



Support the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in flood and drought affected areas and strengthen capacity for flood and drought risk management.



MRDRMP, A RAY OF HOPE FOR COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CYCLONE IDAI

Annie James of GVH Mfunde, T/A Makhwira in Chikwawa district recalling the dark hours when her house was covered in flooding waters that emanated from the swelling Livunzu River.

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MRDRMP is a Malawi Government project under the Ministry of Water and Sanitation that is supporting the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in affected areas and strengthen capacity for flood and drought risk management in the country.

Private BagA192
Lilongwe
Malawi

Message from the editor

Dear colleagues and readers,

Welcome to the very first edition of MRDRMP Newsletter! under Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP). MRDRMP is getting the support from the World Bank as an additional financing to the Malawi Drought Recovery and Resilience Project (MDRRP) amounting to US \$80 million. The Project Development Objective for MRDRMP is to “support the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in flood and drought affected areas and strengthen capacity for flood and drought risk management.”

While the project is focusing on the three-year period activities, there are residual activities that were not completed during the implementation of MDRRP that MRDRMP is also focusing on. It is no wonder surprising to note that in the current issue, apart from the general news items under MRDRMP, we have specifically gone into the documentation of resilient stories under the components under MDRRP. Thus, most of the achievements are tied to the parent project under the name of MDRRP.

The issue kicks off with a conversation with the MRDRMP Program Coordinator, Peter Kadewere who shares details relating to the background, its implementation so far, major strides and challenges observed along the way. Knowing that MDRRP as a parent project registered a number of beautiful successes, the newsletter has its stories focusing on improving food security and sustainable livelihoods; strengthening climate smart irrigation; enhancing drought and flood risk management; and progress made under rehabilitating and augmenting critical water supply infrastructure, among others.

That is not all we have in this beautiful newsletter; you will further note that it has also included cross cutting issues including safeguards and the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) issues. As the project continues to support the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in flood and drought affected areas and strengthen capacity for flood and drought risk management thereby building resilient community, the newsletter is determined to provide a platform that will document the strides and the learning points along the journey.

Should you have a burning desire to publish an article within the area of MRDRMP focus, an idea, a suggestion, or even a question, please do not hesitate – let us know! Any contribution you feel you can make is most welcome. Let us build livelihoods of our communities. Let us know so we can share the information!

In the meantime, keep those ideas and submissions coming to pacharo.munthali@mrdrmp.mw.

Thank you!
Pacharo Munthali



Community members checking the canals in the area of TA Mpama, Chiradzulu district.

Communities cashing in on smart irrigation

By Simeon Shumba

Across section of smallholder farmers in the area of Traditional Authority Mpama in Chiradzulu district have intensified irrigation farming for enhanced livelihood.

Among them is a 40 year old Robert Michael. Through the proceeds of his labour, he says he is able to pay for his children's tuition and has since built a modern house.

"Unlike in the past, things have now changed for the better. We are thankful to government for its support through this initiative," said Michael, referring to the Malawi Resilience Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP).

His remarks are shared by a 43-year-old Judith Sanudi who is also in support of the transformative impact of climate smart irrigation farming.

"I am able to generate between K300, 00 to K400, 000 after selling my produce. There is hope that these proceeds may double," Sanudi said.

Meanwhile a Technical Member of the MRDRMP, Engineer Francis Wadi under the Department of Irrigation has challenged the farmers to maximize usage of the scheme as one way of

increasing agricultural productivity.

"We have plenty of water that needs to be utilised all the time. There is need for the farmers to put the whole scheme to its optimal use," he said.

Engineer Wadi then appealed for more awareness on the utilisation of schemes that have been designed to benefit targeted beneficiaries under MRDRMP.

Over 80 farmers are benefiting from the 20 hectare Kachere Irrigation Scheme through the farming of diverse crops including maize, tomatoes, onions and carrots.

The Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) was initiated with the aim of addressing the devastating effects of Tropical Cyclone Idai which led to heavy rains and strong winds that severely affected 15 districts across the country including Zomba and Chiradzulu.

The Project is multi-institutional initiative managed by the Ministry of Water and Sanitation financed by the World Bank through an IDA to the tune of US\$80 million as additional financing of previous Malawi Drought Recovery

and Resilience Project (MDRRP).

MRDRMP is a three-year project. Its implementation started in January 2021. It seeks to support the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in affected areas. Its other component is on strengthening the capacity of targeted communities on flood and drought risk management.



It is all green: Beans farming in area of TA Mpama, Chiradzulu district.



Planning, monitoring and evaluation team (Monty Kampira in pink shirt and Robert Msuku in deep blue short-sleeved shirt) taking the contractors through the practical sessions of GEMS.

MRDRMP, MWASIP orient contractors in GEMS

As contractors are being recruited to support Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP) and Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP), the planning, monitoring and evaluation team has embarked on creating a system that will be providing real time data from the construction sites to the projects' central server.

The system, which is known as Geo-Enabling initiative for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS) is a low-cost and open source technology for digital real-time data collection and analysis.

As a way of raising awareness of the contractors on the GEMS, the project has embarked on orientation of the contractors on the GEMS for them to send real time data from the construction site to the central server.

“Using the GEMS tools and methods allows operators to create customized digital M&E systems to enhance the transparency and accountability of implementation across the project cycle. At the same time, GEMS provides platforms for remote supervision, real-time risk & safeguards monitoring, and portfolio mapping for coordination across projects and partners,” Eng. Pacharo Kuntembwe recently said during one of the orientation sessions of the contractors.

MWASIP and MRDRMP are the World Bank funded multi-sectoral projects currently being implemented under the leadership of Ministry of Water and Sanitation.



Monty Kampira, Technical Team Member for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation supervising the contractors as they obtain coordinates during the GEMS orientation in Lilongwe.

MRDRMP, MWASIP develops GRM Handbook



Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) through its safeguards team knows the impact that grievances can have on the project if not properly addressed. As one way of dealing with grievances, the project has developed a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) handbook.

“A GRM is a system using which concerns, queries or clarifications

about the project are responded to, problems that arise out of the implementation are resolved and complaints are addressed efficiently and effectively,” said Emmanuel Mkomwa, an MRDRMP Environmental Specialist, during an interview.

Mkomwa believes that GRM provides an effective platform for continuous stakeholder feedback and engagement.

MRDRMP is focusing on supporting the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in affected areas and strengthen capacity for flood and drought risk management.

Ministry of Water and Sanitation is leading the implementation of this multi-sectoral project that is being funded by the World Bank.



Above and below: Grievance redress mechanism training in progress.



Group Village Headman Mfunde, TA Makhwira in Chikwawa district.



MRDRMP, a ray of hope for communities affected by Cyclone Idai

BY Chipiliro Khamula

One fateful dawn in March 2019, 50 year-old Annie James of GVH Mfunde, T/A Makhwira in Chikwawa district, woke up to a dreadful sound. Sensing danger, she peeped through the window. She had to take heed. Her house was covered in flooding waters which emanated from the swelling Livunzu River.

She alerted her husband and children. They all rushed to a nearby house.

“Our house collapsed some hours later. Stored foodstuffs and clothes were all washed away. We lost all of our goats. Crops that were at an advanced stage in our gardens were all lost. Since that time, we have been finding it so hard to recover,” said the mother of seven.

She said the floods, which she described as devastating, brought the family to a standstill, a stand her 13-year-old daughter Rose Magaba, who dreams of becoming a police officer, shares.

“I couldn’t go to school on an empty stomach, that would have been

suicidal. There was no food in the house and the best option was to stay home and hope for the better,” said Rose, a Standard 8 learner at Bodza Primary School.

As the saying goes, there is always light at the end of the tunnel, James is excited, having learnt that the Malawi Recovery Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) is, among other avenues, earmarked to build resilience of communities to disasters.

“The Project gives us a ray of hope for a better tomorrow. We are geared to engage in works that will bring about significant change in as far as building resilience of communities to disasters and food insecurity is concerned,” said James.

Youthful Group Village Headman Mfunde said his subjects have been longing for initiatives of MRDRMP’s nature.

“The communities of GVH Mfunde have been at a loss since March 2019, having lost their livestock and crops to Cyclone Idai-induced floods. We are prepared to instill a sense of ownership for the project, we cannot mess up with what we have been longing for.” Said the 36-year-old Group Village Headman.

Annie James of GVH Mfunde, T/A Makhwira in Chikwawa District recalling the dark hours when her house was covered in flooding waters that emanated from the swelling Livunzu River.



Dr. Modesta Kanjaye, Project Technical Committee (PTC) Chairperson for Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP) and Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) has called on all partners that are implementing the two projects to ensure adherence to the timelines while at the same time maintaining the standards.

The PTC meets once every three months, during which the Project Management Unit (PMU) reports on the progress made of residual activities under Malawi Disaster Recovery and Resilience Project (MDRRP), and highlights the progress made under MWASIP and MRDRMP.

The meeting also highlights challenges being faced and the way forward on the existing challenges.

Dr. Kanjaye who is also the Director of Water Resources said the meeting was expected to provide guidance to strategic issues for the project success.

She said that the meeting offers “an opportunity to isolate issues that may require the attention of the Project Steering Committee (PSC).”

For effective running of the two projects there is a Project Technical Committee (PTC) that is made up of directors from different government ministries, sectors and agencies and offers technical support of the project.

The PTC in its operation in turn

PTC calls for timely implementation of MWASIP and MRDRMP



Dr. Modesta Kanjaye, Project Technical Committee (PTC) Chairperson for Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP) and Co-Chairperson for Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP).

reports to the PSC that is made up of principal secretaries from government ministries and provides overall strategic support and policy advice in

the running of the projects.

The meeting took place in Salima district and has participants from all the implementing sectors and PMU.



Across-section of the invited guests including the directors, Technical Team Leads, Technical Team Members and the project implementing team.



Aerial view of how communities are utilising Thendo Excavated Tank in Ntchisi district for irrigation farming.

As the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) starts the second year, MRDRMP Reporter caught up with the Programme Coordinator, Mr. Peter Kadewere to get his views on the progress registered so far: What follows is the conversation.

We understand that MRDRMP is an additional financing to MDRRP, why was it important to have the additional financing?

The Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project is an additional financing to the Malawi Drought Recovery and Resilience Project (MDRRP) and aims at supporting the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in both flood and drought affected areas whilst strengthening capacity for both flood and drought risk management. The additional financing specifically supports the up-scaling of the existing MDRRP activities to meet the 2019 post disaster needs through the adjustment of the original project activities as well as adding new activities to address flood specific recovery needs following the Tropical Cyclone Idai which hit Malawi and caused severe flooding in the Southern and to a lesser extent, Central Region.

“A lot has happened in the past months”



Program Coordinator, Peter Kadewere.

Which areas is the additional financing focusing on?

The project scope covers three main components that will contribute to the Project Development Objective of “supporting the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure in affected areas and strengthening capacity for flood and drought risk management”. Specifically, the project is focusing on supporting interventions to help improve food security and sustainable livelihoods through climate smart irrigation; and enhancing drought and flood risk management through (i) rehabilitating and augmenting critical water supply infrastructure (ii) strengthening water resources and catchment management (iii) strengthening comprehensive disaster risk management in district and cities and (iv) rehabilitating and constructing flood and drought risk reduction infrastructure. These interventions are

expected to bring about the following outputs:

- a) Irrigation schemes expected to avail 690 hectares of arable land and benefitting 6,000 farmers;
- b) Construction and rehabilitation of eight gravity water supply schemes including six high yielding boreholes (augment the existing Mpira Balaka Water Supply Scheme);
- c) Provision of water supply to rural community through the development of 150 rural boreholes;
- d) Upgraded Operation Decision Support System and Kamuzu Barrage Operation Model to enhance flood and drought forecasting and early warning systems including improved water regulation to support hydropower and irrigation demands;
- e) Multipurpose water harvesting structures to support various productive uses of water such as irrigation, fish farming, domestic water supply, power generation and environmental uses;
- f) Disaster risk management plans and national risk atlas maps prepared to help in better planning and management of disasters;
- g) Emergency Operation Centre constructed and equipped to facilitate better planning and coordination on emergency response.

When you look back at the past months of additional financing implementation, what is your assessment?

A lot has happened in the past months

All in all it's a very good start and good progress has been registered for the past 9 months for the project considering the fact that activities were being implemented at a time when the working environment was not conducive due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

after the project became effective in December, 2020. The project has registered tangible progress to set a solid foundation for effective implementation of various project activities. It is very encouraging to note that there is overwhelming support from all project implementing agencies (Ministries, Departments and Agencies) including District Councils and all targeted beneficiary communities in the project areas, and also the World Bank as project activities are now being rolled out. There are also very high expectations from communities and MDAs on what the project is expected to achieve. The good thing is that there is very good collaboration amongst the implementing agencies and strong willingness and acceptance from the targeted beneficiary communities to implement project activities which will enable the achievement of the project objectives.

All in all, it's a very good start and good progress has been registered for

the past months for the project considering the fact that activities were being implemented at a time when the working environment was not conducive due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

During the last nine months, what are the major successes?

The overall major successes under the project can be summed up into three areas namely, the preparatory phase of the project where the Ministry of Water and Sanitation had to undertake a number of activities in order to fulfill conditions so as to trigger the effectiveness of the project and enable flow of resources to the project. This included amongst other things, setting up the Project Management Unit (PMU) and other governance structures such as Project Technical Committee (PTC) and Project Steering Committee (PSC), signing of the financing agreement, identification of office space including provision of office tools and equipment. The second area is the conclusion of the



A snapshot of the continued impact of irrigation farming.

“A lot has happened in the past months”

residual activities under the parent project MDRRP namely:

- 1) Construction and installation of 14 small-scale solar powered drip irrigation schemes namely Khamalidyetsa in Dowa, Makalani in Dowa, Chapani in Ntchisi, Khula in Ntchisi, Tigwirizane in Mchinji, Namilolo in Mchinji, Chitowe in Kasungu, Mchepera in Lilongwe, Mwerang’ombe in Lilongwe, Makomi in Dedza, Balala in Dedza, Muthe and Chisimbwi in Ntcheu. All completed by January, 2021 and under utilization);
- 2) Construction and installation of Utale Medium-Scale solar powered irrigation scheme in Balaka (Completed by September, 2021 and under utilization);
- 3) Establishment and Capacity building activities for WUAs for medium scale schemes.
- 4) Rehabilitating 3 Gravity Fed Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes namely Lirangwe in Blantyre, Lichenya in Mulanje and Chididi in Nsanje (completed Sept 2021);
- 5) Development and capacity building of the National Agriculture Management Information System (NAMIS) to ensure that there is timely dissemination of early warning information on production, food security and monitoring of market prices and supply information.
- 6) Rehabilitation on Sankhulani Gravity Water Supply Scheme in Thyolo and Nsanje Districts (completed in August, 2021);
- 7) Drilling of boreholes (solar powered) to augment supply for Sankhulani Scheme in Thyolo District completed in September, 2021;



A farmer disinfesting his onion garden from the possible infection.

The last area of recognition is the enormous progress made to set out a good foundation and roll out various project activities starting with awareness and sensitization of project activities, strategic planning including developing of various instruments, specifications, guidelines and designs for various interventions and subprojects to be implemented under the project. In the next couple of months (from April, 2021) and onwards, most implementing sectors will be ready to start construction work of various infrastructure targeted under the project such as irrigation schemes, dams and water supply schemes.

What have been the major challenges?

The major challenge so far has been the COVID 19 pandemic which has had an negative effect on the implementation of most project activities both at PMU level and community level. There have been times where project team has been forced to work from home and

suspend face to face meetings with beneficiary communities and other key stakeholders. The pandemic has also made it harder for suppliers of various services and equipment to make deliveries on time due to delays in shipment or scarcity of commodities (as a result of reduced work force for industries globally). Project activities are now picking up as COVID cases are getting low and government softening the restrictions.

Any additional words?

The additional financing gives Malawi, as a country, an opportunity to critically reconsider mainstreaming DRM issues and also enhance “resilience” as we implement various interventions that can help in bringing about the recovery of livelihoods and infrastructure as a result of past and any anticipated flood and drought disasters. Since DRM issues are multisector, the success of the project shall depend on the strong collaboration of all implementing sectors.

By Simion Shumba

The World Bank through the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) is positioning to rehabilitate Ndundumala and Nkhawazatha irrigation schemes in the area of Traditional Authority Mlumbe in Zomba.

The development has made several smallholder farmers in the district upbeat on attaining improved harvest for enhanced income and food security. The two schemes, which sit some 62 kilometers from Zomba headquarters, are a potential goldmine for at least two hundred smallholder farmers.

Confirming the development, Engineer Francis Wadi of the Department of Irrigation said funds for the rehabilitation will be drawn from the US\$80 million funding for the project as a way of helping communities recover from the devastating impact of Cyclone Idai in 2019.

Meanwhile, a number of farmers have expressed optimism that the rehabilitation of the schemes will further help them become economically independent and food sufficient.

"We already have a registered Water Users Association (WUA) which we believe will help us manage the scheme well," said John Emmanuel, a

MRDRMP

Game changer on irrigation farming

smallholder farmer from the area of Group Village Headman Ntuluma.

Emmanuel who is also marketing officer for Ndundumala WUA added through the Association, they have also secured good markets especially for rice. Equally upbeat on the rehabilitation of Ndundumala scheme is one Joyce Vani, a widow of five children.

"Already, I am able to pay tuition for my form 4 child at Blantyre Secondary school through the proceeds of my labour in this scheme. After rehabilitation works, I believe things will get even better," said Vani, adding that her name has since been scrapped off from a list of beneficiaries for relief items in the village because her financial status has improved.

Speaking during the interface

meeting with officials from the project and Zomba district irrigation office, farmers from Nkhawazatha scheme have equally welcomed the project, pointing out that they already have a functional WUA for the effective management of the scheme.

"We were worried of the future of our scheme after the phasing out of the Malawi Drought Resilience and Recovery Project (MDRRP). " But with the new project of MRDRMP the whole community around the scheme is happy," said Christopher Chinsalu, President for Nkhawazatha WUA.

Among other crops, smallholder farmers at Ndundumala and Nkhawazatha irrigation schemes are into rice, tomatoes, onions, and maize farming.

Smiling faces of community members from Ndundumala Irrigation scheme.





Stakeholders during one of the training in Mwanza district.

SAFEGUARDS UNIT DRILLS STAKEHOLDERS On Gender Based Violence and Grievance Redress Mechanism

By Emmanuel Charles Mkomwa
Environmental Specialist

After successfully developing the Grievance Redress Management (GRM) Handbook for Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (MWASIP) and Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP). The Project Management Unit through safeguards Unit embarked on orientation of the district councils on developing the GRM Handbook,

One wonders what GRM is and its importance? GRM is a system by which concerns, queries or clarifications about the project are responded to, problems that arise out of implementation are resolved and complaints are addressed efficiently and effectively. The GRM provides an avenue for continuous stakeholder

feedback and engagement. The implementation of MWASIP and MRDRMP may generate a number of complaints and grievances. Some examples of possible complaints include: objections to use someone's land, encroachment on private land, theft of properties during large gathering as people participate in public works as such negotiation and agreement by consensus between the project implementing teams and affected persons will provide the first avenue to resolve grievances expressed by the individuals on various issues.

Under MWASIP and MRDRMP, GRM Committees have been set up at three levels. Two lower level committees thus Community GRM Committee and Worker GRM, then there is one committee at district level, thus District GRM Committee. There is also an upper level committee at national level, thus

the Project GRM Committee. When all the three platforms have been exhausted to resolve the complaint and the complainant is not satisfied with the decision made by the committees, he or she is advised to go to Court of Law to seek justice.

On the other hand, the council officers including the District Environment Sub-Committee and Project Management Unit (PMU) staff comprising of Technical Team Members, Project Specialists and support staff have been oriented on Gender Based Violence and Sexual Harassment Work Place Policy that MWASIP and MRDRMP Project developed. The main objective of the policy is to protect PMU staff and other stakeholders from unwelcome sexual advances and provide them with reporting guidelines. The Government of Malawi through the Ministry of

The main objective of the policy is to protect PMU staff and other stakeholders from unwelcome sexual advances and provide them with reporting guidelines.

Water and Sanitation which is spearheading the implementation of both projects is committed to providing a safe environment for staff and service providers; the environment free from discrimination on any ground and free from harassment at work including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse. Work place is anywhere where project activities are taking place. It can be at PMU offices in

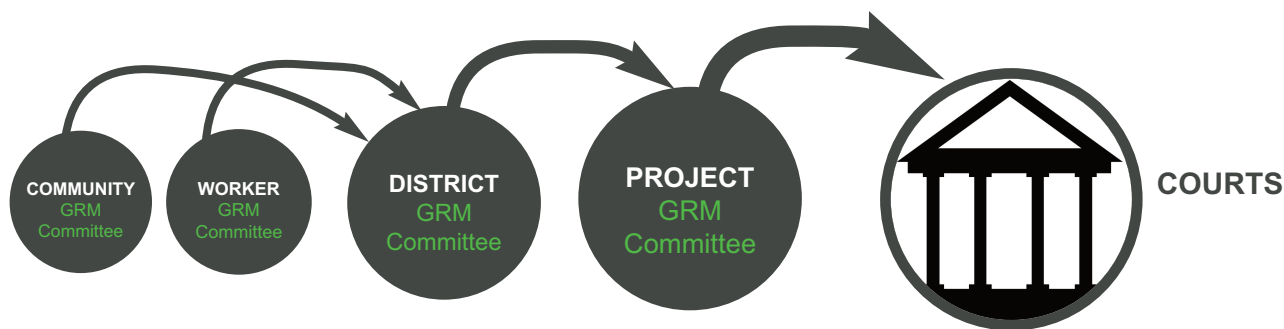
Lilongwe, contractor’s office, district offices and catchment areas among others.

It should be understood that workers spend much of their life time at workplace than homes. They report for work at 7:30 AM and knock off at 4:30 PM with one hour break for lunch from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM. Then they go to their homes and spend an average of three hours with their families from

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM because majority of workers go to bed at 9:00 PM . They wake up at 5:30 A.M and start preparing for work and preparing kids for school up 7:30 AM. This shows that on average 8 hours is spend at workplace and 5 hours at home on normal active day hence, a work place environment must be comfortable and conducive to any person.



-Orientation of PMU Sstaff on gender-based violence.



MWASIP and MRDRMP grievance redress pathways.

WATER SUPPLY

Improves delivery of health care services

Grey Betha, a midwife technician at Osiyana Health Centre, knows how difficult it is to work in a maternity ward without running water.

Since 2016, Betha worked at the health centre that serves a population of 4077 in Nsanje district with dry taps.

“It has been chaotic,” he says. “We could not sterilise dirty equipment properly with water drawn from a borehole.”

He says this let down all efforts to help women have safe motherhood at the facility.

Every year, World Health Organisation (WHO) and sanitation charity Water Aid report that half a million babies die before they are one-month-old due to lack of clean water and safe sanitation in hospitals.

Whether natural labour or Caesarean section, Betha says the process had to take a snail’s pace because of lack of water, risking lives of mothers and babies.

The challenge also resulted into poor hygiene and sanitation at the facility.

Betha says it was sad that the maternity ward became a breeding ground for infectious diseases to mothers and babies. The environment was not safe for the hospital staff, too.

Mostly, the facility had dirty equipment that put the health personal in dilemma to operate on mothers and patient with such tools or search for water first.

Betha says they were always caught between a rock and a hard place deciding on how to serve the people well.

Manyowa villager, Joyce Joseph, says the situation threatened people, especially expectant women, to seek medical care at the facility.



Kapangazina uses running water to wash hands

She says most women preferred to give birth at home where inadequate care and attention also brought life-threatening complications to babies and mothers.

“All was well at Out-Patient

Department (OPD), but it was difficult to get wounds dressed. Any admission to the hospital brought patients to the risk of being infected with poor hygiene-related diseases. We could see the dedication of the staff, but

shortage of water frustrated them and denied us our right to health and safe motherhood,” explains the 41 year-old woman in Traditional Authority (T/A) Mlolo.

The health facility’s medical assistant, Tadala Kapangazina says lack of water also forced the staff to report late for work.

They had to walk long distance to the community’s borehole—where they could spend four hours in the morning to get water for their home use.

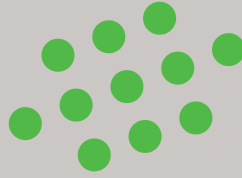
Not anymore. Kapangazina says now they provide health care services to the communities as desired.

This followed an installation of four solar powered boreholes and establishment of Sankhulani Water Supply Scheme that uses gravity to provide the facility with running water in 2020.

The improvement is attributed to the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) that helped change the situation at the health centre.

The component was triggered in March, 2019 after Malawi experienced severe weather conditions that resulted in flooding in some parts of the country and His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi declared a national disaster. The floods severely affected crops, roads, education facilities and water supply schemes.

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi declared a state national disaster. CERC was triggered



and a financing of US\$10 million was allocated from the Malawi Disaster Recovery and Resilience Project (MDRRP) Subcomponents to activate CERC activities.

The CERC was set to procure and provide food items to the disaster affected population, restore services disrupted by the flooding disaster through rehabilitation of infrastructure such as damaged roads, schools, water supply and sanitation systems and water resources.

Kapangazina, who is also the in-charge, says the coming in of running water helps them to discharge their duties effectively.

“With the water, we are well equipped to serve the people in all departments thoroughly. Hospital activities revolve around running water that allows people to enjoy their right to healthcare services,” he says.

The development helps the facility to contribute to the country’s efforts of achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Three, which aspires to ensure health and well-being for all through enhancing inclusive and sustainable universal health coverage by 2030.

Joseph says the project has encouraged the communities to seek services at the facility.

“It is easy for the staff to keep the environment clean and safe now. There is nothing stopping us from delivering babies here because the water allows the dedicated staff to work effectively with clean equipment all the time,” she says with a smile.

The area’s water monitoring assistant, Daud Chiwaya, says they promote community ownership of the initiative to sustain water supply to the facility.

“The good thing is they know how lack of water affected lives. They used to come to draw water from boreholes to be used here, but that is history and they are eager to protect equipment by supplying the centre with water,” he says.

Wellford Shonze of Semu Village concurred with Chiwaya on enhanced security, saying they do not want to experience poor service delivery again due to lack of running water at the facility.

Senior civil engineer at the ministry, Mazaza Mwafulirwa, says they are delighted with improved service delivery courtesy of the water.

He says they have engaged the communities in various activities to properly manage the equipment.

“We have trained water users association (WUA) on management of the scheme to keep the water running for a long time. There is need to recruit a local operator who will ensure resources are used wisely and to sustain the equipment,” he says.



Daud Chiwaya,
water monitoring assistant



Joyce Joseph



Wellford Shonze

COMETH

THE RESTORATION OF LIVELIHOOD



By Chipiliro Khamula

At around 3:00 AM, Senior GVH Chiphwembwe of T/A Malemia in Nsanje district heard a desperate knock on her door. She knew something was amiss.

“Half dressed, I left the house. There were no formalities, no usual nitty-gritty of greeting one another. No sooner had I noticed the presence of members of the Village Civil Protection Committees on my doorstep than I figured out that a calamity had engulfed the village. I joined the committee members to assess the situation around the village.

“Houses were covered in water, people were destitute and there was no better option than to seek refuge at a Community Based Care Centre,” recalls Chiphwembwe of the ordeal following the March 2019 Cyclone-Idai induced floods.

She said since the disaster, people’s livelihood got stretched beyond measure and that it would take a miracle to recover.

“People lost most of their belongings. Crops, livestock and household property were all washed away,” said Chiphwembwe.

According to a Post Disaster Needs Assessment report (PDNA) on the March 2019-Cyclone Idai-induced floods, the disaster which affected 17 local authorities of the country, left deep and wide impacts on various aspects of human and social development at individual, household and community levels. The affected population included those who lost their lives (60); those who were injured (672); and those who were rendered homeless because of the event (99,728).

The report further estimated that 500,000 farmers and small micro-



Part of the footage of the flooding water that destroyed property and lives.

entrepreneurs at least lost a portion of their income because of the event. The effects of the disaster on the infrastructure and productive sectors further compounded the impacts on socio-economic conditions, including increased poverty, declines in health status, poor environmental conditions and a decline in the quality of education of affected populations, thereby putting people’s livelihood at a standstill.

The PDNA stated that most significant impact on the population occurred in the district of Nsanje, followed by Chikwawa and Machinga.

As for Chiphwembwe, she says all is not lost for disturbed livelihoods, having gotten wind of the Malawi Resilience and Disaster Risk Management Project (MRDRMP) which among others aims to build resilience of communities to disasters.

“The project is hope for restoration of our livelihood. We had farming schemes that were washed away and we have been struggling to get back to our feet. We are looking forward to restore our lives and we are geared to give all our energy for the successful implementation of the project,” said Chiphwembwe.