aspirations, as evidenced by the establishment of a Ministry of Water and Sanitation, development of policies and strategies to guide the activities in the sector, the financing and investment in the WASH sector in Malawi remains well below requirements. In the region, Malawi has the lowest allocation to WASH as a ratio of national GDP and compared to health, education and agriculture, the water sector is the least funded (UNICEF, 2022). The increase in budget allocation for WASH sector is also minimal besides the irregular trends in budget which are largely influenced by donor funding patterns.

There have been a number of efforts on closing the financing and investment gap in the WASH sector in Malawi, including the identification of sustainable financial strategies. The Water Investment Plan (2012) guides on investments needed for both rural and urban areas including schools to achieve universal access to water supply and more than 40% sanitation coverage by 2030 within the feasible fiscal space. It lays down programs and projects for funding, guides on the level of required funding and provides supporting institutional changes and implementation plan required to realise the objectives. Similarly, the Climate Resilient Financing Strategy for the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene has determined the financing gap, the bottlenecks to financing and proposed financing strategies while accounting for the cost of providing climate resilient infrastructure. This strategy focuses on accelerating and achieving WASH sector targets envisioned in the MIP-1, the Malawi 2063 and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The strategy

Despite the efforts, the 2012 investment plan has focussed on rural and urban water supply and sanitation including schools. The 2022 Climate Malawi Climate Resilient WASH Financing Strategy, while addressing the financing gaps, the strategy provides high level interventions. This WASH strategic response plan adds details to the higher-level strategies. Hence there is need for a more innovative, comprehensive and sustainable strategy to guide and promote financing and investment in WASH sector, in order to have a more sustainable investment and financing

mechanism to cater for the growing demand in wash services as well as to catalyse the process of achieving the national development aspirations.

Therefore, the development of the WRM and WASH Financing and Investment Strategic Response is a custom-made solution to the challenges in financing and investment of water resources and WASH sector. This Strategic Response wholistically, recognizes the policy and legal framework, data availability, access and sharing; and building of climate resilient infrastructure in addition to financing and investment as key strategic areas that would change the investment landscape. The WASH Investment and Financing Strategic Response is expected to address the WASH funding gap through addressing root causes and helping mobilise and allocate financial resources effectively, ensuring that adequate funding is available to meet the needs of the sector and addressing. It will also promote sustainable infrastructure development through identification of priority areas for development such as expanding water supply networks, improving wastewater treatment systems, and enhancing sanitation facilities underpinned by a climate-resilient infrastructure building approach. By prioritising sustainable infrastructure development, the strategy ensures long-term benefits and resilience.

In addition to improving service delivery and sustainability, the strategic response will promote private sector participation by creating an enabling environment for private investment such as providing clear conducive regulatory frameworks. Lastly, the strategic plan will contribute to the achievement of the development goals through alignment of WASH investments with these broader development goals.

2.0 STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

Vision, Mission, Strategic Objectives and Core Values

2.1 Vision

“Water and Sanitation for all, always”

2.2 Mission

“To develop and manage water resources for multipurpose use, and provide water supply and sanitation services for all through appropriate standards and technologies for sustainable development.”

2.3 Core Values for the Ministry

i) Efficiency

We shall endeavour to achieve our goals and objectives by putting to use the available resources in the best way possible.

ii) Sustainability

We shall make sure that we meet the current needs of the water sector without compromising the future needs.

iii) Innovation

We shall always promote innovation in the provision of our services.

iv) Transparency

We shall be as open as possible in all our dealings and provide reasons for any administrative decision and action if required.

v) Accountability

We shall be accountable and responsible for all our decisions and actions.

vi) Integrity

We shall put the obligations of the public services above one's own personal interest and conduct ourselves in a manner that is beyond reproach. We shall aim to serve even the humblest member of the public.

3.0 STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

The analysis followed a SWOT approach, which analysed strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the WASH sector, while concentrating on financing and investment. The analysis was preceded by consultative engagements with WASH partners across the country. The consultations took place at both the regional and national levels. The regional consultations covered all the three – south, central and northern regions. Institutions that participated included the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, line Ministries, Development Partners, Non-Governmental Organizations and Private Sector. It was through the consultation meetings that information was gathered for the SWOT analysis and also validating the need to develop strategic response plans to the WASH bottlenecks ie. limited financing and investment, weak advocacy and poor coordination and regulation. The findings of the SWOT analysis are presented Tables 1.

TABLE 1: STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abundant water resources ▪ Standalone Ministry on WASH ▪ Prioritization of the WASH Sector in the National Development Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low allocation of funds towards WASH interventions by government and development partners leading to poor quality services and unsustainable infrastructure. • Lack of meaningful Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in WASH investments as a result of low returns to investors, due to limited costing of WASH services leading to a narrow revenue base • Minimal investment in operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure • Accessibility challenges of WASH data, including low use for informed-decision making. • Limited availability of technical data • Weak advocacy by stakeholders to lobby for government investment direction • Weak implementation of the WASH sector National Water investment plan • Lack of appreciation of WASH's critical role in society and the importance to invest in it. • Outdated legal framework for water supply and lack of it for Sanitation, Hygiene and rural water supply • Inefficient revenue collection mechanisms by WASH players • High Debt levels for service providers • Overdependence on development partners for financing • Single objective investments that do not mainstream WASH Investments • Lack of transformative infrastructure • Lack of tracking mechanism on budgetary support into and revenue generated from WASH related services for re-investments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low implementation coordination between WASH Sector and other sectors affecting WASH e.g. Schools and hospitals • Intermediary provision of water through Water Users Associations leading, in some case, to operational inefficiencies • Low resilience and adaptation to impact of climate change
Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and legal instruments which are under revision • Opportunity window for a levies and other economic instruments • Availability of potential donors and financers in WASH 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor preferences overriding national priorities • High capital investment and maintenance cost of water supply and sewerage systems • Climate change and extreme weather conditions (drought and floods) • Alternative supplies via boreholes in cities • Illegal water connections, theft and vandalism of WASH infrastructure • Unequal spatial and temporal distribution of Water Resources • Political interference in water supply policy and service • Unplanned/unregulated and scattered settlements affecting choice and cost on effective technology for WASH facilities • Low level of investment in WASH infrastructure • Unforeseeable economic shocks

4.0 KEY RESULT AREAS

The major key result areas are as follows:

- Financing and Investment
- Policy and legal framework
- Data availability, accessibility and sharing
- Climate Resilience Infrastructure

5.0 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Strategic Response Plan identified four main strategic objectives linked to the key result areas and are presented in the following table.

KEY RESULT AREAS	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Financing and Investment	To build adequate resources for WASH for infrastructure investment
Legal and regulatory framework	To promote conducive legal and regulatory framework that are responsive in promoting investment in WASH sector
Data availability, accessibility and sharing	To promote data availability, accessibility, sharing and use
Climate Resilient Infrastructure	To promote climate resilient infrastructure

5.1 Stakeholder Analysis

TABLE 2: STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Stakeholder Category	Name of Stakeholder	Power	Interest	What is important to the Stakeholder	How could Stakeholder contribute positively	How could the Stakeholder frustrate the efforts	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder
Eg. Policy Direction	Ministry of Water & Sanitation (Water Supply, Water Resources and Sanitation Departments)	High	High	Alignment to the national agenda	Providing guidance in the implementation process	Delays in acting on issues	Sensitization
	Ministry of Health	Medium	High	Reduction in waterborne diseases	Providing up to date information for tracking incidents of waterborne diseases	Data/Information provision may be low	Low staffing levels and limited infrastructure resulting in inadequate service provision for WASH
	Ministry of Water & Sanitation - Fisheries Department	Low	Medium	Sufficient and sustainable water resources for fisheries development	Planning for water resources development needs to consider fisheries related matters e.g. minimum flows, fish ladders etc	Delay/Derail project designs	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization

Stakeholder Category	Name of Stakeholder	Power	Interest	What is important to the Stakeholder	How could Stakeholder contribute positively	How could the Stakeholder frustrate the efforts	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder
	Ministry of Energy	High	High	Sufficient flows for power generation	Provision of solar installations for water pumping	Delay/Derail project designs	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Ministry of Agriculture	High	High	Adequate water for irrigation and livestock	Inclusion of WASH players in multipurpose infrastructure Improved management of farm inputs and chemicals which affect water resources	Poor management may affect water resources quality	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Ministry of Mining	Low	High	Utilization of water for processing	Corporate Social Responsibilities	Discharging of water pollutants	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Ministry of Natural Resources & Climate Change	High	High	Catchment conservation and Climate resilience	Policy and regulation of environmental and climate change issues Provision of early warnings/ weather information	Delayed and derailed approvals	Consultation

Stakeholder Category	Name of Stakeholder	Power	Interest	What is important to the Stakeholder	How could Stakeholder contribute positively	How could the Stakeholder frustrate the efforts	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder
	Ministry of Transport	Medium	High	Easy navigation in water bodies	Regulation of water transportation	Forbids construction of WASH infrastructures in some areas Water navigation vehicles may pollute water resources	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Ministry of Tourism	Medium	High	Provision of WASH in hospitality industry	Regulation of WASH in hospitality industry	Some hospitality players may pollute water resources Competition for suitable sites for water resources infrastructure	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Ministry of Education	High	High	Provision of WASH facilities in schools, colleges and universities	Awareness creation, monitoring and reporting WASH activities in schools and colleges	Low budget allocation towards WASH programmes	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Private Sector Players	medium	High	Water resource used for their operations	Adhering to regulations and	Low cooperation with governing bodies	Consulting stakeholders at policy development stage

Stakeholder Category	Name of Stakeholder	Power	Interest	What is important to the Stakeholder	How could Stakeholder contribute positively	How could the Stakeholder frustrate the efforts	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder
					standards in the water sector Improve water usage/management		
	Ministry of Local Government	High	High	Reduction waterborne diseases Community development (provision of water supply to foster community development)	Increased participation in WASH projects. Monitoring of WASH activities at district level. Facilitate, development and enforcement of by-laws related to WASH at community level.	Progress can be impeded by bureaucracy.	Consultations at implementation stage
	Ministry of Economic Planning	High	Medium	To see that WASH achieves its intended purposes eg reduction health sector expenses	Provision of funding for WASH activities.	Providing low/inadequate budget allocation for WASH activities	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	EGENCO	High	High	Sufficient flows for power generation Reduced sediments load in water bodies	Provision of sufficient and affordable power generation for water pumping	Frequent power outages	Consultations at implementation stage

Stakeholder Category	Name of Stakeholder	Power	Interest	What is important to the Stakeholder	How could Stakeholder contribute positively	How could the Stakeholder frustrate the efforts	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder
	Water Utilities Companies (Water Boards)	High	High	Efficient provision of WASH	Increased efficiency through investments	Provision of poor services	Involvement at planning and development/Sensitization
	Malawi Bureau of Standards	High	High	Adherence to standards (MBS, WHO standards)	Regulation of water quality standards Regulation of water treatment chemicals	Stoppage of services due to non adherence	Involvement /Consultation /Engagement
	Ministry of Information	High	High	To have and disseminate information timely and efficiently	Easy dissemination of information to masses	Provision of inaccurate information Inefficient/ untimely information dissemination	Keep informed and Involved
	NGOs	Medium	High	Support government efforts in WASH services	Funding and implementation of WASH services	Provision of unsustainable/ poor services	Involvement /Consultation /Engagement
Financing	Ministry of Finance	High	High	Procedures for sourcing and approving finance	Facilitating finance provision	Delayed financing	Consultations

Stakeholder Category	Name of Stakeholder	Power	Interest	What is important to the Stakeholder	How could Stakeholder contribute positively	How could the Stakeholder frustrate the efforts	Strategy for engaging the stakeholder
	Development Partners	High	High	Adherence to financing conditions	Provision of finance	Delayed/Non provision of financing	Consultation/Engagement
Research	Universities	Low	High	Provision of services to institutions	Professional support and research	Limited involvement	Consultation/Engagement
Research	National Statistical Office (NSO)	High	High	Provision of official statistics	Provision of WASH data and indicator tracking	Delayed provision of WASH indicators due to funding	Consultation/Engagement
Regulation	National Water Resources Authority (NWRA)	High	High	Adherence to regulations and standards	Guidance and regulation	Stoppage of works or services	Consultation/Engagement
	ZAMCOM	Medium	High	Regulation of abstraction volumes and Zambezi river basin management	Contribution to ESMP and conservation of the Zambezi river basin	Delayed approvals may derail projects	Consultation/Engagement /Sensitization

6.0 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

This part of the report highlights the KRAs and aligns them to the strategic objectives and outcomes. Each of the outcomes is then further unpacked in terms of outcome targets as milestones that will indicate how far an institution has gone with implementation and whether the intended results are achieved.

6.1 KRA's, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Outcomes and Outcome Targets and Related Outputs

TABLE 3: KEY RESULT AREAS, STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AND OUTCOME TARGETS AND RELATED OUTPUTS

KEY RESULT AREA 1		Financing and Investment						
Strategic Objective		To build adequate resources for WASH for infrastructure investment						
No.	Strategic Outcome	Outcome Target	Related Output	Annual Output Targets				
				2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
1.0	Increased financing in WASH infrastructure	Increase Water, sanitation and hygiene financing to 7% of national budget and 0.5 GDP for water and sanitation, respectively for water and 0.5 GDP for sanitation and hygiene)	WASH investment plan and strategy reviewed		✓			
			Advocacy strategy to increase government WASH allocation developed and implemented	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		Develop a framework for innovative financing models by 2024/25	Micro finance		✓			
			Private Public Partnerships established		✓			
			Green bonds		✓			
		Technology transfer.			✓			
KEY RESULT AREA 2		Legal and regulatory framework						
Strategic Objective		To promote conducive legal and regulatory framework that are responsive in promoting investment in WASH sector						
No.	Strategic Outcome	Outcome Target	Related Outputs	Annual Output Targets				
				2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
2.0	Conducive and responsive environment for investment promoted	Review Water Works Act	Water Works Act reviewed		✓			
			Water supply regulator established			✓		
		Develop Sanitation and hygiene Act	Sanitation and hygiene Act developed			✓		
		Develop Rural Water Supply Act	Rural water supply act developed			✓		
KEY RESULT AREA 3		Data availability, accessibility and sharing						
Strategic Objective		To promote data availability, accessibility and sharing						
No.	Strategic Outcome	Outcome Target	Related Outputs					
				2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028

3.0	Data availability, accessibility, use and awareness, promoted	Formulate WASH indicators	Data sharing strategy developed		✓			
			WASH indicators defined and harmonized	✓				
			Data collected, submitted timely and consistently	S	✓			
			Adopting right tools, use of modern gadgets		✓			
		Increase data collection network	WASH Data repository at Ministry established		✓			
			Networks of data producers established					
			Structure and storage formats of WASH data from networks established		✓			
KEY RESULT AREA 4		Climate Resilient Infrastructure						
Strategic Objective		To promote the building of climate resilient infrastructure						
No.			Related Outputs	Annual Output Targets				

	Strategic Outcome	Outcome Target		2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028
4.1	Building of climate resilient infrastructure enforced	50% of population is aware of guidelines and standards of WASH players	Climate resilient WASH infrastructure guidelines and standards developed		✓			
			campaigns awareness conducted			✓		
			Local institutions on enforcement of by-laws encouraged			✓		
			Defects liability period for different categories of projects reviewed		✓			
		100% compliance enforcement on climate	Clauses within contract extended beyond the defect's liability period		✓			

		resilient standards	Well capacitated regulatory bodies r to monitor climate resilient WASH infrastructure		✓			
4.2	Sustainable landscape and watershed management promoted	70% of watersheds protected	Reafforestation	✓				
			Natural forestry regeneration	✓				
			Promote soil and water conservation structures	✓				
			Promote soil fertility improvement technologies	✓				
			Promote rain water harvesting technologies		✓			

6.2 The Results-Based Logical Framework

TABLE 4: THE RESULTS-BASED LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Key Result Area 1	Financing and Investment					
Strategic Objective	To build adequate resources for WASH for infrastructure investment					
Expected Results/Outcome	Performance Indicators			Sources and Means of verification	Risks	Mitigation measures
	Objectively verifiable indicators	Baseline 2023	Targets 2028			
Increased financing in WASH infrastructure	% of national budget allocated to water	1.4%	7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget statement - Sector Performance Report (SPR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government commitment - Fiscal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and lobbying
	% of GDP allocated to sanitation and hygiene	N/A	0.5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget statement - Annual Economic Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government commitment - Fiscal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocacy and lobbying
	Innovative financing framework in place	N/A	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financing framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Framework implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong coordination by Ministry Responsible
Key Result Area 2	Legal and regulatory framework					
Strategic objective	To promote conducive legal and regulatory framework that are responsive in promoting investment in WASH sector					

Conducive and responsive environment for investment promoted	Water works Act reviewed	Water works Act of 1995	1	- Reviewed Water Works Act	- Delays in reviewing process - Delays in enactment of Revised Water Works Act	- Advocacy and Lobbying - Consultant engagement to fast track the review process
	Sanitation and Hygiene Act enacted	0	1	- Sanitation and Hygiene Act	- Resistance to introduce the Act - Budget limits	- Advocacy and lobbying
	Rural Water Supply Act enacted	0	1	- Rural Water Supply Act	- Resistance to introduce the Act - Budget limits	- Advocacy and lobbying
Key Result Area 3	Data availability, accessibility and sharing					
Strategic Objective	To promote data availability, accessibility and sharing					
Data availability, accessibility, use and awareness, promoted	WASH indicators handbook	Outdated WASH indicators handbook	Updated WASH indicators handbook	WASH indicators handbook	- Lack of commitment to drive the process	- Directory responsible to take the lead in the process

					- Financing	
	List of stakeholder data collectors	0	List of stakeholder data collectors developed	List of stakeholder data collectors	- Lack of commitment to drive the process - Financing	- Directory responsible to take the lead in the process
	WASH data repository developed	0	WASH data repository	WASH data repository	- Lack of commitment to drive the process - Financing	- Directory responsible to take the lead in the process
Key Result Area 4	Climate Resilient Infrastructure					
Strategic Objective	To promote the building of climate resilient infrastructure					
Expected Result/Outcome	Performance Indicators			Sources and Means of verification	Risks	Mitigation measures
	Objectively verifiable indicators	Baseline 2023	Targets 2028			
Building of climate resilient infrastructure enforced	% of population reached with campaign messages	0%	50%	- Periodic sample surveys (NSO) - Activity Reports	- Level of participation	- Advocacy and lobbying - Communication strategy - Strategic partnerships with advocacy stakeholders

	% of compliance	0%	100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M & E reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unwillingness to adopt the standards - Capacity to enforce the standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce penalties to those not complying - Capacitate regulatory bodies
	% of watersheds protected	15%	70%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M&E reports - Gazette - Rate of sedimentation - Forestry Land cover - Aquifer recharge - Number of months that have continuous river flow - Quality of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple accountability among stakeholders - Conflicting policies - Coordination - Encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gazetting of catchments- (watershed areas) - Improve coordination of stakeholders - Community sensitization - Provision of alternative livelihoods - Community monitoring

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in the rivers - Vibrant ecosystem 		
	Number of watershed areas protected/ conserved under conservation program	-	69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - M&E reports - Gazette - Rate of sedimentation - Forestry Land cover - Aquifer recharge - Number of months that have continuous river flow - Quality of water in the rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple accountability among stakeholders - Conflicting policies - Coordination - Encroachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gazetting of catchments- (watershed areas) - Improve coordination of stakeholders - Community sensitization - Provision of alternative livelihoods - Community monitoring

				- Vibrant ecosystem		
	Number of watershed areas gazetted	19	69	- Gazette -	- Delays in gazetting processes - Capacity of responsible institutions	- Fast track the process by engaging Ministry of Justice - Capacitate the responsible institutions (finance & human resources)

7.0 CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

7.1 Human Resources

- Skilled human resources are key to the success of the plan.

7.2 Finance

- Available funding for implementation of the activities

7.3 Coordination

- Improve coordination structure among the lead institutions

7.4 Legal and Policy Framework

- Maximize the synergies in legal and policy framework

7.5 Institutional arrangements

- Effective institutions setup that facilitate and support the implementation

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1 Strategic Plan Implementation Arrangements

Task	Output	Timeline	Responsible Institution
Review WASH investment and finance strategic plan	WASH investment and finance strategic plan reviewed	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Policy & Planning)
Develop and implement advocacy strategy to increase Government WASH financing	Advocacy strategy to increase Government WASH financing developed and implemented	2023/2024 & Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Policy & Planning) - Lead Development Partner - WESNET
Develop a framework for innovative financing models	Framework for innovative financing models developed	2024/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Finance)
Review Water Works Act	Water Works Act reviewed	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Policy & Planning)
Establish water supply regulator	Water supply regulator established	2025/2026	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Water Supply)
Develop Sanitation and Hygiene Act	Sanitation and Hygiene Act developed	2025/2026	Ministry of Water and Sanitation

			(Director of Sanitation)
Develop rural water supply act	Rural Water Supply Act developed	2025/2026	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Water Supply)
Develop WASH indicators handbook	WASH indicators handbook developed	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Water Supply & Director of Sanitation)
Establish network of data producers	Network of data producers	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Policy & Planning)
Develop a data sharing strategy	Data sharing strategy developed	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Policy & Planning)
Develop WASH data repository	WASH data repository developed	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Policy & Planning)
Adopting right tools and use of modern gadgets for data collection and management	Use of modern gadgets for data collection and management adopted	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Develop climate resilient WASH infrastructure guideline and standards	Climate resilient WASH infrastructure guideline and standards developed	2024/2025	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Conduct awareness campaigns for	Awareness campaigns for	2025/2026	- WESNET

climate resilient WASH infrastructure guidelines and standards	climate resilient WASH infrastructure guidelines and standards conducted		
Revise defects liability period for different category of infrastructure and projects	Defects liability period for different category of infrastructure and projects revised	2024/2025	Ministry of Public Works
Build capacity for local institution on enforcement of by-laws on climate resilient WASH infrastructure guideline and standards Build capacity of regulatory bodies to monitor climate resilient WASH infrastructure	Capacity for local institution on enforcement of by-laws on resilient WASH infrastructure guideline and standards enhanced Capacity of regulatory bodies to monitor climate resilient WASH infrastructure enhanced	2025/2026 2024/2025	Local government - Ministry of Water and Sanitation - NWRA
Reafforestation	Forestry hectarage increased	2023/2024	- NWRA
Promote soil and water conservation structures	Soil and water conservation structures promoted	2023/2024	- NWRA - Department of Land Resources Conservation
Promote soil fertility improvement technologies	Soil fertility improvement technologies promoted	2023/2024	- Ministry of Agriculture

Promote rain water harvesting technologies	Rain water harvesting technologies promoted	2024/2025	- Ministry of Water and Sanitation (Director of Water Resources)

Reference Materials Consulted

S/N	Documents consulted
1.	Annual Economic Report (2023)
2.	Malawi Climate WASH Resilient Financing Strategy (2022)
3.	Malawi Water Sector Investment Plan (2012)
4.	National Water Policy (2022)
5.	Unicef WASH Budget Brief (2022/2023)
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9.0 List of Tables

Table 1: *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*

Table 2: Key Result Areas, Strategic Objectives, Strategic Outcomes and Outcome Targets and Related Outputs

Table 3: The Results-Based Logical Framework

Table 4: *Risks and Mitigation Measures*