GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

NATIONAL WATER POLICY

…… 2023

Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Tikwere House
City Centre
Private Bag 390
Lilongwe 3
MALAWI
Telephone Number: +2651770344

FOREWORD

The Government of Malawi recognises the important role that the water sector plays in the sustainable socio-economic development of the country. The sector has direct linkages with agriculture, industrial development, health, tourism, energy generation, fisheries, forestry and other socio-economic productive sectors. As such, sustainable development, utilization, conservation and management of water resources are taken as important aspects in the national development agenda which requires supportive policies and legislation. It is against this background that the National Water Policy (2005) was revised in order to provide a new policy direction and guidance to all stakeholders by addressing existing gaps and emerging issues identified in the water sector.

Although Malawi is endowed with surface water and groundwater resources, these resources are facing serious threats of depletion and degradation from several factors, compounded by climate change, climate variability and population growth. The revised National Water Policy, therefore, outlines policy directions and strategies on how best to tackle these challenges in an integrated manner in order to effectively contribute towards achieving the National Development Agenda as outlined in the Malawi 2063 (MW2063) under enabler number 5 on Human capital Development which promotes clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Furthermore, the Policy contributes towards the attainment of regional, continental and international commitments such as the African Union Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The Government of Malawi is fully committed to the implementation of the Policy and urges all stakeholders in the water sector and beyond to adhere to and fully implement the Policy. It is, therefore, my sincere hope that the Policy shall provide overall guidance and reference for mindset change in order to fully embrace integrated and sustainable water resources development, management and utilisation in the country.

Abida Sidik Mia. MP
MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION

PREFACE

The sector goal through this Policy is to ensure sustainable development and management of water resources in order to provide water of sufficient quantities and acceptable quality for multipurpose use and provision of potable water supply and waterborne sanitation services for socio economic development while enhancing the country's natural ecosystems.

Government commissioned the review of the National Water Policy (2005) in order to address growing competing water resources development, utilization, conservation and management demands and challenges. These emanate from various factors such as the ever-increasing population growth; unequal distribution of water resources in time and space; uncertainties in the rainfall pattern and amounts; lack of harmonized water sector policies and plans; and catchment degradation.

The National Water Policy was developed in line with the charters, treaties, conventions, protocols, declarations, laws, policies and guidelines on water at both international and domestic level. At National level, the Malawi 2063 among others, guided the process of reviewing the current Policy.

The National Water Policy was developed through a consultative process with various stakeholders. Some of them are local communities; traditional authorities; local authorities; Ministries, Departments and Agencies; private sector; academia; research institutions; Civil Society Organisations; Faith Based Organisations; Non-Governmental Organisations; and development partners.

The successful implementation of this National Water Policy will require concerted efforts by all the stakeholders. I, therefore, call upon all the stakeholders to join hands in order to achieve the noble goals set out in this Policy.

Elias Chimulambe
SECRETARY FOR WATER AND SANITATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	:	Artificial Intelligence
AU	:	African Union
CBM	:	Community Based Management
CBO	:	Community Based Organisation
CMC	:	Catchment Management Committee
CSO	:	Civil Society Organisation
COVID-19	:	Corona Virus Disease-19
DCCMS	:	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
DHRMD	:	Department of Human Resources Management and Development
DoDMA	:	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DRM	:	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	:	Disaster Risk Reduction
EAD	:	Environmental Affairs Department
EFR	:	Environmental Flow Requirement
EIA	:	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	:	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
GDP	:	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	:	Geographical Information System
GoM	:	Government of Malawi
IAH	:	International Association of Hydrogeologists
ICT	:	Information and Communication Technology
IWRM	:	Integrated Water Resources Management
JSR	:	Joint Sector Review
LIKSP	:	Local Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices
MAR	:	Managed Aquifer Recharge
MBS	:	Malawi Bureau of Standards
MDA	:	Ministry, Department and Agency
MDG	:	Millennium Development Goal
MERA	:	Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority
M&E	:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MIS	:	Management Information System
MoFEA	:	Ministry of Finance and Economic affairs
MoGCDSW	:	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare
MoJCA	:	Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
MoLGRD	:	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MoU	:	Memorandum of Understanding
MW2063	:	Malawi 2063
NGO	:	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRW	:	Non-Revenue Water
NWDP	:	National Water Development Programme
NWRA	:	National Water Resources Authority
O&M	:	Operation and Maintenance
OPC	:	Office of the President and Cabinet
ORT	:	Other Recurrent Transaction

PPP	:	Public-Private Partnership
R&D	:	Research and Development
SADC	:	Southern African Development Community
SDG	:	Sustainable Development Goal
SOP	:	Standard Operating Procedures
SWG	:	Sector Working Group
TWRMU	:	Transboundary Water Resources Management Unit
UN	:	United Nations
VLOM	:	Village Level Operation and Maintenance
WAMIS	:	Water Sector Management Information System
WASH	:	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASWAp	:	Water Sector Wide Approach
WEF	:	Water, Energy and Food
WESNET	:	Water and Environmental Sanitation Network
WMO	:	World Meteorological Organisation
WPC	:	Water Point Committee
WRA	:	Water Resources Area
WRU	:	Water Resources Unit
WUA	:	Water Users Association
ZAMCOM	:	Zambezi Watercourse Commission

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Term	Definition
1. Access to Potable Water	Ability to have and use water that is safe for drinking.
2. Affordability	An acceptable level of costs, to be borne by a particular class of consumers, as recognized by international standards for utility charges, having regard to such factors as domestic income, trading income, levels of subsidy or subvention to a class of consumers and the requirements of the service provider to generate sufficient financial resources to carry out its core business.
3. Aquifer	An underground permeable, fractured or sedimentary geologic formation that holds and transmits groundwater.
4. Baseflow	Groundwater flowing from an aquifer into a a surface water body sustaining the baseline flow when there is no rainfall runoff.
5. Buffer Zone	A strip of vegetated or bare land along a riverbank/shoreline of a watercourse, which acts as a screen for protecting the water body or a receptor from environmental degradation.
6. Catchment Area	A defined geographic area where precipitation that falls and naturally drains into a specific watercourse.
7. Civil Society Organisation	A wide array of organizations such as community groups, non-governmental organizations, labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, professional associations and foundations.
8. Climate Change	A change of climate that is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods. These are long term changes lasting several decades.
9. Climate Change Adaptation	Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
10. Climate Change Mitigation	Reduction of the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, either by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the sinks for these gases (see carbon sink, carbon capture and storage) or geo-engineering.
11. Climate Variability	Variations in the mean state of the climate at all spatial and temporal scales beyond that of individual weather events. These are short term variations lasting a few years.
12. Community Based Management	A management system that involves full participation of communities in the management of facilities or projects.
13. Community Based Organisation	A non-profit, non-governmental or charitable organization that represents community needs and facilitates community efforts for community development.
14. Disaster Risk Management	Application of disaster risk reduction policies and strategies with a view to preventing new disaster risks, reducing existing disaster risks and managing residual risks, contributing to the strengthening of resilience and reduction of losses.
15. Disaster Risk Mitigation	The implementation of disaster risk reduction measures with a view to lessening the severity of disasters.
16. Disaster Risk Reduction	A systematic approach to identifying, assessing and reducing the risks of disaster. It aims to reduce socio-economic vulnerabilities to disaster and also deals with the environmental and other hazards that trigger them.
17. Ecosystem	A system formed by the interaction of community of organisms with their physical environment.
18. Effluent	Wastewater or other fluid originating from a domestic or agricultural or industrial activity, whether treated or untreated and whether discharged directly or indirectly into the environment.

19. Green Environment	Development that takes into consideration of the environment.
20. Integrated Water Resources Management	A process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and the environment.
21. Managed Aquifer Recharge	The intentional or purposeful recharge of water to aquifers for subsequent use or for environmental benefit.
22. Market Center	A central place for exchange of goods and services by/among people from the surrounding area.
23. Pollution	Contamination or other alteration of the biological, chemical and physical properties of water including changes in colour, odour, taste, temperature or turbidity; or such discharge of any gaseous, liquid, solid or other substances into any water or public stream; as will, or is likely to, create a nuisance or render the water as the case may be, detrimental, harmful or injurious to the health and safety welfare of the public or any section thereof or any consumer or user of the water or birds, fish or other aquatic ecosystems, livestock or wildlife.
24. Potable Water	Water that meets the standards for drinking purposes.
25. Riparian Country	A country through or along which portion of a transboundary river flow or a common water body lies.
26. Rural Water Supply	All water that is provided and used for potable use in rural areas.
27. Sewerage System	A network of pipes, pumps and mains for collecting wastewater or sewage from a residential or industrial area.
28. Unaccounted-for-Water	The difference between water produced and consumed. It refers to all physical water losses.
29. Urban Water Supply	All water that is provided and used for potable use in urban areas.
30. Water-Energy-Food Nexus	Interconnections that exist among water, energy and food.
31. Water Area	The area declared under relevant section of the Act regulating water supply under which a service provider has been given jurisdiction to carry on the business of supplying water or providing waterborne sanitation services.
32. Waterborne Sanitation	The principles and practices relating to the collection, removal or disposal of human excreta, household wastewater and water point hygiene as they impact upon people and the environment and the promotion of appropriate health and hygiene awareness and behavior and acceptable, affordable and sustainable sanitation services.
33. Watercourse	A system of surface and ground waters consisting by virtue of their physical relationship a unitary whole normally flowing into a common terminus such as the sea, lake or aquifer.
34. Water Kiosk	Booths for the sale of tap water.
35. Water Point	A point at which water is collected.
36. Water Scarcity	A situation in which there is insufficient freshwater resources to meet the human and environmental demands of a given area, that is, less than 1,000 cubic meters per capita per year.
37. Water Stress	A situation in which water resources in a region or country are insufficient for its needs, that is, less than 1,700 cubic meters per capita per year, but greater than 1,000 cubic meters per capita per year.
38. Water Utility	A provider of potable water.
39. Waterworks	All reservoirs, dams, weirs, tanks, cisterns, tunnels, boreholes, filter beds, conduits, aqueducts, sewers, septic tanks and all other structures or appliances used or constructed for obtaining, storage, conveyance, supply, measurement or regulation

	of water, wastewater or sewage which are used or capable of being used by or on behalf of the service providers, and includes any land occupied by, or under the control of any such service provider(s) for the purposes of such structures or appliances, but does not include any service equipment.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This National Water Policy provides guidance to all stakeholders in the water sector to sustainably develop, manage, utilize and conserve the country's water resources with a view to meeting the goals set out in the Malawi 2063 (MW2063), and the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goal number 6 (SDGs) which aims at ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The goal of the National Water Policy is to guide sustainable development and management of water resources for multipurpose use and provision of potable water supply and waterborne sanitation services for socio economic development while enhancing the country's natural ecosystems. The Policy has focused on seven broad priority areas, namely: *(1) Water Resources Management and Development; (2) Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation; (3) Disaster Risk Management; (4) Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Development; (5) Sectoral Coordination, Financing and Investment; (6) Legal, Regulatory and Governance Framework;* and *(7) Crosscutting Issues*, which include: Gender Mainstreaming, Equity and Inclusion; Green Environment and Climate Change; Research and Development; and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
Strict adherence to the guiding principles of the National Water Policy will ensure that water in sufficient quantities and of acceptable quality is readily available for various uses to meet the demands of the population. This includes provision of efficient and effective water services to meet the basic requirements for all. The Policy is also beneficial for sustained economic growth, food and energy security and enhancement of the country's natural ecosystems.

1.1 Background

The water sector plays an important role in the sustainable socio-economic development of the country. As such, whenever the water resources equilibrium is disturbed, all sectors suffer; including energy, fisheries, forestry, agriculture, transport, industry, health as well as households, just to mention a few. Therefore, water development, allocation, utilization and conservation must be guided by a robust policy framework and good strategies in order to achieve set policy objectives. To this effect, the Government of Malawi (GoM) developed its first coherent Water Resources Management Policy and Strategies in May 1994 to guide the water and sanitation sector. However, the 1994 Policy largely focused on the delivery of water services whose major outcome was, *inter alia*, the creation of the Ministry responsible for Water Affairs and the three regional Water Boards, namely: Northern, Central and Southern Region Water Boards; and the reconstitution of the Water Resources Board, and Blantyre and Lilongwe Water Boards. The 1994 Water Resources Management Policy and Strategies was revised and approved by Government in 2000 to strengthen the management aspect of water resources, which was considered weak in the 1994 Policy. The 2000 Policy was reviewed in 2005 as it was found to be verbose; and in some cases, vague. Furthermore, the Policy did not clearly articulate issues it advocated for.

The National Water Policy (2005) was meant to address all aspects of water including resource management, development and service delivery. The Policy articulated a new water sector vision of '*Water and Sanitation for All, always*. The new vision embraced and reflected the then Government's overall development objectives of poverty reduction and economic prosperity; and at the same time aimed at conforming to the national, regional and global trends and the

requirements as reflected under the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). During the implementation of the National Water Policy (2005), the Government registered a number of achievements. These included the enactment of the Water Resources Act in 2013 and the development of Water Resources Regulations in 2018. The adoption of Water Resources Act (2013) led to the establishment of the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) and its regional offices. Other achievements during the period comprised the implementation of the Shire River Basin Management Programme which, *inter alia*, included the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Kamuzu Barrage at Liwonde and the establishment of the Kamuzu Barrage Operational Model (KABOM); the development of Dam Design Manual; the development of Technical Manual for Water Wells and Groundwater Monitoring Systems; the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); the production of the National Hydrogeological and Water Quality Atlas (2015 and 2018); and the development of the National Water Resources Master Plan (2017).

Government also registered several achievements in the context of provision of water supply services, through implementation of various water related projects. As a result, the average potable water services coverage increased from 66.4 per cent in 2005 to 88.3 per cent in 2020 and the population with safe drinking water in urban, peri-urban and town centres serviced by water boards reached 3.6 million. Furthermore, the sector established Water Users Associations (WUAs) as one of the critical water supply management structures in local communities to manage water supply systems as mini water boards; developed District Water Supply and Sanitation Operational Manual; and Guidelines for WUAs, Water Point Committees (WPCs) and Area Mechanics, among others.

1.2 Current Status of the Water Sector

1.2.1 Water Resources Management and Development

Although Malawi has abundant surface water and groundwater resources, these are of variable quality and quantity, unevenly distributed in time and space and are subjected to poor conservation and management.

A key challenge in water resources management is that few programs and projects have applied Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) principles as this has been on a pilot basis only. Additionally, most catchment areas in the country are severely degraded due to rapid population growth; unsustainable and poor agricultural practices; weak and uncoordinated institutional structures; high demand for biomass fuel resulting in illegal charcoal production and the wanton cutting down of trees for firewood, among other factors. Furthermore, some institutions established in the Water Resources Act (2013) to protect and manage catchments have not yet been operationalised.

Surface water is mainly utilized in irrigation. The country's agricultural water withdrawal stands at 2.386 billion cubic meters per year while water withdrawal values for municipal and industrial uses stands at 0.285 billion cubic meters per year and 0.0477 billion cubic meters per year, respectively. Additionally, surface water resources are significant in the energy sector as nearly all the electricity used in the country is hydropower in nature. There are about 830 dams (15 large dams only) in the country, with estimated total storage capacity of 100 million cubic meters against

a minimum potential of 3,192 million cubic meters. Multi-purpose water storage in the country is, however, still lagging behind. The National Water Resources Master Plan (1986) and the Water Resources Investment Strategy (2011) identified a number of potential dam sites along major rivers in the country but none of the dam sites has been developed so far.

Currently, most of the river gauging stations and those being used for monitoring lake level fluctuation are dilapidated and non-functional.

The total renewable groundwater stands at 2.5 billion cubic meters per year, with an average first water strike value of 17.7 meters.

However, there is lack of managed aquifers recharge systems in the country despite the high reliance on groundwater resources. This has a potential to reduce groundwater availability, decrease the capacity of water supply resilience, increase the vulnerability of groundwater to climate change and climate variability, increase hydrological variability and increase the magnitude of floods. The approach of developing high yielding deep boreholes (with adequate hydrogeological studies) has also not been widely adopted in the country.
The current groundwater monitoring network needs to be optimized by, among other things, installing more groundwater monitoring stations throughout the country and improving the coverage of vertical scale of geological formations

Despite having a policy direction on the recommended hand pumps, the country has witnessed a proliferation of different types of pumps as such, there are concerns of poor quality and unavailability of spare parts for some of these pumps.

1.2.1.1 Water Quality

Generally, water resources in Malawi are increasingly degraded as a result of increasing levels of sedimentation, biological and chemical contamination, effluent discharges and indiscriminate disposal of solid wastes in water bodies.The sector does not conduct regular monitoring of the quality of water resources due to financial challenges. There is also inadequate equipment, well-trained personnel and infrastructure for water quality monitoring, like water quality laboratories. Furthermore, the Central Water Quality Laboratory is not accredited.

1.2.1.2 Transboundary Cooperation

A Transboundary Water Resources Management Unit (TWRMU) was established in the Ministry responsible for water affairs. This Unit forms the basis for regional dialogue on the development and management of transboundary water resources However, it lacks specific functions in the national legislation and a structure that is inclusive to manage transboundary water resources. Existing transboundary water cooperation arrangements concerning the transboundary watercourses between Malawi and its neighbours are few. Further, Malawi has not yet ratified or acceded to the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) Agreement.

Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation

Sustainable use of water is the underlying principle of water development, management, utilization and conservation. The water suppliers and users in Malawi need to adopt the concept of demand management in order to ensure cost effective water use. There is a pressing need for increased and improved water delivery services in the country due to high demand created through the increased number of users in the rural, urban and peri-urban areas, agriculture/irrigation, water transport/navigation, fisheries, hydropower generation, mining, manufacturing, forestry, ecotourism, recreation services and ecological sustenance, among other users. At present, 88.3 per cent of the total population in Malawi has access to safe drinking water.

1.2.1.3 Urban, Peri-urban, Town and Market centres

Currently, percentage of access to improved water sources in urban, peri-urban, town and market centres is at 97.1 per cent from 85 per cent in 2005 and the main improved water source is a standpipe which is used by 64.9 per cent of the population in urban, peri-urban, town and market centres. On average, the population with access to safe drinking water in urban, peri-urban and town centres serviced by Water Boards stands at 3.6 million. Although the service coverage by Water Boards is very high, this percentage masks the intermittent water supply in some of the service areas. The water supply systems in the urban areas are faced by a number of challenges including dilapidated infrastructure, high debtor days by Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Non-Revenue Water (NRW) which goes up to 50 per cent for Blantyre Water Board.

1.2.1.4 Rural Water Supply

The percentage of access to improved water source in rural areas increased from 64 per cent in 2005 to 88.3 per cent as of 2020 (NSO-IHS 5) and the main source of potable water is the borehole which is used by 73.9 per cent of the households. Currently, the country has about 60,300 boreholes; 13,200 protected dug wells; 100 rural gravity fed water schemes; and 265 protected springs. However, 11.7% of the population is still accessing water from unprotected sources of water. It is assumed that each protected spring and shallow well serves 120 people, borehole fitted with a hand pump serves 250 people, borehole fitted with submersible pump serves a population of not less than 1,500 people; and for gravity-fed system, the population served depends on the number of water points in the system, all within a walking distance of 500-meter radius.

1.2.1.5 Waterborne Sanitation

About 15 per cent of wastewater generated is treated in wastewater treatment plants in Malawi. The Country has very few wastewater (conventional and ponds) treatment plants that are also partially functional. Access to improved sanitation (toilet facility) was at 61.9 per cent in 2005 but declined to 35.2 per cent in 2020, partly due to weak and poor-quality latrines and poor access to potable water. The decrease in sanitation coverage could be attributed to among other things, low investment in the subsector despite population increase, low uptake of improved sanitation facilities and poor quality of latrines not befitting the improved toilet facility definition as stated in the Technical Manuals for National Sanitation and Hygiene and the National Sanitation Policy (2008).

Limited access to potable water has negative implications in infection prevention efforts at individual, household, community and institutional levels thereby increasing maternal and neonatal deaths from sepsis. Further, pandemics such as Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) have dictated the 'new normal' underscoring the vital need to guarantee access to waterborne sanitation.

1.2.2 Disaster Risk Management

Malawi is vulnerable to extreme impacts of climate change especially floods and droughts; and is also vulnerable to other disasters such as epidemics and pandemics. Scientific evidence shows an increase in frequency, intensity and magnitude over the last two decades of extreme weather events in Malawi. These events include prolonged dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine floods and flash floods. Climate change has hence emerged as a major developmental issue that has adversely impacted on food security, water quality and energy security

According to Malawi Disaster Recovery Framework, floods cause substantial damage to water supply facilities, hydrometric stations and dams, as well as human settlements. This makes access to potable water a challenge. Disaster risk management is a cross cutting issue which, if not incorporated in standard designs and construction of culverts and dykes, leads to damage of water facilities during floods

Apart from the challenges highlighted above the sector is also facing problems in its institutional arrangements and capacity development, sectoral coordination, financing and investment, legal, regulatory and governance framework and other cross cutting issues.

1.3 Linkages with other relevant policies and legislation

The Policy is linked to a number of legal frameworks and policies at national and international level. They include the following:

1.3.1 National Level

1.3.1.1 The Malawi Constitution

The Malawi domestic legal framework on water is based on the laws and policies that the GoM has adopted and enforced over the years. The right to water falls into the category of economic, social and cultural rights together with the right to health, education and housing, among others. Under the Constitution of Malawi, economic and social rights fall into principles of national policy provided under section 13 of the Constitution of Malawi. While the right to health, education and environment are expressly provided under principles of national policy in the constitution, water is not expressly included on the list. However, it would be fairly argued that issues of the right to health and good environment include right to water.

1.3.1.2 Malawi 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan (MIP- 1)

The Malawi 2063 (MW2063) aims to transforming Malawi into a wealthy and self-reliant

industrialized 'upper middle-income country' by the year 2063. In order to achieve this goal, the water sector will play a critical role in spurring the requisite social economic development in the country. Under Enabler 5 of the MW2063: Human Capital Development; GoM commits itself to take lead and rally partners and communities in promoting clean water, sanitation and hygiene practices at individual and household level.

1.3.1.3 National Sanitation Policy

The main objectives of this Policy are to achieve universal access to improved sanitation; to improve health and hygiene behavior; and to ensure the common acceptance and use of recycling of human waste to protect the environment and create wealth. The National Water Policy is essential in achieving improved sanitation, health and hygiene.

1.3.1.4 National Agriculture Policy

The overall goal of the Policy is to achieve sustainable agricultural transformation that will result in significant growth of the agricultural sector, expand incomes for farm households, improve food and nutrition security for all Malawians, and increase agricultural exports. The Policy addresses issues of water management as an important component in improved agriculture output on its priority areas number one and two on sustainable agriculture production and productivity and sustainable irrigation development, respectively. The National Water Policy, therefore, becomes an important instrument in achieving the aspirations of the National Agriculture Policy as stipulated on these priority areas.

1.3.1.5 National Irrigation Policy

The Policy aims at addressing critical issues affecting the irrigation sector in Malawi that include spatial and temporal water shortages; customary land tenure disputes; and poor operation and maintenance of infrastructure. Availability of water resources is a critical element in the development and management of irrigation systems in Malawi. The Policy priority areas number one and two have put much emphasis on the importance of water. Priority area one on sustainable irrigation development and in policy statement number (viii) has emphasized that the Policy will facilitate development of water resources for sustaining water availability throughout the irrigation season. The Policy priority two on sustainable irrigation management and in policy statement number (i) encourages catchment management practices for the benefit of irrigating and non-irrigating communities.

1.3.1.6 National Environmental Policy

The overall goal of the Policy is to promote sustainable social and economic development through the sound management of the environment and natural resources. The Policy provides an overall framework against which relevant sectoral environmental policies are formulated and implemented to ensure that these are consistent with the principles of sustainable development. The water sector is highly affected by any changes in environment hence the Environmental Policy is key in sustainable water management and fulfilment of the objectives of the water policy.

1.3.1.7 National Disaster Risk Management Policy

The goal of the Policy is to sustainably reduce disaster losses in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of individuals, communities and the nation. It ensures that disaster risk reduction is mainstreamed in sector plans, policies and budgets at all levels; that there is increased resilience of communities to disasters; and that there is improved preparedness for, response to, and recovery from disasters including water related disasters.

1.3.1.8 National Meteorological Policy

The main goal of the Policy is to contribute towards enhanced meteorological services to support the socioeconomic development of Malawi. The Policy seeks to ensure the availability of meteorological data and information that can provide the scientific basis of climate change in Malawi. The Policy notes that almost all water resources in Malawi originate from rainwater, and weather has a direct impact on availability of water in Malawi. It notes that meteorological data and information informs planning of programmes and activities for various sectors including water,

1.3.1.9 National Forest Policy

The goal of the Policy is conservation, establishment, protection and management of trees and forests for the sustainable development of Malawi. Since forests are the main catchments of the rivers that supply water in the country, sustainable management of forests is crucial in catchment management, the protection of the environment, conservation of biodiversity and climate change management and conservation of the water resources.

1.3.1.10 National Energy Policy

The overall goal of the Policy is to provide a guiding framework for increased access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, efficient and modern energy for all sectors. Hydropower generation is the main source of electricity in Malawi which is dependent on sustainable availability of water resources in the right quantities, always.

1.3.1.11 National Education Policy

The National Education Policy is implemented through the National Education Sector Plan. The goal of the Plan is to ensure equitable access, relevant quality and management and governance in order to improve the Malawian education system. Access to potable water improves education in many ways because learners use less time walking for water giving them more time for school; school attendance for both boys and girls increases; and ensures proper sanitation that reduces girls to drop out of school once they reach puberty. Access to potable water minimizes ill-health and, therefore, lessens the number of sick days for learners and teachers.

1.3.1.12 National Gender Policy

The purpose of the Policy is to strengthen gender mainstreaming and women empowerment at all levels in order to facilitate attainment of gender equality and equity in Malawi. Limited access to water affects women and girls more in their participation socio -economic activities including school attendance of girls.

1.3.2 Linkages with relevant international instruments

The National Water Policy is also aligned to Malawi's international obligations, including regional frameworks, goals and policies.

1.3.2.1 Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses

SADC countries adopted Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses as a blueprint on how countries can manage and work together on shared water bodies. Within this protocol, there is also the Zambezi Watercourse Commission (ZAMCOM) which is an agreement for member countries to share water resources within the Zambezi Basin. Malawi is within the Zambezi Basin.

1.3.2.2 Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Water Policy

The SADC adopted the Regional Water Policy in 2005 with an aim of providing a framework for sustainable, integrated and coordinated development, utilisation, protection and control of national and transboundary water resources in the SADC region. The Policy provides for various thematic areas that would guide member states like Malawi in developing, reviewing and drafting new policies and laws.

1.3.2.3 SADC Water-Energy-Food Nexus

The SADC Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus Governance Framework was developed and adopted in 2020. The overall objective of the WEF-Nexus approach is to support the transformation required to meet increasing water, energy and food security demand in a context of climate change in the SADC Region. The Nexus approach highlights the interdependencies between achieving water, energy and food security for human well-being while ensuring ecologically sustainable use of globally essential resources.

1.3.2.4 Africa Water Vision (2025)

The aim of the Vision is to have equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, social-economic development, regional cooperation and environment. The Vision focuses on strengthening governance of water resources, improving water wisdom, meeting urgent water needs and strengthening the financial base for the desired water future.

1.3.2.5 United Nations Charter on Sustainable Development Goals (2030)

The UN developed SDGs with the aim of ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity, now and in the future. Under SDGs Goal Number 6, all countries including Malawi, are urged to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. The UN has expressly stated under Resolution 64/92 that the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights.

1.4 Problem Statement

The water sector continues to grapple with the problem of unequal distribution of water resources in time and space, inadequate and poor-quality water resources for various usage. These problems have arisen due to several challenges including severe catchment degradation; climate change, and inadequate adoption of Integrated Water Resources Management. Malawi has become a water-stressed country with renewable water resources currently below 1100 m^3/capita (person)/year.

The sector is also faced with the problem of limited access to water supply caused by unserviced areas aged and non-functional water supply infrastructure, several climate related issues threatening the sustainability of water supply services, inadequacies in the regulatory frameworks in the water sector, among other challenges.

These problems, coupled with increasing population; limited capacity development and financing; conflicting policies and legislation, and inadequate integration of crosscutting issues pose a serious threat to the general management of water resources in the country and the efficient delivery of water supply and waterborne sanitation services to the citizenry.

1.5 Purpose of the Policy

The water sector plays a critical role in sustaining the country's social economic development. However, there are a lot of problems and challenges which are increasingly threatening the country's water resources and delivery of water supply and water borne sanitation services. These need to be addressed urgently through appropriate and clear policies on water resources, management, development and water supply and water borne sanitation service delivery.

Furthermore, this policy will act as a guiding tool for improving disaster risk management practices, institutional arrangements and capacity, sectorial coordination and financing and investment and for effectively mainstreaming and integrating crosscutting issues in the water sector such as gender, green environment, climate change, R&D and ICT.

Since some of Malawi's water resources are shared with the neighbouring countries and are part of the Zambezi River Basin, the policy will provide guidance on management of these trans-boundary waters in order to conform to regional and international agreements and protocols without compromising the country's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

2 BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS

2.1 Policy Goal

The goal of this Policy is to promote sustainable development and management of water resources in order to provide water of sufficient quantities and acceptable quality for multipurpose use and provision of potable water supply and waterborne sanitation services for socio economic development while enhancing the country's natural ecosystems.

2.2 Policy Outcomes

The following outcomes are expected to be achieved with the implementation of the Policy:

1. Improved adoption and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management by all stakeholders
2. Increased storage capacity of surface water and groundwater resources for multipurpose use,
3. Increased access to potable water supply and waterborne sanitation
4. Increased resilience of the country to adverse impacts of flood and drought hazards, and epidemics and pandemics;
5. Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources, water supply and water borne sanitation services in the country;
6. Improved mainstreaming of cross cutting issues in the water sector, including in institutions, programs, projects and budgets.

2.3 Policy Objectives

The objectives of the National Water Policy are:

1. To reinforce the adoption and application of Integrated Water Resources Management principles in the water sector for the efficient and sustainable development, utilisation and management of water resources;
2. To promote prudent catchment management to sustain the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater resources;
3. To promote active participation of citizenry in water resources development management and utilisation.
4. To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply and waterborne sanitation services in the country;
5. To promote fair pricing and charging systems of water services that takes cognizance of both the right to water and water as a social and economic good in order to institute cost recovery principles;
6. To guarantee water security at all times
7. To strengthen the country's resilience to the adverse effects of flood and drought hazards, and epidemics and pandemics;
8. To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework;

9. To improve public and private financing, investment, as well as strengthen proper coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the water sector;
10. To strengthen the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector.

2.4 Core values and Guiding Principles

The implementation of the Policy shall be guided by the following core values and guiding principles:

2.4.1 Core values

1) Efficiency
2) Excellence
3) Sustainability
4) Innovation and creativity
5) Collaboration
6) Transparency
7) Accountability
8) Equity

2.4.2 Guiding Principles

1) Integration
Integrating domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental needs into water catchment management.

2) Participatory
Encouraging participatory processes that include all groups of water users.

3) Inclusiveness
Emphasizing the role of women, youths and vulnerable groups in water management.

4) Cost effectiveness
Providing water supply services using appropriate cost-effective technologies in accordance with standards

5) Water Demand Management
Water demand management approaches shall be adopted in all cases of water resources development, utilization, management and water allocations to ensure equitable access.

6) **Evidence based decision making**
Water regulation shall be based on reliable continuous data collection, management and analysis to ensure accurate assessment of water resources and dissemination of information for effective planning of water resources development and utilization.

7) **Prioritization of domestic water supply**
The protection and use of water resources for domestic water supply shall be accorded the highest priority over other uses;

8) **Flood / buffer zoning**
The delineation of buffer zones along rivers shall be based on the 100-year flood and below 477-meter above mean sea level contour line along Lake Malawi;

9) **Polluter - Pays principle**
Pollution control of water resources shall adopt the ‘Polluter–Pays’ principle in order to ensure water user responsibility;

10) **Environmental Compliance**

All water works shall undergo Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with the Environment Management Act and Guidelines for EIA;

11) **National Security and sovereignity**

All shared watercourses shall be efficiently and sustainably developed, utilized and managed in compliance with transboundary agreements without compromising national integrity, security and sovereignty

3 POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

The Policy has seven priority areas in order to achieve its goal and objectives. The Priority areas are explained below highlighting their description, challenges policy statements and strategies that are proposed to address the issues affecting the sector. The Policy Priority areas are named as : *(1) Water Resources Management and Development; (2) Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation; (3) Disaster Risk Management; (4) Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Development; (5) Sectoral Coordination, Financing and Investment; (6) Legal, Regulatory and Governance Framework;* and *(7) Crosscutting Issues* which include: Gender Mainstreaming, Equity and Inclusion; Green Environment and Climate Change; Research and Development; and Information and Communication Technology.

3.1 Policy Priority Area 1: Water Resources Management and Development

The Water Resources Management and Development covers issues of Integrated Water Resources Management; Surface Water; Groundwater; Water Quality and Transboundary Cooperation. Malawi is classified as a water stressed country as the current volume of available water resources is very close to 1,000 cubic meters, which is a maximum threshold for water scarcity. The country's water stress situation is exacerbated by the uneven distribution of water resources, both spatially and temporally. Furthermore, the country's surface water and groundwater resources are under severe threat of depletion and degradation resulting from catchment degradation, unsustainable agriculture production practices, indiscriminate disposal of solid wastes and industrial effluents, increased human population growth and climate change effects and inadequate storage capacity, among others. There is need, therefore, to reinforce the application of Integrated Water Resources Management for enhanced availability, efficient and sustainable development, utilisation and management of the water resources, and to promote prudent environmental and catchment management to sustain the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater resources in the country.

3.1.1 Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Integrated Water Resources Management is a process which promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the

sustainability of vital ecosystems. The IWRM is based on three main principals of social equity, economic efficiency and environmental sustainability.

The application of IWRM principles and practices has been done in a piecemeal fashion and, at best, on a pilot basis; with coordination challenges encountered at catchment area level cascading to local authorities. Furthermore, most of the catchment areas in the country are highly degraded, yet some institutions established in the Water Resources Act (2013) to protect and manage catchments have not yet been operationalized.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management is adopted and implemented.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Mainstream IWRM principles and practices in all ongoing and new projects and embrace Water Energy Food (WEF) nexus;
Strategy 2: Strengthen conjunctive management and utilisation of surface water and groundwater resources;
Strategy 3: Employ detailed and systematic desk and field assessments prior to water resources developments;
Strategy 4: Enhance human, financial and technological capacity for management and development of water resources;
Strategy 5: Raise stakeholders' awareness on the importance of surface water and groundwater monitoring infrastructure; and
Strategy 6: Upscale research activities in hydrology, hydrogeology and appropriate borehole pumps and in water quality.
Strategy 7: Review and update the National Water Resources Master Plan

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that water resources catchment areas are protected and prudently managed.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Implement integrated catchment management practices;
Strategy 2: Establish and empower catchment management committees;
Strategy 3: Strengthen coordination and collaboration in integrated catchment management;
Strategy 4: Harmonize policies and strategies that affect catchment management such as water, agriculture, irrigation, environment and decentralization policies;
Strategy 5: Develop and build capacity of staff and communities in integrated catchment management;
Strategy 6: Raise awareness about integrated catchment management;
Strategy 7: Promote adaptive and applied research in integrated catchment management, and
Strategy 8: Promote appropriate Public-Private Partnership arrangements in the management of catchment areas.

3.1.2 Surface Water

Surface water resources comprise a network of rivers and lakes among others. Furthermore, the country has about 830 dams (15 large dams only) with an estimated total storage capacity of 100 million cubic meters against a minimum potential of 3,192 million cubic meters. Surface water is significantly utilized in irrigation. Additionally, surface water resources are significant in the energy sector. Nearly all the electricity used in the country is hydropower in nature.

Multi-purpose water storage in the country is, however, still lagging behind. This is partly attributed to lack of investment in multipurpose water storage dams which were already identified in the National Water Resources Master Plan (1986), the Water Resources Investment Strategy (2011) and the National Water Resources Master Plan (2017). The minimum Environmental Flow Requirements for most rivers in the country are also not known although the country's EFR stands at 9.529 billion cubic meters per year. The country operates 129 river gauging stations and 31 water level stations but these are dilapidated and non-functional. There is also failure to timely renew licenses for specialized software used for data management because of lack of funds. Further, vandalism of gauging facilities still remains a major challenge to the smooth monitoring of surface water resources in the country.

Policy Statement 1: ***The Policy will ensure that structures for harvesting of water resources for multipurpose use are constructed and enhanced.***

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Construct multipurpose water harvesting structures on sites identified in previous studies;

Strategy 2: Enhance investigations and feasibility studies for new water harvesting structures;

Strategy 3: Undertake construction of multipurpose dams and other water harvesting structures on new sites.

Strategy 4: Establish operation and maintenance systems for all multipurpose dams and water harvesting structures.

Policy Statement 2: ***the Policy will ensure that systems for monitoring surface water resources are put in place and are functional.***

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Conduct regular surface water resources monitoring activities;

Strategy 2: Rehabilitate and/or modernize hydrometric stations and optimize hydrometric network; and

Strategy 3: Prepare and avail hydrological products and services.

Strategy 4: Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and implement targeted vandalism interventions

3.1.3 Groundwater

Ground water is the water present beneath the Earth's surface in rocks or soil pore spaces called aquifers. Malawi has three major aquifer systems, namely: the extensive but low yielding Pre-Cambrian Basement Complex Aquifer in plateau areas; alluvial aquifers along the shores of Lake

Malawi, Lake Chilwa and in the Upper and Lower Shire Valley; and in fracture zones in the rift valley escarpment.
Groundwater plays an important role in providing water for human needs in many of the dispersed villages and communities in the rural areas in the country. Groundwater is also a sole water source or complements surface water as water source for towns and market centers in Malawi. The increasing population, climate change and variability in the country put pressure on the ground water resources.

There is lack of managed aquifers recharge systems in the country despite the high reliance on groundwater resources. This has a potential to reduce groundwater availability, decrease the capacity of water supply resilience, increase the vulnerability of groundwater to climate change and climate variability, increase hydrological variability and increase the magnitude of floods

In addition to lack of aquifer recharge systems, vandalism of groundwater facilities remains one of the major hindrances to the development of groundwater resources. The country has 71 operational groundwater monitoring stations, but these need to be optimized. Another problem is high salinity. This is particularly the case in groundwater from the alluvial deposits of the lower Shire valley and in some basement aquifers.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that groundwater resources conservation systems are established and promoted.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Explore deeper aquifers for high yielding boreholes for multipurpose use
Strategy 2: Regulate groundwater development and enforce standards;
Strategy 3: Review or develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on groundwater development and management; and
Strategy 4: Promote the development and proper management of Managed Aquifer Recharge systems.

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that systems for monitoring groundwater resources are put in place and are functional.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Optimize the existing groundwater network and upgrade data transmission from manual to automated system;
Strategy 2: Review the Hydrogeological and Water Quality Atlas at regular intervals; and
Strategy 3: Conduct regular monitoring of groundwater resources.
Strategy 4: Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and implement targeted vandalism interventions

3.1.4 Water Quality

Water quality refers to the chemical physical and biological characteristics of water based on the standards of its usage. Although water resources in Malawi are considered adequate to meet the needs of the growing population, they are becoming increasingly degraded as a result of increasing levels of sedimentation, biological and chemical contamination, effluent discharges and indiscriminate disposal of solid wastes in water bodies. Rivers flowing through cities and towns are the most affected with increased concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus and heavy metals in the receiving waters, with reported cases of eutrophication. Turbidity levels are generally high during the rainy season because of increased rates of soil erosion from degraded catchments.

However, there is inadequate monitoring of water resources to assess the physical, chemical and biological quality of the water in the country. In addition, there is inadequate equipment, shortage of well-trained personnel and inadequate infrastructure for water quality monitoring.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that quality of water resources is protected.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Enhance systems for monitoring the quality of both surface water and groundwater resources;
Strategy 2: Institute remedial measures for cleaning polluted water bodies;
Strategy 3: Develop mechanisms to ensure compliance to accreditation requirements of water quality laboratories.
Strategy 4: Construct a fully-fledged water quality laboratory in the Northern Region;
Strategy 5: Establish water quality ambient standards and guidelines for various uses;
Strategy 6: Enforce wastewater management and polluter pays principle;
Strategy 7: Develop onsite wastewater treatment systems in line with the standards; and
Strategy 8: Develop mechanisms to manage saline groundwater

3.1.5 Transboundary Cooperation

Malawi is party to a number of bilateral, regional and international agreements and conventions regarding shared watercourses such as the 2000 Revised SADC Protocol on Shared Watercourses, Convention Between the Government of Malawi and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the Establishment of a Joint Songwe River Basin Commission and Agreement Between the Republic of Malawi and the Republic of Mozambique for the Establishment of a Joint Water Commission, among others. The country is in the process of signing MoUs for bilateral initiatives on water cooperation with Zimbabwe and Zambia. It also has a Transboundary Water Resources Management Unit which forms the basis for regional dialogue on the development and management of transboundary water resources but this lacks specific functions in the national legislation and a structure that is inclusive to manage transboundary surface water, groundwater and water quality. Furthermore, Malawi has not yet ratified or acceded to the Zambezi Watercourse Commission Agreement.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that bilateral, regional and international water cooperation is promoted without compromising national integrity, security and sovereignty.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Align water resources legislation and policies with regional and international best practice, conventions or protocols which Malawi is a party to;

Strategy 2: Establish and strengthen cooperation arrangements with other riparian countries on transboundary watercourses; and

Strategy 3: Comply with agreed obligations arising from bilateral, regional and international water conventions.

3.2 Policy Priority Area 2: Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation

The constitution underscores the fundamental principle of ensuring equitable access to services and economic opportunities to all Malawians. The process of rectifying disparities within the water supply and sanitation sector requires concerted efforts from all parties. In the national context, potable water is to be provided as a social and economic good. On average, accessibility to improved water sources at national level is currently at 88.3 per cent.

Therefore, the country still needs to do more in order to meet the target of 100 per cent coverage by 2030 set by the MW2063 as well as the SDGs. However, the sector is faced by a number of challenges that hinder the efficient performance of urban, peri-urban, town and market centres water supply systems; rural water supply systems; and waterborne sanitation.

3.2.1 Urban, Peri-urban, Town and Market Centers Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation

Urban , peri-urban , Town and Market Centres Water Supply and Waterborne sanitation services are provided by the five Water Boards which were established under the Water Works Act of 1995.

The urban, peri-urban, town and market centers water supply and waterborne sanitation systems are faced by low levels of investment for infrastructure development; high levels of debt by consumers, lack of cost reflective tariffs, high levels of NRW; high O&M costs due to ageing and dilapidated infrastructure; pollution of surface water and groundwater resources; low capacity in terms of financing, equipment, infrastructure and materials, among others; and severe degradation of catchment areas that are main sources of water supply. In addition to the above challenges, the subsector is also affected by inadequate regulatory services to ably govern the water supply services and curb illegal boreholes in areas under the jurisdiction of the Water Boards. Addressing the challenges will ensure that there is efficient performance of the subsector which will in turn increase availability and access to safely managed water supply (of acceptable quality and in sufficient quantities) for the wellbeing of every person in Malawi regardless of gender, disability, age, economic status and vulnerability group at all times and place.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that water supply and waterborne sanitation systems in urban, peri-urban, town and market centres are effectively and efficiently developed, consistent with environmental management.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Construct appropriate water supply systems and infrastructure;
Strategy 2: Construct appropriate waterborne sanitation systems and infrastructure
Strategy 3: Rehabilitate and expand existing water supply systems;
Strategy 4: Develop, rehabilitate and expand existing waterborne sanitation systems; and
Strategy 5: Institute potable water supply security and adaptation strategies for climate change and disaster risk reduction.

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation systems in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers are effectively and efficiently managed.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Reduce Non-Revenue Water in all water supply systems in all the Water Boards in the country to at most 25%.;
Strategy 2: Promote digitalization of water supply pipeline networks for ease of monitoring and management;
Strategy 3: Promote the use of ICT and latest technologies in the provision of water supply services;
Strategy 4: Promote competitive and equitable pricing and charging systems for all water supply services reflecting full cost recovery;
Strategy 5: Promote competitive and equitable pricing and charging systems for all waterborne sanitation services reflecting full cost recovery;
Strategy 6: Reduce debtor days to at most 90 days acceptable levels;
Strategy 7: Curb illegal connections and vandalism of pipes in all water supply systems in the country;
Strategy 8: Curb illegal drilling and operation of boreholes in water areas where supply is greater than 12 hours and
Strategy 9: Promote appropriate Public-Private Partnership models in the provision of water supply services and waterborne sanitation in urban and peri-urban areas, town and market centres.

Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that strategic and contingency water supply reserves and waterborne sanitation back-up services are developed.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Develop and implement National Water Safety Plan;
Strategy 2: Construct water recycling plants and promote water re-use; and
Strategy 3: Develop and expand raw water sources and waterborne sanitation services.

Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that regulatory framework in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services is enhanced.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Establish and empower a water supply services regulator;

Strategy 2: Enforce laws, standards and regulations in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services;
Strategy 3: Review existing institutional mandates on water supply services; and
Strategy 4: Ensure safety of bottled water.

Policy Statement 5: The Policy will ensure that adequate capacity in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services is developed and built.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Develop and build capacity of personnel working for water utilities in urban, peri-urban, towns and market centres through formal and informal trainings; and
Strategy 2: Develop and build capacity of communities in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers to operate kiosks.

3.2.2 Rural Water Supply

In rural areas, potable water is supplied to beneficiary communities through a number of technologies including gravity fed rural piped water supply schemes, boreholes, shallow wells and protected springs, among others. In the rural areas, Government promotes community-based management of the water supply systems. On average, the functionality rate of the water supply systems is at 70 per cent.

The failure by the rural water supply systems and infrastructure to operate at full capacity is mainly due to dilapidated infrastructure, inadequate investment in maintenance and rehabilitation of the systems, inadequate capacity in the management of the systems and infrastructure, among other things.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that sustainable safely managed rural water supply systems and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently developed.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Develop and implement a Rural Water Supply Master Plan and Investment Framework;
Strategy 2: Modernize existing water supply infrastructure
Strategy 3: Promote rehabilitation, expansion and of the existing water supply systems and infrastructure;
Strategy 4: Develop water supply systems and infrastructure that promote provision of safely managed water services;
Strategy 5: Provide additional water sources to augment existing water sources in areas where there are insufficient water resources;
Strategy 6: Mainstream and integrate ICT in the implementation of rural water supply systems to guarantee potable water supply security in rural areas;
Strategy 7: Develop standards and regulations for rural water supply
Strategy 8: Enforce standards and regulations

Strategy 9: Curb vandalism in rural water supply; and
Strategy 10: Ensure that all gravity fed systems conform to water quality standards.
Strategy 11: Review standards and regulations regularly.

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that sustainable rural water supply systems and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently operated and managed.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Develop and empower Water Users Associations for effective participation in piped water supply infrastructure management;
Strategy 2: Adopt participatory approaches in the management of water supply schemes;
Strategy 4: Protect and manage catchment areas for rural water supply systems;
Strategy 5: Develop and adapt water supply technologies and best practices taking into account of the technical and beneficiary limitations; and
Strategy 6: Strengthen the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) systems of rural water supply at national, district and community levels.
Strategy 7: Promote the culture of preventative maintenance at all levels

Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that adequate capacity is developed and built for proper management of the rural water supply systems and infrastructure in the rural areas.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Develop and implement capacity building programmes for rural water supply infrastructure
Strategy 2: Provide adequate personnel at district level including those responsible for advisory and extension services; and
Strategy 3: Facilitate the creation of management structures for rural water supply systems.

3.3 Policy Priority Area 3: Disaster Risk Management

Malawi is vulnerable to extreme impacts of climate change especially floods and droughts; and is also vulnerable to other disasters such as epidemics and pandemics. Scientific evidence shows an increase in frequency, intensity and magnitude over the last two decades of extreme weather events in Malawi that include prolonged dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine floods and flash floods. Disaster risk management is a cross cutting issue which, if not factored in standard designs and construction of culverts and dykes, leads to damage of water facilities during floods.

As such, there is need for adequate incorporation of engineering and structural solutions as well as exploring ways of putting in place "Living with Floods" measures and incorporating nature-based solutions to disasters such as ecosystem restoration in line with the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and to use Local Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (LIKSPs). All these measures should be complemented by user-tailored disaster early warnings and contingency plans.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that resilience to floods, droughts, epidemics and pandemics in the water sector is enhanced.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Promote the use of structural measures for flood mitigation and complement them with nature-based solutions and align them to the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration;

Strategy 2: Adapt guidelines for "Living with Floods" and implement them where appropriate;

Strategy 3: Promote use of stilts and raised foundations for constructing houses in flood-prone areas;

Strategy 4: Upgrade, rehabilitate and expand existing early warning systems for floods and droughts;

Strategy 5: Disseminate early warning information on floods, droughts, epidemics and pandemics to the public and riparian states;

Strategy 6: Use scientifically validated LIKSP for floods and droughts mitigation; and

Strategy 7: Develop and implement contingency plans in the water sector.

3.4 Policy Priority Area 4: Institutional Framework and Capacity Development

Effective institutional arrangements and capacity development are critical for the sustainable development, management, utilization and conservation of the water resources in Malawi.

However, the sector is negatively impacted by the frequent changes in the institutional arrangements of the parent ministry which affects effective implementation of the Policy. This undermines the water sector in terms of its strategic importance in national development as well as national budgetary allocations. There are also capacity inadequacies in areas of human, financial, material, equipment, infrastructure, among others, in the water sector and inadequacies among academic institutions to conduct relevant research and train the right calibre and adequate numbers of professionals and technicians for deployment in the water sector.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that a streamlined institutional setup is developed.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Periodically review functions of Governmental and other relevant institutions in the water sector and implement the recommendations;

Strategy 2: Promote a streamlined setup/structure of the key institutions in the water sector;

Strategy 3: Encourage registration of water resources professionals with NWRA; and

Strategy 4: Facilitate adoption of well-balanced curricula in academic institutions relevant to the requirements of the country for the current and future water requirements.

Strategy 5: Resuscitate the Water Training Institute.

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that capacity is developed in the water sector.

Strategy 1: Develop and implement capacity development plans for both central and local stakeholders in the water sector;
Strategy 2: Recruit and motivate competent staff in public water sector institutions and other water related institutions;
Strategy 3: Train staff in public water sector institutions and other water related institutions especially on new technologies;
Strategy 4: Establish National Associations for water professionals.

3.5 Policy Priority Area 5: Sector Coordination, Financing and Investment

Effective sectoral coordination and adequate financing and investment in the water sector are key to sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water resources in the country. Effective sectoral coordination is important for programmatic planning, financing, human resource, and activity implementation among others. Other sectors such as agriculture, health and education have managed to ensure effective sectoral coordination, pooled funding and results accountability through a vibrant secretariat for Sector Wide Approach (SWAp).

One of the biggest gaps in the fulfilment of the statutes of the National Water Policy (2005) was inadequate sector coordination and limited resources that the Government committed to the water sector both at central and local levels. Government financing also mainly focuses on ORT and not on investment projects such as multipurpose dams that can ensure sustainable management and utilisation of the water resources. Funding in the water sector is also fragmented, project-based and usually falls short of the annual investment plans and costs. Investment funding is also more concentrated towards urban water supply which renders rural water supply and waterborne sanitation financing inadequate. Further, water development investment plans in the districts also suffer from inadequate funding and investment. Nonetheless, effective sectoral coordination and adequate financing and investment in the water sector are key to sustainable development, utilisation, management and conservation of the water resources in the country.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that a vibrant secretariat for water sector wide approach for effective coordination of the water sector is established and operationalised.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Establish Secretariat for Malawi 2063/MIP-1 Water Sector Working Group; and
Strategy 2: Operationalize the MIP-1 Sector Working Group Secretariat

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that an investment programme for sustainable development of the water sector is clearly defined.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Develop and implement National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan,

Strategy 2: Establish the NWDP to pool resources into programmatic financing rather than project-based financing.

Strategy 3: Develop and implement guidelines for financing and results accountability mechanisms for all the key stakeholders in the water sector at all levels.

Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that adequate public financing for implementation of all water sector projects and programmes is identified.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Develop and implement Water Sector Resource Mobilization Strategy;

Strategy 2: Advocate for increased annual budgetary allocation for the water sector;

Strategy 3: Advocate for increased financing for rural water supply, community-based water resources management and water resources monitoring;

Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that adequate public financing for implementation of all water sector projects and programmes is identified.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Develop and implement guidelines for attracting cost effective investment in the water sector through appropriate PPP models; and

Strategy 2: Advocate for private participation in water sector financing.

3.6 Policy Priority Area 6: Legal, Regulatory and Governance Framework

A supportive legal, regulatory and governance framework is critical for the efficient and sustainable development, utilization and management of water resources and for the country to effectively participate in transboundary commitments without compromising national integrity, security and sovereignty.

There is need to improve the legal, regulatory and governance framework of the water sector in the country with the aim of having clear legal provisions covering water resources, water supply, waterborne sanitation and provision of standards. There is also need to improve access to information and data protection in the water sector.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that Legal, regulatory and governance framework of the water sector in the country is harmonised and regularly reviewed.

Strategies:

Strategy 1: Review the Water Works Act and address existing challenges and gaps in comprehensively regulating water supply and general provision of water services;

Strategy 2: Harmonize the Water Resources Act and Water Works Act;

Strategy 3: Regulate the role of Civil Society Organisations and Community Based Organizations in the provision of water services and advocacy in water matters;

Strategy 4: Promote the regular review of policy, propose amendment of laws and mutual cooperation and understanding with other MDAs;

Strategy 5: Advocate for an in-house legal counsel and legal practitioner as Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs;
Strategy 6: Develop laws, regulations and policies on expanding provision of water services in the country to address the existing and emerging challenges;
Strategy 7: Develop laws, regulations and policies on water services to include PPPs, independent private and profit-making water service providers;
Strategy 8: Develop a comprehensive and harmonised governance framework that anchors the water sector to a permanent ministry; and
Strategy 9: Undertake regular review of all water laws, regulations and policies to be in line with regional and international water instruments.

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that data collection, compilation, storage and management in the water sector is improved and properly regulated.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Enhance and harmonize systems for data collection, analysis and dissemination in the water sector;
Strategy 2: Regulate and guide all matters in relation to disaggregated data templates that capture biodata in line with other laws and segregated information; and
Strategy 3: Ensure data protection in the water sector.

Policy Statement 3: An effective policy planning, monitoring and evaluation system with appropriate and efficient feedback mechanism is in place.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Develop and implement a harmonised M&E framework and MIS for the water sector;
Strategy 2: Undertake periodic reviews of the specific programmes and projects in the water sector;
Strategy 3: Conduct impact assessments of programmes and projects in the water sector in a participatory manner

3.7 Policy Priority Area 7: Crosscutting Issues

Crosscutting issues need to be taken on board in the water sector, key among them include gender mainstreaming, equity and inclusion; green environment and climate change; research and development; information and communication technology; epidemics and pandemics; among others.

Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that equal participation of women, men, girls and boys and the elderly, and other vulnerable groups with or without disability is promoted.

Strategy 1: Enhance use of gender and vulnerable groups mainstreaming and social inclusion guidelines and appropriate tools for the water sector;
Strategy 2: Ensure implementation of gender targets and 40:60 and 60:40 gender quotas when recruiting, training and developing staff and committees;
Strategy 3: Ensure Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities and technologies give due consideration to gender equity, social inclusion and vulnerable groups in the designs, development and use,
Strategy 4: Review the current standards on coverage of water points to reduce distances thereby reducing incidences of gender-based violence.

Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that mainstreaming of the green environment and climate change is promoted.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Reinforce measures and laws that discourage bad environmental and poor farming practices and promote good environmental and agricultural practices;
Strategy 2: Develop and implement guidelines for mainstreaming and integrating green growth and climate change in the water sector plans, activities, budgets and M&E indicators;
Strategy 3: Promote access, uptake and use of weather, climate and climate change data and information in water resource development, management and supply; and
Strategy 4: Raise awareness of stakeholders in the water sector on the importance of use of weather, climate and climate change information.

Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that research and development in the water sector is improved.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Increase budget allocation for research and development in the water sector;
Strategy 2: Strengthen coordination amongst all institutions that are involved in research and development in the water sector;
Strategy 3: Promote research at all levels and in all fields in the water sector for decision-making; and
Strategy 4: Publicize compelling research findings in the water sector to the general public.

Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that capacity in information and communication technology in the water sector is improved.

Strategies:
Strategy 1: Promote training of personnel in ICT technologies in the water sector both at central and local levels;
Strategy 2: Develop Government Domain email addresses.
Strategy 3: Promote ICT use at all levels in the water sector for research, innovation, efficiency gains, water demand management, among others.

Policy Statement 5: The Policy will ensure that proper approaches are developed to deal with pandemics and Epidemics in the Water Sector

Strategy 1: Develop guidelines on how to deal with pandemics and epidemics in the Water Sector.

Strategy 2: Disseminate the guidelines with all strategic stakeholders in the water sector

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Implementation Plan

To achieve the objectives of the National Water Policy, an Implementation Plan has been developed as a tool to guide the implementation of the Policy. The detailed Implementation Plan is included in Annex 1 of this Policy and contains the policy priority areas, policy statements, objectives, strategies, responsible leading institution and the time frame for implementation.

4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

The implementation of the National Water Policy requires an effective Monitoring and Evaluation System with efficient coordination, results accountability and feedback mechanisms. This entails carrying out monitoring and evaluation functions at all levels and gathering, storing, digitizing, analyzing and disseminating credible data and information at national, sectoral and local levels as well as for transboundary commitments in a functional Water Management Information System (WAMIS). The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan is presented in Annex 2 and contains the policy priority area, outcome, objective, output, performance indicator, target, baseline, source of verification and assumptions or risks.

4.3 Institutional Roles and Linkages

The management of water resources requires an integrated approach involving a number of stakeholders.

To ensure proper coordination of these sector players, there is need to strengthen institutional platforms like the Water Sector Working Group and the Technical Working Groups established in the water sector which will feed into the Pillar- Enabler Coordination Group on Human Capital Development as outlined in the Malawi 2063. There will be a need to establish and strengthen the Water Sector Wide Approach Secretariat to provide coordination of these platforms. These will ensure that the implementation of the Policy and all its related strategies are being followed. Additionally, there may be need for a thorough functional review of the sector to ensure streamlined functions and responsibilities of various entities in the water sector.

At the implementation level of the Policy, the following key stakeholders will play crucial roles and responsibilities as below:

4.3.1 Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs

The roles of the Ministry as a policy holder shall be to:

1) Provide policy direction and coordinate water sector programmes;
2) Undertake policy formulation reviews and enforcement;
3) Invest in sectoral planning, development and construction of water infrastructure, including multipurpose dams and managed aquifer recharge systems;
4) Establish standards and guidelines in the water sector;
5) Undertake training, capacity building and development within the water sector;
6) Promote and adhere to regional and international obligations and agreements without compromising the country's sovereignty, security and territorial integrity; and
7) Promote public private partnership in the delivery of water supply and water borne sanitation services.

4.3.2 National Water Resources Authority

The Authority's roles shall be to:

1) Develop principles, guidelines and procedures for the allocation of water resources;
2) Monitor, and from time to time reassess, the National Water Policy and the National Water Resources Master Plan;
3) Receive and determine applications for permits for water use;
4) Monitor and enforce conditions attached to permits for water use;
5) Regulate and protect water resources quality from adverse impacts;
6) Manage and protect water catchments;
7) Determine charges to be imposed for the use of water from any water resource, in accordance with guidelines in the National Water Policy;
8) Gather and maintain information on water resources and from time to time to publish forecasts, projections and information on water resources;
9) Liaise with the relevant stakeholders for the better regulation and management of water resources;
10) Advise the Minister concerning any matter in connection with water resources;
11) Assist the Minister in the coordination of hydrological and hydrogeological investigations;
12) Coordinate the preparation, implementation and amendment of a water action plan and to recommend the water action plan to the Minister;
13) At the request of the Minister, advise any other Minister who may request advice on:
    i. issues of policy relevant to the investigation, use, control, protection, management or administration of water; or
    ii. any other issue that may be referred to it;
14) Whether on request or otherwise, to review the law relating to water and advise the Minister on any amendments that may be required for the improvement or better administration of that law;
15) Advise the responsible Minister, as the case may require, on any dispute between agencies involved in water management that may be referred to it; and

16) Undertake any other functions conferred upon it under the Water Resources Act (2013) or referred to it by the Minister from time to time.

4.3.3 Water Supply Services Regulator

The roles of the Water Supply Services Regulator shall be to:

1) Set tariffs;
2) Monitor and enforce tariff limits;
3) Change tariffs;
4) Set service standards (pressure and reliability);
5) Monitor and enforce service standards (pressure and reliability standards);
6) Change service standards (pressure and reliability standards);
7) Resolve disputes;
8) Handle consumer complaints;
9) Monitor water quality within the water supply systems; and
10) Promote catchment management and pollution control.

4.3.4 Water Boards and Water Users Associations

The roles of water utilities shall be to:

1) Operate and manage waterworks for the delivery, distribution and management of potable water supply;
2) Develop and implement minor water-works infrastructure;
3) Collect, transport, treat and dispose of or recycle and re-use wastewater and promote sanitation services;
4) Enforce waterworks by-laws related to the construction of delivery and connection facilities of services for water supply and sanitation in declared water areas;
5) Implement investment programmes, tariffs and compensations related to the development and management of water supply and waterborne sanitation facilities and services;
6) Collect, process, analyse and disseminate relevant data and information to all stakeholders within the water sector; and
7) Promote private sector participation in the delivery of water supply and sanitation services.

4.3.5 Ministry Responsible for Disaster Management Affairs

The roles of the Ministry shall be to:

1) Coordinate and liaise with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs in flood and drought mitigation activities; and
2) Coordinate and liaise with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs in sourcing funds for water related disaster management.

4.3.6 Local Authorities or District Councils

The roles of the Local Governments shall be to:

1) Plan and co-ordinate the implementation of water projects/programmes at local authority level;
2) Solicit funding for the implementation of water and environment programmes at local authority level;
3) Collect, process, analyse and disseminate relevant data and information to all stakeholders within the water sector at local authority level; and

4) Promote private sector and NGO's participation in the implementation of water related projects at local authority level.

4.3.7 Ministry Responsible for Agriculture

The roles of the Ministry shall be to:

1) Promote and ensure that good land husbandry practices are being implemented in all land use and cultivation endeavors to prevent the depletion and pollution of water resources resulting from soil erosion and use of agrochemicals;
2) Promote collaboration with NWRA so that good watershed management and catchment protection practices are being followed in controlled areas and along riverbanks; and
3) Encourage and promote on-the-farm water harvesting and conservation and all climate smart technologies for water management.

4.3.8 Ministry Responsible for Irrigation

The roles of the Ministry shall be to:

1) Promote collaboration with NWRA so that good watershed management and catchment protection practices are followed in controlled areas and along riverbanks;
2) Encourage and promote on-the-farm water harvesting and conservation and climate smart agriculture technologies;
3) Promote and regulate irrigation development and practices to ensure efficient utilization of water and prevention of pollution and water related diseases in irrigation fields;
4) Promote water resources development for irrigation in order to increase food security and enhance economic welfare while taking due consideration of mitigating environmental damage;
5) Collect, process, analyse and disseminate relevant data and information to all stakeholders within the water sector; and
6) Provide water demand requirements for irrigation developments to the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs.

4.3.9 Ministry Responsible for Natural Resources (Mines, Forestry, Fisheries, Lands, Environment, Parks and Wildlife)

The roles of these institutions shall be to:

1) Facilitate the delineation of regulating areas, planning, zoning and developments in controlled water areas;
2) Control land allocation and ensure fragile and marginal areas are not used for agriculture activities and that there are no permanent settlements in areas planned for dam developments;
3) Improve conservation and protection of catchment areas of all public water bodies;
4) Promote the protection and rehabilitation of catchment areas so as to restore favourable ecosystem environment and its development;
5) Eradicate noxious aquatic weeds and control their spread;
6) Coordinate all cross cutting environmental activities required for water resources management and water services;

7) Facilitate identification of water resources issues to be included in the state of the environment report;
8) Enforce pieces of legislation and implement policies on natural resources management; and
9) Provide water demand requirements on natural resources developments to the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs.

4.3.10 Ministry Responsible for Health

The role of the Ministry shall be to:
1) Ensure proper management and disposal of clinical and hospital wastes to avoid pollution of the environment and water resources;
2) Promote health and hygiene education related to water supply services and water resources management;
3) Provide appropriate intervention to prevent the prevalence of water related diseases;
4) Provide research in water-related health issues;
5) Provide guidance on epidemics and pandemics such as COVID-19 and mainstreaming efforts to the water sector; and
6) Provide water demand requirements for public health facilities.

4.3.11 Ministry Responsible for Meteorological Services

The roles of the Ministry shall be to:
1) Provide weather and climate early warning information for development and management of water resources;
2) Generate and disseminate user-tailored weather and climate forecasts; and
3) Establish and maintain a well-equipped weather monitoring station network.

4.3.12 Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organisations

The roles of these institutions shall be to:
1) Assist in sensitizing, encouraging and empowering communities to manage their water resources, water supply and waterborne sanitation systems, community dams and catchment protection;
2) Participate in the provision and investment in rural water supply services and community dam development consistent with the prevailing Government policies and guidelines on such investments;
3) Assist in mobilization and securing funding for rural and low-income communities for water projects;
4) Assist in the provision of water supply services in rural areas and to low-income groups within urban centres;
5) Collect, process, analyse and disseminate relevant data and information to all stakeholders within the water sector in accordance with national statistics guidelines and standards;
6) Compliance with national policies and regulations governing water activities; and
7) Coordinate and operate activities in the water sector through district councils.

4.3.13 Private Sector

The roles of the Private Sector shall be to:

1) Invest in water resources development and water supply services;
2) Assist community-based water management activities by providing, on commercial basis, necessary inputs to Community Based Management (CBM) like sale of spare parts and skilled maintenance services for water supply systems;
3) Provide capacity for consulting and contracting services in the water and related industries;
4) Conduct research, develop and promote local manufacturing capacity for water related services;
5) Collect, process, analyse and disseminate relevant data and information to all stakeholders within the water sector in accordance with national statistics guidelines and standards;
6) Ensure compliance with national policies and regulations governing water activities, including registration with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs and other relevant authorities; and
7) Being independent providers of water resources and water supply and waterborne sanitation services.

4.3.14 Other Public Stakeholders

The roles of Other Public Stakeholders:

1) Ministries responsible for Commerce, Industry, Trade, Science and Technology shall regulate the development and operations of industries and trade that can contribute to over-exploitation and pollution of public waters, through conditional licensing of industries and trading operations;

2) The Ministry responsible for Transport

shall control and regulate navigation, roads, railways and airport development plans and protect water from pollution. It shall also coordinate its navigational plans and development with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs to ensure the operations are accommodated in the water resources development and management plans;

3) Ministries responsible for Lands and Physical Planning

4) shall coordinate and provide policy and regulatory environment to promote sustainable human settlements and development in both urban and rural areas in relation to water resources management and water supply services;

5) Ministries responsible for Gender, Disability, Community Development and Social Welfare

6) shall liaise with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs in community mobilization for disaster, equity and inclusion; community-based management training, advocacy, ***awareness and mainstreaming gender and other vulnerable groups;***

7) The Ministry responsible for Education

shall liaise with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs in curricula development and capacity building and development programmes that would support efforts in water resources management, development and utilization and shall also provide water demand requirements for its institutions;

Universities and other training institutions

8) shall promote research and development and undertake capacity building and development in the water fields;

9) Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)

10) shall liaise with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs in setting standards of treated and untreated water supply services and effluent that can be discharged into the environment;
11) ***Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA)***
12) shall liaise with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs on issues relating to the energy and hydropower development.
13) Ministry Mines
Shall liase with the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs on water use efficiency and pollution control in mining operations and disposal of mining waste.

4.3.15 ***General Public***
The roles of the Communities shall be to:
1) Fully participate in the implementation of various water projects and interventions;
2) Operate, manage and own water supply infrastructure;
3) Ensure that water facilities are given adequate security from vandalism;
4) Carry out minor repairs on water facilities such as boreholes and rural gravity fed piped water supply schemes; and
5) Create awareness among the beneficiaries about the importance of taking care of water facilities.

4.3.16 Individual Customers

The roles of the Individual Customers shall be to:
1) Ensure that water bills are settled on time;
2) Ensure that cases of illegal connections are prevented and reported; and
3) Timely reporting to water utilities or the Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs any major damages/breakages suffered by water supply schemes.

ANNEX 1: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 1: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT			
Section 3.1: Integrated Water Resources Management			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 1: To reinforce the adoption and application of Integrated Water Resources Management principles in the water sector for the efficient and sustainable development, utilisation and management of water resources.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that Integrated Water Resources Management is adopted and implemented.**		
	Strategy 1: Mainstream IWRM principles and practices in all ongoing and new projects.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Strengthen conjunctive management and utilization of surface water and groundwater resources.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Employ detailed and systematic desk and field assessments prior to water resources developments.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Enhance human, financial and technological capacity for management and development of water resources.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Raise stakeholders' awareness on the importance of surface water and groundwater monitoring infrastructure.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Upscale research activities in hydrology, hydrogeology and appropriate borehole pumps and in water quality.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Review and update the National Water Resources Master Plan	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Academia, NGOs, Water Utilities	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 2: To promote prudent catchment management to sustain the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater resources.	**Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that water resources catchment areas are protected and prudently managed.**		
	Strategy 1: Implement integrated catchment management practices.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards, Department of Forest, Environmental Affairs Department (EAD), NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Establish and empower catchment management committees.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards, Department of Forest, EAD, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Strengthen coordination and collaboration in integrated catchment management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards, Department of Forest, EAD, NGOs	On going
	Strategy 4: Harmonize policies and strategies that affect catchment management such as water, agriculture irrigation, environmental and decentralisation policies.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Department of Forest, EAD, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of	2023 – 2028

		Local Government and Rural Development	
	Strategy 5: Develop and build the capacity of staff and communities in integrated catchment management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Department of Forestry	On going
	Strategy 6: Raise awareness about integrated catchment management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, EAD, Department of Forest, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Promote adaptive and applied research in integrated catchment management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Department of Forest, Academia, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 8: Encourage appropriate Public-Private Partnership arrangements in the management of catchment areas.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Department of Forest, NGOs, Public-Private Partnership Commission (PPPC), private sector	2023 – 2028
Section 3.1.2: Surface Water			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 6: To guarantee water security at all times	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that structures for harvesting of water resources for multipurpose use are constructed and enhanced.**		
	Strategy 1: Construct multipurpose dams on sites identified in previous studies.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Enhance investigations and feasibility studies for new dam sites.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Undertake construction of multipurpose dams and other water harvesting structures on new sites.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Utilities, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Establish operation and maintenance systems for all multipurpose dams and water harvesting structures	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that systems for monitoring surface water resources are put in place and are functional.**		
	Strategy 1: Conduct regular surface water resources monitoring activities.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Rehabilitate and modernize hydrometric stations and optimize hydrometric network.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Prepare and avail hydrological products and services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and implement targeted vandalism interventions	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Ministry responsible for local government	2023 – 2028

Section 3.1.3: Groundwater			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 1: To reinforce the adoption and application of integrated water resources management principles in the water sector for the efficient and sustainable development, utilization and management of water resources.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that groundwater resources conservation systems are established and promoted.**		
	Strategy 1: Undertake exploration of deeper aquifers for high yielding boreholes	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Regulate groundwater development and enforce standards.	NWRA, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Review or develop and implement SOPs on groundwater development and management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Promote the development and proper management of Managed Aquifer Recharge systems.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, NGOs	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that systems for monitoring groundwater resources are put in place and are functional.**		
	Strategy 1: Optimize the existing groundwater network and upgrade data transmission from manual to automated system.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Review the Hydrogeological and Water Quality Atlas at regular intervals.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA,	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Conduct regular monitoring of groundwater resources.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA,	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and implement targeted vandalism interventions	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Ministry responsible for local government	2023 - 2028
Section 3.1.4: Water Quality			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 2: To promote prudent catchment management to sustain the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater resources.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that the quality of water resources is protected.**		
	Strategy 1: Enhance systems for monitoring the quality of both surface water and groundwater resources.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards, EAD, City Councils and Municipalities	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Institute remedial measures for cleaning polluted water bodies.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards, EAD, City Councils and Municipalities, and NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Develop mechanisms for compliance to accreditation requirements of water quality laboratories	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Construct a fully-fledged water quality laboratory in the Northern Region.	NWRA, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028

	Strategy 5: Establish water quality ambient standards and guidelines for various uses.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Enforce wastewater management and polluter pays principle.	NWRA, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Develop onsite treatment systems of wastewater in line with the standards.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards, EAD, City Councils and Municipalities	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 8: Develop mechanisms to manage saline groundwater	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Academia	2023-2028
Section 3.1.5: Transboundary Cooperation			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 3: To promote active participation of citizenry in water resources development management and utilisation	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy Will ensure that Bilateral, regional and international water cooperation is promoted without compromising national integrity, security and sovereignty.**		
	Strategy 1: Align water resources legislation and policies with regional and international best practice, conventions or protocols which Malawi is a party to.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Establish and strengthen cooperation arrangements with other riparian countries on transboundary watercourses.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Comply with agreed obligations arising from bilateral, regional and international water conventions.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA	2023 – 2028

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 2: WATER SUPPLY AND WATERBORNE SANITATION			
Section 3.2.1: Urban, Peri-urban, Town and Market Centers Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 4: To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply services and waterborne sanitation in the country.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that Water supply and waterborne sanitation systems in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers are effectively and efficiently developed, consistent with environmental management.**		
	Strategy 1: Construct appropriate water supply systems and infrastructure.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Construct appropriate waterborne sanitation systems and infrastructure.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Rehabilitate and expand existing water supply systems.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Develop, rehabilitate and expand existing waterborne sanitation systems.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Institute potable water supply security and adaptation strategies for climate change and disaster risk reduction.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategies	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
	Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation systems in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers are effectively and efficiently managed.		

	Strategy 1: Reduce Non-Revenue Water in all water supply systems in all the Water Boards in the country to 25%.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Promote digitalization of water supply pipeline networks for ease of monitoring and management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Promote the use of ICT and latest technologies in the provision of water supply services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Promote competitive and equitable pricing and charging systems for all water supply services reflecting full cost recovery.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Promote competitive and equitable pricing and charging systems for all waterborne sanitation services reflecting full cost recovery.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Reduce debtor days to acceptable levels.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Curb illegal connections and vandalism of pipes in all water supply systems in the country.	Water Utilities	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 8: Curb illegal drilling and operation of boreholes in water areas.	NWRA, Water Utilities	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 9: Promote appropriate Public-Private Partnership models in the provision of water supply services in urban and peri-urban areas, town and market centres.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 6: To guarantee water Security at all times.	**Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that Strategic and contingency water supply reserves and waterborne sanitation back-up services are developed.**		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement National Water Safety Plan.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Construct water recycling plants and promote water re-use.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Develop and expand raw water sources and waterborne sanitation services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs.	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 5: To promote fair pricing and charging systems of	**Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that regulatory framework in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne services is enhanced.**		

water services that takes cognizance of both the right to water and water as a social and economic good in order to institute cost recovery principles.	Strategy 1: Establish and empower a water supply services regulator.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Enforce laws, standards and regulations in the provision of safety managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, Water Supply Services Regulator	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Regularly review existing institutional mandates on water supply services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Ensure safety and tariff setting of bottled water.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, Water Supply Services Regulator.	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 5: Adequate capacity in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services is developed and built.**		
	Strategy 1: Develop and build capacity of personnel working for water utilities in urban, peri-urban, towns and market centres through formal and informal trainings.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Develop and build capacity of communities in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers to operate kiosks.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
Section 3.2.2: Rural Water Supply			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 4: To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply services and waterborne sanitation in the country.	**Policy Statement 1: Sustainable safely managed rural water supply systems and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently developed.**		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement a Rural Water Supply Master Plan and Investment Framework.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Conduct feasibility studies and prepare designs for water supply schemes.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities,	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Encourage rehabilitation and expansion of the existing water supply systems and infrastructure.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Develop water supply systems and infrastructure that promote provision of safely managed water services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028

	Strategy 5: Provide additional water sources to augment existing water sources in areas where there are insufficient water resources.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Mainstream and integrate ICT in the implementation of rural water supply systems to guarantee potable water supply security in rural areas.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Develop standards and regulations and ensure that they are reviewed regularly and are being adhered to, in the provision of rural water supply services, including regulation of new technologies.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 8: Curb vandalism in rural water supply.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 9: Ensure that all gravity fed systems conform to water quality standards.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs, Developmental Partners, and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategies	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
	Policy Statement 2: Sustainable rural water supply systems and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently managed.		
	Strategy 1: Develop and empower Water Users Associations for effective participation in piped water supply infrastructure management.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Adopt participatory approaches in the management of water supply schemes to ensure that relevant stakeholders play their rightful roles.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Ensure that standards and regulations are reviewed regularly and are being adhered to in the provision of rural water supply services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Protect and manage catchment areas for rural water supply systems.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Develop and adapt water supply technologies and best practices taking into account of the technical and beneficiary limitations.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Strengthen the O&M systems at national, district and community levels.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**

Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonized institutional and legislative framework	**Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that adequate capacity is developed and built for proper management of the rural water supply systems and infrastructure in the rural areas.**		
	Strategy 1: Provide training programmes which address capacity gaps in the management of rural water supply systems and infrastructure.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Provide adequate personnel at district level including those responsible for advisory and extension services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Facilitate the creation of water user associations as a management arrangement for rural water supply systems.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities, NGOs, CSOs.	2023 – 2028

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 3: DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 7: To strengthen the country's resilience to the adverse effects of flood and drought hazards, and epidemics and pandemics.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that resilience to floods, droughts, epidemics and pandemics in the water sector is enhanced.**		
	Strategy 1: Promote the use of structural measures for flood mitigation and complement them with nature-based solutions and align them to the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.	Department of Climate Change Management Services (DCCMS), Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Department of Disaster Management affairs (DoDMA)	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Adapt guidelines for "Living with Floods" and implement them where appropriate.	Ministry of Local Government, DoDMA, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Promote use of stilts and raised foundations for constructing houses in flood-prone areas.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD), DoDMA, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Upgrade, rehabilitate and expand existing early warning systems for floods and droughts.	DCCMS, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, DoDMA.	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Disseminate early warning information on floods, droughts, epidemics and pandemics to the public and riparian states.	DCCMS, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, DoDMA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Use scientifically validated LIKSP for floods and droughts mitigation.	DCCMS, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, DoDMA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Develop and implement contingency plans in the water sector.	DCCMS, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, DoDMA	2023 – 2028

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT			
Objective	**Strategy**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 9: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that streamlined institutional setup is developed and capacity for Governmental institutions and other key institutions in the water sector is enhanced.**		
	Strategy 1: Undertake periodic functional reviews of Governmental and other relevant institutions in the water sector and implement the recommendations.	Department of Human Resources Development and Management (DHRMD), Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, Water Boards	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Promote a streamlined setup/structure of the key institutions in the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, DHRMD	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Develop and implement capacity development plans for both central and local stakeholders in the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water, Environment and Sanitation Network (WESNET)	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Ensure timely recruitment and promotion of staff in public water sector institutions and other water related institutions.	DHRMD, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, NGOs, academia	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Ensure timely training of staff in public water sector institutions and other water related institutions especially on new technologies.	DHRMD, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, NGOs, academia	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Establish National Associations for water professionals	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, NGOs, academia	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Encourage registration of water resources professionals with NWRA.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, NWRA, NGOs, academia	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 8: Adopt well-balanced curricula in academic institutions relevant to the requirements of the country for the current and future water requirements.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, academic institutions, WESNET	2023 – 2028

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 5: SECTORAL COORDINATION, FINANCING AND INVESTMENT			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 9: To improve public financing and investment as well as strengthen proper coordination, effective monitoring and evaluation of the water sector.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that a vibrant Secretariat for water sector wide approach for effective coordination of the water sector is established and operationalized.**		
	Strategy 1: Establish Secretariat for for Malawi 2063/MIP-1 Water Sector Working Group.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2025
	Strategy 2: Operationalize the MIP-1 Sector Working Group Secretariat.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, development partners, WESNET, academic institutions	2023 – 2028
	Strategies	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
	Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that an investment programme for sustainable development of water sector is clearly defined.		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Establish the NWDP to pool resources into programmatic financing rather than project-based financing.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategies	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
	Policy Statement 3: The policy will ensure that adequate public financing for implementation of all water sector projects and programmes is identified.		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement Water Sector Resource Mobilization Strategy.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Advocate for increased annual budgetary allocation for the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Ministry of Finance (MoF)	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Advocate for increased financing for rural water supply, community-based water resources management and water resources monitoring.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, MoLGRD, MoF	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Develop and implement a Water Sector Financing Strategy.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, MoF	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Develop and implement guidelines for financing and results accountability mechanisms for all the key stakeholders in the water sector at all levels.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET, MoLGRD	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 9: To improve Public and private financing,	**Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that adequate private sector financing for implementation of water sector services is identified.**		

investments well as strengthen proper coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the Water sector	Strategy 1: Develop and implement guidelines for attracting cost effective investment in the water sector through appropriate PPP models.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Water Utilities and the Private Sector	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Advocate for private participation in water sector financing.	Ministry Responsible for Water, WESNET	2023 – 2028

PRIORITY POLICY AREA 6: LEGAL, REGULATORY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Time frame**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that Legal, regulatory and governance framework of the water sector in the country is harmonized and regularly reviewed.**		
	Strategy 1: Review the Water Works Act (1995) and address existing challenges and gaps in comprehensively regulating water supply and general provision of water services.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA)	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Harmonize the Water Resources Act (2013) and Water Works Act (1995).	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, MoJCA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Regulate the role of CSOs and CBOs in the provision of water services and advocacy in water matters.	WESNET, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Promote the regular review of policy, propose amendment of laws and mutual cooperation and understanding with other MDAs.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 5: Advocate for an in-house legal counsel and legal practitioner as Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs.	MoJCA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 6: Develop laws, regulations and policies on expanding provision of water services in the country to address the existing and emerging challenges.	The Law Commission, MoJCA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 7: Develop laws, regulations and policies on water services to include PPPs, independent private and profit-making water service providers.	The Law Commission, MoJCA	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 8: Develop a comprehensive and harmonised governance framework that anchors the water sector to a permanent ministry.	Office of President and Cabinet, WESNET	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 9: Underate regular review of all water laws, regulations and policies to be in line with international water instruments.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, MoJCA	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
Objective 10: To strengthen the main	**Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that Data collection, compilation, storage and management in the water sector is improved and properly regulated.**		

streaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector.	Strategy 1: Enhance and harmonize systems for data collection, analysis and dissemination in the water sector.	NWRA, Water Supply Services Regulator, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Regulate and guide all matters in relation to disaggregated data templates that capture biodata in line with other laws and segregating information.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Ensure data protection in the water sector.	NWRA, Water Supply Services Regulator, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that an effective policy planning, monitoring and evaluation system with appropriate and efficient feedback mechanism is in place.		
	Strategy 1: Develop and implement a harmonised M&E framework and MIS for the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Develop and implement procedures for M&E of the Policy implementation and reporting.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Undertake periodic reviews of the specific programmes and projects in the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Conduct impact assessments of programmes and projects in the water sector in a participatory manner.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET, development partners	2023 – 2028

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 7: CROSSCUTTING ISSUES			
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
To strengthen the main streaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector.	**Policy Statement 1: The policy will ensure that equal participation of women, men, girls and boys and the elderly, with or without disability, is promoted.**		
	Strategy 1: Enhance use of gender mainstreaming for equity and social inclusion guidelines and appropriate tools for the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW), MoLGRD, CSOs, development partners, Water Management Committees at various levels	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Ensure implementation of gender targets and 40:60 and 60:40 gender quotas when recruiting, training and developing staff and committees.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET, Water Management Committees at various levels	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Ensure WASH facilities and technologies give due consideration to gender equity, social inclusion and vulnerable groups in the designs, development and use.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET, Water Management Committees at various levels	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Review the current standards on coverage of water points to reduce distances thereby reduce incidences of gender-based violence.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET, Water Management Committees at various levels	2023 – 2028
	Strategies	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
	Policy Statement 2: The policy will ensure that mainstreaming of green environment and climate change is promoted.		

	Strategy 1: Reinforce measures and laws that discourage bad environmental and poor farming practices and promote good environmental and agricultural practices.	Department of Forestry, EAD, Ministry Responsible for Agriculture/Irrigation, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, development partners, NGOs, the Media	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Develop and implement guidelines for mainstreaming and integrating green environment and climate change in the water sector plans, activities, budgets and M&E indicators.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, DCCMS, CSOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Promote access, uptake and use of weather, climate and climate change data and information in water resource development, management and supply.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, DCCMS, CSOs, academia, development partners, the Media	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Raise awareness of stakeholders in the water sector on the importance of use of weather, climate and climate change information.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, DCCMS, CSOs, academia, development partners, the Media	2023 – 2028
Objective	**Strategies**	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
To strengthen the main streaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector.	**Policy Statement 3: The policy will ensure that research and development in the water sector is improved.**		
	Strategy 1: Increase budget allocation for research and development in the water sector.	MoF, academia, NGOs, development partners	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Strengthen coordination amongst all institutions that are involved in research and development in the water sector.	Research Institutions including Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Promote research at all levels and in all fields in the water sector.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Academia, NGOs	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 4: Publicize compelling research findings in the water sector to the general public.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Research Institutions	2023 – 2028
	Strategies	**Responsibility**	**Timeframe**
	Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that capacity in ICT in the water sector is improved.		
	Strategy 1: Promote training of personnel in ICT technologies in the water sector both at central and local levels.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, academia, research institutions, Water Boards	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 2: Provide adequate funding for ICT application in the water sector.	MoF, Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, Research Institutions, Water Boards	2023 – 2028
	Strategy 3: Promote ICT use at all levels in the water sector for research, innovation, efficiency gains, water demand management, among others.	Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs, WESNET, academia	2023 – 2028

ANNEX 2: MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 1: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT						
Section 3.1.1: Integrated Water Resources Management						
Outcome 1: Improved adoption and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management by all stakeholders						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 1: To reinforce the adoption and application of Integrated Water Resources Management principles in the water sector for the efficient and sustainable development, utilisation and management of water resources.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that integrated Water Resources Management is adopted and implemented.**					
	Output 1: IWRM and WEF Nexus principles and practices mainstreamed in all ongoing and new projects.	Number of projects	10	50	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Conjunctive management and utilisation of surface water and groundwater resources strengthened.	Number of projects	6	30	Reports	Good coordination among players, data available for assessments
	Output 3: Detailed and systematic desk and field assessments employed prior to water resources developments.	Number of development projects	40	150	Reports	Availability of funding and data and functional office equipment
	Output 4: Human, financial and technological capacity for management and development of water resources enhanced including advancements in field assessments and data processing systems and infrastructure.	Number of refresher trainings and trainings in new equipment/ technologies	0	50	Training Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 5: Awareness campaigns to stakeholders on importance of surface water and groundwater monitoring infrastructure conducted.	Number of awareness campaigns	0	28	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 6: Research activities in hydrology, hydrogeology and appropriate borehole pumps and in water quality up-scaled.	Number of research activities conducted	5	15	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 7: National Water Resources Master Plan reviewed and updated	No. of Master plans updated	0	1	Reports	Availability of funding,

						adequate capacity
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 2: To promote prudent catchment management to sustain the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater resources.	**Policy Statement 2: The policy will ensure that surface water and groundwater catchment areas are protected and prudently managed.**					
	Output 1: Integrated catchment management practices implemented.	Number of projects	0	70	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Catchment Management Committees in each of the catchment areas established and empowered.	Number of CMCs	12	70	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 3: Coordination and collaboration in integrated catchment management strengthened.	Number of coordination meetings	0	15	Reports	Low stakeholder participation
	Output 4: Policies and strategies governing catchment management and conservation such as water, agriculture, irrigation, environmental and decentralization policies harmonized.	Number of policies and strategies	0	5	Reports	Good coordination among players
	Output 5: Capacity of staff and communities in integrated catchment management developed and built.	Number of trainings	0	10	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 6: Awareness about integrated catchment management raised.	Number of awareness meetings	0	70	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 7: Adaptive and applied research in integrated catchment management promoted.	Number of Research Projects	0	5	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 8: Appropriate Public-Private Partnership arrangements in the management of catchment areas promoted.	Number of PPP arrangements	0	10	Reports	Availability of funding, strong collaboration and interest of private sector
	Output 9: Groundwater conservation areas managed.	Number of groundwater	0	15	NWRA Reports	Good collaboration

		conservation areas				among stakeholders
Section 3.1.2: Surface Water						
Outcome 2: Increased storage capacity of surface water and groundwater resources for multipurpose use						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 6: To guarantee water security at all times	**Policy Statement 1: The policy will ensure that Structures for harvesting water resources for multipurpose use are constructed and enhanced**.					
	Output 1: Multipurpose water harvesting structures on sites identified in previous studies constructed.	Number of multipurpose water harvesting structures	815 (Small to medium size)	882 (Small to medium size)	Reports	Political will and availability of funding
			15 (large size)	18 (large size)	Reports	Political will and availability of funding
	Output 2: Investigations and feasibility studies for new dam sites throughout the country enhanced.	Number of feasibility studies	10	70	Reports	Availability of funding and capacity
	Output 3: Construction of multipurpose dams and other water harvesting infrastructure undertaken on new sites.	Number of dams	700	770	Reports	No conflict on land issues and availability of funding
	Output 4: Operation and maintenance systems for all multipurpose dams and water harvesting structures established	Number of Systems Established	0	1	Reports	Availability of resources ,
Outcome 5: Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources, water supply and water borne sanitation services in the country						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 2: The policy will ensure that systems for monitoring surface water are put in place and are functional.**					
	Output 1: Regular surface water resources monitoring activities conducted.	Number of annual monitoring visits	2	6	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Dilapidated hydrometric stations rehabilitated/modernized and the hydrometric network optimized.	Number of rehabilitated stations	0	75	Reports	Availability of funding

		Number of temporarily closed stations that are re-opened	0	25	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 3: Hydrological products and services prepared and availed.	Number of hydrological products and services per year	0	17	Reports	Availability of funding and institutional capacity
	Output 4: Targeted vandalism interventions identified and implemented	No. of sites/ areas where interventions made	0	50	Reports	Availability of funding. strong collaboration of stakeholders
Section 3.1.3: Groundwater						
Outcome 1: Improved adoption and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management by all stakeholders						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 1: To reinforce the adoption and application of integrated water resources management principles in the water sector for the efficient and sustainable development, utilization and management of water resources.	**Policy Statement 1: The policy will ensure that groundwater resources conservation systems are established and promoted.**					
	Output 1: Exploration of deeper aquifers for high yielding boreholes for multipurpose uses undertaken.	Number of deep high yielding boreholes drilled	5	50	Reports	Adequate human and technical capacity at district councils and availability of funding
	Output 2: Groundwater development regulated and standards enforced.	Number of groundwater projects regulated and with standards enforced	11	21	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 3: SOPs on groundwater development and management reviewed or developed and implemented.	Number of reviewed SOPs	0	7	Reviewed SOPs	Availability of funding and commitment of stakeholders
	Output 4: Development and proper management of Managed Aquifer Recharge systems promoted.	Number of Projects with MAR systems	0	12	Reports	Political will

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Baseline	Target	Source of Verification	Assumption/ Risks
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 3: policy will ensure that systems for monitoring groundwater are put in place and are functional.**					
	Output 1: Existing groundwater network optimized and data transmission automated.	Number of groundwater monitoring stations with automatic transmission	0	121	Reports	Adequate institutional capacity and availability of funding
	Output 2: Hydrogeological and Water Quality Atlas reviewed and updated.	Number of reviewed Atlas	0	1	Reports	Adequate capacity and availability of funding
	Output 3: Regular monitoring of groundwater resources conducted.	Number of annual monitoring visits	2	4	Reports	Adequate capacity and availability of funding
	Output 4: Targeted vandalism interventions identified and implemented	Number of areas/sites where interventions made	0	50	reports	Availability of funding. strong collaboration with local structures
Section 3.1.4: Water Quality						
Outcome 1: Improved adoption and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management by all stakeholders						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 2: To promote prudent catchment management to sustain the quantity and quality of both surface and groundwater resources.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that quality of water resources is protected and enhanced.**					
	Output 1: Water quality monitoring for water supply systems enhanced.	Number of drinking water sources monitoring undertakings per year	1,000	1,800	Reports	Adequate capacity and availability of funding
	Output 2: Remedial measures for cleaning polluted water bodies instituted.	Number of cleanup campaigns per year	0	7	NWRA Reports	Political will and availability of funding

		Number of wastewater samples collected per year	300	500	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 3: Mechanisms for compliance to accreditation requirements of water quality laboratories	Quality assurance manual developed	0	1	Reports & Manual	Political will, availability of funding and institution capacity
		Number of test procedures accredited.	0	3	Reports & certificates	Availability of funding for lab operations
	Output 4: A fully-fledged water quality laboratory in the Northern Region constructed.	Number of laboratories	0	1	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 5: Water quality ambient standards and guidelines for various uses established.	Number of ambient related water quality standards	0	3	Standard booklets/ Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 6: Wastewater management and polluter pays principle enforced.	Number of polluters	5	20	Reports	Willingness of stakeholders
	Output 7: Onsite treatment of wastewater promoted.	Number of customers	40	55	Reports	Willingness of stakeholders, availability of funding
	Strategy 8: Mechanisms for managing groundwater salinity developed	Number of mechanisms developed	0	3	Reports	Political will, funding
Section 3.1.5: Transboundary Cooperation						
Outcome 1: Improved adoption and promotion of Integrated Water Resources Management by all stakeholders						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 3: To promote active participation of citizenry in water resources development	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that bilateral, regional and international water cooperation is promoted without compromising national integrity, security and sovereignty.**					
	Output 1: Water resources legislation and policies aligned with regional and international	National Water Policy & Water	0	2	Aligned National	Political will

management and utilisation	best practice, conventions or protocols which Malawi is party to.	Resources Act aligned to international conventions in place			Water Policy & Water Resources Act	
	Output 2: Cooperation arrangements with other riparian countries on the transboundary watercourses established and strengthened	Number of MoUs / Agreements	1	3	MoUs / Agreements signed	Political will
	Output 3: Agreed obligations arising from bilateral, regional and international water conventions complied with.	Number of obligations complied with	3	4	Reports	Political will

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 2: WATER SUPPLY AND WATERBORNE SANITATION						
Section 3.2.1: Urban, Peri-urban, Town and Market Centers Water Supply and Waterborne Sanitation						
Outcome 3: Increased access to potable water supply and waterborne sanitation.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 4: To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply services and waterborne sanitation services in the country.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that water supply and waterborne sanitation systems in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers are effectively and efficiently developed, consistent with environmental management.**					
	Output 1: Appropriate water supply systems and infrastructure developed, installed and constructed.	Percentage of appropriate water supply systems and infrastructure	40%	60%	Water Supply Systems and Infrastructure Reports	Funding available
	Output 2: Appropriate waterborne sanitation systems and infrastructure developed, installed and constructed.	Percentage of appropriate waterborne sanitation systems and infrastructure	0%	50%	Waterborne Sanitation Systems and Infrastructure Reports	Funding available
	Output 3: Existing water supply systems rehabilitated and expanded.	Percentage of water supply systems	50%	75%	Reports	Funding available
	Output 4: Waterborne sanitation systems developed, rehabilitated and expanded.	Percentage of waterborne sanitation systems	10%	50%	Reports	Funding available

	Output 5: Potable water supply security and adaptation strategies for climate change and disaster risk reduction in place.	Number of adaptation strategies	1	5	Reports	Compliance with National Disaster Risk Management Policy
Outcome 4: Increased access to potable water supply and waterborne sanitation						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 4: To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply services and waterborne sanitation services in the country.	**Policy Statement 2: Safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation systems in urban, peri-urban, town and market centres are effectively and efficiently managed**.					
	Output 1: Non-Revenue Water in all water supply systems in all the Water Boards in the country reduced.	Percentage of NRW	28%-54%	25%	Water Utilities Reports	Funding availability, non-existence of illegal connection and vandalism
	Output 2: Digitization of water supply pipeline networks for ease of monitoring and management undertaken.	Percentage of water supply pipeline networks	5%	50%	Water Utilities Reports	SCADA, GIS and Drones
	Output 3: Use of ICT and latest technologies in the provision of water supply services promoted.	Percentage of water supply services	20%	50%	Water Utilities Reports	Prepaid meters, on-spot billing, SCADA, GIS and Drones
	Output 4: Competitive and equitable pricing and charging systems for all water supply services reflecting full cost recovery promoted.	Percentage of water supply services reflecting full cost	10%	60%	Water Utilities Reports	Availability of water services regulator
	Output 5: Competitive and equitable pricing and charging systems for waterborne sanitation services reflecting full cost recovery promoted.	Percentage of waterborne sanitation services reflecting full cost	0%	100%	Water Utilities Reports	Compliance with Water Works Act (1995)
	Output 6: Debtor days reduced to acceptable levels.	Number of days	400 days	60 days	Water Utilities Reports	Payment compliance by customers
	Output 7: Illegal connections and vandalism of pipes in all water supply systems in the country curbed.	Percentage of illegal connections	40%	10%	Water Utilities Reports	Non-existence of illegal connection and vandalism
	Output 8: Illegal drilling and operation of boreholes in water areas curbed.	Percentage of illegal boreholes	80%	20%	NWRA and Water Utilities Reports	Compliance with Water Works Act (1995)

	Output 9: Appropriate Public-Private Partnership models in the provision of water supply services in urban and peri-urban areas, town and market centres promoted.	Number of PPP water supply services Projects	15	25	Water Utilities Reports	Interest by the private sector
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 7: To develop up to date strategic and contingency water safety plans in order to guarantee water security at all times.	**Policy statement 3: Strategic and contingency water supply reserves and waterborne sanitation buck-up services are developed.**					
	Output 1: National Water Safety Plan developed and implemented.	National Water Safety Plan in place	0	1	National Water Safety Plan	Funding availability
	Output 2: Water recycling plants constructed and water re-use promoted.	Percentage of total water consumption recycled and re-used.	0.5%	5%	Water Utilities Reports	Adoption of water recycling and re-use technologies
	Output 3: Raw water sources and waterborne sanitation services developed and expanded.	Number of raw water sources	35	50	Water Utilities Reports	Funding availability
		Number of waterborne sanitation systems developed and rehabilitated	3	4	Water Utilities Reports	Funding availability
Outcome 5: Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources and water services and water borne services in the Country.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 5: To promote fair pricing and charging systems of water services that takes cognize of both the right to water and water as a social and economic good in order to institute cost recovery principles.	**Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that rregulatory framework in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services is enhanced.**					
	Output 1: A water supply services regulator established and empowered.	Water Supply Services Regulator in place	0	1	Water Supply Services Regulator	Enactment and operationalization of enabling legislation
	Output 2: Laws, standards and regulations in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services enforced.	% of laws, standards and regulations enforced	50%	100%	Reports	Enactment and operationalization of enabling legislation

	Output 3: Existing institutional mandates on water supply services regularly reviewed.	Streamlined water supply services mandates.	0	1	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 4: Safety of bottled water ensured	% of water supply safety compliance	90%	100%	Reports	Availability of funding
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 5: The policy will ensure that adequate capacity in the provision of safely managed water supply and waterborne sanitation services is developed and built.**					
	Output 1: Capacity of personnel working for water utilities in urban, peri-urban, town and market centres through formal and informal trainings developed and built.	Percentage of targeted personnel	90%	95%	Reports	Availability of funding and trainable personnel
	Output 2: Capacity of communities in urban, peri-urban, town and market centers to operate kiosks developed and built.	Percentage of targeted communities	90%	95%	Reports	Availability of funding and trainable communities
Section 3.2.2: Rural Water Supply						
Outcome 3: Increased access to potable water supply and waterborne sanitation.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 5: To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply services and waterborne sanitation services in the country.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure sustainable, safely managed rural water supply systems and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently developed.**					
	Output 1: A Rural Water Supply Master Plan and Investment Framework updated and implemented.	Rural Water Supply Master Plan updated	0	1	Updated Rural Water Master Plan and Investment Framework	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Feasibility studies and preparation of designs for water supply schemes conducted.	Number of feasibility studies and designs	11	50	Feasibility Studies and Designs Reports	Availability of funding

	Output 3: Existing water supply systems and infrastructure rehabilitated and expanded.	Number of water supply systems and infrastructure	19	20	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 4: Water supply systems and infrastructure that promote provision of safely managed water services developed.	Number of water supply systems and infrastructure	0	5	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 5: Additional water sources to augment existing water sources in areas where there are insufficient water resources provided.	Number of addition water sources	4	11	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 6: ICT in the implementation of rural water supply systems to guarantee potable water supply security in rural areas mainstreamed and integrated.	Percentage of rural water supply systems	0%	10%	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 7: Standards and regulations in the provision of rural water supply services including regulation of new technologies reviewed regularly and adhered to.	Reviewed standards and regulations	0	1	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 8: Vandalism in rural water supply curbed.	Percentage of WUAs targeting vandalism control	0%	100%	Reports	Availability of funds to train WUAs to target vandalism
	Output 9: Gravity fed systems conform to water quality standards	Percentage of rural water system conforming to standard	0%	100%	Reports	Availability of funding
Outcome 4: Increased access to potable water supply and water borne sanitation.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 4: To increase availability of sufficient quantities and quality of water supply services and waterborne sanitation services in the country.	**Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that sustainable rural water supply systems and infrastructure are effectively and efficiently operated and managed.**					
	Output 1: WUAs developed and empowered for effective participation in piped water supply infrastructure management.	Number of registered WUAs	40	65	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Participatory approaches adopted in the management of water supply schemes to ensure that relevant stakeholders play their rightful roles.	Percentage of adoption of participatory approaches	50%	80%	Reports	Availability of funding

	Output 3: Standards and regulations developed and reviewed regularly and adhered to in the provision of rural water supply services.	Number of standards and regulations	12	13	Manuals, standards and regulations	Compliance to set standards and regulations
	Output 4: Catchment areas for rural water supply systems protected and managed.	% of Rural Water supply systems with catchment management plans	10[1]%	25%	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 5: Water supply technologies and best practices developed and adapted taking into account of the technical and beneficiary limitations.	Number of water supply technologies and best practices	2	3	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 6: O&M systems at national, district and community levels strengthened.	% of schemes adopting approved O&M systems.	70%	90%	Reports	Availability of funding
Outcome 5: Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources and water services in the country.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 9: To develop capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	**Policy Statement 3: Adequate capacity for proper management of the rural water supply systems and infrastructure in the rural areas is developed and built**.					
	Output 1: Training programmes which address capacity gaps in the management of rural water supply systems and infrastructure provided.	Number of training programmes developed	0	20	Reports	Availability of funding and trainable personnel
	Output 2: Adequate personnel at district level including those responsible for advisory and extension services provided.	Number of personnel at district level	115	368	Reports	Availability of funding and appropriate personnel
	Output 3: Creation of water cooperatives, trusts and water user associations as a management arrangement for rural water supply systems facilitated.	Number of water cooperatives, trusts and WUAs	71	100	Reports	Availability of funding

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 3: DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT
Outcome 5: Increased resilience of the country to adverse impacts of floods and drought hazards, and epidemics and pandemics.

[1] 12 schemes have catchment management plans developed under Sustainable Rural Water Project.

Objective	Output	Performance Indicator	Baseline	Target	Source of Verification	Assumption/ Risks
Objective 8: To strengthen the country's resilience to the adverse effects of flood and drought hazards, and epidemics and pandemics.	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that there is resilience to floods, droughts, epidemics and pandemics in the water sector is enhanced.**					
	Output 1: Use of structural measures for flood mitigation complimented with nature-based solutions and aligned to the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.	Number of flood mitigation structures	231	271	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Guidelines for "Living with Floods" where appropriate adapted and associated measures implemented.	Guidelines in place	1	2	Living with Floods Guidelines Document	Availability of funding
	Output 3: Use of stilts and raised foundations for constructing houses in flood-prone areas promoted.	Number of houses	0	100%	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 4: Existing early warning systems for flood and drought mitigation upgraded, rehabilitated and expanded.	Number of early warning systems	10	50	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 5: Early warning information on floods, droughts, epidemics and pandemics disseminated to the public and riparian states.	Number of civic education campaigns	25	100	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 6: Scientifically validated LIKSP for floods and droughts mitigation used to complement scientific methods.	Number of scientifically proven LIKSP	1	10	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 7: Contingency plans in the water sector developed and implemented.	Number of contingency plans	0	10	Contingency Plan Document	Availability of funding

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 4: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT						
Outcome 6: Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources and water services in the country.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 9: To develop capacity of	**Policy Statement 1: The Policy will ensure that a streamed lined institutional setup is developed and capacity for water sector institutions and other key institutions in the water sector is enhanced.**					

the water sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	Output 1: Periodic functional reviews of water sector institutions and other relevant institutions in the water sector undertaken and recommendations implemented.	Functional review undertaken	0	1	Functional Review Report	Availability of funding and approval by Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC)
	Output 2: A streamlined setup/structure of the key institutions in the water sector promoted.	A streamlined setup/structure in place	0	1	Functional Review Report	Availability of funding and approval by OPC
	Output 3: Water sector capacity development plans for both central and local stakeholders developed and implemented.	Capacity Development Plan in place.	0	1	National Water Sector Capacity Development Plan	Availability of funding and approval by OPC
	Output 4: Timely recruitment and promotion of staff in public water sector institutions and other water related institutions undertaken.	Percentage of vacancy rate	60.6%	25%	Staffing Reports	Availability of funding and appropriate personnel
	Output 5: Timely training of staff in the water sector institutions and other water sector institutions especially on new technologies undertaken.	Number of training programmes	0	10	Reports	Availability of funding and trainable personnel
	Output 6: National Associations of water professionals established in the country.	Number of National Associations established	0	5	Reports	Availability of adequate institutional capacity
	Output 7: Registration of water resources professionals to NWRA conducted.	Number of professionals registered	0	200	NWRA Reports	Compliance by professionals
	Output 8: Well-balanced curricula in academic institutions relevant to the requirements of the country for the current and future water requirements adopted.	Number of academic institutions adopting a well-balanced curricula	0	5	Reports	Availability of funding and willing academic institutions

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 5: SECTORAL COORDINATION, FINANCING AND INVESTMENT

Outcome 5: Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources and water services in the country.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 9: To improve public and private financing , investment as well as strengthening Proper Coordination monitoring and evaluation.	**Policy Statement 1: The policy will ensure that vibrant secretariat for water sector wide approach for effective coordination of the water sector is established and operationalized.**					
	Output 1: Secretariat for Malawi 2063/MIP-1 Water Sector Working Group established.	Number of Working Group in place	0	1	Progress Reports	Political stability, functional review undertaken, political will and availability of funding
	Output 2: MIP-1 Sector Working Group Secretariat operationalized.	Number of Working Group functional	0	1	Progress Reports	
	Output	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
	Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that an investment programme for sustainable development of the water sector is clearly defined.					
	Output 1: National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan developed and implemented.	National Water Sector Strategy in place	0	1	National Water Sector Strategy	Availability of funding
		Number of water sector investment plans in place	2	4	Water Sector Investment Plans	Availability of funding
	Output 2: NWDP developed and implemented.	NWDP in place	0	1	NWDP Reports	Availability of funding
	Output	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
	Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that adequate public financing for implementation of all water sector projects and programmes is identified.					
	Output 1: Water Sector Resource Mobilization Strategy developed and implemented.	Resource Mobilization Strategy in place	0	1	National Water Sector Resource	Availability of funding and consent by

					Mobilization Strategy	Ministry of Finance
	Output 2: Increased annual budgetary allocation for the water sector advocated for.	Percentage increase in budgetary allocation	2.1%	10%	Sector Performance Reports and Budget Documents	Availability of funding
	Output 3: Increased financing for rural water supply, community-based water resources management and water resources monitoring advocated for.	Percentage increase in rural water supply financing	0.6%	1.5%	Sector Performance Reports and Budget Documents	Availability of funding
	Output 4: A Water Sector Financing Strategy to ensure adequate provision of financial resources in line with the annual investment plan and costs through multi-sectoral financial window by the development partners developed.	Water Sector Financing Strategy in place	0	1	National Water Sector Financing Strategy	Availability of funding and willingness of development partners
	Policy Statement 4: The Policy will explore private sector financing for implementation of water sector projects and services is identified					
	Output 1: Guidelines for attracting cost effective investment in the water sector through appropriate PPP models developed	Appropriate PPP Guidelines in place	0	1	Appropriate PPP Guidelines Document	Availability of funding and collaboration with PPPC
	Output 2: Disseminate guidelines for private sector participation	Dissemination workshops	0	3	Dissemination Reports	Willingness of private sector, political will

PRIORITY POLICY AREA 6: LEGAL, REGULATORY AND GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK						
Outcome 6: Enhanced capacity of the water sector institutions and service providers to efficiently and sustainably develop, utilise and manage water resources and water services in the country.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 8: To develop capacity of the water	**Policy statement 1: Legal, regulatory and governance framework of the water sector in the country is harmonized and regularly reviewed.**					

sector institutions and service providers, within harmonised institutional and legislative framework.	Output 1: Water Works Act (1995) reviewed and existing challenges and gaps in comprehensively regulating water supply and general provision of water services addressed.	Reviewed Act in place.	0	1	Reviewed Water Works Act (1995)	Availability of funding and political will
	Output 2: Water Resources Act (2013) and Water Works Act (1995) harmonized.	Harmonized Acts in place	0	1	Harmonized Water Resources Act (2013) and Water Works Act (1995)	Availability of funding and political will
	Output 3: The role of CSOs and CBOs in the provision of water services and advocacy in water matters is regulated.	% of CSOs and CBOs complying with regulations	30%	80%	Reports	Availability of Water Supply Regulator
	Output 4: Regular review of policy, proposed amendment of laws and mutual cooperation and understanding with other MDAs including where there are conflicts of laws and policies promoted.	Reviewed policies and amended laws in place	0	2	Reviewed policies and amended laws	Availability of funding and political will
	Output 5: An in-house legal counsel and legal practitioner as Ministry Responsible for Water Affairs to help in formulation and implementation of laws, regulations and policies in the water sector advocated for.	In-house legal counsel and legal practitioner in place	0	2	The Water Sector Performance Report.	Availability of funding and consent from Ministry of Justice and Constitution Affair and Functional Review of the Ministry
	Output 6: Laws, regulations and policies on expanding provision of water services in the country to address the existing challenges including population growth, climate change, use of technology, stressed water places, refugees and internally displaced persons and international shared waters and boundaries developed.	Appropriate laws, regulations and policies in place	5	6	Acts, Regulations and Policy Documents.	Availability of funding and political will
	Output 7: Regulations and policies on water services to include PPPs, independent private and profit-making providers developed.	Appropriate regulations and policies in place	0	1	Regulations and Policy Documents.	Availability of funding and political will

	Output 8: A comprehensive and harmonised governance framework that anchors the water sector to a permanent ministry developed.	A comprehensive and harmonised governance framework in place	0	1	Approved Governance Framework Document	Availability of funding, political will and consent by OPC
	Output 9: Review of all water laws, regulations and policies to be in line with international water instruments such as Africa Water Vision 2025, African Human Rights Commission Guidelines on the Right to Water in Africa and the 2000 SADC Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses undertaken.	Number of reviewed laws, regulations and policies	1	2	Reviewed laws, regulations and policies	Availability of funding and political will
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 10: To strengthen the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector	**Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure that Data collection, compilation, storage and management in the water sector is improved and properly regulated.**					
	Output 1: Systems for data collection, analysis and dissemination in the water sector enhanced and harmonized.	Improved and harmonized data collection systems in place	0	1	Improved datasets and up to date MIS	Availability of funding and willingness of other stakeholders
	Output 2: All matters in relation to disaggregated data templates that capture biodata in line with other laws and segregating information such as age, gender, disability and vulnerability of water users regulated and guided.	Improved and harmonized data templates in place	0	1	Improved datasets and up to date MIS	Availability of funding and willingness of other stakeholders
	Output 3: Data protection in the water sector ensured.	Level satisfaction of data security	20%	90%	Improved datasets and up to date MIS	Availability of funding and willingness of other stakeholders
	Policy Statement 1: An effective policy planning, monitoring and evaluation system with appropriate and efficient feedback mechanism is in place.					
	Output 1: A harmonised M&E framework and MIS for the water sector developed and implemented.	A harmonized M&E Framework	0	1	Harmonized M&E Framework	Availability of funding

		and MIS in place			and Functional MIS	
		Undertake national baseline to inform the service levels to water supply	0	1	Service level baselines in place	Availability of Resources
		Review Indicator Hand book	0	1	Indicator Handbook in place	Availability of Resources
	Output 2: Periodic reviews of the specific programmes and projects in the water sector undertaken in a participatory manner.	Number of periodic reviews conducted	0	20	Progress Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 3: Impact assessments of programmes and projects in the water sector conducted.	Number of impact assessments	0	5	Progress Reports	Availability of funding

POLICY PRIORITY AREA: CROSSCUTTING ISSUES						
Outcome 6: Improved mainstreaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector, including in institutions, programs projects and budgets.						
Objective	**Output**	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
Objective 10: To strengthen the mainstreaming of crosscutting issues in the water sector.	**Policy Statement 1: The policy will ensure equal participation of women, men, girls and boys and the elderly, with or without disability is promoted.**					
	Output 1: Use of gender mainstreaming and social inclusion guidelines and appropriate tools for the water sector enhanced.	Number of gender mainstreaming and social inclusion guidelines and appropriate tools used.	**2**	**2**	Reports	Availability of funding and guidelines and tools

	Output 2: Gender targets and 40:60 and 60:40 gender quotas when recruiting, training and developing staff and committees implemented.	% of Compliance with 40:60 and 60:40 gender quotas in staff and committee membership	90%	100%	Reports	Availability of funding and appropriate staff and committee members
		Percentage of women in CMCs	25%	70%	NWRA Reports	Poor participation of women
		Percentage of women in water supply systems committees	60%	60%	Repo rts	Compliance with National Gender and HIV/AIDS policies
	Output 3: WASH facilities and technologies in the water sector with consideration to gender, social inclusion and vulnerable groups in the designs, development and use.	% of facilities and technologies with sensitivity to gender, social inclusion and vulnerable groups.	50%	All New infrastructur e	Gender inclusive facilities and technologies reports	Availability of funding and new technologies
	Output 4: Current standards on coverage of water points to reduce distances thereby reduce incidences of gender-based violence reviewed.	Revised standards on coverage of water points in place	0	1	Revised Standards Document.	Availability of funding
	Output	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
	Policy Statement 2: The Policy will ensure mainstreaming of green environment and climate change is promoted.					
	Output 1: Measures and laws that discourage bad environmental practices such as deforestation, poor farming practices and promote good environmental and agricultural practices reinforced.	Number of community or police cases reported.	0	10	Case Management Reports.	Compliance by communities to existing measures and laws
	Output 2: Guidelines for mainstreaming and integrating green environment and climate change	Mainstreamin g and Integration	0	1	Mainstreamin g and Integration	Availability of funding

	in the water sector plans, activities, budgets and M&E indicators developed and implemented.	Guidelines in place			Guidelines Document, Sector Performance Reports.	
	Output 3: Access, uptake and use of weather, climate and climate change data and information in water resource development, management and supply promoted.	No. of researchers/ projects using weather, climate and climate change data and information	20	40	Reports	Availability of funding and compliance with National Climate Change Management Policy (2017) and National Meteorological Policy (2019)
	Output 4: Awareness of stakeholders in the water sector on importance of use of weather, climate and climate change information raised.	Number of awareness campaigns conducted	60%	90%	Reports	Availability of funding and compliance with National Climate Change Management Policy (2017) and National Meteorological Policy (2019)
	Output	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
	Policy Statement 3: The Policy will ensure that Research and Development in the water sector is improved.					
	Output 1: Budget allocation for research and development in the water sector increased.	Percentage increase in budget allocation	0	100%	Budget Document, Reports.	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Coordination amongst all institutions that are involved in research and development in the water sector strengthened.	Number of platforms and other modalities for	5	10	Platform Activities Reports.	Availability of funding and willingness of the institutions to collaborate

		coordination established.				
	Output 3: Research at all levels and in all fields such as in water policy, water resources management, water utilisation, pollution control, among others, for decision-making promoted.	Published research outputs	150	250	Research Reports and Policy Briefs	Availability of funding
	Output 4: Compelling research findings in the water sector publicized	Number of publicized research outputs	5	105	Peer Reviewed Journal articles, Newspaper articles, radio, TV, website pages etc.	Availability of funding
	Output	**Performance Indicator**	**Baseline**	**Target**	**Source of Verification**	**Assumption/ Risks**
	Policy Statement 4: The Policy will ensure that capacity in Information and Communication Technology in the water sector is improved.					
	Output 1: Training of personnel in ICT including use of drones and remote sensing in the water sector both at central and local levels promoted.	Number of personnel	**0**	**40**	Reports	Availability of funding
		Websites Developed	**0**	**1**	Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 2: Government domain email addresses and cloud hosting developed	Email addresses and cloud hosting	**0**	**1**	Budget Documents and Reports	Availability of funding
	Output 3: ICT use at all levels in the water sector for research, innovation, efficiency gains, water demand management, among others, promoted.	Percentage increase in use of ICT	30%	**60%**	Reports	Availability of funding and appropriate ICT