

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Lilongwe Drought Resilience
Project Number: 2019-0466
Country: Malawi
Project Description: Construction of a new water treatment plant and rehabilitation and extension of the distribution system for the city of Lilongwe Malawi

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns an investment programme for Lilongwe Water Board from 2020 to 2022. This is a follow-up operation of the LILONGWE WATER RESOURCE EFFICIENCY PROGRAMME (2013-0566) that amongst other components financed the raising of Kamuzu Dam 1 that substantially increased the storage volume available to Lilongwe Water Board (LWB). The new investment programme will increase the overall water efficiency and drought resilience of the LWB water supply system through an increase of the water treatment and storage capacity, as well as the rehabilitation of pipelines.

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

The Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining (MNREM), is the responsible authority for development and enforcement of environmental policy and legislation. The EAD, with support from the Technical Committee on

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

the Environment (TCE), and in line with the provisions of the EMA as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines of 1997, determines whether an ESIA is required or not, for all projects. The TCE reviews environmental and social impact assessment reports for proposed projects and makes recommendations to the Director of Environmental Affairs, who reports to the National Council for the Environment (NCE). The NCE considers the recommendations from the EAD and advises the Minister for approval and issuance of the environmental certificate for a project to proceed.

In accordance with these guidelines, Lilongwe Water Board commissioned an Environmental and Social Screening. It concluded that a full ESIA was not required but Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) needed to be prepared. The ESIA screening report and ESMP were prepared with project preparation funds from the World Bank and followed WB environmental and social standards. Within the EU context (2014/52/EU Directive amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU on Environmental Impacts), this project would have been screened as an annex II project. The ESIA screening report and the ESMP are acceptable to the EIB.

The main expected impacts of the project include:

Positive impacts

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

Negative impacts

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

Climate change

The project aims at improving the sustainability of the water supply service in the area of Lilongwe, including its resilience toward climate change, which is already severely affecting Malawi through more frequent and longer drought spells. The project tackles climate change impact in terms of adaptation.

Social Assessment, where applicable

In addition to the positive impacts listed above, the project will have further positive social impacts related to employment opportunities. It will create different employment opportunities during the various phases of the project such as assisting with social surveys, unskilled and skilled labour during construction period. In addition to the direct employment opportunities,

there will be also secondary opportunities such as transport, accommodation, food services and laundry services for example.

Land will be required for construction of the water treatment plant, associated structures and movement of vehicles. LWB already owns the required land adjacent to the existing water treatment plant(s). Consequently, no land acquisition is necessary.

The project's ESMP addresses social impacts appropriately and is acceptable to the EIB.

Other social issues

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

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation meetings were held with all the institutions, which will have a role in the project implementation. These included Lilongwe Water Board; Environmental Affairs Department; Lilongwe City Council; Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; ESCOM; and Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Water Development.

Socio-economic survey

Considering that activities of the proposed project will cover land within the Lilongwe Water Board premises, the socio-economic study for the project considered the population around Lilongwe Water Board and Lilongwe as a whole. A socio-economic survey was conducted in the surrounding areas around Lilongwe Water Board premises in January 2018.

The data collected include:

- a) The demographic characteristics of the people in the project impact area: the total number of the household, sex, language, marital status, ethnic and religion composition, educational status, employment and occupation, and number of household members who are involved in economic activities. Number of social institutions, small and medium enterprises in the area which are benefiting the people;
- b) Major economic activities of household, sources of income of the household, total income and expenditure of the household, household expenditure by type; and
- c) Major health problems of the household, health education status (water, sanitation and hygiene), incidence of water borne diseases, type of latrine and other sanitation facilities in use; etc

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The implementation of this Project will lead to improved potable water supply services and public health, an enabling environment for economic activities in the project areas.
- The Project is not expected to have significant adverse impact on the environment. Possible negative environmental effects should be temporary and confined to the immediate construction sites.



- There will be no resettlement or economic displacement.

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

Condition for any disbursement related to works:

- Evidence that the ESMP has been properly considered in the works contract as a contractually binding document.