

**Water for People  
Trip Report  
Blantyre & Chikwawa, Malawi  
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FP Staff: Whitney Schaefer, Elliott Gilson (Board Member)

Water for People Staff: Kate Harara (Malawi Country Director)

**Intro:**

Water for People (WFP) is one of the implementing partners of charity: water, an organization that FP has worked closely with for the last 8 years(?). WFP was founded in 1991 and currently works in 9 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Their approach is to attain 100% coverage in each district they work in while implementing the full WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) model. So far they are bringing clean water to 3.6 million and sanitation to 1.3 million people. Their motto is water for “Everyone, Forever”.

Malawi is located in Southeastern Africa with a population of 16 million. Malawi is one of the world’s poorest countries with most living below the poverty line of \$1.25 per day. 87% of the urban and 63% of the rural have access to improved water sources while only 49% of urban and 43% of rural have access to improved sanitation facilities. WFP focuses their efforts solely in Blantyre and Chikwawa areas in the South end of the country.

**WFP Malawi Impact:**

1. Clean Water: ~1 million
2. Communities: 974
3. Schools: 248
4. Clinics: 37

**Programs:**

Clean Water – In rural Malawi, the majority of clean water systems are created by borehole drilling and the remainder are gravity-fed schemes. WFP is looking into deep-borehole drilling of 100 meters or more. The villages served support their own pumps and these efforts are headed up by elected members of the community. The elected water committees for each village/district collect monthly tariffs from each household which in turn will go to repairing the pump when necessary. The hope is that in 10-15 years when the entire pump system will need replacing, the community will have enough collected in order to purchase a new one. There is also a loan program in place to more quickly grow the amount needed for a new pump system. Malawi is cash heavy economy, so it is better to have the money out working for the community than sitting in a bank.

In Urban/Peri-urban areas, the chief way that people have access to clean water is through communal water kiosks. These kiosks are managed by Water Users Associations (WUA), which

are headed by elected members of the community serviced by the kiosk. Communities members pay for their water based on container size. A water monitor collects the money and records the amounts in a ledger. A meter is also connected to the kiosk and is checked regularly. The WUA works closely with the government in order to repair any breaks in the lines or kiosks as well as any other water and sanitation needs of the community.

Sanitation & Hygiene – WFP brings sanitation education, proper handwashing stations, access to soap to villages, schools, hospitals and other institutions as part of their well-rounded WASH model. WFP is always looking to add the sanitation component of WASH where a lot of facilities have only clean water. For some schools, a menstrual hygiene management (MHM) program has been put in place so that there is a more comfortable place for girls and to fight the stigma so that no class is missed.

A key element to WFP Malawi's program is their support of sanitation entrepreneurs and Sanitation as a Business (SAAB). In the peri-urban areas, pit latrines are the best method for fecal management. WFP supports pit latrine construction, management, and emptying. Each of the jobs are proving to be great businesses and have made for great livelihoods for people within the communities. These occupations are operated in conjunction with the city councils and government (Public Private Partnerships).

#### **Key Takeaways:**

1. Unclear as to what long-term system is in place for 10-15-year savings plan to cover the cost of well replacement
2. Well-rounded water programs with strong emphasis on sanitation (MHM, SAAB)
3. Impressive public-private partnerships (ex. District Coordination Team strategic plan mirrors WFP's plan, systems change with government and SAAB)
4. Train the trainers and mentorship used to maximize WFP staff impact (only 15 staff)
5. Not expanding to new countries but will launch program in ~20 new districts
6. Focus on 100% coverage rather than broad geographic reach
7. Last mile funding opportunities have similar theme to campaign ideas proposed with charity: water

#### **Funding Opportunities:**

1. Last mile
  1. School WASH programs (5 schools)
    1. Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)
    2. Water
    3. Sanitation
      1. Deep borehole drilling
      2. Sanitation for communities that have water but no sanitation
  2. More support for Sanitation as a Business (SAAB)

2. Water metering for rural villages – helps monitor consumption for fair collection of tariff (for example, a household of 1 now pays the same as a household of 10)
3. Gravity-fed scheme support
  1. Chemical treatment (currently only use sand filtration)
  2. Additional sand for sand filtration

**Visit:**

**Day 1:**

1. Met with the entire WFP staff at their Malawi office. Learned about the Malawi projects history and strategic plan for the future.
2. Drove to rural Chikwawa District to meet with the District Coordination team – District Water Officer, District Health Officer, District Education Officer
3. Visited community borehole pump in village in Ngabu
  - a. Learned about permaculture program and tariff collection for pump repairs/replacement
4. Met with local area pump mechanic at his shop that supplies the Ngabu area

**Day 2**

1. Visited Peri-urban area which surrounds the city center of Blantyre.
2. Met with local businessman who works in construction and concrete pouring to learn about the building of latrines
3. Saw John Matias's shop – Fecal Sludge Management through the private sector
  - a. Medium scale sanitation entrepreneur focusing on pit emptying and latrine construction
4. Visit with Malabada Water Users Association
  - a. Saw Community water kiosks and "pay per bucket" system and monitoring
5. Met with another SAAB entrepreneur working on solid waste management solutions



Classic greeting from the local villagers in Malawi. Truly such a warm and welcoming country!



Borehole Well Pump in action





Well and community garden created with run off from pump. Crops sold at markets for extra income as well as eaten by village.



Local businessman who supplies the spare parts for fixing the pumps. Can source any part or new pump if needed. Works with WFP.



Example of top-of-the-line latrine. Man in back is owner of his own construction business.





John Matias' pit emptying and latrine construction business. He has quite a few employees now with healthy salaries. A great example of how one can flourish in SAAB! (Pit emptier called a "gulper" pictured on the right)



Peri-urban water solution



Women waiting at the communal water kiosk. Amazing that some can carry up to 70 pounds of water at a time!!





Whitney and Elliott with the WUA's board.