



Collaboration for sustainable WASH services

Mthunzi Masauko

Mabuwa Sem

United Purpose & Action on Poverty

MALAWI



Formerly known
as Concern Universal

WASH
FUTURES



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Collaboration for Universal WASH

 #WASHFutures18

Background

- In Malawi, WASH sector collaboration and coordination is a challenge – a common problem in most developing countries
- There is weak collaboration and coordination between WASH partners in Malawi, particularly between
 - Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and government,
 - amongst CSOs themselves and
 - between CSOs and academic/research institutions

Sustainable WASH services: FIETS framework

- **Financial:** continuity of WASH products and services through *local* financing (not relying on aid funds)
- **Institutional:** sustained and functional local WASH systems with capable institutions, policies and procedures
- **Environmental:** sustainable management of water catchment and waste flows that contributes positively to the natural environment
- **Technological:** appropriate technologies for local operation & maintenance of hardware, when the technology or hardware needed for the services continues to function is maintained, repaired and replaced/preserved
- **Social sustainability:** demand-driven, inclusive (equity), gender equal, culturally sensitive and needs-based approach to WASH

Reasons for weak collaboration and coordination

- Lack of resources, expertise and dedicated staff in CSOs and government
- Low political commitment e.g. only about 0.03% national budget goes to WASH sector annually
- Different and unaligned policies and approaches
- Competition & less complementarity amongst CSOs
- Political inclination by some CSOs, thereby unable to take government/politicians to account for their actions
- Political interference in the activities of CSOs
- Lack of mandate/responsibility of sector partnership to coordinate and share information

Implications of poor collaboration and coordination

- Weak sector-wide learning – WASH partners miss opportunities to learn from each other on best practice, technology and innovation exchange
- Duplication of resources and efforts
- Lack of complementarity of interventions and weak synergies
- Disjointed monitoring amongst players
- Poor cohesion of sector-wide data
- Confusion amongst the beneficiary community resulting from conflicting approaches by CSOs and government
- Ultimately, weak WASH enabling environment

UP strategies to strengthen WASH coordination

- Facilitated establishment of CSO networks as platforms for sharing and disseminating best practices, lessons & advocacy
- Facilitates interfacing between communities and District councils to strengthen information flow and ensure accountability
- Formed alliances with other like-minded CSOs to lobby government to improve national budget allocation to WASH sector
- Providing human and financial resources to the national WES Network to strengthen its operation.
- Working with local Universities, yielding mutual benefits
- Creates opportunity for resource sharing, learning sites for the District council, local leaders, private entrepreneurs

Examples of local & national collaboration meetings



Collaboration meeting between Water Users Associations, Phalombe DCT, Govt extension staff, Soap making members & Project staff.



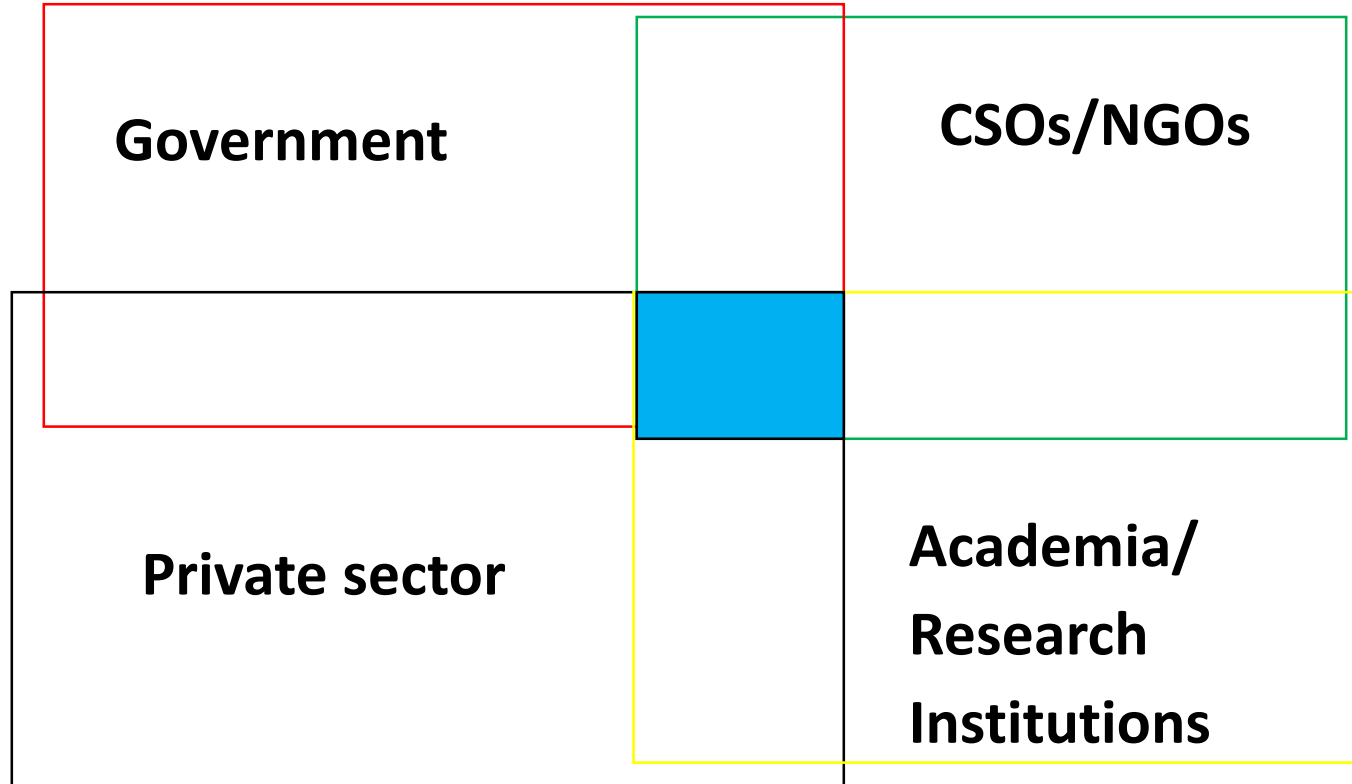
Collaboration meeting between Regional water officers, Water Users Associations, Phalombe DCT, Traditional authority & Project staff.

WES Network & Govt strategies to strengthen coordination

- Organizing and holding national and regional lesson sharing workshop and for collective lobbying to government
- Lobby and encourage CSOs to allocate time and resources
Developing clear strategy on who is doing what amongst the sector players –leading to efficiency, value for money, reducing competition
- Joint monitoring between CSOs and government which maximises learning, developing a common approach to dealing with challenges, catalyst for efficient policy reviews
- Building of alliances amongst like-minded sector players
- Conducting and holding national WASH sector Joint sector reviews

Recommendations to address the remaining gaps

- CSOs should make deliberate plans to improve coordination
- Lobbying donors to allocate resources for sector coordination
- Strive for coordination activities that demonstrate value for money and time. Players should see the benefit of it
- Establish more structured coordination systems and framework at all levels
- Building consensus amongst players and move as a team
- Engage and involve the media more for better visibility
- Assess if the coordination is yielding the intended results



The 4 key stakeholders have to interface with each other for effective collaboration and coordination.

Collaboration and coordination interface

“You cannot always bring together the results of department activities and expect to co-ordinate them. You must have an organization which will permit inter-weaving all along the line “

[J.O. Shaughnessy](#)

The target beneficiary sees us all as Govt representatives,
hence we need to carry the same message!

[Email: Masauko.Mthunzi@united-purpose.org](mailto:Masauko.Mthunzi@united-purpose.org)

Skype: masauko.mthunzi1



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