

Malawi, Salima District Linda Milazi, WaterAid

- The government developed policies aimed at improving the livelihoods of people through:
 - reducing poverty
 - improving access to safe water
 - decentralising development activities

Key policies

- Poverty alleviation policy
 - sees every Malawian with access to basic needs in order to live a productive, prosperous and dignified life
- National water policy
 - government accepts that fresh water is:
 - finite and valuable resource that is essential to life and the environment
 - economic good => has an economic value for all its competing uses

Cont...

- Government considers the provision of safe water as a priority for national development
- Has adopted DRA concept as a strategy for implementing water programmes
- Decentralisation
 - this policy is to make government more accountable and responsive to people's needs
 - place people at the centre of their own development
 - change roles and responsibilities of the ministry officials at national and district levels

Institutions under decentralisation

- District level
 - DA: comprises councillors, MPs and TAs
 - DEC: comprises heads of civil servants
 - DCT: sub-committee of DEC and responsible for water and sanitation activities
- Community level
 - ADC - TA level: members are councillors, MPs and from civil society
 - AEC: comprises extensions staff at area level

Cont...

- VDC: group village headmen under whom are villages (village headmen)
- HH: average size in MW is 6.6 persons and differ in characteristic

Scoping study

- Conducted mini surveys at HH level and also targeted key informants in the villages
- four villages identified: two in the upland and two at the lakeshore

Findings

- Upland villages
 - Mchocho village
 - source: rehabilitated borehole
 - no capital contribution
 - 100% responsible for O&M (Committee)
 - requires more water for economic and social use
 - Chankwa village
 - use neighbour's borehole
 - contributed 6% cash but BH was unsuccessful
 - 100% toward O&M of BH
 - requires more water for economic and social,
 - plus domestic use

Lakeshore villages

- Maulidi
 - open-lined wells
 - labour contributed (100% O&M)
 - no committee
- Maganga
 - Borehole and open wells
 - no capital contribution (100% of O&M)
 - no committee (relies on district WMA)
- both villages require safe water for domestic use and reduce congestion at water points

Value for water

- Value for water differs between the two areas. In the uplands they rely on the boreholes for all their water needs. In these areas quantity and quality are an issue
- In the lakeshore areas the water is quality for domestic use is an issue
- Use any other sources for other purposes
- technology for water abstraction needs to be considered

Findings cont...

- Institutions and policy
 - weakness in policy dissemination leading to policy evaporation
 - operationalising policy bypasses most stakeholders (DA normally not consulted or included in decision making process by donors or implementing agencies)
 - stakeholders not clear on roles and responsibilities
 - lack of capacity at national and district levels

Emerging issues

- Political interference
- lack of choice of technology
- lack of capacity
- policy evaporation
- understanding of DRA concept