



Mangochi Basic Services Programme

Master Programme Document – MAL16050-1201

Programme Support by ICEIDA to the Mangochi District Council for the Improvement of Basic Services in Mangochi District 2012 - 2016



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Council for the Improvement of Basic Services in
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Acronyms

ACDO	Assistant Community Development Officer
ADC	Area Development Committee
AEC	Area Executive Committee
AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ALP	Adult Literacy Project
CD	Country Director
CDA	Community Development Assistant
DAT	District Advisory Team
DEM	District Education Manager
DC	District Commissioner
DCDO	District Community Development Officer
DDF	District Development Fund
DDP	District Development Plan
DEC	District Executive Committee
DFID	Department for International Development
DHO	District Health Officer
DoF	Director of Finance
DoL	Division of Labour
DP	Development Partner
DPD	Director of Planning and Development
DWO	District Water Officer
EU	European Union
FWs	Field Workers
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoM	Government of Malawi
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
HC	Health Centre
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HSA	Health Surveillance Assistant
ICEIDA	Icelandic International Development Agency
IPC	Internal Procurement Committee
LDF	Local Development Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MBSP	Mangochi Basic Services Programme
MBCH	Monkey Bay Community Hospital
MDC	Mangochi District Council
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MoEP&D	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoGCCD	Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoIWD	Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development
MoLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
NAO	National Audit Office

NALP	National Adult Literacy Programme
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NLGFC	National Local Government Finance Committee
ODPP	Office of the Director for Public Procurement
ORT	Other Recurrent Transaction
PBA	Programme Based Approach
PD	Project Document
PIC	Project Implementation Committee
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PM	Project Manager
TA	Traditional Authority
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASNAN	Water and Sanitation Project
WMA	Water Monitoring Assistant
WFP	World Food Programme

Preface

The following document describes the cooperation between Mangochi District and the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) as stipulated in the Country Strategy Paper (CPS) for Iceland's development cooperation in Malawi 2012-2016. ICEIDA will provide programme based assistance to the District Council of Mangochi to achieve the goals of its development strategy in areas of social services: Water and Sanitation, Education and Public Health. The Programme includes capacity building at district level and is incorporated into all relevant areas of support.

The Mangochi Basic Services Programme is subject to the tripartite partnership agreement on funding, management, implementation and monitoring, between the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and Mangochi District Council on behalf of the Government of Malawi (GoM) and ICEIDA on behalf of the Government of Iceland, as stipulated in Article 1.1 of the agreement.

In this document roles and responsibilities of the Partners are clarified. It outlines sub components in the programme, including the management, organisation and implementation mechanisms. The management structure for the sub-components of Water and Sanitation, Education and Public Health are mapped as well.

A preliminary draft of the Programme Document was composed in March/April 2011 by a joint taskforce from Mangochi District Council and ICEIDA (see annex 1) and a final version submitted for approval in March 2012.

Executive summary

The Government of Malawi, the Mangochi District Council and ICEIDA will cooperate in the improvement of delivery of basic social services to the population of Mangochi. This Mangochi Basic Services Programme (MBSP) will be implemented by the Mangochi District Council and funded by ICEIDA. The programme period is four years from July 2012 to June 2016.

The MBSP consist of these main components:

- In **water and sanitation** the main objectives are increasing access of the population to potable water and improving hygiene practices with the use of adequate sanitation facilities to reduce waterborne diseases and to promote better health and well-being.
- In **public health** the main goal is to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality through increased availability, access and utilization of improved maternal and neonatal health care services.
- In **education** the programme will aim to provide more equitable access to education, to improve the quality of education facilities and to increase the pass rate in primary schools by means of improving school facilities and training of staff.
- **Capacity building** to strengthen the ability of Mangochi District Council to deliver quality services and ensure successful implementation of the MBSP.

Throughout the MBSP, two cross cutting issues, gender and environment, will be systematically considered and indicators developed to measure progress towards gender equality.

Malawi and Iceland have been partners in development since 1989 and the main emphasis has been on Mangochi District, especially the area around Monkey Bay in Nankumba Traditional Authority (TA). The Mangochi District Council is the administrative and political authority of the district. The council is run by representatives (local elections have not been held since 2000) from the wards, traditional chiefs, MPs and five appointed representatives of special interest groups as well as the District Commissioner (DC) and high level officials.

Development planning in the district has a “people centred, bottom up and participatory” approach based on the Local Government Act of Malawi from 1998. The planning process starts from the village level through Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Area Development Committees (ADCs) and reaches the District Executive Committee (DEC) which is responsible for overall planning and implementation. Mangochi’s development framework is based on the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II) which is the overarching national development strategy that has guided the production of the District Development Plan (DDP) at district level.¹

The DDP 2007-2011 identified 14 priority development issues for Mangochi. ICEIDA will provide funds to support the District through a programme based approach in addressing three of these priority issues: 1. Low access to potable water; 2. High morbidity and mortality rate (infant & maternal mortality); and 3. Low access to quality education, and high illiteracy rate.

¹ In the DDP 2007-2011, the main objective is reducing poverty under the poverty line of US\$ 1 per day from 60,7 % to 58,7.

To clarify the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the partners, a tripartite agreement on funding, management, implementation and monitoring has been made between the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and Mangochi District Council on behalf of the Government of Malawi (GoM) and ICEIDA on behalf of the Government of Iceland². According to the agreement the responsibility for management, implementation and monitoring lies with the Mangochi District Council and its institutions and sector offices. In line with the principle of mutual accountability (e.g. Paris Declaration and Accra Agenda for Action), ICEIDA commits to implementation support while retaining the right to consultation and supervision to ensure effective implementation and sound financial management. The MoLGRD has a supervisory role over the District during the implementation process.

Under this overarching Programme Document three individual Programme Documents, one for each programme component are to be included, each specifying immediate objectives in respective areas of intervention. These will include details on funding, work plans, duration and operational procedures.

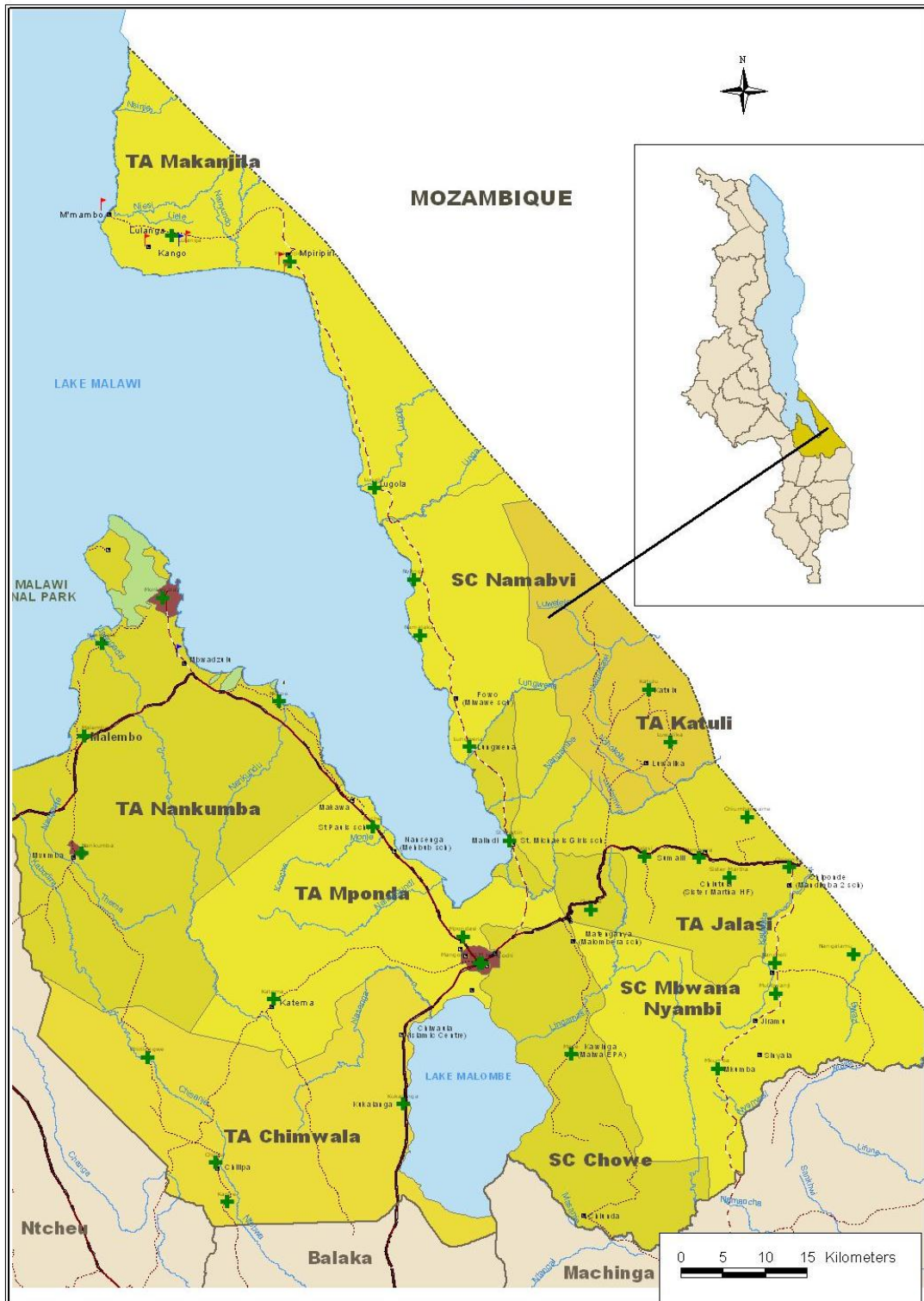
To support effective implementation, the partners, Mangochi District Council and ICEIDA, will form a Partnership Committee. This committee will hold joint meetings twice a year chaired by the District Commissioner (DC). These meetings are the MBSP's main consultation forum for funding and implementation.

For monitoring and reporting purposes the MBSP will follow the District monitoring and reporting system (Monitoring and Evaluation Master Plan in the District Development Plan (DDP 2007 - 2011)).

The total budget estimated for the four year period is, depending on progress and available funds, between USD 8 million and 13 million.

² This agreement is for the four year duration of the MBSP from 2012 to 2016.

Map of Mangochi



1. Background and justification

1.1 The history

Development cooperation between Iceland (through ICEIDA) and Malawi started in 1989. In the beginning, the focus was entirely on development in the fisheries sector but around the turn of the century ICEIDA's strategy changed in accordance with international commitments such as the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and increased emphasis was placed on providing support to the social sector. A large part of ICEIDA supported operations in Malawi have been carried out in Mangochi District, with focus on the Monkey Bay area within Nankumba Traditional Authority (TA) (see annex 2 for Mangochi Overview). ICEIDA's assistance has until now mostly been in the form of direct project support in cooperation with various line ministries. In general the support has included provision of funds as well as technical assistance. Project management and disbursement of funds to activities were principally in the hands of ICEIDA.

In 2011, three ICEIDA supported projects in Mangochi came to an end: Adult Literacy (ALP), Water and Sanitation (WATSAN), and the development of the Monkey Bay Community Hospital (MBCH) was phased out in beginning of 2012.

1.2 Lessons learned

A number of lessons have been learned from the cooperation between Malawi and ICEIDA³. It is recognised that ICEIDA supported projects have considerably benefited the communities in the impact areas. The development approach was inclusive, involving government staff at all levels. Capacity of field workers and relevant project staff has been improved through training and further education abroad and within the country. Ownership has however been an issue and previous projects supported by ICEIDA have often been perceived as primarily ICEIDA projects by stakeholders and beneficiaries although the projects have been implemented in partnership with Malawian authorities. The new approach aims to strengthen the District Council's capacity to achieve its development goals by using local systems in the implementation which will also address ownership concerns. By providing more integrated support under a single comprehensive programme, ICEIDA aims to contribute to increased sustainability of programme activities where capacity and infrastructure development will be retained within the local delivery system.

1.3 Justification

In December 2009, the Mangochi District Council submitted a formal request to ICEIDA for extending and expanding their development cooperation. Emphasis was put on the following sectors: water and sanitation, education, adult literacy, agriculture and capacity building in the same sectors⁴. In the dialogue that ensued, the two partners jointly decided to prepare a programme at district level with special focus on the following areas: water and sanitation;

³ A more detailed discussion is in the Country Strategy Plan 2012-2016.

⁴ Annex 5 includes a report on development needs prepared by the District Executive Committee in December 2009.

education; public health; and capacity building within the District's administrative structure. The rationale for selecting these areas is the following⁵:

Water and sanitation: Access to potable water is still very limited in some areas in the district, for example, Chimwala (50%), Mponda (60%), Makanjira (60%) and Namabvi (64%). There is also a need to improve sanitary facilities and a significant number of households does not have traditional pit latrines. The work of the District Water Office suffers due to inadequate manpower and facilities. ICEIDA's previous experience in this sector can be built upon and trained field workers from the WATSAN project will be employed at the Water Office as Water Monitoring Assistants (WMAs) to ensure effective implementation of the extended programme. ICEIDA can thus provide funding, experience and transfer of knowledge.

Education: The challenges in education are considerable in the district. Dropout rates for pupils are higher than in other districts in the country. Shortage of teachers is another major problem. The district average teacher/pupil ratio is 1:129 which is far below the national standard of 1:60. One of the reasons is a lack of decent housing for teachers, especially in remote rural areas. In general, school facilities are poor, whether one looks at buildings or equipment, which is one of the reasons contributing to poor retention of pupils. ICEIDA has experience in supporting the education sector in Mangochi in terms of infrastructure development and provision of equipment.

Health: The Demographic and Health Survey 2010 suggests that Mangochi lags behind in many health areas. The contraceptive prevalence rate is low in Mangochi (26.6%), the lowest in Malawi. High utilisation of antenatal care services (97.5%) is reported, but lower than average percentage of deliveries are attended by skilled health professionals (69.1%) or taking place in health facilities (67.3%). Mangochi scores below average in childhood immunisation and care seeking in childhood illnesses. The prevalence of anaemia in children is relatively high and Mangochi has the highest prevalence in Malawi when it comes to anaemia in women. Some causes of infant mortality include malaria, poor diet, and repeated pregnancies and lack of care before and during delivery⁶. ICEIDA has a long standing experience in supporting the health sector in Mangochi through the Monkey Bay Community Hospital project.

Capacity building: The District Office faces various challenges in delivering its services. It suffers from considerable lack of human resources as well as poor infrastructure. A fourth component of the cooperation between the District Council and ICEIDA will therefore be in the form of institutional support to the District Office to assist it in building a capable workforce to successfully implement development projects. This will be formulated in a plan for the four year period. Capacity building is also incorporated into all areas of support that ICEIDA will provide in Mangochi as described in respective Programme Documents.

⁵ Statistical information is drawn from Mangochi District Socio-Economic Profile 2009 (Mangochi District Assembly); the Population and Housing Census 2008 (NSO); and the Malawi Demographic Health Survey 2010 (NSO).

⁶ More information may be found in a report prepared by Th Arnadottir in December 2011: *ICEIDA Mangochi Partnership in Health 2012-2016*.

2. The Mangochi Basic Services Programme (MBSP)

2.1 Introduction

A Country Strategy Plan (CSP) 2012-2016 for cooperation between Iceland and Malawi has been approved by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Iceland. It is aligned with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy 2011-2016 (MGDS II) of the Government of Malawi. On behalf of the Government of Iceland, ICEIDA is responsible for the implementation of the core activities of the CSP. This has been formalized through a tripartite agreement (2012-2016) between ICEIDA, the Ministry of Local Government (MoLGRD) and Mangochi District Council (MDC) with this Programme Document and accompanying Programme Documents outlining the different components of the programme.

The Mangochi Basic Services Programme (MBSP) espoused in this document is a logical continuum and an expansion of the previous direct project support provided by ICEIDA in the Monkey Bay area in health, water and sanitation, adult literacy and primary education⁷.

ICEIDA, MDC and the MoLGRD have piloted several development activities in 2010 and 2011 based on more coordination and alignment with the District's development strategy, with a degree of satisfaction from all parties.

2.2 Development objective

The overall objective of the MBSP is to assist the Malawian Government and the Mangochi District Council to improve living standards in the rural communities in Mangochi District. This will result in a more resilient population in adversity and a more resourceful one for self-sufficiency.

2.3 Immediate Objectives

To achieve desired outcomes the MBSP will aim at obtaining immediate objectives and specific outputs which can be measured against baselines and numeric indicators of progress. These are detailed in subsequent Programme Documents for each of the three components. At the time of launch in July 2012 the uncertainty in Malawi's economy following a 50% devaluation of the local currency in May 2012 makes exact numeric estimates for outputs in a four years period impossible. This is an overall risk factor for the MBSP that needs to be addressed at time of launch and carefully monitored during the programme period.

Improved water supply and sanitation has a positive impact on the health of the people affected. The provision of safe and secure water points needs to be closely interlinked with sensitization to improve hygienic practices. It is recognised that improved water supply and sanitation services have direct impact on the lives of poor people, especially women and children, by reducing the occurrence of waterborne diseases. Furthermore the reduction of time and effort needed for water collection within the households (traditionally the chore of women and children) will improve living standards by freeing up time and energy that can be diverted to more productive labour.

The immediate objective of the water and sanitation programme is: *Increased and sustainable access to and use of improved safe water sources and improved sanitation practices in TA Chimwala.*

⁷ Programme Identification Document (ICEIDA 2010).

Main outputs:

1. At least 150 new boreholes constructed in target area
2. At least 100 protected shallow wells constructed in target area
3. At least 100 defunct boreholes rehabilitated in target area
4. At least 350 water point management committees trained in community based management (operations and maintenance, sanitation and organization) in target area
5. At least 80% of households construct and use improved pit latrines and hand wash facilities in target area
6. District system strengthened for WASH service delivery
7. Environmental aspects around water points and in relation to sanitation activities have been examined and addressed

In the health sector ICEIDA will join the GoM and Mangochi DHO in their effort to improve the quality of life of the people of Mangochi by reducing the risk of ill health and occurrence of premature deaths thereby contributing to the social and economic development of the district.

The immediate objective of the Public Health Programme is: *Increased availability, access and utilisation of high impact, quality maternal and child health services in Mangochi.*

Main outputs:

1. Improved health services infrastructure
 - 1.1. General infrastructure in the network of the MoH health centres is strengthened
 - 1.2. Improved infrastructure and equipment in maternal and child health services in HCs
2. Increased coverage of high impact, quality maternal and child health services
 - 2.1. Improved referral services
 - 2.2. Strengthened Community based health services
3. Improved capacity of the health system to deliver services
 - 3.1. Improved working conditions for public health (PH) support staff at the DHO
 - 3.2 Institutional capacity strengthened at the DHO
 - 3.3 Improved health management information system

In education Malawi is not likely to achieve the MDG 2 on the achievement of universal primary education. Mangochi district faces numerous challenges in the education sector. ICEIDA will support the District in addressing its shortfalls in education in a number of areas related to both infrastructure development and quality of teaching in target schools in order to improve retention rates and performance of learners. ICEIDA will also work with other donors in the District, like WFP in a school meals pilot project, and UNICEF in Water and Sanitation improvements in schools

The immediate objective of the Education Programme is: *Improve quality of education in target schools to reduce drop-out and repetition and promote effective learning.*

Main outputs:

1. Infrastructure and capacity strengthening in target schools
2. Enhanced equity and improved retention of girls and OVC's in target schools
3. Improved management of target schools

2.4 Target group

The primary target group is the population of Mangochi District with priority given to the poorest communities in rural areas. Secondary beneficiaries will be field workers, community development committees and various staff at the Mangochi District Council through participation in programme activities, training courses, etc. which is expected to increase their capacity to deliver services.

2.5 Programme strategy

The Strategy for Iceland's Development Cooperation 2011-2014, was approved by the Icelandic Parliament in 2011. ICEIDA shall align its development efforts with international agreements and declarations and will incorporate the principles of these into its operational procedures in Malawi.

In accordance with the Icelandic framework for development cooperation and the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Mangochi Basic Services Programme (MBSP) will support and follow the overall development strategy of the District Council. This implies that:

- Priority issues identified by the District Council will be addressed in a dialogue between the partners;
- Financial commitments will be linked to the District Council result framework and budget cycle;
- Full alignment shall be the first option for financial support.

ICEIDA will in its plans follow the budget cycle of Malawi from 1 July each year to 30 June the following year. Funds for the MBSP will be channelled from ICEIDA through the District Development Fund (DDF), which is administered by the District Council with the MoLGRD and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) fully informed of planned and actual disbursements.

2.6 Guiding principles

The MBSP will follow these principles:

Leadership of District Council

The Mangochi District Council has the responsibility of improving the services in the district and will lead the programme work. This means that the District's annual work plans, financial management system and monitoring and evaluation system will be used to the fullest extent possible.

Ensuring equality and equity

There are several different ethnic groups in Mangochi and the predominant faiths are Islam (70%) and Christianity (28%). In planning and implementing the MBSP, the diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds will be given special consideration to ensure equality and equity.

Social inclusiveness

In the planning and implementation of the MBSP, special attention will be paid to vulnerable groups at village level to voice their concerns. Poverty in Mangochi is widespread and within the district there are groups living in extreme poverty, including widow- and orphan-headed households, disabled and sick people without access to land and resources which can lead to social marginalisation.

Gender sensitivity

One aim of the MGDS II is to reduce gender inequalities and enhance participation of both women and men in socioeconomic development. This includes meaningful participation of both women and men in decision making; wealth creation and poverty reduction. The MBSP will systematically work towards enhancing gender mainstreaming across its target sectors and use indicators to evaluate progress towards gender equality.

Capacity building

The MBSP will work towards the MGDS II goal of developing a productive and efficient workforce with the necessary supporting equipment and infrastructure. The programme will aim to enhance workforce capacity and supportive systems, and improve administration, management and performance across the relevant sectors.

Management for results

The partners will focus on a result framework, with indicators, targets and baseline data, linked to the monitoring and evaluation plan. Attention will be given to the identification and mitigation of major risk factors.

3. Programme management and oversight procedures

3.1 Main Documents

Tripartite Agreement: The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and the Mangochi District Council on behalf of the Government of Malawi (GoM) and ICEIDA on behalf of the Government of Iceland will enter into a tripartite agreement regarding the Mangochi Basic Services Programme (MBSP). The agreement specifies roles and responsibilities of the different parties regarding funding, management, implementation and monitoring of the MBSP.

Programme Documents: On approving this master document, ICEIDA and the Mangochi District Council will agree on subsequent Programme Documents for each programme component stipulating funding, work plan, duration and operational procedures. Relevant line ministries and government agencies in Malawi will be consulted regarding guidance on policy making and major issues of concern as appropriate.

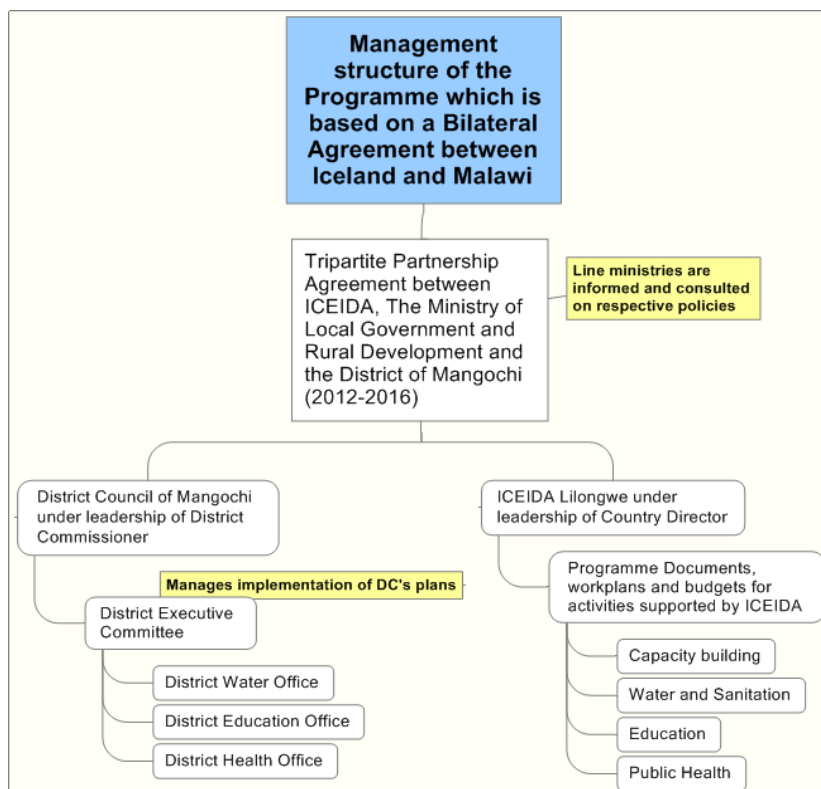


Figure 1. Cooperation between Mangochi District and ICEIDA. Programme organisation.

3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

- a. **The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD)** is responsible for the tripartite agreement and will liaise with ICEIDA at central level. It has a supervisory role towards the Mangochi District Council.
- b. **ICEIDA** is responsible for funding of the MBSP and monitoring on behalf of the Government of Iceland.
- c. **Line ministries** in the relevant sectors have a role to play in the MBSP; the three most important are the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development (MoIWD) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST). These ministries will give guidance in various aspects of the programme. In addition, the MoF and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MoEP&D) is responsible for the government budget and therefore has a monitoring role in the programme.
- d. **Mangochi District Council** implements activities and is responsible for transparent financial administration, adherence to procurement rules and resource management. The MBSP is in line with the District's plans and strategies and is implemented through its mechanisms.

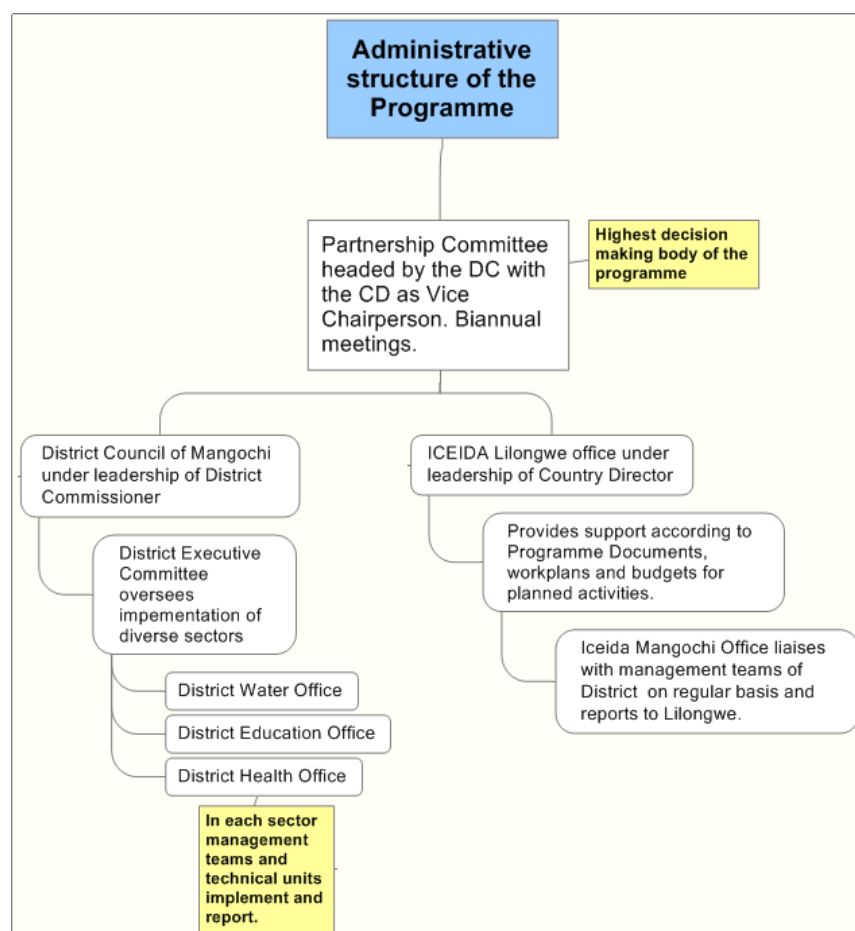


Figure 2. Administrative structure of the programme.

- e. **The Partnership Committee** (see 3.3) is the highest decision making body of the MBSP.
- f. **District Executive Committee (DEC)** is the technical and advisory body of the District Council chaired by the District Commissioner and comprises all heads of sectors. The DEC is responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the District Development Plan or coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
- g. **Management and coordination teams.** In each of the sectors supported by the MBSP, the District Council has a management and/or coordination team. In health it is the District Health Management Team. In education it is the District Education Management Team. For water and sanitation it is the District Coordination Team. Representatives of the various district offices that have a stake in the sector are members of these teams. These teams meet at regular intervals, review progress of sector plans and make decisions about future activities. Donors can participate in the work of these teams, and ICEIDA will be actively involved during the lifespan of the programme. These teams report to the DEC.
- h. **Day-to-day collaboration** between the District Council and ICEIDA will take place through the ICEIDA Mangochi Office which will be established before the MBSP starts.
- i. **Technical units.** The District Water Office, the District Health Office and the District Education Office are responsible for implementation at the community level, and reporting in collaboration with communities, VDCs and ADCs. Correspondence and guidance takes place through Area Executive Committees (AECs), on which various extension workers serve.

3.3 The Partnership Committee

The Mangochi Basic Services Programme (MBSP) will have a Partnership Committee that will provide oversight functions and serves as the highest decision making body for the programme.

The members of the Partnership Committee include the Mangochi District Commissioner as Chairperson and the ICEIDA Country Director as Vice Chairperson. Other members will include relevant district officials, such as heads of sectors and departments, and ICEIDA staff. If deemed necessary, representatives of relevant line ministries and government agencies may be invited to the meetings of the Partnership Committee.

The Partnership Committee will meet twice a year, according to its own plan, and will be guided by the following terms of reference:

- Approve and monitor programme activity plans and budgets;
- Approve and monitor financial reports;
- Monitor implementation and review the results achieved by the programme;
- Discuss any special concerns that partners may have and determine action.
- Determine the date and other practicalities of a mid-term programme review to be undertaken in the 2014-2015 financial year.

The necessary reports and documentation for the biannual meetings must be submitted at least 15 days in advance of each meeting. These include activity plans and budgets, a financial report and progress reports for each programme component.

3.4 Reporting

For monitoring and reporting purposes the programme will follow the District monitoring and reporting system (Monitoring and Evaluation Master Plan in the District Development Plan (DDP 2007 - 2011)). Twice a year, prior to the meetings of the Partnership Committee, a progress report for each programme component shall be submitted by the Mangochi District Council. These reports will review the actual output of the MBSP and compare with the activity plan. In case of deviations from the plans, explanations should be provided.

Financial reports will be produced monthly by the District Council, as indicated in the section below on *Transfer and management of funds*. At the end of each financial year, prior the Partnership Committee meeting, a financial report for the whole year will be produced and presented to the Committee.

The responsibility for monitoring lies with the Mangochi District Council and its sector offices.

3.5 Technical support and ICEIDA supervision

ICEIDA will make technical assistance available to the Mangochi District Council for implementation support, e.g. through consultations, supervision, transportation and communication means and other assistance. This may include the funding of outside experts and consultants, if necessary.

ICEIDA will establish a small district office in Mangochi Boma with staff. ICEIDA staff members will interact on a regular basis with staff of the District Council.

Frequent field visits will be undertaken by ICEIDA in cooperation with the partners to monitor activities. These are complementary to the field visits of the staff of the District Council which form a part of the MBSP.

4. Financial management and disbursement of funds

4.1 Transfer and management of funds

The Mangochi District Council will be the recipient and manager of all programme funds for the MBSP. ICEIDA will release funds into the Mangochi District Development Fund (DDF) in accordance with Article 6 of the Partnership Agreement.

Each programme activity will have a separate ledger in the DDF's books which can be accessed by ICEIDA's representative at all times.

The District Council will treat all funds received from ICEIDA as public funds and will utilise and account for them as governed by the Public Finance Management Act of GoM (2003). All payments for programme activities will follow the proper procedures for public funds. The District Council, through its Finance Department, will keep all books of accounts for the programme updated at all times.

By the 10th day of each month the District Council will provide ICEIDA with a financial report outlining programme expenditures of the previous month for each programme component,

including a comparison with the approved budgets. Release of further funding is contingent on the receipt of the financial reports.

ICEIDA may without notice delay or stop the release of funding if a suspicion of misappropriation or misuse of funds materialises and request an external audit.

4.2 Procurement of goods and services

All procurement of goods and services under the MBSP will be governed by the Public Procurement Act (2003) and any subsequent procurement guidelines that are provided by the GoM, through the Office of the Director of Public Procurement (ODPP). Apart from providing the legal framework for procurement in and among public procuring entities the Act also provides for the establishment of Internal Procurement Committees (IPCs) as well as transparent procurement guidelines. The IPC of the Mangochi District Council will have the task of processing the procurement of goods and services and seeking the necessary approvals from ODPP for all procurement that will be done as part of the MBSP.

In addition the following will apply:

- A procurement plan will form a part of each programme document
- All documents regarding procurement of goods and services shall be made available to both parties for acceptance.
- ICEIDA will be kept informed about, and invited to comment on, invitations to submit tenders in the programme and the selection process of contractors and suppliers.
- The tendering process shall be executed by the District according to accepted standards of Malawian law but with the informed consent (“no-objection”) of ICEIDA at all stages.

4.3 Auditing

The Public Finance Management Act (2003) requires public officers to utilise all public funds for their intended purpose. This includes funds from donors such as ICEIDA. When such funds are being utilised, officials have to ensure that all accounting rules and regulations are followed to the letter. Two types of audits will be undertaken to verify this.

Annual external audit

As with all district councils, an annual audit is undertaken of the Mangochi District Council’s books of accounts. This is done to conform to the Public Audit Act (1998) that requires all entities receiving and using public funds for the implementation of their activities to be audited by external auditors annually. In the case of Mangochi District Council auditors from either the National Audit Office (NAO) or from the private sector (appointed by the Auditor General) will perform the audit. This includes the DDF that all programme funds from ICEIDA go through.

The MoLGRD will ensure that ICEIDA receives a copy of the audited financial accounts of the Mangochi District as soon as they are available.

Internal audits

Twice a year the District Council will undertake an internal audit of the programme’s books of account. The results will be made available to ICEIDA immediately when available and will be discussed at the Partnership Committee biannual meetings. In addition, ICEIDA has the right to inspect and audit the DDF accounts any time.

4.4 Review and evaluation

The programme period covers four years starting from 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2016. Smaller adjustments to the MBSP, as long as its relevance is not in question, may be undertaken during the meetings of the Partnership Committee and, if required, in consultation with the ICEIDA Head Office. External mid-term evaluations of the individual programmes will be carried out during the 2014-2015 financial year and a final evaluations during 2017. Further time schedule for reviews and evaluations is outlined in the respective programme documents. Reviews and evaluations shall be undertaken by independent consultants and funded separately by the ICEIDA office in Malawi.

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Annex 2: Mangochi Overview⁸

1.1 Key facts: Malawi and Mangochi District 2011

	Malawi	Mangochi
Population	15.4 million	797,000 (2008)
Life Expectancy at birth	54.2 (UN 2011)	
Average population growth	2.8% (2008)	3.04% (2008)
Adult Literacy	73.7% 15 and over (UN 2011)	49% 18 and over MDC 2009)
Access to safe drinking water	80% (UN 2011)	73% (DSIP)
Maternal Mortality	620 per 100,000 (MDHO 2006)	400 per 100,000 (MDHO 2006)
Infant mortality (under 5)	143 per 1000 (MDHO 2006)	169 per 1000 (MDHO 2006)
Enrolment/primary school	83% (MDG assessment 2010)	70% (Educ.Office Mangochi 2008)

Table 1. Key facts for Malawi and Mangochi District 2011.

1.2 Demography - Economy - Geography

Malawi is divided into 28 districts within three regions: Central Region, Northern Region and Southern Region. Mangochi District is situated at the southern end of Lake Malawi and is one of 13 districts in the Southern Region. The district is approximately 200 km northeast of Blantyre, a major commercial and industrial city in the country. Mangochi has a total land area of 6,273 km² and covers approximately 6.7% of the country's land area.

Population: The population of Mangochi is about 800,000 and ranks among the poorest in Malawi. The dependency age group of younger than 17 yrs comprises 57% of the total population while the dependency age group of over 65 yrs comprises 4% of the population. 32% of the households are female headed. The mean household size is four.

Environment: Mangochi lies within a savannah woodland, with baobab trees dominating the lakeshore areas. 23% of the district's total land area is covered by forests. Deforestation is a growing problem.

Religion: The predominant faiths in the District are Islam (71%) and Christianity (28%). Traditional religions and practices are also evident especially during times of stress such as during drought and flooding. Religion plays important role in the daily life of people.

⁸ Information resources: a) UN Human Development Report 2010; b) Mangochi District Development Programme Identification Document, ICEIDA 2010; c) Malawi 2010 Millennium Development Goals Report, Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation; d) Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II 2011- 2016; e) Mangochi District Socio-Economic Profile, Jan 2009; f) District Development Plan (DDP) for Mangochi 2006-2011; g) Population & Housing Census 2008; h) District Strategy and Investment Plan in Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Programme DSIP 2007-2015.

Culture: Mangochi is divided into nine so called Traditional Authorities (TA) or parishes.

Yao is the predominant ethnic group in Mangochi concentrated in TA Makanjira, Jalasi, Katuli, Chowe, Chimwala, Mponda and Nankumba. The Nyanja or Chewa have a significant presence in TA Nankumba. The Ngoni, Tonga, Lomwe and Tumbuka are also found in the District. Yao is the main language spoken, although most people in Mangochi understand Chichewa and over 50 % of the population speak Chichewa.

Education: Literacy rate for age group 18 years and over is 49%. The age group of 3-29 years has a total of 493,000 potential students. However only 150,730 (44%) of this population attend school. Thus only 31% of the total number of school-aged boys and 29% of the total number of school-aged girls attend school.

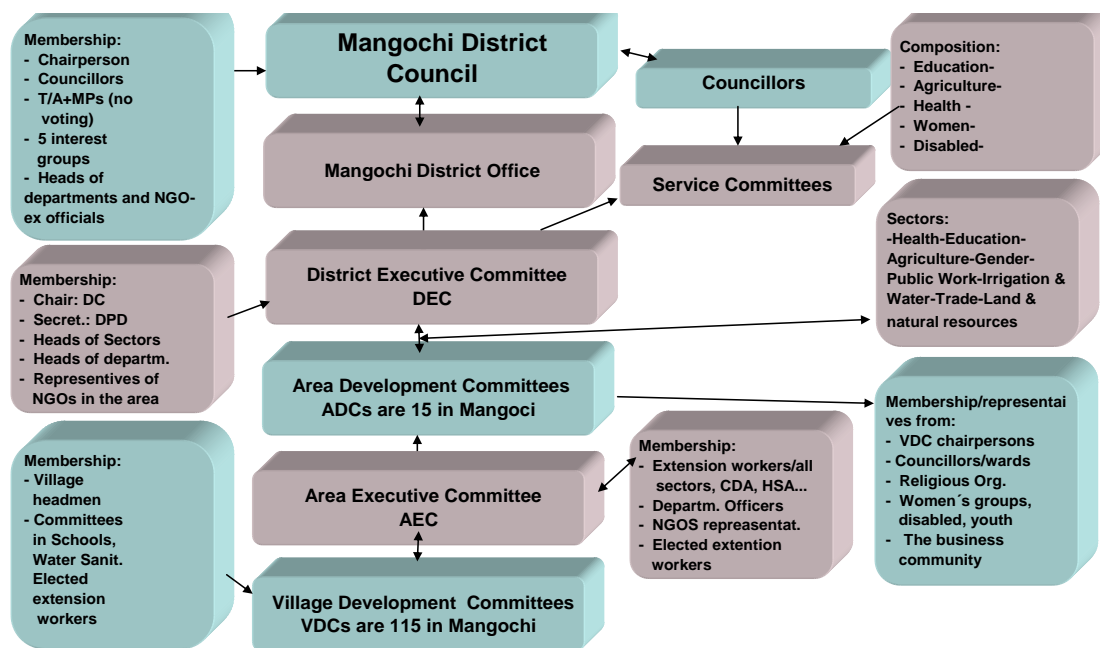
HIV/AIDS: In Malawi there has been an increase in HIV infected persons accessing anti-retroviral treatment from 3% in 2000 to 65% in 2011. Mangochi District lags behind in many ways. Of note is the fact that Health Sector Strategic Plan 2011-2016 ranks Mangochi fourth lowest among Malawi's 28 districts as regards access to health services.

Occupation and income: Agriculture and natural resources are the main sources of income and employment for 85% of the people in Mangochi District. This includes fishing. Approximately 16,000 people are directly employed in the fishing industry while over 40,000 are indirectly benefiting from the industry through fish trading, boat building, fish gear construction and other related fishing activities. Other sources of employment are commerce, manufacturing and the service sector including the tourism industry. This includes petty traders and hand crafters making cane chairs and mats. The authorities believe that the tourism industry can be strengthened in the future. The District is one of the primary tourist destinations in the country. Lake Malawi is the major tourist attraction, but problems like high incidence of malaria in the district and parasites (bilharzia) in the lake keep people from coming.

The cash transfer programme: A major source of income during farming season comes from a public work programme generated by Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF) and European Union (EU)/ Government of Malawi (GoM). The farmers use the cash transfer to buy inputs which include subsidized fertilizer, hybrid seeds and other planting materials.

1.3 Mangochi District – administrative and political structures

The Malawian Government approved a decentralisation policy in 1998 and administrative and political authority was devolved to the district level. The Mangochi District Assembly was established under the Local Government Act of 1998. Under the Act the District Assembly is mandated to pass by-laws to govern its operations. It means integrating government agencies at the district and local level into one administrative unit which has to composite budget and raise funds for carrying out its functions. The decentralisation process was delayed but came into effect in 2005. The Act was revised by Parliament in 2010 and the Assembly's name changed to Mangochi District Council.



ADMINISTRATIVE AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES

Figure 3. Administrative and political structure

Blue colour: Representatives from political parties and communities

Wine Coloured: Government and district officials

Abbreviations:

TA= Traditional Authorities

VDC= Village Development Committee

MP= Member of Parliament

ADC = Area Development Committee

DC= District Commissioner

AEC = Area Executive Committee

DPD= Director of Planning and Development.

1.4 Local government system, functions and structures

The council is supposed to be run by elected councillors from the 32 wards in the district and headed by a selected Chairman. Local elections have been delayed since 2005 for several reasons⁹.

- Currently the Council is governed by representatives from the wards commissioners in ADCs and VDCs.
- The council includes 8 chiefs representing the TAs. The TAs shall provide the main link between the Government and rural communities and they are involved in Development Management through local development structures (ADCs and VDCs) established under the decentralisation policy. There are 1237 villages in the district.
- Mangochi District is divided into 12 constituencies and 12 Members of Parliament from these constituencies participate in the Council as ex-officio members without electoral rights.
- Five stakeholder groups deemed crucial for the development of the District such as influential NGOs, religious leaders, associations for disabled people, women groups etc. have representatives in the council.

⁹ Last local elections in Malawi were in the year 2001.

- The council includes one member from the NGO community in the district (SEED¹⁰ Malawi currently represents NGOs in the District).

The council is currently consultative and the responsibility of decisions lies with the District Commissioner and the high level officers.

The District Commissioner (DC) is the head of the District Secretariat and has the overall responsibility to coordinate the government activities at the district level. The DC reports to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and is employed by the Local Government Service Commission (LASCOM) like other council staff. There are number of ministries and departments represented in the district which implement government policies. Each sector/department is headed by an officer with varied professional and academic qualifications.

The planning process is supposed to start from the village level through the **Village Development Committee (VDC)** which is responsible for facilitating planning and development at the grassroots level. Then it goes to the **Area Development Committee (ADC)** which in turn submits proposals from the VDCs to the District Council for approval. **The Area Executive Committee (AEC)** is a technical advisory body of the ADC (or the TA level) and its membership is made up of extension workers from the Government and NGOs in the area. The Chairman of the AEC becomes the secretary of the ADC.

The Service Committees are part of the District Council and are usually five consisting of Health, Education, Agriculture, Women and Disabled. The service Committees report to the District Council on these sectors and defend the interests of the target groups and lobby for contributions from the District Council's fund.

The District Executive Committee (DEC) is the technical and advisory body of the District Council chaired by the District Commissioner (DC) and comprises all heads of government sectors, statutory corporations and NGOs in the district. The DEC is responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the District Development Plan or coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects.

ADC: The committees are 15 in the district and are the representative body of all the VDCs under the jurisdiction of the representative TAs. The members of the committees include: group village chiefs, representatives of religious institutions, the private sector etc. Extension workers in the area are ex-officio members. ADCs are responsible for development of projects in traditional authorities and for mobilising resources to implement them.

VDC: is a representative body made up of a group of villages with the responsibility of identifying needs, planning and monitoring at the village level and soliciting funding for development projects. In Mangochi District there are 115 VDCs. Each committee is chaired by an elected member or the group village chief. The membership includes other village chiefs, project implementation committees, school committees, youth groups etc.

¹⁰ SEED stands for **S**ocial **E**conomic **E**nhancement and **E**nterprise **D**evelopment.

1.5 Development policy / planning framework

The role of local government in development is stipulated in the Local Government Act of 1998. The District Council shall promote infrastructure and economic development through the formulation and execution of district development plans. The communities shall be involved at all levels in planning and implementation. They are mobilized through ADCs and VDCs.

The central government is responsible for the formulation of overall policies and strategies such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS).

The Mangochi District Council's goal is to work on achieving the Vision 2020, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the overarching medium-term and long-term Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II (MGDS II).

The Mangochi District Development Plan (DDP) 2007-2010, with a total budget of USD 16,501,980 was prepared to address the most urgent development issues in the district which affect people's livelihoods. The DDP shall be a blueprint for socioeconomic development in Mangochi.

The main goal of the DDP is stated in the district mission statement:

District mission statement:

To reduce poverty from 60.7% to 58.7% through, improved food security, quality education, reduced illiteracy levels, reduced HIV and AIDS prevalence, improved health services, improved infrastructure, reduced levels of unemployment, reduced environmental degradation, reduced vulnerability, improved transport and telecommunication, improved security, conducive working environment, increased youth and women participation in decision making and development programmes, reduced early marriages, increased access to potable water, full utilization of tourism potential, conserved and maintained biodiversity.

The DDP identified the following 14 development issues to be tackled between 2007 and 2010 in order of priority:

1. Food insecurity,
2. Low access to quality education,
3. High illiteracy rates,
4. Low access to potable water,
5. Low access to transport and telecommunication,
6. High HIV/AIDS prevalence,
7. Low household income levels,
8. High morbidity and mortality rate (infant & maternal mortality),
9. Loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation,
10. High levels of vulnerability,
11. Low community participation in development,
12. High insecurity,
13. Poor working environment,
14. Low utilization of tourism potential.

1.6 Budget and Financing

The District Budget: The financial management and supervision is the responsibility of MoLGRD. The National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC) from the MoLGRD revises the annual budget from the District and approves it.

The Development Planning System Handbook for District Assemblies from 2001¹¹ explains three main types of budgeting that the Council must prepare on an annual basis:

- 1) **Recurrent budget:**
 - **Revenue Budget**¹²: Estimates the type and amount of income the Council will generate from its local sources of revenue and also collects from the central Government and donors by way of donation in the budget period.
 - **Expenditure Budget:** Estimates the type and amount of administrative and operational expenses required in administering of the Council.
- 2) **Capital Formation/Fixed Assets Budget:** Estimates the type and cost of fixed assets which is required to facilitate the administration and operation of the Council.
- 3) **Development Budget:** Estimates the type and costs of development programmes/projects and activities to be implemented within the district; estimates the contribution which is necessary in attaining the targeted level of social and economic development in the budget period.

Resource allocation: The District budget is mainly financed from central level (GoM). Part of that funding has been provided by donors through general budget support, sector support or other pooled funding¹³ and part of it has gone through the Local Development Fund (LDF) to various activities. The district receives thereto funding direct from donors and NGOs through the District Development Fund (DDF).

There are two types of development funds:

- a. **The Local Development Fund (LDF)**¹⁴: The LDF is pooled funding (budget support¹⁵) managed at national level and disbursed to the district councils' LDF accounts. The LDF is a key element of the decentralisation process¹⁶.
- b. **District Development Fund (DDF)**: The DDF is an account at the District Council's office for development activities. The District Commissioner is responsible for the fund, which is controlled and managed at the district level. Allocation of the funds are done by the Council and based on the development budget and recommendation from the District Executive Committee (DEC) and the Director of Finance (DoF). The DC and DoF in Mangochi District are responsible for all funds in the DDF and the Director of Planning and Development (DPD) and DoF are responsible for the management and operation of the DDF¹⁷.

¹¹ Republic of Malawi, 2001, Development Planning System Handbook for District Assemblies, page 45.

¹² The revenue the Council can collect in the district is sparse and most of it goes to the central Government.

¹³ In 2011, DFID and many other donors freezed or put halt to their general budget support to Malawi (some found other channels like NGOs). It is difficult to see what impact it will have on the activities in the district in the future.

¹⁴ Source: K. Mughogo, reference, 23.09.2010 and C. Chimbiya, reference, 15.10.2010.

¹⁵ The District Office cannot identify from which donor the money comes.

¹⁶ Source: *Development Planning System Handbook for District Assemblies* (Republic of Malawi, 2001).

¹⁷ Source : C. Chimbiya, reference, 24.03 2011 and Republic of Malawi, 2001:47.

Other Recurrent Transaction (ORT): In line with decentralisation special accounts for ORT were opened for the District Office and the biggest sectors, namely, health, education and agriculture. These accounts are uniquely for ORT as all development funding should go through the DDF.

Procurement: Public procurement in Malawi is regulated by the Public Procurement Act 2003 and its corresponding regulations. The Office of the Director for Public Procurement (ODPP) is responsible for the regulation and monitoring of public procurement in Malawi, and is accountable to and operates under the general supervision of the President of Malawi.

Within the Mangochi District Council, an Internal Procurement Committee (IPC) operates which ensures that all procurement undertaken by the Council follows the correct procedures in accordance with the above mentioned Act and follows the guidelines of the ODPP.

Long term plan /budget - DDP Investment budget for 2007-2010

In 2007, the District Development Plan (DDP) was prepared, priority issues identified in each sector, programmes and projects planned and resources and funding estimated. These funds were to come from the government, various donors and NGOs through pooled funding or direct funding to the District. The total budget was estimated 16,501,980 USD as seen in the table below.

Table 2: DDP 2007-2010 Investment budget in USD

Sectors	3 year total
Agriculture (Food Security)	672,423
Education	2,140,934
Water	3,671,736
Transport & Communication	3,623,268
HIV/AIDS	1,727,106
Health	1,865,141
Environment	748,927
Trade, Industry & Employment	470,493
Governance; Women, Children & Youth Services; Security and Justice; Tourism	1,585,522
Total budget	16,501,980

Source DDP 2007 – 2010

The DDP has already expired and new revised plan is underway. When this document was compiled and written, information about the results and progress of the DDP plan 2007-2010 was not available. Although the government and its development partners (bilateral, multilateral and NGOs) have been funding a number of programmes in above sectors, most rural communities still have limited access to the social services. It is clear that the District Council still requires considerable assistance in crucial sectors such as education, water and sanitation and health to fulfil the targets formulized in the DDP 2007-2010.

1.7 Monitoring and evaluation system¹⁸

The District Development Plan Monitoring and Evaluation System Master Plan is the main framework for monitoring and evaluation in Mangochi District. The framework is based on the MGDS. The Master Plan stipulates the data and information that shall be collected and the institutional framework for executing it.

The main objectives of the monitoring system are:

- To assess if the planned activities are being achieved, or not, and to recommend corrective action if required.
- To accumulate information that may be used during an outcome or impact evaluation.

The monitoring shall take place on three levels; area (community), district and national level. A monitoring and evaluation (M&E) officer is employed at the District Office to receive the data for the databank, oversee and supervise the system and to give feedback and guidance.

The officer is a member of the District Executive Committee (DEC) and attends the monthly meetings and analyses the reports. The M&E officer delivers information and progress reports to relevant development partners. At the village and area levels the VDCs and ADCs are responsible for monitoring development projects and programmes implemented in their villages or areas. Extension workers from relevant sector are always members (ex-officio) in the committees: Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) participate in health projects, Community Development Assistants (CDAs) in community projects such as adult literacy programmes, and Water Monitoring Assistants (WMAs) in water and sanitation projects. These extension workers, employed by the GoM, are responsible for the link between the community and the sectors and the District Office. They are members of the AECs that are in direct communication with the ADCs and VDCs and supervise and oversee activities. (See more elaborated outline of the procedure in annex 3).

1.8 Development partners in Mangochi

Various donors are involved in supporting district authorities through different modes of approaches:

- **UNDP** funds adult education under the helm of a Malawian/UNDP Project Implementation Unit that oversees the implementation in a total of 12 districts. Each district receives supervised funds for this purpose, in addition to technical assistance.
- **UNICEF** is supporting the Project: “Improving Primary Schools Learning Environment in Mangochi through provision of safe water, sanitation facilities and promotion of hygienic practices”. ICEIDA has participated in funding this project.
- **GTZ** builds capacity within the District Commissioner’s offices and actively supports projects for decentralisation and good governance through capacity building at local level.
- **Irish Aid** supports NGOs to achieve development results in cooperation with district offices. Eighteen NGOs are working in Mangochi. Eleven of them are local NGOs.

¹⁸ Source of information: DDP 2007- 2010 (Mangochi District Assembly, 2008) and Development Planning system handbook for District Assemblies (Republic of Malawi, 2001).

Annex 3: Mangochi District’s monitoring responsibilities and reporting procedures

The monitoring responsibilities and reporting flow from the community level to the national level are following:

Area/Community level:

1. The Project Implementation Committee (PIC) is responsible for monitoring at daily basis based on the activity plan.
2. PIC submits a monthly a progress report to the respective Village Development Committee (VDC).
3. The VDC compiles the projects progress reports into one and submits these to the Area Development Committee (ADC) on a monthly or quarterly basis and a copy shall be delivered to the Director of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Monitoring & Evaluation officer (M&E).
4. The ADC with assistance from the Area Executive Committee (AEC) compiles all the reports into one with information of monthly physical and financial progress. Financial information is provided by the Office of the Director of Finance (DoF). The physical and financial progress report and work plan is forwarded to the DPD on monthly basis.

District level:

1. The DPD with the assistance of the District Advisory Team (DAT) consolidates and analyses the reports and work plans which are then submitted to District Executive Committee (DEC) on a monthly or quarterly basis.
2. The Account Office shall prepare the project’s monthly (quarterly) financial reports. The reports shall be forwarded to the DPD, the DAT and the ADCs for integration into the projects progress reports.
3. The DEC discusses the reports and work plan in its monthly meetings and gives recommendations and guidance.
4. Reports are submitted to the District Council which reacts to the recommendations and forwards the reports and work plans to the MoLGRD.
5. The District Council informs the DEC of feedback from national level on the reports submitted.
6. The DAT and the DPDs Office shall conduct regular field visits (at least monthly). Regular community meetings shall also be held in order to disseminate information on the monthly reports and to give feedback on projects and advice on how to solve implementation problems.

National level:

1. Representatives from the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) and relevant planning bodies should make regular visits to the district to assess the progress of planned activities. Copies of field visits reports shall be sent to respective interested parties.
2. The MoLGRD and other concerned national bodies provide feedback to the District Council through the MoLGRD on the monitoring reports received.
3. At the central level the MoLGRD in conjunction with the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development (MoEP&D) convene at quarterly and annual review meetings to consider progress and provide continual feedback

Annex 4: Key development priorities of Mangochi District and a formal request for assistance

The District Council requested for a continued assistance to attain its key development objectives in a formal letter to ICEIDA (2009):

BRIEF OUTLINE OF MANGOCHI DISTRICT ASSEMBLY'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS IN THE MEDIUM TERM - 3rd DECEMBER, 2009

- **DISTRICT ASSEMBLY'S VISION**

By the year 2020, Mangochi will be food secure with improved income of households, sustainable environment, healthy and more educated people, vibrant youth, reduced harmful cultural practices and religious conflicts, realization of tourism potential, equal community participation, improved security and respect for human rights.

- **DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT**

To achieve sustainable, gender balanced and environmentally friendly socio-economic and physical development of all people throughout the district by utilizing local, state and external resources efficiently and effectively and also through participation of all citizens in various development initiatives.

- **Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS)**

This is an overarching government medium term strategy (for 5 years) which guides implementation of development activities both at national and sub-national levels. So the District Assembly's development programs are guided by MGDS.

- **District Strategic Objectives**

1. To ensure that 80% of the households are food secure from the current 70%.
2. To increase the access to quality of education (improve gross enrolment from 70% to 80%.
3. To reduce illiteracy levels from 66% to 55% for women and from 20% to 15% for men.
4. To increase access to portable water from 70% to 82% by 2009.
5. To improve the district transport and communication facilities.
6. To reduce the HIV/AIDS prevalence from 21% to national prevalence rate of 14%.
7. To increase district income per capita from the current Mk 46,831 to K50,904.
8. To reduce morbidity and mortality rates (infant and maternal).
9. To reduce environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity.
10. To reduce all situations of vulnerability, especially for children, women and the aged.
11. To enhance the participation of all including the youth, women and other marginalized people in development and decision making.
12. To improve the security of people and property.
13. To improve the working environment for all sectors in the district.
14. To enhance the tourism potential of the district.

- DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

The district has the following issues in order of priority to be tackled in the medium term.

1. Food Insecurity
2. Low access to quality education
3. High illiteracy rates
4. Low access to potable water
5. Low access to transport and telecommunication
6. High HIV/AIDS prevalence
7. Low household income levels
8. High morbidity and mortality rate (infant & maternal mortality)
9. Loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation
10. High levels of vulnerability
11. Low community participation in development
12. High insecurity
13. Poor working environment
14. Low utilization of tourism potential

As observed above the District Assembly still requires considerable interventions in crucial sectors such as education, water and sanitation, health, agriculture, transport and communication. Although the Government of Malawi and its development partners (bilateral, multilateral and NGOs) have been funding a number of programs in these sectors most of the communities in rural areas still have limited access to these social services owing to inadequate coverage. The social indicators (e.g. poverty) are still worse. The district has a huge population (802,567 according to the recent Population and Housing Census, 2008). There are over 30,000 vulnerable children (orphans and OVCs) due to HIV/AIDS scourge and other factors. These vulnerable children require assistance. The child and maternal mortality rates are high (child m/r is 66 per 1,000 live births respectively).

ICEIDA has been implementing excellent development programs in education (including adult literacy), water, and sanitation and health sectors for some time. The programs have considerably benefited the communities in the impact areas. Its development approach has been inclusive. That is, it has involved government staff at all levels (planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). It has trained field level staff (CDAs, HSAs and water monitoring assistants) in various operations. Some staff (at field as well as national level) have been sent for further training abroad and within the country.

- FUTURE PROGRAMS

The District Assembly is aware that ICEIDA's programs are coming to an end by 2010/2011. But the organization / ICEILAND government is willing to continue its programs in Mangochi, if funds permit. If this is possible then the District Assembly would like to request ICEIDA to consider extending its programs to the following areas:

Water and Sanitation – The water coverage is still very low in TAs Chimwala (50 %), Mponda (60 %), Makanjira (60 %) and STA Namabvi (64 %) (average 58.5 %). While new water points (boreholes and shallow wells) are required in these TAs there is need to rehabilitate the old broken ones which are just lying idle due to minor spare parts. There is also need to improve

sanitary facilities (assist and encourage families to adopt eco-sanitation). There is still a significant number of households which do not even have traditional pit latrines.

Education – Most primary schools do not even a single teacher's house in the district. Therefore, there is urgent need to construct teachers' houses in many primary schools. Currently this is government priority number one in education sector. Teacher's houses are necessary for retaining teachers in rural schools.

Adult literacy – this program is very significant because a large percent of the population in the district is illiterate (42 %). The current literacy rate of the district stands at 58 % (only 54 % of women are literate). For any development program to succeed in this district there is need to introduce adult literacy classes just as it has been the case in TA Nankumba.

Agriculture – there is need to promote small scale irrigation along the Lake shore, perennial river banks and wetlands in the district. The TAs which are in dire need of this are Mponda, Chimwala, STA Namavi and Chowe. There is plenty of water in the lake and rivers but the community members lack capital to carry out irrigation. Although there has been adequate food at national level for the past 4 years there is still food insecurity at household level particularly during lean season (November to February every year).

Most of the office structures in the Extension Planning Areas of these TAs are very dilapidated. They require rehabilitation (maintenance).

Capacity Building - there need to consider supporting capacity building initiatives of various cadres of staff in the above mentioned sectors. As has been the case in TA Nankumba ICEIDA can also support staff training programs at various institutions within Malawi and outside. This will go a long way towards improving the performance of the staff and success of the programs implemented.

*Report prepared by DEC team under supervision of the District Commissioner (T.W. Chirwa)
Mangochi District Assembly on 13th December, 2009.*

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