

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	SRWB WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMME
Project Number:	2018-0238
Country:	Malawi
Project Description:	The SRWB project is an investment program for several towns in Southern Malawi to provide reliable drinking water via new water facilities including treatment, storage and distribution.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project will support the rehabilitation and extension of the water supply infrastructure in three towns located in the southern part of Malawi: Liwonde, Balaka and Mangochi. The overall objective is to support the National Water Policy (2005) of the Government of Malawi and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to provide all population with access to safe water supply with a reliable 24-hour-7-day-per-week drinking water supply to the three towns.

The promoter of this project is the Southern Regional Water Board (SRWB), one of the five water boards operating in Malawi. SRWB is a parastatal organization under the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD), responsible for provision of potable water supply and waterborne sanitation services in the urban centres of the Southern Region of Malawi.

Malawi is a signatory of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Principle 17 of the declaration commits Malawi to undertaking environmental impact assessments (as a national instrument for environment management), subject to a decision of a competent authority, on all proposed activities likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Following the declaration, several policies and legislations on environmental management have been developed, of which the overarching legislation is the Environment Management Act (EMA) of 1996. The Malawi Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment were developed in 1997 and are under revision.

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<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining (MNREM), is the responsible authority for development and enforcement of environmental policy and legislation. The EAD, with support from the Technical Committee on the Environment (TCE), and in line with the provisions of the EMA as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines of 1997, determines whether an ESIA is required or not, for all projects. The TCE reviews environmental and social impact assessment reports for proposed projects and makes recommendations to the Director of Environmental Affairs, who reports to the National Council for the Environment (NCE). The NCE considers the recommendations from the EAD and advises the Minister for approval and issuance of the environmental certificate for a project to proceed.

According to these guidelines, the proposed project falls in the category of which an ESIA is mandatory (list A) due to provision A3.4: Drinking water supply schemes to serve a population of greater than 10,000 people, or expansions of existing schemes to serve a population [through] water reticulation networks with more than 10 kilometres of pipeline. It is a requirement under section 29 of EMA that developers submit EIA Reports to EAD for review and approval. The promoter has already recruited a consultant to conduct an ESIA for the Liwonde – Balaka and the Mangochi water systems. This study will be prepared in compliance with national legislation and the EIB E&S standards. It will be finalized during the detailed design phase that will be funded through a technical assistance grant provided by a fund managed by the Bank. Within the EU context (2014/52/EU Directive amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU on Environmental Impacts), this project would have been screened as an annex II project.

#### ZAMBEZI WATERCOURSE COMMISSION (ZAMCOM) PRINCIPLES

As the project areas fall within the Zambesi catchment area, it is subject to the ZAMCOM agreement. The ZAMCOM agreement aims at promoting equitable and reasonable utilization of the water resource of the Zambezi Watercourse as well as the efficient management and sustainable use thereof. Article 14 (1) of the agreement states that member states planning any programme, project or activity with regards to the Zambezi Watercourse or which may adversely affect the watercourse or any other member state shall forthwith notify the secretariat therefore and provide the commission with all available data and information with regards to the project. Article 12 of the agreement lists principles that are to be followed in order to achieve the agreement's aim. These principles include; principle of sustainable development; principle of sustainable utilization; principle of prevention of harm; principle of precaution; principle of inter-generational equity; principle of assessing trans-frontier impacts; principle of cooperation and principle of equitable and reasonable utilization. The proposed project is expected to be carried out according to the ZAMCOM agreement by following the agreement's principles throughout the project cycle.

Furthermore, the footprint of both water systems in Liwonde – Balaka and Mangochi are very close to national parks (Liwonde National park for Liwonde – Balaka and Lake Malawi National Park for Mangochi). The project will not encroach on the Liwonde National Park and will limit as much as possible the encroachment in Lake Malawi National Park for the Mangochi component. For this reason, the National Park has been consulted and shall comment on the ESIA.

The main expected impacts of the project include:

#### *Positive impacts*

- Improved and generalized access to water supply services: the most beneficial impacts of the Project will be the increase in potable water distribution coverage;

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- Public Health improvement: increase in potable water coverage both in terms of quantity and quality has a direct impact on personal hygiene and thus public health;
- Economic attractiveness: the project areas are fast growing due to economic development (tourism and light industries);
- Gender and water security: water supply is traditionally the responsibility of women in Malawi, thus by improving the water supply (access and security) the project will have a positive impact on women's daily life especially through the reduction of the distance of water points.

#### *Negative impacts*

- Works impacts: during construction, occurrence of occasional and localized disturbances (mainly dust, noise, construction waste and traffic). Mitigation: an Environmental and Social Management Plan is being prepared along with the ESIA and will be included in the works tender document for implementation by the future contractor;
- HIV and AIDS: during construction, presence of numerous workers can have an impact on the spread of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD). Mitigation: the ESMP under review includes a programme of actions for the minimization of HIV and AIDS transmission.

#### *Climate change*

The project aims at improving the sustainability of the water supply service in the area of Liwonde and Balaka, including its resilience toward climate change, which is already severely affecting Malawi through more frequent and longer drought spells. The project tackles climate change impact in terms of adaptation. A climate risk and vulnerability assessment will be conducted during the detailed design phase.

#### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

In addition to the positive impacts listed above, the project will have further positive social impacts related to employment opportunities: the project will create different employment opportunities during the various phases of the project such as assisting with social surveys, and unskilled and skilled labour during construction period. In addition to the direct employment opportunities, there will be also secondary opportunities such as transport, accommodation, food services and laundry services for example.

Land access will be required for the construction of water supply system structures and movement of vehicles. Some of this land will be required on a permanent basis, and hence be acquired from people thus losing agricultural land and assets, which they will need to be compensated for.

So far the project impact shall be limited in terms of land acquisition: for the Liwonde – Balaka system, the footprint shall be only on public land; for the Mangochi system, the assessment (yet to be confirmed) has identified for the moment less than ten project affected persons.

The SRWB intends to acquire this land through a so-called “*owner offers, SRWB agrees and pays*” process, with the involvement of the Mangochi District Lands Office and the Regional Physical Planning Department Office (South) to ensure that the values of land offered are acceptable to both parties. So far, an agreement with four (4) Project Affected Persons for compensation for land for the proposed pump house has been reached.

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The related social impacts are addressed appropriately by the Project's ESMP. A RAP will be produced if deemed necessary during the detailed design phase. Both documents, together with the ESIA will be made public.

#### *Other social issues*

Malawi has been a member of the International Labour Organization since 1965. Malawi has ratified 32 ILO conventions which include worker's compensation, safety provisions, minimum age, and forced labour provisions, among others. Labour standards will apply to first tier contractors.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

During the ESIA studies, broad consultations involving officials from the Southern Region Water Board, the Regional and District members of staff from the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, the District Council Administration and the local leadership were undertaken to ensure that informed decisions are taken regarding the implementation of the water supply project.

The approach to the public consultations process was based on what is outlined in Appendix G of the 1997 Guidelines for EIA for Malawi. Thus, the principal stakeholders (Project Affected Persons) were engaged and more than two methods were used in the engagement process. The consultations were designed to allow for obtaining and cross-checking information obtained at all levels. The consultations included the following:

- Formal meeting and presentations to the District Coordination Team for Mangochi, Balaka and Machinga District Councils .
- Direct interviews with stakeholders, and particularly representatives of regional and district level governmental institutions, service providers and NGOs/CSOs; and
- Formal and informal meetings with affected people through focus group discussions and individual interviews through household survey.

The consultations occurred in 2019, the key issues established from the consultations are as follows:

- The population anticipate that levels of water related diseases will be reduced. Additionally, the time they spend fetching water will be reduced, thereby increasing their time of productivity.
- The contractor should consider having more awareness meetings with the locals to ensure that early marriages and sexually transmitted diseases are avoided to both locals and workers especially during the construction phase of the project.
- The developer should sustain the benefits of employment opportunities and business by encouraging the community to save and engaging them in COMSIP (Community Service Investment Programme) projects. These projects should also involve female headed households as their levels of income are usually low as compared to male headed households.
- The contractor to prioritise the following mitigation measures to conserve the environment and avoid community disturbances:
  - Provide an alternative energy source at the campsites to keep workers from cutting down trees for firewood.
  - Cover all trenches that may be excavated for laying of any new pipes to avoid inconveniencing people that may be using the sites of the trenches as walking pathways.

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- Minimise as much as possible, the hiring of migrant workers to avoid cases of influx of more people into the local communities that may cause disturbances into the social/cultural establishments of the locals and possibly lead to increased cases of crimes such as thefts.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The implementation of this Project will lead to improved potable water supply services and public health, an enabling environment for economic activities in the project areas.

The Project is not expected to have significant adverse impacts on the environment. Possible negative environmental effects should be temporary and confined to the immediate construction sites.

Limited involuntary resettlement and economic displacement is expected at the location of the WTP/pump stations and will need to be addressed appropriately by the Project's Environmental and Social Management Plan.

The Project is considered acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view with the following conditions relating to environmental and social matters:

Condition for first disbursement (not related to works):

- ESIA, ESMP and RAP (if deemed necessary) completed and ESIA and RAP published, all to the satisfaction of the Bank.
- Evidence of the environmental authorization for implementation of the project by the Malawi authorities to be provided to the Bank.

Condition for any disbursement related to works:

- Satisfactory evidence of implementation of the ESMPs and RAPs (if applicable) including the grievance mechanism.
- Evidence to be provided that all relevant compensation has been paid to the people affected by the portion of works related to the referred disbursement.

Undertakings

- The promoter shall ensure that an independent audit is carried out to verify the satisfactory implementation of any Resettlement Action Plans.
- All project personnel including contractors and sub-contractors should comply with a Code of Conduct to the satisfaction of the Bank.