

Summative Evaluation of the Project ‘Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi’ April 2021- December 2023



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Summative Evaluation of the Project Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi (April 2021- December 2023).

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ACRONYMS

ART	Antiretroviral Therapy
CBCCs	Community-Based Child Care Centres
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
CC	Children's Corner
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
CP	Child Protection
CPIMS	Child Protection Information Management System
CPS	National Child Protection Strategy
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSR	Centre for Social Research
CSS	Customer Satisfaction Surveys
CVSUs	Community Victim Support Units
DECs	District Executive Committees
DSA	Daily Subsistence Allowance
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GBP	Great Britain Pound
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HSAs	Health Surveillance Assistants
HVP	Hygiene Village Project
HWWS	Hand Washing with Soap Strategies
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organisation
JMP	Joint Monitoring Report reports
JoL	Journey of Life
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
MFIs	Microfinance Institutions
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MoGCDSW	Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare

MV	Malawi Vision
NCJF	National Child Justice Forum
NGOs	Non-Governmental Officer
ODF	Open Defecation Free
OECD-DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OSCs	One-Stop Centres
OVC	Orphans and other Vulnerable Children
PCS	Programme Cooperation Agreement
PDI	Participatory Development Initiative
PEA	Pit Emptiers Association
PFA	Psychological First Aid
PLASTEAL	Pit-Latrine and Septic Tank Emptying Association of Lilongwe
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PVSUs	Police Victim Support Units
REKM	Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Management
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TA	Traditional Authorities
ToC	Theory of Change
TOT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WFP	Water for People
WMCs	Water Management Committees
WVI	World Vision International

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background: Malawi, a landlocked country in South-eastern Africa, contends with intricate socioeconomic challenges marked by persistent poverty, gender-based violence, and slow economic growth. Despite economic reforms, it remains among the world's poorest nations, grappling with issues like child protection, limited access to essential services, and gender-based violence, including child marriages and societal norms reinforcing unpaid care work.

Object of the Evaluation: UNICEF collaborated with the Government of Malawi to uphold children's rights, aligning with global standards. The initiative, supported by the UK government, sought to establish secure, inclusive, and resilient communities in Malawi, with a particular emphasis on water, sanitation, hygiene, and child protection. Implemented in the districts of Blantyre and Lilongwe, which are confronting poverty and the impacts of climate. The project was in accordance with Malawi's strategic priorities and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Focusing on increasing access to drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and child protection (CP) services, the project integrated WASH with child protection programming.

Evaluation Purpose, Objective and Scope: The evaluation aimed to systematically assess project achievements compared to planned objectives, performance metrics, implementation effectiveness, project management adequacy, integrated implementation strategies, deriving valuable lessons for learning, accountability, and informing future initiatives, thus contributing to overall UNICEF programming advancement. The primary intended users of the evaluation are UNICEF Malawi, Government counterparts of Malawi, project beneficiaries, UK Aid and UNICEF regional and global offices, while the secondary users include NGO partners. Overall, the scope included thematic, geographical, and temporal aspects, evaluating the project's duration till the last reported quarter, budget, and under the OECD-DAC criterion assessing efficiency, effectiveness, orientation to impact, and sustainability.

Evaluation Methodology: The evaluation employed various approaches, including participatory analysis, contribution analysis, ensuing to use a gender-responsive, equity-focused approach, disability-inclusive, and human rights-based approach, considering disaggregated data for nuanced analysis ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the project's results. The evaluation framework provided a structured guide, and mixed methods including desk review, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, household survey, and field observations while ensuring ethical considerations by prioritising participant well-being, confidentiality, and an inclusive approach. Quality assurance measures included pre-evaluation testing, training, local expertise, and daily data checks. The

evaluators upheld UNEG ethical standards, ensuring independence, credibility, and accountability throughout the evaluation process.

Findings:

Progress against Outputs and Targets: Between January 2021 and September 30, 2023, the project showcased its accomplishments, reaching 403,293 beneficiaries, exceeding its initial targets by threefold (336 percent). Exceeding the goal of influencing positive attitudes in 20,000 people toward protection issues, the project ultimately benefited a cumulative total of 79,812 beneficiaries. Water supply benefitted 30,429 against target of 30,000 beneficiaries, community and market led sanitation covered 126,706 beneficiaries against target of 120,000, and case management of protection served 4,929 beneficiaries against the target of 3,951.

Efficiency: The project initially encountered delays in baseline survey and onboarding activities. However, it exhibited adaptability in addressing unforeseen events, such as tropical storms and fuel shortages, successfully recovering lost time through accelerated planning. Challenges like funding delays and resource displacement were reported, but these were mitigated by efficient collaboration between UNICEF and partners. The per-beneficiary cost for basic services was USD 9, while the solar-powered water systems costed USD 20 per beneficiary. The project's holistic approach to community engagement and adaptive strategies contributed to its success and sustainability.

Effectiveness: The project mobilised and strengthened more than 300 community structures of various levels that enhanced community awareness, effective case management and awareness raising. The project adhered to its theory of change despite facing challenges such as climate induced disasters and economic constraints. The project included capacity-building measures, partnership agreements, and ongoing learning through diverse practices, such as customer satisfaction surveys, one-stop centres, police training, media campaigns, market led sanitation for sustainability and community empowerment. Challenges that included lack of proactive planning, disparities in community satisfaction and limited use of digitalisation would need attention in future projects.

Sustainability: Initiatives like testing real-time and remote monitoring system through mWater and SatWater platforms, and collaboration with Microfinance Institutions for sanitation loans built the basis to enhance efficiency and overcoming structural challenges of resource constraints for long-term project sustainability. The project influenced government policies and legislative changes for aligning with national strategies of climate resilience. Strategies for sustainable impact included community participation, leveraging the government systems, cost-recovery mechanisms, income generation for repairs through tariffs and fee, and innovative financing models like community gardening. Sustainability challenges included limited resources, oversight issues, manual data collection, pricing

challenges, and negative attitudes. These challenges can be addressed through collaboration for system strengthening among service providers, private sector and NGOs.

Orientation to Impact: The project demonstrated achievements in prevention of waterborne diseases and increased protection and safety domains, notably reducing cholera cases, improving water quality through chlorination, and enhancing hygiene practices. Sustainability was cultivated through community involvement, financial contributions, and the establishment of resilient systems. The project partly facilitated the inclusion of vulnerable populations, with notable success in achieving targets for beneficiaries with disabilities and survivors of violence. Challenges encompassed community preferences, dissatisfaction due to unmet promises like limited access to finance for sanitation entrepreneurs, unequal water points, etc (cited by communities in FGDs). Another key challenge was the absence of a comprehensive needs assessment for beneficiaries with disabilities and poor groups. Opportunities for improvement require open and strategic communication, maintaining government approved training, and addressing challenges through feedback and lessons learned.

Conclusions: The project, guided by a resilient theory of change, successfully navigated challenges such as climate risks and economic downturns, showcasing commendable efforts in achieving outcomes aligned with its objectives. Key strategies, including a market-led approach, social mobilisation, and leveraging existing structures, contributed to positive impacts. Despite challenges, the project exceeded its achievements against envisaged targets. Strategic acceleration plans addressed delays, highlighting the project's adaptability and proactive stance. The financial strategy demonstrated efficiency, with a strategic allocation of funds, and effective partnerships contributed to resilience and sustainability. However, addressing challenges like limited resources, inclusivity, and targeted community engagement remains crucial for sustained positive impact. The project's comprehensive strategies, including government owned capacity building, safeguarding, and adaptability should be pursued for enduring impact. The evaluation emphasises on adopting digitalised and integrated data management and collaboration with micro-finance institutes.

Key learnings: To enhance impact, project designs should incorporate an ample timeframe for the planning phase and gestation period. The establishment of a children's corner emerges as a strategic entry point for broader child-related initiatives, emphasizing the potential for an inclusive and integrated child-centred programme. While the project has been largely successful in integrated planning, there is a deficiency in integrating data collection and reporting, requiring revision, development, and implementation of data collection systems and procedures to fully capture the results of integrate programming. Shifting to online data collection can streamline the monitoring process, especially considering the time and financial implications associated with physical visits.

Additionally, deploying a dedicated team leader, out of the existing UNICEF staff, with clear Terms of Reference (ToRs) is crucial to achieving coordination and facilitation.

Recommendations:

1. Government of Malawi and UNICEF should prioritise a comprehensive programme to enhance digital literacy for stakeholders, focusing on tailored training for platforms like Rapidpro, SatWater, and mWater.
2. Government of Malawi and other stakeholders should emphasise the integration of implementation of climate resilient framework with focus on structurally resilient construction and flexible post-cyclone approaches for sustainability.
3. Climate change should be incorporated into child protection worker trainings, community campaigns, and disaster preparedness efforts.
4. Inclusive project design, dialogues, and targeted training for Government of Malawi staff, local development partners and UNICEF should be pursued along a monitoring and evaluation system to streamline child protection and WASH activities.
5. Advocate with Government of Malawi and donors for creation and integration of a sanitation revolving fund.
6. Introduce financial products of drinking water and sanitation in collaborating with Micro-finance institutions to enhance safely managed WASH services.
7. Undertake an intersectionality analysis to recognise and assess the intersecting factors that contribute to varying experiences of vulnerability (poverty, etc.) and gender equity.
8. Social and behavioural change communication should be designed to address the specific needs of different groups with emphasis on inclusiveness, equity, accessibility, and access to finance at all levels.
9. Educate programme for Menstrual Hygiene Management, addressing stigmas, collaborating for product accessibility, and advocating for implementation of period-friendly policies.
10. The development partners including UNICEF in collaboration with Government of Malawi should develop a comprehensive integrated programme beyond basic services involving nutrition, health, education, and livelihoods to create holistic programmes recognising the interconnected nature for the overall well-being and development of children.
11. Improve the quality of project review processes and knowledge management by collecting diverse and accurate data for a more inclusive assessment of project outcomes and future initiatives.

1.BACKGROUND

1.1. Project Background and Context

Situated in South-eastern Africa, Malawi is a landlocked country bordered by Tanzania to the north and northeast, Zambia to the west, and Mozambique to the east, south, and southwest. Covering approximately 118,484 square kilometres, Malawi features diverse elevations from the Shire River valley to highlands in the north and south. Lilongwe is the capital of Malawi (Govt of Malawi, 2022). The country's estimated population is 20.41 million (2022) with an annual growth rate of 2.6 percent (The World Bank)¹. Females make up 51.4 percent of the population in Malawi, and 43 percent of the population falls within the age range of 0-14 years².

The country is divided into three regions: Northern, Central, and Southern Regions. There are 28 districts in the country. Six districts are in the Northern Region, nine are in the Central Region, and 13 are in the Southern Region. Administratively, the districts are subdivided into traditional authorities (TAs), presided over by chiefs. Each TA is composed of villages, which are the smallest administrative units and are presided over by village headmen (Malawi Country Profile)³.

1.1.1. Socioeconomic Indicators of Malawi

Despite the implementation of several economic reforms, Malawi remains one of the world's poorest countries. The economy faces challenges such as frequent external shocks, macro-fiscal imbalances, and persistent foreign exchange shortages. The economy is projected to experience a 2.8 percent growth in 2024, bolstered by anticipated macroeconomic reforms. Nevertheless, this growth is insufficient to significantly alleviate the persistently high levels of poverty⁴. The 2023 Index of Economic Freedom ranks Malawi 133rd globally, indicating weak competitiveness and economic activity promotion. According to the Human Development Index, Malawi is rated 172 out of 189 nations, with 71 percent of the population living on less than USD (United States Dollar) 1.90 per day. Reliance on underproductive agriculture, stagnant per-capita gross domestic product (GDP), and increasing population contribute to socioeconomic disparities, especially for women. As per World Bank data, the adult literacy rate of Malawi is 68 percent in 2022, with 65 percent for females and 71 percent for males showing a significant gender gap.

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview>

² <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.0014.TO.ZS?locations=MW>

³ https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Malawi.pdf

⁴ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview>

The Malawian economy is projected to experience a growth rate of 2.8 percent in 2024, driven by anticipated macroeconomic reforms. However, this growth is deemed insufficient to significantly alleviate the existing high levels of poverty. Since the occurrence of Tropical Cyclone Freddy, the agricultural output in Malawi has seen only marginal growth compared to the previous year. Inflation has remained persistently high, reaching 28.4 percent in July 2023. Notably, food prices have exhibited a rapid increase, registering a year-on-year growth of 39.3 percent in July 2023, primarily attributable to supply constraints. The recurring impact of climate shocks poses a substantial risk of exacerbating food supply shortages in Malawi. This, coupled with sustained inflation, escalating domestic prices, and an anticipated decrease in per capita income, is expected to result in 72 percent of the individuals sustaining on less than USD 2.15 per day⁵.

The well-being of children continues to be a cause of concern. Cases of violence against children aged 1-14 years is at 82 percent, which is concerning (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2019-2020). These children, trapped by poverty, malnutrition, and insufficient access to amenities, face challenges that inhibit their overall development as well as hindering the country's future socioeconomic potential. Malawi launched the Malawi 2063 (MV2063), initiative in 2021, aiming to transform into an upper middle-income country by 2063. The vision focuses on agricultural productivity, industrialization, and urbanisation, emphasizing mindset change, effective governance, private sector dynamism, and environmental sustainability for economic independence and a high quality of life.

Malawi grapples with complex socioeconomic challenges, including structural imbalances and slow economic growth despite reforms. Ongoing issues including frequent external shocks, foreign exchange shortages, and inadequate financial management hinder development. Gender-based violence, child marriages, and a literacy gender gap contribute to persistent inequality, limiting women's economic independence and access to vital services especially in vulnerable communities.

1.1.2. State of Social Protection

Gender-based violence (GBV) is any act of violence directed at an individual based on his or her sex, gender identity or expression of socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. Men and women can both experience GBV. However, most of the victims of GBV are women and girls. SGBV is any form of sexual violence that is directed against a person based on gender (UNICEF Malawi, 2020). Gender-based violence against women is a serious concern in Malawi reflected by its sociocultural

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview>

data. Women and children still face significant obstacles despite the country's proactive approach to gender equality and protection of children from multiple forms of abuse, exploitation, violence, and neglect, demonstrated by the formation of laws such as the Childcare Justice and Protection Act 2010 and the National Children's Policy 2019. Malawi ranks 145th out of 188 countries in the United Nations Gender Inequality Index, indicating the need for actions to protect and safeguard women and children rights. One in five girls in Malawi experience sexual abuse before the age of 18 (UNDP, 2020), and one in seven boys experience sexual violence. Many children in Malawi undergo repeated incidents of sexual abuse⁶.

As per MICS 2019-20, 16 percent girls and 15 percent boys (aged 14-15 years) are out of school while 48 percent girls and 67 percent boys of this age group are at the risk of dropping out. The birth rate for women between the ages of 15 and 19 is currently 132 per 1,000 women, exceeding the goal for Africa's human capital set for 2023, which is 83. Child marriage is also an issue of concern in Malawi, as one-third of young women between the ages of 15 and 19 are already mothers (World Bank, 2020). MICS 2019-20 reports that 38 percent girls get married before the age of 18. These young women are more likely to deliver underweight babies, which raises the risk of neonatal death and childhood growth retardation. Underage pregnancies pose significant health risks for teenage women, increasing the likelihood of adverse obstetric complications such as anaemia, pregnancy-induced hypertension, preterm labour, and complications during delivery. Teenage mothers face a higher risk of perineal lacerations, episiotomy, obstetric fistula, and postnatal depression. Beyond health impacts, pregnant teenagers are more likely to experience forced sexual initiation and violence during pregnancy and childbearing. This abuse is significantly associated with adverse obstetric outcomes, underscoring the broader societal impact of underage pregnancies on the well-being of young mothers (Tetteh, et al., 2020).

The substantial economic costs of child abuse, both direct and indirect, span across health, social welfare, and criminal justice systems. A study conducted by the World Bank in 2017⁷ revealed noteworthy aggregate lifetime social and economic costs attributed to the repercussions of child marriage. These costs encompass impacts on fertility and population growth, children's health, and

⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/protecting-children-violence-everyones-responsibility#:~:text=NO%20CHILD%20should%20experience%20this,experience%20it%20on%20multiple%20occasions.>

⁷ <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/530891498511398503/pdf/116829-WP-P151842-PUBLIC-EICM-Global-Conference-Edition-June-27.pdf>

education. The study, which examined 15 countries, including Malawi, estimated that the foregone earnings and productivity resulting from early marriage amount to USD 26 billion today.

Despite the existence of several laws and policies supporting child protection, it was one of the least-funded government functions. As analysed by UNICEF⁸, in the fiscal year 2018/19, only Malawian Kwacha (MK) 993 million of the total government budget was identified as child protection specific. The visible share of the budget allocated for child protection represented merely 0.068 percent of the government's total budget for that period and about 0.017 percent of Malawi's GDP. The total allocation translated to approximately MK100 (or USD 0.14) per child per year, based on child population projections for 2018. Notably, the allocation to child protection was about 180 times smaller than the MK183 billion allocated to the payment of interest on government debt in the 2018/19 fiscal year.

Aside from these issues, insufficient access to clean water and proper sanitation leads to waterborne illnesses such as diarrhoea and cholera, further deteriorating the prevailing health conditions. The Malawi 2019-20 MICS also observed menstruating women's exclusion from activities stating that 20 percent of women (aged 15-19 years) said their last period prevented them from going to work, school, or social events, due to lack of menstrual hygiene management facilities (MICS, 2019-2020).

1.1.3. Socio-political Indicators of Malawi

Due to lack of funds, the current legal framework for gender equality and child protection faces hurdles in its enforcement. There also appears to be a need for increased commitment and prioritisation at the political level to address this matter effectively.

In addition, the lack of law enforcement in child maintenance cases jeopardizes the financial support crucial for vulnerable children. This directly exposes them to additional risks of violence or exploitation and results in their deprivation of essential services, including access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). To break the cycle of vulnerability and protect Malawi's children, addressing these issues calls for inclusive strategies, more funding, and strong enforcement to build safe and climate resilient communities (GoM, UNICEF, 2021). Gender inequality and use of children in unpaid care work is also a significant socio-political indicator highlighted in the Oxfam's Rapid Care Analysis conducted in the districts of Lilongwe and Chitipa. The results show that, in Malawi, women are disproportionately

⁸

<https://www.unicef.org/malawi/media/1336/file/Child%20Protection%20Budget%20Analysis%20in%20Malawi.pdf>

responsible for providing unpaid care compared to men; this is a pattern that is ingrained in cultural norms. Pregnancy and caring for new-borns place additional time and mobility constraints on women, making this imbalance particularly noticeable among younger men and women. In addition to perpetuating traditional gender roles, the unequal distribution of care work is one of the key bottlenecks on women's political participation and income-generating activities. Unpaid caregiving obligations take up a lot of time and energy, which prevents women from participating in decision-making processes or owning or controlling household assets. This inequality depicts the under laying social, cultural, and political norms that promote violence against children and women (OXFAM, 2014).

1.1.4. State of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The availability of safe drinking water and sanitation services has emerged as a critical concern in Malawi, demanding immediate attention, especially considering its status as one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. The nation's water resources, mainly sourced from rivers, lakes, and groundwater, are experiencing strain, particularly those like Lake Malawi, due to irregular rains and frequent dry spells. Unpredictable rainfall patterns, degraded watersheds, and insufficient groundwater recharge due to climate change threaten Malawi's water quality and quantity. Only 46 percent of rural and 43 percent of urban households have access to basic sanitation facilities, despite 71 percent of rural households having access to safe drinking water (MICS, 2019-2020). Furthermore, poor faecal sludge management increases risks to the environment and human health. The country's socioeconomic dynamics thus offer a challenging environment, especially for its women and children, like violence against women and children, access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and menstrual hygiene management are crucial components requiring urgent attention.

The poor quality and quantity of water, sanitation and hygiene services in Malawi are attributed to various underlying challenges. The WASH sector suffers from insufficient financing due to consistent lower financial allocations in the national budget. This low allocation is also because of the reliance on donor funded WASH initiatives further exacerbated by allotment of the available WASH budget to the infrastructural aspects placing a limited emphasis on the long-term sustainability and institutional capacity building aspects. The WASH sector in Malawi has historically struggled with ineffective leadership and good governance. A significant development in the sector was the establishment of Ministry of Water and Sanitation in 2022.

Another fundamental problem leading to the underfunding of the WASH sector is the absence of community advocacy for the right to essential WASH services. The challenge arises when attempting to advocate for WASH issues and enhance WASH infrastructure while holding political and executive

decision-makers responsible, as the lack of public demand makes it difficult. This deficiency hinders the implementation and success of WASH programs due to inadequate political and public backing. Furthermore, there are conspicuously very few attempts to incorporate gender inclusive dimensions into WASH programmes and policies despite the acknowledgment of inadequate WASH access to vulnerable groups such as women and children (WaterAid Malawi Country Programme Strategy 2023-2028, 2023). These failures impede the country's progress toward achieving universal access to WASH services. Due to the lower status of females, insufficiency of WASH facilities, child marriages and resultant early pregnancies they are more vulnerable to issues of violence and unavailability of WASH services resulting in waterborne illnesses and infections. Menstruation is also stigmatised, which makes it harder for women and adolescent girls to get sanitary menstrual hygiene supplies, and this further exacerbates their health issues. Malnutrition is associated with poor health outcomes and increases an individual's susceptibility to waterborne illnesses, especially in adolescent girls. People who are undernourished are more likely to have immune systems that are weakened, which makes water-related illnesses more severe and common. Insufficient access to clean water and poor hygiene conditions heighten the risk of contracting waterborne illnesses. Women, particularly those who are menstruating, have difficulties keeping themselves clean, which makes them more susceptible to illness. Women who are menstruating are excluded from events, which emphasises the intersectionality of sociocultural factors influencing WASH issues. Similarly, concerns related to child protection such as exploitation and abuse also persist in Malawi which hinders the notion of building safe and resilient communities for women and children⁹. To tackle these obstacles, more government funding must be prioritised, along with strong leadership, improved citizen participation, and the inclusion of gender-inclusive strategies in WASH policies and initiatives.

1.2. Object of the Evaluation

UNICEF is committed to assisting the Government of Malawi in fulfilling its commitment to uphold and safeguard children's rights, aligning with international conventions and standards. Their overarching vision is to ensure that all girls and boys in Malawi, particularly those who are vulnerable, have the opportunity to fully realise and exercise their rights¹⁰. Within the framework of Child-friendly, Inclusive, Resilient Communities, UNICEF supports the Government of Malawi and partners to empower communities in fostering positive social behaviours and preparing for economic shocks, climate change, and emergencies by rolling out the execution of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). UNICEF in Malawi emphasises on implementing child-focused policies at the

⁹ <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/malawi-country-gender-profile-2020>

¹⁰ <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/what-we-do>

local level, building the capacity of service providers for effective child-friendly services, revising legislation to ban corporal punishment, addressing harmful practices, preventing sexual and gender-based violence, providing psychosocial support and learning opportunities for children, expanding climate-resilient water supply services, supporting sanitation marketing, aiding climate change mitigation, ensuring strategic analysis for social sector spending, and enhancing the participation of affected populations in emergencies¹¹.

With the funding from UK government (UK Aid), through its Soccer Aid initiative, UNICEF Malawi implemented a project titled “Building Safe, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi”. Commencing in April 2021, the project, initially planned for two years, was later extended until December 2023. It concentrated on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) as well as Child Protection (CP), aiming for subsequent enhancements in both of these domains.

1.2.1. Project Areas:

The project had been implemented in two districts, Blantyre (Southern Region) and peri-urban and rural areas of Lilongwe (Central Region). For CP, the geographical coverage was all Traditional Authorities in the two districts of Blantyre and Lilongwe. However, for the WASH/CP integration model, the geographical focus was four TAs (2 in each district). These regions were chosen based on demographics and deprivation rates. Each of these areas is home to over 3.8 million children. According to UNICEF’s 2018 Child Poverty Report, children in these regions experience multidimensional poverty and deprivations across their entire lifecycle and are disproportionately affected in comparison to their peers in other regions. In addition to dismal child development indicators, the Southern Region is also prone to climate induced disasters and was heavily impacted by Cyclone Idai. This has led to significant and lasting disruptions to the WASH infrastructure, as well as to services aimed at preventing and addressing violence.

Violence constitutes a daily reality for women and children residing in the designated areas. Child marriage rates are notably high, with nearly 50 percent of women in these areas entering marriage before reaching the age of 18. In the years 2017 and 2018, the city of Lilongwe recorded the highest rates of violence against children. In both targeted regions, almost 70 percent of children under 14 years old have experienced violent discipline from their caregivers. Alarming, almost two-thirds of adolescent girls aged 13 to 17 have reported incidents of sexual abuse to someone; however, less than 3 percent have received professional assistance or access to justice. The existing systems and human resources to address these issues are insufficient and overstretched. Despite the presence of some trained personnel and operating mechanisms, needs of the vulnerable population are not being

¹¹ <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/child-friendly-communities>

addressed largely. This challenge is compounded by a lack of coordination across sectors and an unequal distribution of resources within the districts.

(Source: Project's Application Form)

1.2.2. Alignment with Malawi's Strategic Priorities and Sustainable Development Goals

The project is closely aligned with the strategic priorities of Malawian government and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By examining the project in the context of these larger frameworks, the evaluators aimed to ensure that the evaluation is directly relevant to the established objectives and priorities of key stakeholders. This approach enabled assessment of the project's impact not only at the local levels but also in alignment with broader developmental visions, contributing to the collective efforts to achieve sustainable and inclusive development. The project primarily focused on SDG 6, with a secondary focus on SDG 5. SDG 6 aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030. Among the targets under SDG 6, the project envisioned achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all (target 6.1) and ensuring access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all (target 6.2). The construction of six solar-powered water schemes significantly increased access to safe water. The establishment of Water Management Committees contributed to sustainable water resource management and community involvement. The project actively promoted gender mainstreaming, ensuring accessible facilities for women and girls, and fostering equal participation in decision-making roles. Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives focused on behavioural shifts, reinforcing accountability structures, and generating increased demand for improved sanitation practices. Media-based campaigns, community engagement, and sanitation voucher initiatives further significantly promoted hygiene practices and inclusivity. The project prioritised sustainable procurement and distribution of sanitation materials, addressing challenges in the supply chain, promoting market-based approaches, and establishing systems for efficient market operations. The focus on pit emptying services, formalising pit emptiers into associations, and developing standards and operating procedures aligned with SDG 6 objectives. Revolving funds at the community level empowered households to access sanitation products, fostering a comprehensive ecosystem for sanitation promotion. Overall, the project's multifaceted approach, encompassing water supply, sanitation, hygiene, and community engagement, aligns closely with SDG 6's goal of ensuring universal access to clean water and sanitation.

SDG 5 aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The project's core objectives aligned with various targets under SDG 5, contributing significantly to the advancement of gender-related outcomes. Under SDG 5, Target 5.1 aims to end discrimination against women and girls globally. The project, through its integrated initiatives, addressed this target by focusing on child protection concerns, violence prevention, and challenging societal norms that perpetuate unpaid care work, contributing to a safer and more inclusive environment for women and children. Target 5.2, which calls for ending violence against women and girls, was directly addressed through the project's initiatives, such as the improvement of One-Stop Centres, police training, and media campaigns. By strengthening community structures and raising awareness, the project actively worked towards eliminating violence and creating a protective environment. The project aligned with target 5.3 by addressing harmful customs such as child marriages. By integrating child protection programming with a focus on ending child marriages, the project contributed to the elimination of this harmful practice, fostering a safer and more equitable society for girls. Target 5.4, emphasising the acknowledgment and value of caregiving services provided by women, was addressed through the project's initiatives aimed at community mobilisation and empowerment. By recognising and enhancing the roles of women in caregiving, the project encouraged shared accountability and challenged traditional gender roles. Additionally, the project promoted target 5.5, which focuses on ensuring equal opportunities for women in leadership. By fostering community structures, capacity-building measures, and inclusive strategies, the project contributed to creating an environment where women had equal opportunities for leadership at various levels. Furthermore, the project supported Target 5.6, which called for attaining rights and sexual and reproductive health for all globally. Initiatives related to child protection and community awareness contributed to the overall well-being and reproductive health of women and girls.

The project activities indirectly covered and contributed to several other SDGs, reflecting a holistic and interconnected approach to sustainable development. The project acknowledged the impact of climate change on water resources, sanitation systems, and hygiene practices. It actively contributed to SDG 13 (Climate Action) by enhancing the global ability to withstand climate-related risks and disasters (target 13.1). The emphasis on climate resilience in the project aligned with target 13.b, which focused on strengthening the ability to plan for climate change effectively, especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities. The project supported SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by ensuring access to clean water and sanitation, directly contributing to target 3.2, which aimed to reduce under-five child mortality rates. Additionally, the project addressed target 3.3 by working towards overcoming waterborne diseases through its water, sanitation, and hygiene

interventions. The project actively advanced SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by making significant strides toward achieving target 8.5 (aims to achieve equitable compensation, respectable labour, and full and productive employment for all). This was accomplished through the project's commitment to enhancing access for masons and pit emptiers to specialized training programs, thereby improving service delivery, and expanding their skill sets. Additionally, the provision of sanitation funds further supported these efforts, fostering economic growth and contributing to the goal of equitable compensation, respectable labour, and full and productive employment for all. The project contributed to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by significantly reducing all forms of violence and related deaths (target 16.1). It also aligned with target 16.2 by actively working to end abuse, exploitation, and violence against children.

The national Child Protection Information Management System (CPIMS) aims to handle child protection data effectively, encompassing collection, collation, analysis, reporting, dissemination, and use. Introduced in all districts from 2012, Case Management is a coordinated service delivery approach for vulnerable children, involving identification, assessment, planning, referral, and follow-up. District Social Welfare Offices and Child Protection Workers (CPWs) collect data using the national framework. CPWs, trained as Case Managers, may be assisted by volunteers known as Case Workers. This system not only forms a crucial part of Malawi's child protection framework but also serves as a catalyst for resource mobilisation, collaborations, and the delivery of quality services to vulnerable children and their families. For effective use of this data, there is a need to ensure that data is verifiable and maintains acceptable quality intensities. **National Child Protection Strategy (CPS) (2022-2026)** was developed based on the review of CPS of 2016-2021 and the National Child Policy of 2019. The development of CPS has been coordinated and led by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW), with support from UNICEF. The strategy aims at strengthening the existing child protection system and its legal and policy base in protecting children from violence, neglect and abuse, childhood marriage, child labour, exploitation and trafficking, and violation of child rights in the context of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The Malawi Government developed the **National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children (NPA) 2022-2026** with the support of UNICEF and development partners. The NPA is based on evaluation of NPA 2016-2021, and a situation analysis of child protection followed by comprehensive stakeholders' consultations. The NPA aims to improve vulnerable children's access to services essential to their survival, protection, and development so that they can fully enjoy their rights and develop their full potential. Further, it seeks to strengthen the capacities of the families and communities, improve enforcement of policies and legislation, enhance the technical, institutional, and

human resource capacity of the country and its social protection system, and strengthen leadership and coordination structures at all levels to reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged children. In addition to advocacy and community mobilisation, the NPA pursues the development of an effective and robust monitoring and evaluation system to determine gaps, gauge the change and make informed decisions. The Government of Malawi revised its National Water Policy 2005 as a new **National Water Policy 2023** to align with Malawi 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

The goal of the National Water Policy 2023 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 portable water supply and waterborne sanitation services for socio economic development while enhancing the country's natural ecosystems. The **National Sanitation Policy 2008** was developed by Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development. The policy aimed to achieve universal access to basic and improved sanitation and hygiene services by 2015, and to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and other national development goals. The policy calls for promoting demand-led participatory approaches like community led total sanitation, school led total sanitation, and sanitation marketing to stimulate behavioural change and increase the outreach and access to services. **The National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy 2018-2024** was prepared and is currently being executed to address gaps and bottlenecks in achieving SDG 6.2 that calls for safely managed sanitation services. It covers both safe disposal and management of human excreta and hand washing for hygiene. The document was based on learning from previous strategies and approaches like Open Defecation Free (ODF) and Hand Washing with Soap (HWWS) Strategies. It re-organises and repositions the country programme to ensure it is on rights-based approaches. The strategy envisages for a shift from a supply-driven approach, with a strong emphasis on technologies; to a demand-management, sustainability approach, with emphasis on behaviour change and services responding to community and consumer demand. In 2023, a situation analysis was conducted to assess the effectiveness of National Sanitation Policy 2008, and basis for the development of the National Sanitation and Hygiene Policy 2023. The analysis indicated that the policy remains aligned with both international and national goals. However, implementation of fewer than half of the strategies outlined in the policy has resulted in an overall impact that fell short of the intended objectives. Key gaps in the 2008 policy are: inadequate regulatory framework; limited awareness and appreciation by the public of the nexus between good sanitation and good health as well as between bad sanitation and morbidity, and inadequate research to inform design of an appropriate scientific and legal framework. The new policy should emphasise on creating a regulatory

framework, good governance, social behavioural change, climate resilience, appropriate resource allocations, gender equity and reaching the unreached. The project being evaluated is well aligned with government policies, promoting community involvement and ownership of interventions. The approach of engaging community leadership and subjects from the project's inception to evaluation reflected the government's policy direction.

1.2.3. Project Components:

The project primarily targeted communities suffering from waterborne diseases and various forms of violence against women and children. Its overarching goal was to enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations in areas marked by multi-dimensional poverty and climate change impacts. Specifically, in Blantyre District and peri-urban/rural areas of Lilongwe districts, the project aimed for a 20 percent increase in the utilisation of basic drinking water, sanitation, and improved protection services. Emphasising an integrated approach, it sought to reduce risk of violence by combining WASH with child protection programming, while also contributing to broader system strengthening. Noteworthy efforts were made to promote synergies and coordination among stakeholders at various levels. In the Malawian context, the project addressed the heightened risks faced by women and children during water collection, especially at night, and the financial burdens on households due to inadequate and expensive water services.

Specifically, the project components included:

Output 1: 20,000 boys, girls, men, and women with less exposure to harmful norms and practices around violence, adopt positive practices, and know where to report violent incidents that may occur.

Output 2: 120,000 girls, boys, and families with access to improved and resilient water and sanitation services.

2.1: Number of additional people (disaggregated by sex) with access to improved drinking water services in target locations.

2.2: Number of additional people (disaggregated by sex) with access to improved market-based sanitation services in target locations.

Output 3: 3951 boys, girls and women receive quality and coordinated services to prevent and respond to all forms of violence.

The table below (1a) presents the output wise approved budget of the project in USD.

Table 1a: Overall Budget of the Project

Description	Approved Budget		
	FCDO	UNICEF	Total
Project Activities	2,365,638	180,469	2,546,107
CP Budget Output 1	213,769	47,721	261,490
WASH Output 2	1,314,782	21,901	1,336,683
CP Output 3	837,087	110,847	947,934
Capital Expenditures	-	140,672	140,672
Staff Costs	541,449	47,904	589,353
Admin Costs	395,978	25,691	421,670
M&E Costs	249,567	-	249,567
Total	3,552,632	394,737	3,947,368
Share	90%	10%	

The table below presents the social inclusion-based targets set by the project.

Table 1b: Social Inclusion based Targets of the Project

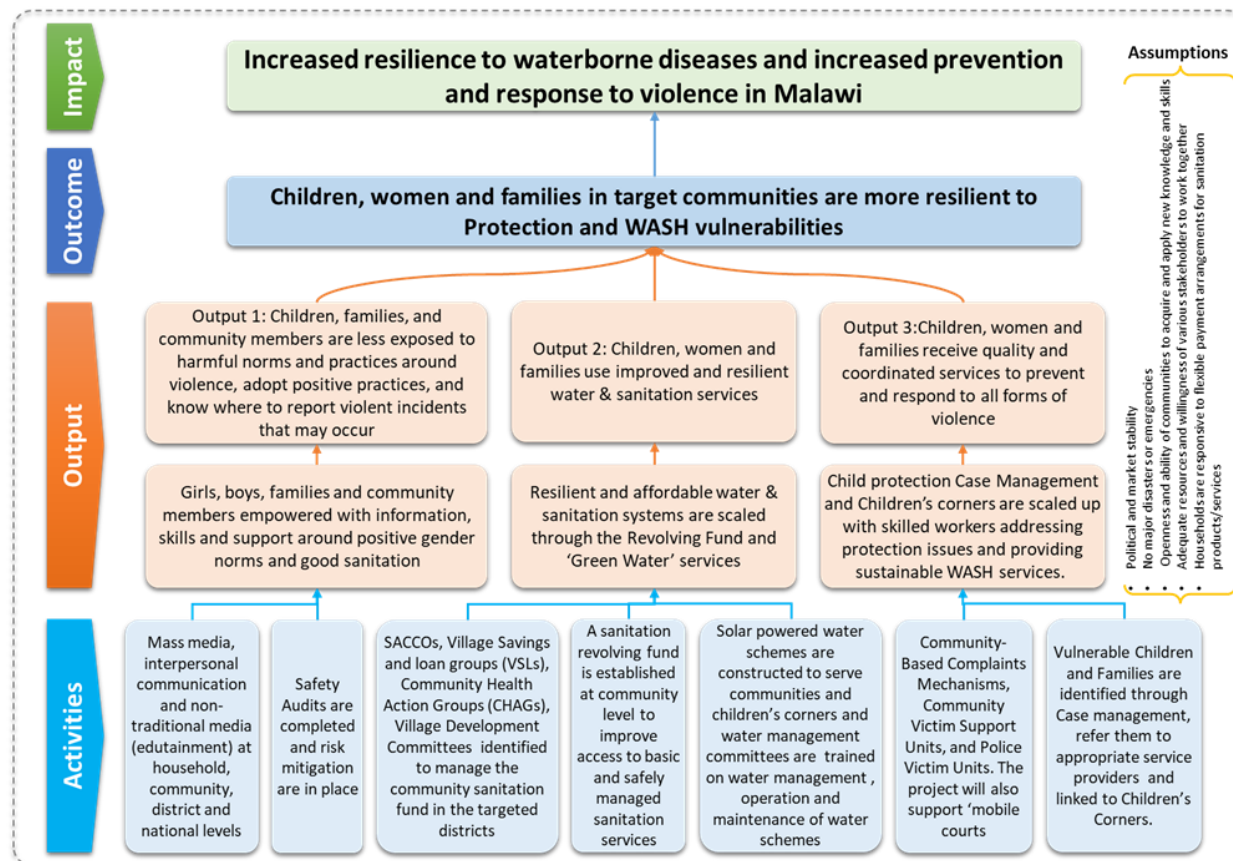
Sr. No.	Gender	Target (Total)
1	Female	60,000
2	Male	60,000
	Direct Beneficiaries	
3	People with disabilities	4,560
4	Extreme poor	19,200
5	Orphans and vulnerable children	20,000
6	Survivors of violence	2,000
	Indirect Beneficiaries	

Regrettably, despite our earnest efforts to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the project's intricacies, certain vital information, notably the total resources from all sources, including human resources and budget details from the partners, was not made available to us. As a result, we are unable to include this crucial data in the current evaluation report. Transparency and accuracy are paramount in our assessments, and we acknowledge the significance of this information in providing a holistic overview of the project. Log frame was used as a performance management framework and has been added as annex 1a.

1.2.4. Theory of Change

The intended impact of the project was to increase the resilience of communities against waterborne illnesses and increase response and prevention of violence against children and women in Malawi. The projected outcomes were improved protection and decreased WASH vulnerabilities in the country. The Theory of Change (ToC) posits that empowering girls, boys, families, and communities with information and skills, alongside scaling resilient water and sanitation systems via revolving funds and expanding child protection services by skilled workers, will lead to reduced exposure to harmful norms, adoption of positive practices, and improved prevention and response to violence, improved and resilient WASH services and well-coordinated responses towards all types of violence cases. In pursuit of achieving these outputs, planned activities included community engagement, leveraging interpersonal and edutainment communication channels, mass media campaigns, safety audits, community-based loan management and action groups, solar-powered water schemes for water management in communities and children's corner, operation, and maintenance of water schemes, and establishing complaint mechanisms using communities, case management and children's corner. For ToC to be applicable as is, it has been assumed that there is market and political stability, absence of any disasters or emergency situations, the communities are accepting of the acquired knowledge, the project is well-coordinated and resourced, and the communities accept flexible payment schemes provided to them for improved sanitation services. The evaluation aimed to determine the effective implementation of the Theory of Change by comparing the original framework with the actual progress, incorporating various stakeholder perspectives to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the project's intended versus actual impacts.

Figure 1: Theory of Change of the Project



1.2.5. Implementation Status of the Object

The project's implementation is currently in its final phase, i.e., simultaneous to the evaluation process, ongoing project activities continued to be implemented. The initial project phase involved baseline surveys, onboarding activities, and adjustments to targets and beneficiaries. Despite facing delays, the project has showcased resilience and adaptability, successfully completing all the planned activities. While there were no substantial modifications to the project strategies, the aftermath of Cyclone Freddy's infrastructure damage prompted the extension of mobilisation processes. Despite this adjustment, there was no reallocation of budgetary resources; instead, the focus was on expediting the reconstruction of latrines.

This adjustment could impact the overall assessment of the project's efficiency and resource management. Additionally, it highlights the project's responsiveness to unforeseen challenges, demonstrating an adaptive approach to ensure continued progress. The evaluation delved into the details of these changes, assessing their effects on the project's timeline, resource allocation, and

ultimate outcomes. This analysis will provide a comprehensive understanding of the project's dynamics and its ability to navigate unforeseen circumstances, contributing valuable insights to the evaluation report.

Equity Analysis: While the project did not conduct a formal equity analysis to investigate and determine structural marginalisation within the identified target groups, it is crucial to note that equity and inclusivity were fundamental elements incorporated into the project design. The project was strategically oriented towards ensuring fairness and reaching all individuals, regardless of social, economic, or cultural differences. The commitment to these principles was ingrained in the project's foundation, aiming to create an environment where all beneficiaries could benefit equitably from its interventions. By uncovering discriminatory practices, stereotypes, and cultural norms impacting the groups, the project sought insights into refining interventions to address and mitigate disparities effectively.

Consideration of Gender, Power, and Human Rights: There was an in-depth exploration of gender dynamics, power structures, and human rights considerations within the design of the project. This encompasses evaluating how the project recognises and responds to gender-specific requirements, addresses power imbalances, and adheres to fundamental human rights principles. The project systematically reviewed whether its design promotes inclusivity, guaranteeing equal gender representation and accounting for power dynamics throughout the implementation phase.

Explanation of Contextual Relevance: A fundamental aspect of the project was elucidating how the context aligned with its implementation. This entailed a thorough exploration of the broader socio-economic, cultural, and political landscape in which the project was situated. Grasping local cultural norms and power structures was imperative for tailoring the project to be culturally sensitive and efficacious. Economic considerations, such as income disparities, had influenced the accessibility and adoption of the project, while political factors could have swayed support or resistance.

By comprehensively considering the context, the project aimed to offer a holistic understanding of how external factors may have affected its implementation and how the project adapted to or influenced prevailing conditions.

1.2.6. Key Stakeholders of the Project

Organisational Role	Organisation
Grant Provider	FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office)
Reporting and Accountability	Mannion Daniels
Grant Holder	UNICEF UK
Grant Disburser	UNICEF HQ (USA)
Grant Receiver/ Implementing Partner	UNICEF Malawi
Development Partners¹²	
Participatory Development Initiative (PDI)	Area(s) of Interventions Lilongwe Rural – WASH Component Role of Development Partner: Engaged between September 2021 and September 2022¹³ and were responsible for initial mobilisation regarding sanitation
Water for People (WFP)	Area(s) of Interventions Blantyre (Urban), Lilongwe (Urban and Rural) - WASH Role of Development Partner: - Conducting mapping exercise of sanitation and hygiene status in targeted areas; Identifying and training community structures to manage sanitation revolving fund; Conducting community engagement for demand creation; Operationalisation of sanitation fund at the community level; Establishing supply chain of sanitation products and training sanitation entrepreneurs and sanitation products shop owners in the business model, and Facilitating a public-private partnership between pit emptier and district councils
World Vision International (WWI)	Area(s) of Interventions: Lilongwe, Blantyre (All Areas) – Child Protection Component Role of Development Partner: World Vision directly worked with the Judiciary for child justice technical expertise and technical service providers for mobile legal services/ clinics to the targeted districts. World Vision also worked with all relevant departments to implement the project i.e., The Police, Local

¹² UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with Water for People for sanitation and water supply sustainability. Water for People then had separate agreements with two local NGOs namely Hygiene Village and Participatory Development Initiative.

¹³ PDI was engaged by Water for People for about 1 year between September 2021 and September 2022. The reason for termination was noncompliance to the contractual terms which the two parties had agreed.

	Government, and Faith Community and the Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Community Development and Social Welfare through District Social Welfare Offices. Key activities include: - Reconstituting community victim support units (CVSUs); Procurement of basic necessities of victim support units; Conducting capacity assessment of one-stop centres (OSCs) for 16 health facilities and providing capacity building trainings; Supporting health facilities for provision of OSC services; Assessment of victim support services in rural police formations and capacity building; Concluding case through mobile courts; Orientation of justice stakeholders at community level; Rolling out court circuit guidelines; Providing support to CP service providers; Providing case management trainings for CBOs; Conducting journey of life awareness workshops; Training children's corner facilitators; and Providing psychological first aid training
Hygiene Village Project (HVP)	Area(s) of Interventions: Blantyre (Rural)- WASH Component Role of Development Partner: Assisting communities in Blantyre to have improved sanitation¹⁴.
Primary Duty Bearers	
Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare	Coordination of children's corner services, setting minimum standards of operation and monitoring of service delivery.
Ministry of Water and Sanitation	Providing technical expertise for WASH component.
Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	Implementation of child protection activities.
Judiciary through National Child Justice Forum	Providing technical expertise and technical service providers for mobile legal services/ clinics to the targeted districts.
Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture	Providing technical guidance.
District Level Coordinator	Social Welfare Office (Coordination and providing technical guidance)

¹⁴ The consultants have not yet been provided the contractual agreements with HVP.

Secondary Duty Bearers (Media Partners)	Development Broadcasting Unit (DBU)	Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC)
Roles	Running the Media and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) component of the project (till December 2022).	Advertising various sanitation products and services.
Rights Holders	Male (children and adults); Female (children and adults); People with disabilities; Extreme poor; Orphans and vulnerable children; and Survivors of violence <i>The project maintained a comprehensive focus on all beneficiaries in all TAs of both Lilongwe and Blantyre, ensuring inclusive and targeted interventions for the well-being of children, women, and vulnerable populations. Table 1 highlights the social inclusion-based targets set by the project for the mentioned beneficiaries. District wise number of beneficiaries has not been provided in the project documents.</i>	

1.2.7. Evaluation Management Arrangements

Based on the UNICEF's evaluation policy, this evaluation was managed by the Chief REKM (Mussarrat Youssuf) as the Evaluation Manager and Abiba Lincy Phegamengo Longwe-Ngwira, Malla Mabona, Olipa Shaba, Olivia Yambeni, and John Kanyama were a part of the Evaluation Reference Group providing guidance and direction in the entire evaluation exercise. The consultants were responsible for the impartial and independent evaluation of the project in line with the project's evaluation objectives. The consulting firm conducted a detailed literature review, developed the household survey, guides for key informant interviews (KIIs), and focus group discussions (FGDs) it also organised and conducted the interviews/discussions, analysed all collected data, and wrote the report based on UNICEF's standards. Looking at the tight deadlines of the assignment and to increase efficiency and reduce cultural and language barriers, the consulting firm engaged two local experienced consultants from the Centre of Social Research of University of Malawi as local partner. The Centre for Social Research (CSR), University of Malawi was engaged for data collection. They were responsible for hiring and training the field enumerators and ensuring ethical and efficient data collection. These local field collectors executed the data collection process diligently, conducting interviews, facilitating focus groups, and administering surveys professionally while ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the collected data. The whole process was overseen by CSR.

2.EVALUATION PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND SCOPE

2.1. Purpose of the Evaluation

In addition to the aforementioned purposes of the evaluations outlined in sections above, the evaluation plays a crucial role in assessing the overall completeness of the project, thereby contributing pivotal insights to the project completion report.

Employing a 'utilisation-focused' approach, the evaluation is tailored to cater to the specific needs of primary and secondary stakeholders. The possible uses of the evaluation for each category are also described based on evaluators/consultants' comprehension of the ToRs.

Table 2: Intended Use of the Evaluation by Stakeholders

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholder(s)	Intended Use
Primary Stakeholders	UNICEF Malawi, UK Aid	The stated stakeholders will use the evaluation to determine whether the project achieved its expected results according to the stated ToC and Log frame, and any changes thereof. The evaluation results will also strengthen inter-sectoral programming and identify necessary operational adjustments to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WASH and CP Strategies for the new UNICEF CPD 2024-2028. The evaluation results will also form the basis for the project completion report of this project which will be written by UNICEF Malawi in collaboration with UNICEF UK.
	Government counterparts of Malawi, including the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Gender, the Ministry of Local Government and	The government counterparts of Malawi will utilise the evaluation findings for policy guidance, designing new initiatives or enhancing existing interventions, and strengthening coordination of future projects and programmes.

	Rural Development, District Councils, and city Councils	
	Project beneficiaries	The lives of the beneficiaries of the project should be improved through evidence-based programming.
	UNICEF regional and global offices	UNICEF regional and global offices will be able to learn from the WASH and CP-related lessons and recommendations for programme designing and enhancement at the regional and global levels.
Secondary Stakeholders	NGO partners, such as the World Vision, Water for People, Hygiene Village Project, and PDI	NGO partners will use the evaluation to understand and learn about their contributions to the project results and improve their work and approaches in similar future programmes.

2.2. Objectives of the Evaluation

This evaluation was guided by the evaluation Terms of Reference (ToRs). No changes were made to the objectives in the ToRs. The specific objectives of the evaluation were:

1. Assessment of Project Achievements:

- Evaluate project accomplishments concerning the agreed-upon Theory of Change, milestones, and targets.

2. Performance Metrics:

- Gauge the efficiency, effectiveness, impact orientation, and sustainability of the project, integrating considerations of gender, equity, and human rights.

3. Implementation Effectiveness:

- Scrutinize the effectiveness of project implementation, partnership strategies, and communication approaches in delivering results. This includes an in-depth analysis of challenges and successes, exploring the enduring outcomes and effects of the project.

4. Project Management Adequacy:

- Assess the adequacy of project management approaches, potential adaptations in the Theory of Change, and the realization of outcomes and outputs according to the project's logical framework.

5. Integrated Implementation Strategies:

- Identify strengths and weaknesses in project implementation, particularly focusing on integrated strategies addressing issues of violence and access to water and sanitation in targeted communities.

6. **Lesson Learning and Recommendations:**

- Document and distil lessons learned, especially those related to sustaining key project results. Provide clear and actionable recommendations for future programming in similar areas.

7. **Accountability and Reporting:**

- Support in meeting accountability requirements for donors and stakeholders, ensuring transparent reporting and dissemination of evaluation findings.

The specific objectives of the evaluation were strategically designed to fulfil the broader purpose of assessing UNICEF's integrated initiatives in the project "Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi." Collectively, these objectives provide a thorough evaluation framework that contributes to evidence generation, organisational learning, and informed decision-making, ultimately enhancing the sustainability and impact of UNICEF's initiatives in Malawi and contributing to the advancement of UNICEF programming overall.

2.3. **Scope of the Evaluation**

As specified in the ToRs, the evaluation has the following scope:

Thematic/Programmatic Scope: This evaluation comprehensively explored the integrated project's thematic and programmatic aspects, assessing the Theory of Change employed to establish resilient, child-friendly communities. It involved an in-depth assessment of the project's achievement against predetermined targets in the log frame.

Geographical Scope: The evaluation focused on the project's implementation districts, Lilongwe and Blantyre, covering four specific sites where Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene activities are integrated with Child Protection efforts (TA Machinjiri and Kuntaja in Blantyre, and TAs Chiseka and Njewa in Lilongwe).

Temporal Scope: Spanning the entire project timeline, starting from its inception in April 2021 and concluding in December 2023, the evaluation will assess the project's development and the outcomes attained from April 2021- September 2023.

Project Budget: The original approved budget for this project amounted to GBP 3,333,334, with UNICEF Malawi sharing 10 percent, and FCDO totalling GBP 3,000,000. However, the final documents provided to the evaluation team revealed a total project budget of GBP 3,000,000. Within

this, the FCDO's share was GBP 2,700,000, and UNICEF/Non-FCDO share was GBP 300,000. Due to fluctuations in exchange rates, there were variations in the USD figures. Nevertheless, the evaluation team based its analysis on an overall allocation of USD 3,947,368. The FCDO's share in this was USD 3,552,632, and the UNICEF/Non-FCDO share was USD 394,737. In a different project document, the total budget was reported as USD 4,092,769. Within this, the FCDO's share was USD 3,683,492, and the UNICEF share was USD 219,900. Another document shared by UNICEF indicated a total spending of USD 3,625,680, with the FCDO's share reported as USD 3,291,425, and UNICEF Malawi's share as USD 334,255.

The evaluators would like to acknowledge that, unfortunately, we did not receive any financial documents for analysis during the evaluation process. It's important to note that different documents, when made available, contained varying information. We appreciate the understanding of these constraints and would welcome any assistance in obtaining the necessary financial data for a more comprehensive analysis.

Evaluation Criteria: Aligned with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) guidelines, the evaluation employs the criteria of Relevance, Coherence, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact Orientation, and Sustainability.

OECD describes the following four criteria as¹⁵:

Efficiency: The extent to which the intervention delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.

Effectiveness: The extent to which the intervention achieved, or is expected to achieve, its objectives, and its results, including any differential results across groups.

Sustainability: The extent to which the net benefits of the intervention continue or are likely to continue.

Orientation to Impact: The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher-level effects.

Gender and Human Rights Integration: The evaluation adopted a gender-responsive, equity-focused, disability-inclusive, and human rights-based approach. This involved integrating disability, equity, and gender into evaluation criteria and questions, ensuring that the methodology, data collection, and analysis methods were equity and gender responsive. While recognising potential data limitations, the analysis considered disaggregated data, particularly concerning sex and age groups, for a nuanced understanding of project impact. This approach enabled a differentiated analysis and targeted interventions, acknowledging the complexities and potential limitations in available data.

¹⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

3.METHODOLOGY

3.1. Key Evaluation Questions

The ToRs outlined the primary evaluation questions, and changes were implemented to these key evaluation inquiries. The key evaluation questions, based on OECD-DAC criteria, were:

Efficiency:

- Have the project activities been executed on time, in expected quantity and quality?
- Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise) been allocated strategically and managed efficiently to achieve the intended outcomes?
- How efficient was UNICEF in providing the required support to partner organisations/ government departments?
- What factors affected the pace and quality of implementation and why?
- Was the programme implemented most efficiently compared to alternatives (cost analysis)?

Effectiveness:

- What are the major achievements and results of the project?
- To what extent were the actual results as captured in the planned ToC and the log frame achieved?
- How useful were the log frame indicators? How regularly the monitoring of key indicators in the log frame has been conducted? If not, what were the challenges?
- What processes have enabled or hindered the achievement of outcomes and outputs; and what could have been done differently to address those constraints?
- What measures were undertaken and/or are required to improve the capacity of the project partners and UNICEF programmes for integrated programming on CP and WASH?
- What strategies were adopted by the project to include and provide equal opportunities to men and women, girls, and boys from marginalised communities to benefit from project interventions?
- How satisfied or dissatisfied were the men and women beneficiaries with the interventions they received under this project? Were there any differentiated results across groups e.g., women, men, girls, boys, adolescents, and youth, extreme poor, persons with disabilities, survivors of violence, urban/rural etc.?

Sustainability:

- To what extent the achieved results continue, be replicated, or integrated into policies, strategies, and programmes in the UNICEF next Country Programme after the funding ceases?

- To what extent the project influenced the national or local level commitment for resource allocations and leveraging?
- What strategies for sustainability have been adopted and how effective have these been in ensuring the continuity of project benefits beyond the project life?
- Are there any challenges that hamper the implementation of sustainability strategy? If yes, how did the project plan to address them?
- Which capabilities, investments, partners, and management systems would need to be improved or introduced in order to ensure sustainable impacts?
- What are the key bottlenecks to sustain and scale up the outcomes of this project? How to overcome them?
- In which ways can the learning from this project be integrated with UNICEF programming to ensure long-term, sustainable, and scaling up of similar programmes?

Orientation of Impact:

- To what extent has the project impacted communities and built their resilience to protection and WASH vulnerabilities for adolescent girls and boys, especially the most marginalised?
- How many and in what ways the project empowered, benefited, and included the voices of young people, girls and boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities and other vulnerabilities, and survivors of violence?
- To what extent and in which ways the project has improved services/institutions/systems for CP and WASH that will continue after the end of project activities?
- To what extent and in which ways has the project obtained, analysed, and responded to beneficiary feedback? If not, what were the challenges in engaging with the beneficiaries?
- What are the lessons learned with regard to the social inclusion of marginalised groups and the way forward?

The ToRs including key questions were led by UNICEF Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Management (REKM) section in collaboration with UNICEF UK, UNICEF regional office and national steering committee of the project and programme team of UNICEF that led on the implementation of the project, through a participatory consultative process to determine what aspects should be captured and determined for learning and future planning.

3.2. Evaluation Approaches

The evaluation was guided by the following overarching approaches:

3.2.1. Participatory Analysis:

This approach entailed actively involving stakeholders, community members, and those directly affected by the project in the data collection process. The emphasis was on prioritising their perspectives, experiences, and knowledge when assessing the impact and effectiveness of the project. By engaging local communities, government officials, partners, and beneficiaries affected by the initiative, the evaluation aimed to achieve contextual relevance. This inclusive approach led to more effective and sustainable solutions tailored to the specific needs, challenges, and cultural nuances within the communities.

3.2.2. Contribution Analysis:

The contribution approach involved a systematic examination of the links between project interventions and outcomes. It went beyond a binary assessment of whether an intervention worked or not. Instead, it focused on identifying the extent to which interventions were responsible for observed outcomes amid other influencing factors and challenges. This analysis sought to understand the role and significance of the interventions in achieving changes. By pinpointing the contribution of specific interventions, this analysis provided stakeholders with valuable insights into the project's effectiveness. It helped to understand the elements that led to observed changes, offering crucial information for future decision-making and the improvement of similar initiatives.

The evaluation team leveraged secondary data to establish the extent to which desired outcome changes have occurred. Additionally, the team assessed how far the project-supported activities and inputs contributed to the realization of assumed changes. This comprehensive evaluation approach ensured a thorough understanding of the project's impact and provided actionable insights for ongoing and future initiatives.

3.2.3. Gender-Responsive and Equity-Focused Approach:

Within the framework of a gender-responsive and equity-focused approach, the utilisation of detailed data, especially regarding sex and age groups, was crucial. This approach was integral for obtaining a comprehensive understanding of how various groups had experienced the effects of the project's interventions. A specific examination of data through the lenses of gender and age aided in identifying distinctive challenges, opportunities, and disparities. This, in turn, enabled the development of targeted, responsive, and equitable interventions, fostering a more inclusive and effective impact within the project's framework. A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, informed by an intersectional lens, legal analysis, and community participation, provided a comprehensive understanding of gender and human rights issues, especially those pertaining to child rights. This

holistic approach enabled evaluators to capture the complexity of these issues and generate insights that informed effective interventions.

As the evaluation had a specific focus on gender and child protection issues, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) served as vital elements. CEDAW's emphasis on sex-disaggregated data guided the evaluators in collecting and analysing information to uncover nuanced patterns of discrimination. By adopting an intersectional approach, evaluators acknowledged the interconnected nature of discrimination, considering how factors such as socioeconomic class intersect with gender. The inclusion of diverse women in the evaluation process aligned with CEDAW's promotion of community participation, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of women's experiences. CEDAW also served as a valuable tool for shaping actionable recommendations that advance gender equality in line with international standards.

Similarly, embracing a child-centred approach, evaluators integrated the CRC's emphasis on the best interests of the child, ensuring that the voices, needs, and experiences of children were central to the evaluation process. The CRC's principles guided the collection and monitoring of child-specific data, fostering an inclusive evaluation that considered the diverse well-being of different groups of children. Encouraging the active participation of children, promoting non-discrimination, and emphasizing the best interests of the child, the CRC provided evaluators with a comprehensive toolset to assess interventions, fostering an environment where children's rights were prioritised and protected.

3.2.4. Integrating Cross-Cutting Themes:

The evaluation included cross-cutting themes to highlight essential, interconnected aspects that affected various areas of the project, shaping its overall success and impacts. These themes primarily included gender equality, sustainability, equity and social inclusion, environmental impact, and governance and policy. Evaluating these themes ensured a holistic understanding of a project's efficacy and sustainability. Integrating these cross-cutting themes examined the project's alignment with gender equality, assessed its capacity for continued impact, addressed inclusivity for marginalised groups, analysed environmental implications, and considered its adherence to governing policies. These themes, interwoven throughout the evaluation process, served as a critical basis through which the overall effectiveness and implications of the project were thoroughly understood.

3.3. Evaluation Framework

The detailed Evaluation Framework, added as annex 2, specifies the sources and methods for collecting data related to each evaluation question, as highlighted in the ToRs. It provides a structured framework for planning and conducting the evaluation while ensuring that no critical aspects are overlooked. The evaluation framework is meticulously structured to include clear evaluation questions that guide the assessment, closely linked to relevant criteria, focusing on inclusion of gender equality and human rights, fostering a comprehensive approach to evaluation.

Within this framework, appropriate indicators for each evaluation question have been selected, providing measurable parameters for a thorough assessment of performance of the project. Emphasising a gender-responsive and human-rights based perspective, the indicators are designed to be disaggregated, gender-specific, gender-distributive, and gender-transformative, enabling a nuanced understanding of the evaluation context. To enhance the evaluation process, the evaluation framework incorporates a rubric where relevant, establishing reference indicators and benchmarks to denote success. This contributes to a standardised and consistent assessment of outcomes, ensuring clarity in the evaluation procedures. The framework establishes a direct and transparent link between the chosen indicators and the respective data sources. This strategic connection ensures a systematic approach to data collection, reinforcing the reliability and comprehensiveness of the evaluation efforts.

3.4. Data Collection Methods

The evaluation utilised a mix of methods (given below) for achieving a comprehensive understanding of the project. By employing diverse methods, the evaluators captured a range of perspectives, enhanced the reliability of findings through triangulation, and addressed the inherent biases associated with any single approach. Document analysis, while valuable, may be subject to availability bias if certain documents are more accessible than others. The inclusion of both quantitative and qualitative methods offered a holistic view of the project impact, combining statistical insights with contextual depth.

3.4.1. Desk Review

An exhaustive document review of the project documents was undertaken, encompassing various sources such as the project baseline survey report and its datasets, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E) reports, application form, indicative work plans, risk registers, log frame (application stage), beneficiary data sheet, theory of change, quarterly financial reports, quarterly work plans, and quarterly narrative reports. Additionally, other relevant materials were scrutinised, including National Sanitation Policy 2008, draft Sanitation Policy 2023, National Water Policy 2023, National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy, National Plan of Action 2022-26, Malawi Situational Analysis for Vulnerable

Children 2021, Water Resources Act 2013, Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) Report, and the Joint Monitoring Report (JMP).

All existing project development and monitoring data were supplied by UNICEF, acknowledging potential limitations in data availability and completeness. External secondary sources, including reports from UN agencies, research papers, reports, assessments, and datasets produced by external entities involved in similar initiatives, were also explored to enrich the data review process (see annex 3 for details).

A focused effort was made to evaluate the availability of disaggregated data by gender and other vulnerable populations, examining data sets for the representation of diverse groups within the project's impact areas. However, it is essential to note that data limitations, especially in terms of granularity, may have existed, and these limitations were communicated in the evaluation findings. Efforts were made to work with available data to draw meaningful insights, recognising potential constraints in the existing datasets.

3.4.2. Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted to assess the overall impacts and progress as indicated by those directly involved and affected by the project interventions. According to the planned qualitative data collection scheme, FGDs were to be conducted with the field staff, community groups, members of Children's corner, shop owners, masons, pit emptiers, community-led total sanitation (CLTS) structures, health surveillance assistants (HSAs), and attendees of Journey of Life awareness workshops. The stakeholders for FGDs were selected to capture the diverse perspectives, group dynamics, and shared experiences within a community. The interactive setting allowed participants to build upon each other's ideas, revealing not only individual perspectives but also shared beliefs and social and cultural influences. FGDs involved separate male and female groups, as well as combined groups, essential for a comprehensive understanding of gender dynamics. Participants were selected through random sampling, ensuring representation from communities that directly and indirectly benefited from the project (see annex 5).

The semi-structured KIIs were planned to be conducted with the NGO partners of the project, community leaders, school administrators, government departments, water management committees, fund management committees, and savings and credit cooperative societies (SACCOS). The key informants involved in the evaluation process were those having diverse perspectives, expertise, and relevant roles related to the project under assessment. KIIs allowed for a more tailored exploration of

the project, resulting in a deeper understanding of complex issues. UNICEF facilitated the consultant's connection with key informants by providing contact details.

However, due to factors such as limited time for data collection and unavailability of respondents, the following changes were made to the data collection scheme:

- 3 FGDs each with facilitators of children's corners and journey of life attendees were conducted instead of 4.
- 2 KIIs instead of 4 FGDs were conducted with sanitary shop owners and masons each.
- 1 KII instead of 4 FGDs with community-led total sanitation structures were conducted.
- 6 KIIs with community leaders were conducted instead of 8.
- 1 KII with water management committee was conducted instead of 4.
- 1 KII was conducted instead of 4 with Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies.
- No KII with Ministry of Water and Sanitation was conducted as the contacted person was unaware of the project.
- KII with 3 NGO partners were conducted.
- No contact was facilitated with Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and Malawi Police.

Despite these unforeseen circumstances, the consultants are confident that all the information collected was adequate to carry out an efficient evaluation. These FGDs offered a platform for in-depth exploration of opinions, attitudes, and shared experiences, fostering rich qualitative data. In contrast, KIIs involved one-on-one interviews with key individuals who possessed in-depth knowledge and expertise of the project being evaluated. The findings from the collected data were triangulated with project reports, documents, and other secondary sources, and were analysed to respond to the key evaluation questions. Table 3 describes the list of data collection activities and the relevance of those activities. Stakeholder consultations provided a multi-dimensional and holistic understanding of the project's impact, effectiveness, and alignment with the Theory of Change. This helped to ensure that the evaluation process was inclusive and that the project's results were assessed from the perspectives of those most directly affected by it. This comprehensive approach was essential for establishing informed decisions and improving future project initiatives. Different stakeholders had different perspectives and experiences related to the project. By interviewing a diverse range of stakeholders, a comprehensive understanding of how the project had been perceived and experienced from multiple viewpoints was achieved. The qualitative data collection workplan has been added as annex 4 and the guidelines for data collection have been added as annex 12.

For communities, conducting FGDs with both separate male and female groups, as well as combined groups, was essential for a comprehensive understanding of perspectives. Separate sessions respect cultural norms, acknowledge gender dynamics, and empower participants to express themselves freely within their gender-specific spaces. On the other hand, combined groups facilitate the exchange of diverse perspectives, encourage interactive dynamics, and contribute to building consensus across genders. This dual approach ensured researchers to capture nuanced insights influenced by gender-specific considerations while also exploring shared perspectives, resulting in a more holistic evaluation or research outcome. Participants of all the FGD sessions were selected by the data collection team, with the help of local chiefs and/or local child protection and WASH workers. All FGD sessions took place at a designated location, as agreed by the data collection team and local leaders. The list of number of participants of FGDs has been added as annex 5.

Selection of Participants

FGDs were strategically targeted at four specific sites where WASH and CP initiatives were implemented. These sites encompassed TAs Machinjiri and Kuntaja in Blantyre, as well as TAs Chiseka and Njewa in Lilongwe. The selection of these sites aimed to capture diverse geographical and community contexts, allowing for a comprehensive examination of the integrated interventions and their impacts across different settings within the project area.

Within each category of FGD, random sampling was used to select the participants of the FGDs to ensure an unbiased representation. In terms of project involvement levels, FGD participants from the communities that directly benefited from the project and those which did not directly benefit from the project were focused upon to offer diverse perspectives. For KII, criterion-based sampling was used, focusing on beneficiaries who were directly involved in the project interventions and had adequate knowledge of project interventions.

Table 3: List of Data Collection Events and their Relevance

Sr. #	List of Data Collection Events	Relevance
1	Members of Children's corner	Discussions with facilitators and members of children's corner provided insights on what type of psychosocial support was provided to children and their impacts on overall well-being.
2	Children's Corner Facilitators	

3	Attendees of Journey of Life Awareness Workshops	Verification of the intended outcomes of JoL workshops.
4	Community Members	Involving community members in the evaluation process helped promote a sense of ownership and participation in the project. It also empowered communities to take an active role in decision-making and ensure that their challenges and concerns are heard and acknowledged. Community members had the opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns, and as a result, the evaluation process became more inclusive. Community members validated the positive outcomes presented in project reports, adding credibility to project achievements.
5	Health Surveillance Assistants	Discussions with HSAs provided insights into the prevalent diseases within communities and assessed the effectiveness of project interventions in raising awareness among community members, resulting in an overall reduction in WASH-related diseases.
6	Sanitary Shop Owners	Discussions with sanitary shop owners was crucial for assessing the impact of sanitation initiatives, understanding market dynamics, and uncovering barriers and opportunities. These discussions provided insights into community engagement, economic implications, and policy considerations within the sanitation sector, contributing to a comprehensive evaluation.
7	Masons	Engaging in discussions with masons was vital for evaluating the effectiveness of their construction practices, pinpointing challenges, and guaranteeing the durability and sustainability of water and sanitation aspects, thereby informing continuous improvements in infrastructural development.

8	Pit Emptiers	Discussions with pit emptiers was essential for gaining insight into their experiences and hence, tackling challenges.
9	CLTS Structures	Conducting discussions with CLTS structures was essential to evaluate their relevance, effectiveness, and community impact, providing insights crucial for enhancing the success and sustainability of community-led sanitation initiatives.
10	UNICEF Staff	Interviews with project staff and partners provided insights into the changes and impact of the project on beneficiaries, communities, and systems. This was essential for determining if the project had achieved its intended outcomes and contributed to the broader goals. These shed light on challenges, obstacles, and unintended consequences that emerged during the project. These insights were valuable for learning and improvement in future projects.
11	Project Partners	
12	Community Leaders	Interviews with community leaders increased transparency and accountability in project evaluation.
13	School Administrations	Interviews with school administration provided information about the gender-related issues in attainment of education and how the project contributed to reducing these issues.
14	Water Management Committees	Interviews with water management committees was essential to evaluate project significance, assess community impact, and gather valuable insights for improving the sustainability and efficiency of water initiatives during the evaluation.
15	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies	Interviews with Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies was vital for evaluating financial contributions, understanding community impact, and formulating

		recommendations to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of such projects.
16	Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare	Government stakeholder interviews informed policy decisions and programme adjustments, contributing to more evidence-based and effective interventions in all related future projects.
17	Judiciary (through National Child Justice Forum)	Interview with the judiciary representative, through the National Child Justice Forum, led to an in-depth exploration of the legal framework., uncovering challenges in implementing child protection measures and ensuring justice for children. The effectiveness of legal mechanisms, collaboration dynamics between the project and judiciary, and the overall impact on legal processes was intricately examined through the KII. Furthermore, this yielded valuable recommendations to refine the project's strategy, aligning it more closely with legal requirements.

3.4.3. Household Survey¹⁶

As indicated in the ToRs, the evaluation targeted four sites in the integration of WASH and CP (TA Machinjiri and Kuntaja in Blantyre and TAs Chiseka & Njewa in Lilongwe), thus a sample size of 384 households was calculated using a formula suggested by Fischer et al (1993) and Kibuacha F. (2021) for use in cross-sectional studies, which is as follows¹⁷:

$$n = pqz^2/d^2$$

Where:

n - is the required sample size.

¹⁶ The household survey conducted as part of the evaluation was not designed for the explicit purpose of comparing results with baseline data. Instead, its primary objective was to measure and address key evaluation questions, providing a focused and targeted assessment of specific indicators and outcomes related to the project's interventions.

¹⁷ See: [How to Determine Sample Size for a Research Study - GeoPoll](#)

- p - the probability of prevalence of certain attribute(s) in the sample, for example, the proportion of households that participated in the programme. In the absence of such a statistic, a proportion of 50 percent (0.5) was assumed so as to derive the maximum sample size.
- q - 1-p
- z - the standard normal deviate, usually set at 1.96 for the 95 percent confidence interval (CI)
- d - Error margin, set at 0.05 (5 percent)

3.4.3.1. Sampling procedures at TA Level

The sample size of 384 households were distributed across the four T/As where the integrated WASH/CP project was implemented i.e., 96-98 households per TA. Further, interviews of 12 households per enumeration area (EA) were conducted to ensure that the sample of 96 households was drawn from eight (8) EAs. This ensured wide variation and coverage within the TA as opposed to conducting more interviews from the same community or EA. The main caretaker of the children at the household level were the respondents. The eight EAs were selected primarily from the list of EAs where the WASH/CP project was implemented. It was our understanding that the WASH component was implemented in a subset of villages in each TA whereas the CP covered the entire TA. As such, the sampling frame (list of villages) was determined by the WASH villages. In Lilongwe for example, WASH facilities were located in Mchekeni village in TA Njewa and Goneko village in TA Chiseka whereas in Blantyre, the facilities were located in Chigonawayaya village in TA Kuntaja and Mkazomba village in TA Machinjiri. As such, EAs where the four villages were located were included in the evaluation. Alternating male and female respondents were attempted to ensure balanced representation. Table added as annex 6 shows the list of villages in the two TAs in Lilongwe where the CP component was implemented. These lists were used to draw the remaining seven (7) villages and EAs per TA using random digits which were derived from a web-based random number generator¹⁸. Similar procedures were repeated for the TAs and EAs in Blantyre.

At the EA level, the data collection teams obtained estimates of households from the local chiefs which were used to calculate sampling intervals. From an imaginary centre of the EA or village, the Research Assistants sampled every 'ith' household in a predetermined direction of movement which were decided after spinning a bottle. They counted all households in the predetermined direction until the 12 households were interviewed. If the teams reached the end of the village or EA before reaching

¹⁸ www.random.org

out to 12 households, they tossed a coin to determine next direction of movement, either left or right. This was repeated until the sample of 12 households was interviewed in the EA or village. Replacement by the nearest households was made for households that were to be interviewed but owners were not available on the date of the team's visit. Because of time limits, no revisits were made to the sampled households as they were replaced almost immediately. The household (HH) survey has been added as annex 13. CSPro 7.7 was used for the HH survey data collection and further analysis of quantitative data.

3.4.4. Field Observations

Field observations were used alongside other evaluation methods to provide a comprehensive and well-rounded assessment of performance. The purpose of field observations was to confirm whether the objectives of the project have been met and will provide tangible evidence of progress and achievement. Field observations set to provide a first-hand understanding of the implementation and impact of WASH initiatives, gender and disability inclusivity, and child protection measures within communities or specific settings. The field observations included but were not limited to:

Infrastructure and Access: Assessing the quality and accessibility of WASH facilities, including water sources, sanitation facilities, and hygiene resources in communities or settings.

Hygiene Practices: Observing hygiene behaviours and practices within households or settings to determine adherence to proper hygiene protocols.

Infrastructure Maintenance: Evaluating the maintenance and sustainability of WASH infrastructure to ensure longevity and functionality.

Equitable Access: Observing whether WASH facilities and resources were equally accessible and cater to the needs of all genders. Assessing if women and girls had safe and private sanitation facilities.

Safety and Privacy: Assessing the safety and privacy of WASH facilities, especially for vulnerable groups such as children, to ensure protection from harm or exploitation.

Education and Awareness: Observing if children were educated about hygiene practices and their rights to a safe and clean environment.

Safety and Empowerment: Observing if measures were in place to ensure the safety and empowerment of men, women, boys, and girls including those living with disabilities. Explored initiatives supporting women's empowerment, addressing gender-based violence, and fostering a safe environment for all.

Representation and Decision-Making: Assessing the representation of different men, women, boys, and girls (including persons living with disability) in decision-making processes. Observe if diverse perspectives were considered and integrated in the decision-making framework.

Safety and Well-being: Focusing on the safety and well-being of children within the evaluated setting. Evaluating if safety measures are in place to protect children from exploitation, abuse, or hazardous environments.

Preventive Measures: Assessing the implementation of preventive measures like awareness programmes, child rights education, and community initiatives aimed at safeguarding children's well-being.

3.4.5. Data Management and Analysis

The qualitative data was analysed through manual coding and transcription techniques. The qualitative data underwent systematic manual coding, with a specific focus on identifying gender-related themes, wherein recurring themes and patterns were identified and categorised. This methodical coding process facilitated the organisation and interpretation of the qualitative information. Additionally, transcription techniques were applied to convert spoken or recorded content into written formats, enhancing the accessibility and clarity of the qualitative data. This combination of manual coding and transcription not only allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the qualitative findings but also ensured a nuanced understanding of the perspectives and insights gathered during the evaluation process. The quantitative data was analysed using CSRP and SPSS respectively. The analysed data was triangulated with the published reports/data as well as unpublished data collected during consultation with line departments and others. Within the realm of data management and analysis, several key components were addressed:

- Logic and assumptions were thoroughly examined, delving into the logical connections and assumptions that form the foundation of the Theory of Change.
- Implementation was rigorously evaluated, scrutinising the extent to which project activities were executed according to the initial plan.
- The assessment of outcomes focused on gauging the achieved outcomes and their alignment with the expected changes outlined in the ToC.
- Unintended consequences were systematically identified, encompassing any unforeseen positive or negative impacts of the project.
- Contextual analysis involved a comprehensive examination of the economic, social, environmental, and political factors that may have influenced the project's implementation and outcomes.
- Stakeholder perspectives were actively collected and analysed, incorporating the viewpoints

of project beneficiaries, community members, and other stakeholders regarding the project's effectiveness and impact.

- Lessons learned/ conclusions were extracted, highlighting key insights from the project's implementation, including both best practices and challenges encountered.

3.5. Ethical Considerations and Quality Assurance Mechanisms

During the conducted evaluation, particular emphasis was placed on ensuring ethical considerations and safeguarding the well-being of the communities and vulnerable groups involved in the data collection process. Interactions with participants were approached with utmost sensitivity to prevent any harm, intended or unintended. Adherence to local norms and customs was prioritized to ensure the comfort of participants. To guarantee voluntary and informed participation, participants were explicitly informed of their right to opt out at any stage of the discussions. Both verbal and written consent were obtained from each participant before commencing any data collection activities (the scanned copies of consent and assent forms have been provided separately). The principles of confidentiality were rigorously upheld by AWF and CSR to foster trust among survey participants, including children and adolescents. Children, being integral to the data collection, were required to provide assent, with additional consent obtained from their parents or guardians. Consent and assent forms have been added as annex 14. An inclusive approach was adopted during community consultations, ensuring active participation from all vulnerable groups, such as women, widows, divorced individuals, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, refugees, and others, wherever possible. Group discussions were conducted with an equitable opportunity for every participant to share their opinions, with all responses given equal weightage. Ensuring the safety and confidentiality of study participants was a fundamental commitment throughout the evaluation. To safeguard confidentiality, all data collected was treated with the utmost sensitivity. In order to protect the privacy of the participants and ensure data confidentiality, identifiable personal information of the community participants was not collected unless absolutely necessary. In such cases, anonymity was assured by removing identifiable details whenever possible and substituting personal information with coded identifiers. Secure data storage, both digital and physical, was enforced, adhering to encryption and access control protocols, with access restrictions and controlled entry logs. Open communication channels were maintained to keep participants informed and address any concerns promptly. All individual interviews were held one-on-one in spaces chosen by the respondents, with no third parties allowed.

In accordance with AWF's Data Protection and Confidentiality Policy, protocols for the secure destruction of sensitive data when it is no longer necessary were established, preventing any future unauthorized access. The Policy stated that the data should be discarded at a maximum of three years after collection. Ethical oversight from relevant review boards further ensured adherence to ethical standards. An Evaluation Ethics Review Document was submitted to HML Ethics Review Board and data collection was initiated after the Board Approval (attached as annex 8). The Board ensured that (i) the evaluation upheld ethical considerations to safeguard the well-being and rights of participants, (ii) adequate protocols were in place so that subjects were well-informed about the evaluation's purpose and assured that their involvement did not pose undue risks, (iii) the principle of voluntary and confidential participation was emphasised, with subjects provided and consenting to informed consent before engaging in the study, (iv) rigorous protocols were in place to ensure the protection and safety of participants, and stringent measures were adopted to prevent any violation of privacy or discrimination during the collection and analysis of data. The team at AWF had taken the online training of UNICEF "Introduction to Ethics in Evidence Generation (Basic)."

For the assurance of quality data collection during the conducted evaluation, a comprehensive set of measures were implemented, which are as follows:

- **Pre-evaluation Testing:** Prior to the full-scale evaluation, rigorous testing of data collection tools for household survey and FGDs was undertaken to identify and address any issues related to clarity and reliability.
- **Training and Orientation:** The team engaged in data collection received thorough training and orientation before the initiation of the data collection phase. Only enumerators and field supervisors who successfully completed the training were hired, as a step to ensure the authenticity of the collected data. Basic qualification and experience criteria for the data collection team were strictly adhered to.
- **Local Expertise:** Enumerators and field researchers proficient in the local language and well-acquainted with local customs and traditions were recruited to ensure effective communication and cultural sensitivity during data collection.
- **Daily Data Checks and Feedback:** The collected data were reviewed on a regular basis, and relevant feedback was communicated to the district teams. Contact details of respondents were recorded to ensure the inclusion of any omitted details.
- **Completeness Criteria:** Only complete interviews/discussions were considered as valid outputs of the assessment.

- **Guideline Implementation:** Guidelines for each data collection tool, approved during the inception report, were strictly implemented during the evaluation for a coherent approach.
- **Triangulation Methods:** Data was cross-referenced with information from multiple sources, including project documents, field observations, and interviews with different stakeholders.
- **Transparency:** Complete transparency was maintained in data collection, analysis, and reporting. Raw data and findings were well-documented and will be made available for review if needed.
- **Ethical Standards:** Strict adherence to ethical standards was ensured, especially when discussing sensitive topics like gender-based violence and menstrual hygiene. Informed written and verbal consent was obtained, confidentiality and the well-being of participants were prioritised.
- **Regular Communication:** Regular communication was established with the UNICEF team and reference group throughout the evaluation to address issues promptly and ensure the evaluation remained on track.
- **Virtual Participation:** AWF Pvt Ltd participated virtually in KIIs where possible.
- **Guideline Compliance:** The evaluation team reviewed and strictly complied with the guidelines provided in Annex 7.

The obligations of evaluators, in accordance with UNEG ethical standards, were explicitly addressed within the evaluation process. Upholding the principles of independence, evaluators operated autonomously, free from undue influence, ensuring that their judgments and conclusions remained impartial and unbiased. Credibility was paramount, requiring evaluators to maintain professional integrity, honesty, and transparency in their methodologies and reporting, thereby enhancing the trustworthiness of the evaluation outcomes. Moreover, stringent protocols were in place to identify, address, and mitigate any potential conflicts of interest, guaranteeing that personal, financial, or organisational conflicts did not compromise the evaluation's objectivity or fairness. Additionally, the evaluators were accountable for their actions, decisions, and the quality of their work, aligning with the UNEG ethical standards and fostering a high standard of ethical conduct within the evaluation process. These principles were contextualised and expressly detailed within the evaluation design and implementation.

3.6. Challenges and their Mitigation Strategies

The evaluators faced various challenges during the data collection phase, outlined as follows:

Challenges	Mitigation
Limited Data Collection Time: Due to the constrained timeframe allocated for data collection, the time provided to consultants was insufficient to conduct a thorough and comprehensive assessment. Additionally, obtaining ethical approval from UNICEF, a crucial step in ensuring the ethical integrity of the evaluation, encountered delays, further compressing the available time for on-the-ground data collection efforts.	To address this challenge, the data collection team and consultants proactively undertook extended work hours and engaged in intensive efforts. Working overtime allowed for an expedited data collection process, ensuring that the evaluation objectives were met within the constrained timeframe. Additionally, the team committed to efficient data analysis procedures to optimise the use of available time, mitigating the impact of delays in the ethical approval process. This mitigation strategy aimed to uphold the integrity and thoroughness of the evaluation despite the time constraints and administrative hurdles.
Limited Stakeholder Engagement: Certain data collection activities could not be conducted as originally planned. This limitation can be attributed to lack of response from stakeholders. Each stakeholder was contacted at least twice to arrange the data collection activity but due to the lack of response, the activity could not take place. The details have been added in section 3.4.2.	No mitigation activity was implemented. The consultants were of the view that adequate data was collected to ensure an efficient evaluation.
Limited Access to Data: One of the prominent challenges encountered during the evaluation process was the difficulty in accessing comprehensive and reliable data for the assessment. Despite repeated requests made to UNICEF's team for multiple sets of data crucial for the evaluation, there	To address the challenge of delays in data provision by UNICEF, a mitigation strategy focused on enhancing communication protocols and collaboration was implemented. When data was unavailable, it was clearly noted in the report. Owing to the delays in data provision by UNICEF, the evaluation team had

were significant delays in their provision. The team faced persistent challenges in obtaining the necessary information, requiring frequent reminders and follow-ups to elicit the required data. This delay in data provision by UNICEF posed a considerable obstacle to the timely progression of the evaluation, impacting the ability to conduct a thorough and efficient assessment¹⁹.	to undertake significant overtime efforts to accommodate the incorporation of the belated data into the assessment. The extended work hours were necessitated by the urgency to meet evaluation timelines and maintain the overall integrity of the assessment.
Cancellation of Meetings: A challenge emerged during the evaluation process due to an overlap in meeting schedules, resulting in the cancellation of three planned meetings.	Recognising the importance of regular communication and collaboration, the affected meetings were promptly rescheduled to ensure the continued engagement of all relevant stakeholders. The rescheduling allowed the team to regain momentum, facilitating the exchange of vital updates, discussions, and decision-making processes critical to the progress of the evaluation
Ministry of Water and Sanitation not Familiar with the Project: The contacted person was not aware of the project ²⁰.	No mitigation strategy was implemented. The interview was discarded.
Time Difference: A challenge encountered during the evaluation process was the pronounced time differences between Malawi and Pakistan. Even though the data collection team was situated in Malawi, the main evaluation team	To address the challenge of significant time differences between Malawi and Pakistan, the evaluation team in Pakistan proactively engaged in overtime work. This mitigation strategy allowed team members to align their schedules with those in Malawi, facilitating real-time communication, collaboration, and

¹⁹ It was highlighted that the delayed responses were due to the multiple responsibilities of the responsible UNICEF members of staff who were also working on year-end reporting.

²⁰ It was emphasised that the project commenced at a time when the new ministry was not yet established. As a result, some relatively new staff members could not precisely identify specific UNICEF projects.

was based in Pakistan and was a part of many key informant interviews online.	coordination. By voluntarily extending their work hours, the team demonstrated commitment to overcoming the time zone disparity, ensuring that critical discussions and decision-making processes could occur without undue delays. This approach was instrumental in mitigating the impact of time differences on the evaluation process and maintaining the overall efficiency of the team's efforts.
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3.7. Dissemination of Evaluation Learning:

This summative evaluation has been conducted through a consultative, inclusive and participatory process, and highlighted many key learning and recommendations for the current and future programmes of UNICEF and other development partners. A dissemination plan has been agreed after the finalisation of report to the wide audience. For this purpose, a summary report, under the title UNICEF LEaRNS (Learning from Evaluation and Research Note Series) is developed and annexed with the report as 1b. This will be further designed by UNICEF with relevant pictures before sharing with the key stakeholders.

4.EVALUATION FINDINGS PER OECD/ DAC Criteria

4.1. Progress Against Outputs

The project surpassed all predetermined outputs and achieved a level of success that exceeded the initially set targets. For output 1, against a target of 20,000, the project cumulatively benefited a total of 79,812²¹ beneficiaries through various interventions (described in detail in the sections below). Similarly, installation of water schemes at different locations resulted in directly benefiting 30, 429 people against a target of 30,000. To achieve the sanitation results, the project utilised various approaches and tackled significant challenges to directly benefit 126,706 people. The project reached a total 4,929 (2132 M, 2797 F) direct beneficiaries through case management.

Overall analysis of progress against outputs and targets is based on the information shared by the UNICEF team on queries or extracted from the progress reports shared by them. It is important to note that the project's approach to beneficiary enumeration adopted a component-based counting system, where individuals were tallied according to the specific services they accessed within the project. This methodology differed from the project's outputs, which were organized on an individual basis. Essentially, while project outcomes are assessed per person, the counting mechanism for beneficiaries relies on aggregating the services received. The inherent challenge lies in the potential for double counting, wherein an individual availing multiple services—such as both water supply and sanitation—may be accounted for more than once within the given context. For example, if a person benefits from both water supply and sanitation initiatives, the current counting method tallies this individual separately for each service, potentially distorting the actual count of unique beneficiaries. This incongruence in counting methodologies raises concerns about the accuracy and reliability of beneficiary statistics. It introduces complexities in aligning the component-based enumeration with the individual-focused project outputs, thus necessitating a more nuanced and harmonised approach to ensure precision in reporting and evaluation.

²¹ As of 31st December 2023, the beneficiaries were reported to be 97,061. The consultants did not have access to the data of Q3 as it was not compiled yet. Only data till Y3, Q2 has been reported as that information was available to the consultants.

Table 4: Progress against Outputs

Output	Progress
1: 20,000 boys, girls, men, and women are less exposed to harmful norms and practices around violence, adopt positive practices, and know where to report violent incidents that may occur. This target was revised to 30,000 in second year of the project	79,812
2: 120,000 girls, boys, and families with access to improved and resilient water and sanitation services	
2.1: Number of additional people (disaggregated by sex) with access to improved drinking water services in target locations	30,429 (15,877 F and 14,552)
2.2: Number of additional people (disaggregated by sex) with access to improved market-based sanitation services in target locations.	126,706 (76,297F and 50,409M)
3: 3,951 boys, girls and women receive quality and coordinated services to prevent and respond to all forms of violence:	4,929 (2132M, 2797F)

4.2. Progress Against Targets

It is crucial to acknowledge that, at the time of the evaluation, ongoing project activities continued to contribute to an increase in the number of beneficiaries. The latest and most accurate information, extended by UNICEF team, regarding overall direct beneficiaries on project components is provided in Table 4-B

Table 5-B: Progress against Outputs- December 2023

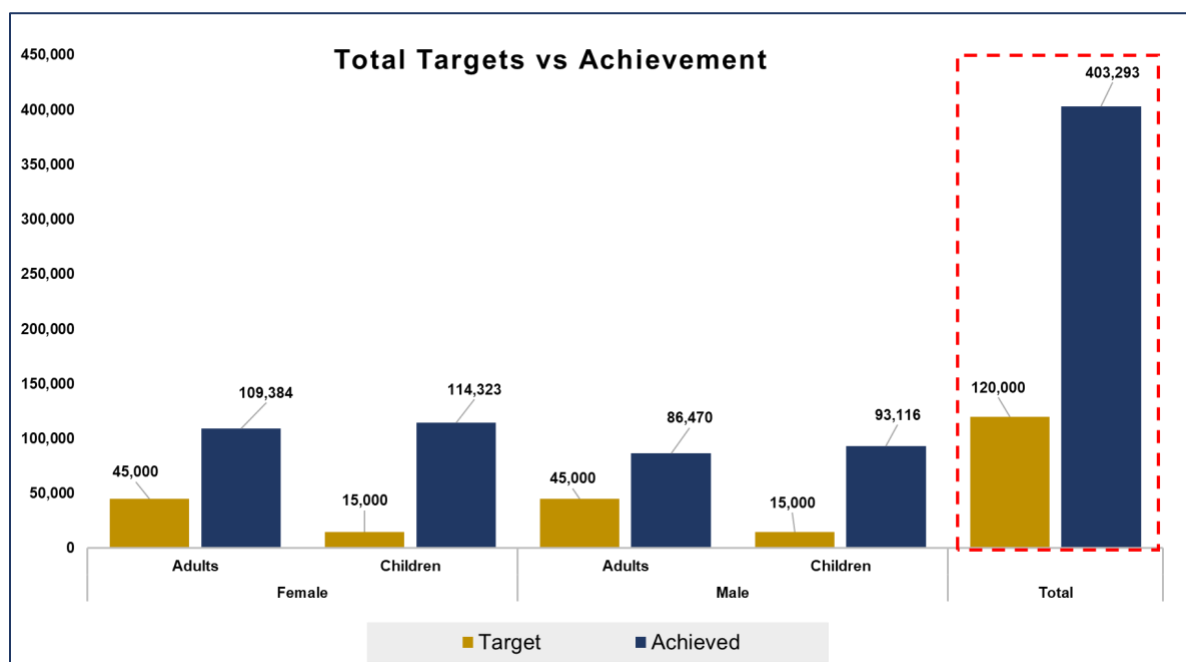
Years	Component	Male	Female	Total
Year 1	Water Supply	8,587	9,687	18,274
	Sanitation	2,694	2,804	5,498
	Child Protection	19,093	25,855	44,948
	Total	30,374	38,346	68,720
Year 2	Water Supply	2,788	2,871	5,659
	Sanitation	29,542	33,637	63,179
	Child Protection	74,894	70,267	145,161
	Total	107,224	106,775	213,999
Year 3	Water Supply	4,203	4,419	8,622
	Sanitation	18,238	50,758	68,996
	Child Protection	42,238	51,439	93,677
	Total	64,679	106,616	171,295
Total	Water Supply	15,578	16,977	32,555
	Sanitation	50,474	87,199	137,673
	Child Protection	136,225	147,561	283,786
	Total	202,277	251,737	454,014

It's crucial to note that, owing to time constraints and the substantial effort needed to update multiple sections of this report with newly available data, including altering the basis of data analysis and interpretation, the consultants were unable to fully incorporate the revised beneficiary figures into the text.

Figure 2 shows the total target of beneficiaries set by the project vs the number of beneficiaries reached through different interventions, as per project datasheets and progress reports from its inception till September 2023. The main categories targeted were male and female among which the subcategories were children and adults. The total achievement of targets (403,293) exceeded by three times (336 percent) in all the categories against their set target goals (120,000). For females, the achievements of targets is nearly two and half times (243 percent) more than set for female adults, and seven and a half times (762 percent) more than the target set for female

children. For the male counterparts, the achievement of targets is two times (192 percent) more than set for male adults, and six times (621 percent) more than targets set for male children. Overall, the total beneficiaries are 403,293 surpassing the collective target of 120,000 beneficiaries, and targets for each category with achievements are given in the figure below.

Figure 2: Project Targets and Achievements



The project achieved considerable success in serving 28,794 people with disabilities²² against the target of 4,560 and approaching 16,789 survivors of violence against the set target of 2,000 beneficiaries. These achievements are six times higher for people with disabilities and eight times for survivors of violence. However, nearly half of the targets of orphan and vulnerable children (48 percent achieved) were met, and only nine percent of targets of extremely poor were met. The project lacked a specific beneficiary selection and assessment criterion especially around assessment of poverty and vulnerability, etc. Despite this, the overall target of beneficiaries surpassed the total set targets cumulatively as the total number of beneficiaries reached were 56,753, exceeding the programme's overall target of 45,760. Targets for each category with achievements are given in figure 3 below.

²² Based on estimate coverage of disability by National Statistical Office.

Figure 3: Project Targets and Achievements (Social Inclusion)

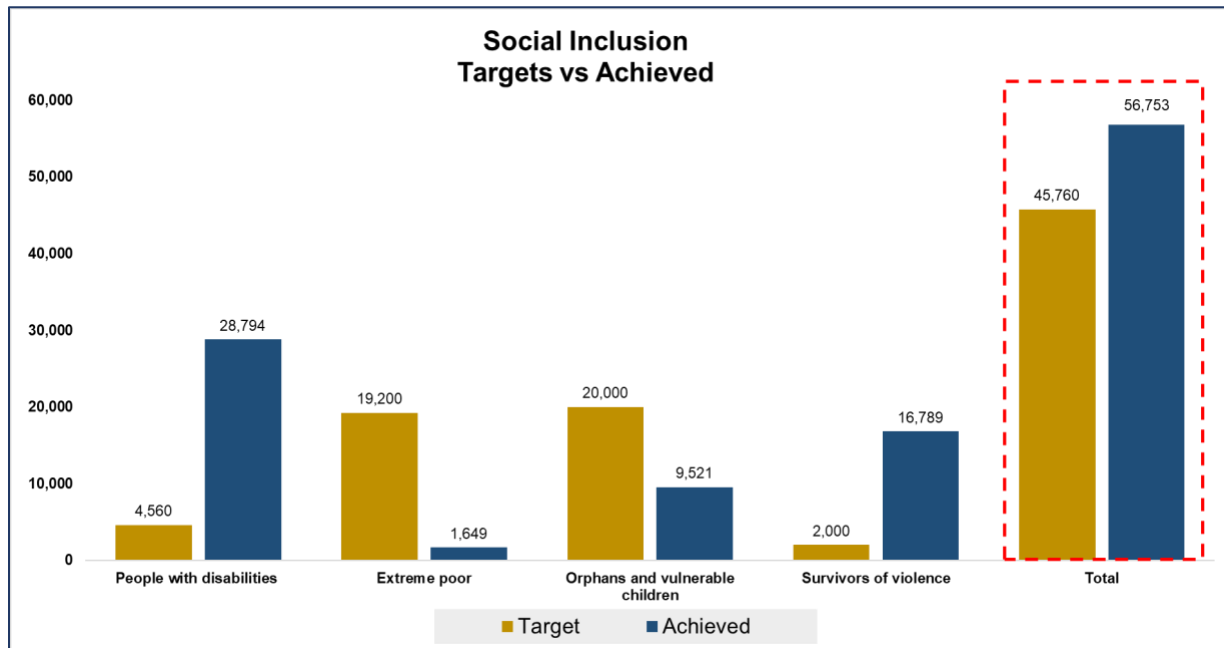


Figure 4 portrays the indirect beneficiaries of this project. The target set to indirectly benefit 1,426,000 children and 1,039,000 adults was remarkably overachieved, as the indirect beneficiaries were 3,224,908 children and 3,659,747 adults. Overall, the indirect beneficiaries of the project were 6,884,655 against the total target of 2,465,000. These achievements are nearly three times more than the initially set targets.

Figure 4: Project Targets and Achievements (Indirect Beneficiaries)

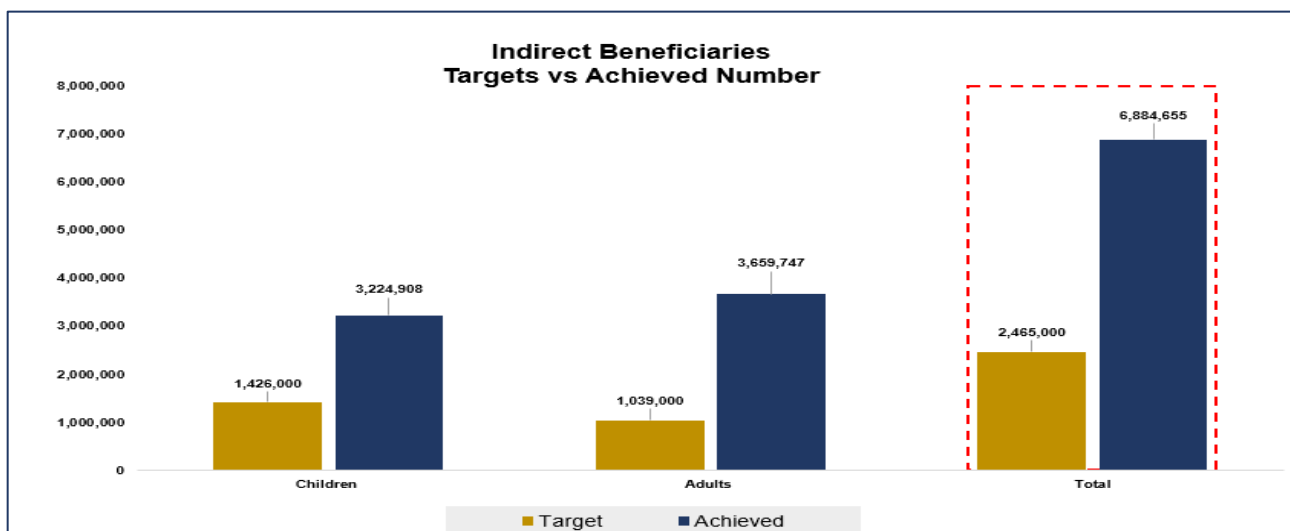


Figure 5 describes a comparison of achieved vs targeted direct beneficiaries according to age and gender during the 1st year of project implementation. The project aimed to target a total of 15,000 children and 45,000 adults overall in the first year, and it overachieved the target for children with 31,832 beneficiaries which was 2.21 times greater. While the target for adults was underachieved, as the total adult beneficiaries were 35,789 and only 79.5 percent of the set target was achieved. For children, the target was to benefit 7,500 male children which was overachieved as 15,000 beneficiaries were reached while for female children, the target set was 7,500 in the initial year while the reported direct beneficiaries were 16,832. In case of adults, the targets set were underachieved in both male and female categories. The year one target aimed to benefit 22,500 beneficiaries of each gender, however only 14,899 males and 20,890 female adults were reached. In year one, 475 males and 624 females of unknown age were reported as direct beneficiaries.

Figure 5: Project Targets and Achievements (Year 1)

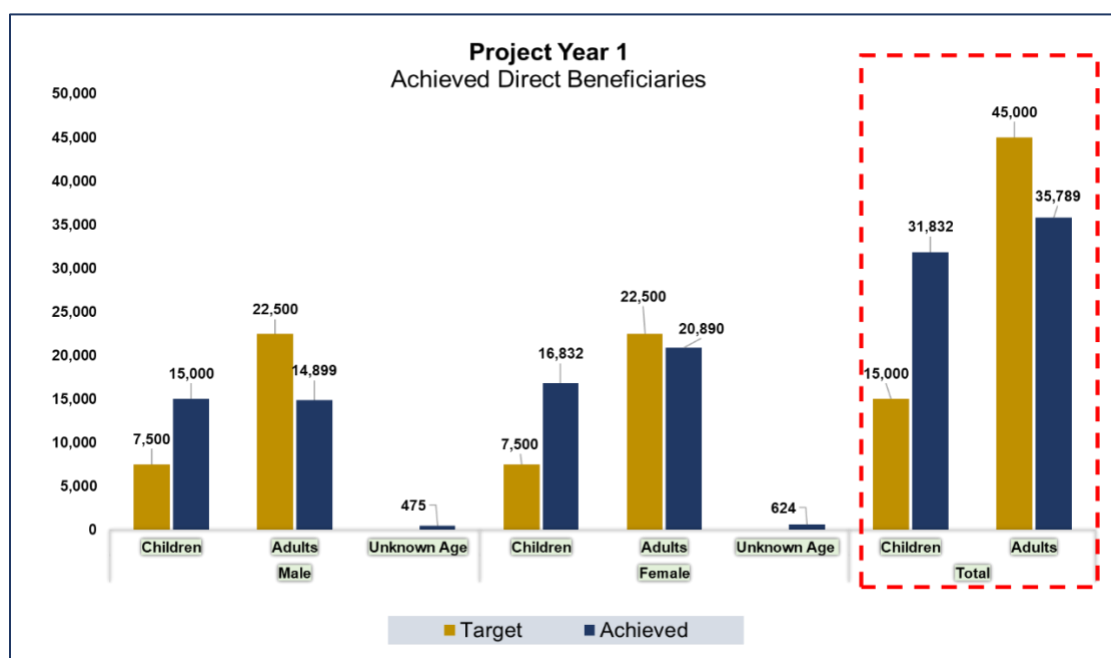


Figure 6 shows the comparison of achieved vs targeted direct beneficiaries according to age and gender for the second year. The project aimed to target 7,500 children and 22,500 adults against which 86,960 children and 104,372 adults were reached during the second year. The target of 7,500 children was divided equally among both genders against which 42,2216 male children and 44,744 female children were reached thus surpassing the set targets. In case of adults, 11,250 adults from each gender category were set as targets but the achievement surpassed the targets with 55,215 male and 49,157 female beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of unknown age include 5,793 males and 10,193

females. Thus, the achieved child beneficiaries for the project are 11.59 times greater than the set targets and adult beneficiaries reached are 4.59 times more than the set target .

Figure 6: Project Targets and Achievements (Year 2)

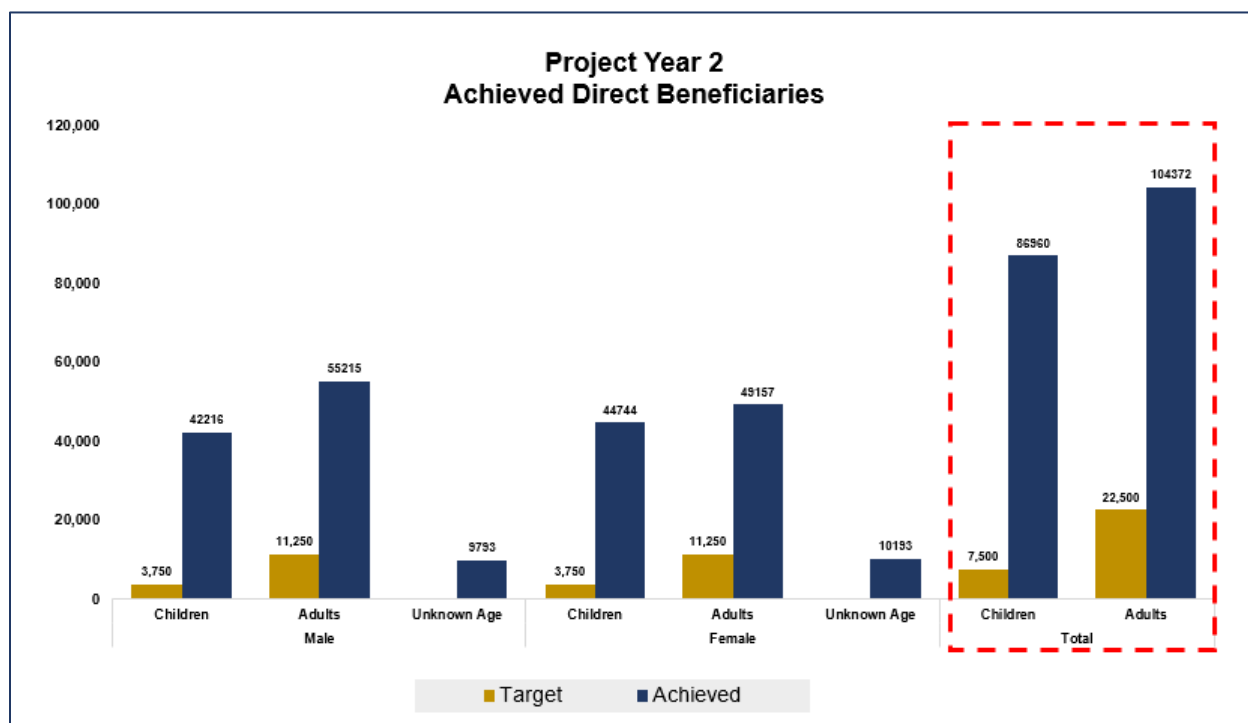
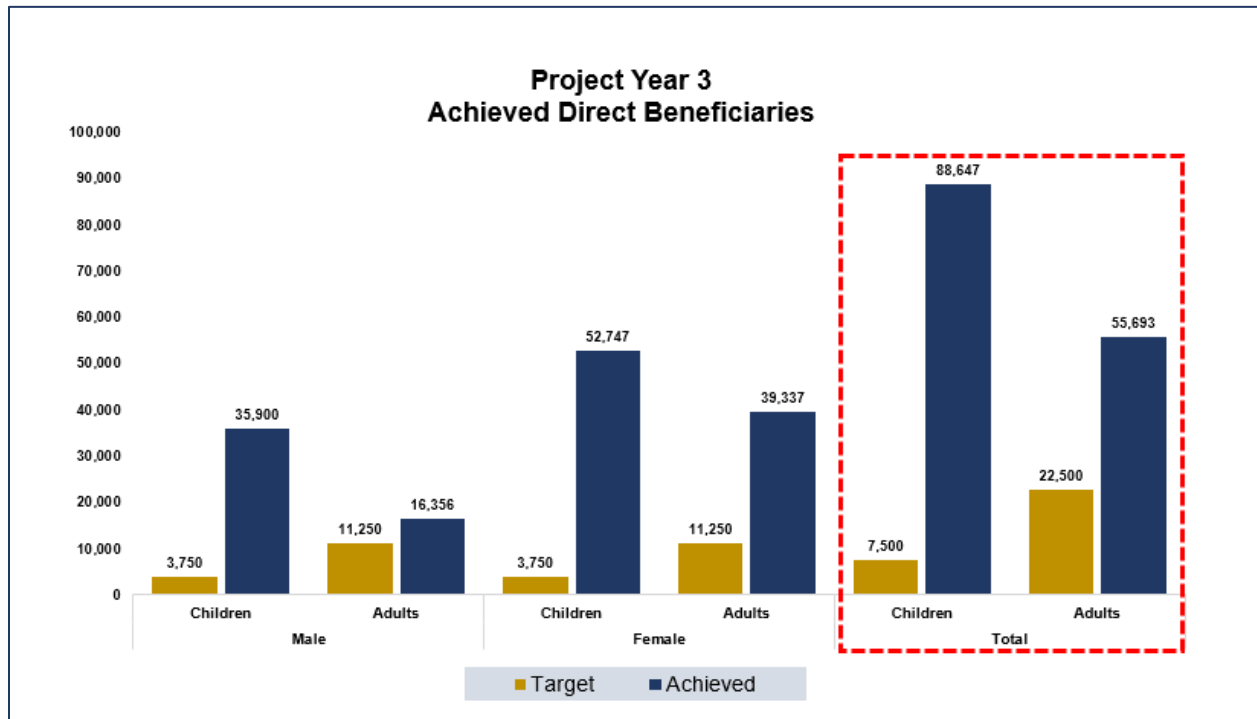


Figure 6 elaborates a comparison of achieved vs targeted direct beneficiaries according to age and gender for third year of the project implementation. The overall targets set were to reach 7,500 children and 22,500 adults in the third year against which the project overachieving its targets by 11.82 times for children and 2.84 times for adults reached 86,960 children and 104,372 adults in the last year of its implementation. For male children, the programme exceeded the target with 35,900 beneficiaries compared to the set goal of 3,750. The achievements for male adults exceeded the target of 11,250, with 16,356 male adult beneficiaries. For female children, the project reached 52,747 beneficiaries surpassing the target of 3,750, and for female adults, the target was overachieved as 39,337 beneficiaries were reached against the target of 11,250.

Figure 7: Project Targets and Achievements (Year 3)



4.3. Efficiency:

4.3.1. Execution of Project Activities

Baseline Survey:

Despite initial delays in processing and approvals, the project managed to successfully conduct the baseline survey. The survey included both collection of primary data from the communities and collating secondary data and information to triangulate and determine the existing situation against the project's intended outcomes and outputs.

Onboarding/PCA Preparation:

The project initially progressed well in onboarding activities and preparing for the Programme Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with implementing partners. Due to the delayed signing of the programme cooperation agreement with World Vision International, initially most child protection activities faced setbacks. In response, World Vision International promptly devised an acceleration plan to recover lost time and meet all planned targets. Targeted activities for two quarters were executed simultaneously to offset the time lost. This adaptive strategy proved successful in maintaining the on-track status of the work plan.

Review and Adjustment of Targets/Beneficiaries:

There was an initial delay in the review and adjustment of targets/beneficiaries to synchronise with the baseline study. This happened by the end of the first year. Subsequently, efforts were made to pick up pace, and substantial progress was made, as evident from the achievements and progress against the targets.

Construction of Water Supply Systems:

The construction of climate resilient water supply systems demonstrated a notable success though it took more time than originally envisaged. The water supply component had achieved a cumulative result of 101 percent of the project target. The project additionally established and trained water management committees in the operation and maintenance, as well as tariff collection, of water supply systems. This included training respective government counterparts in managing data collection and reporting.

Demand and Market Based Sanitation:

Initially, there were delays in several sanitation components due to the extensive deliberations and iterations among teams and stakeholders on developing consensus around setting up systems to address both the supply and demand elements of the market-based approach. Although the project successfully completed the market assessment and developed a manual for latrine options, the delays arose from the limitations in finalising the procedures for training of service providers, and this bottleneck significantly impacted the rolling-out of the sanitation revolving fund. However, substantial efforts were taken to complete these trainings and the sanitation component successfully regained momentum, with the operationalisation of the sanitation revolving fund model. After availing and completing the training, the sanitation fund managers, local masons, and shop owners were actively engaged on the ground, facilitating households' access to sanitation materials through the revolving scheme as well as strengthening the value chain by making the materials available nearer to the communities through local shop owners. With the cumulative sanitation results of 126,705 beneficiaries (106 percent of the target), the project reached its target. These include construction of new latrines, rehabilitation of existing latrines and conducting pit emptying where needed.

Child Protection Activities

The child protection component exhibited a significant progress by achieving nearly 95 percent implementation of its activities. However, challenges were encountered in conducting mobile court sessions due to the busy schedules and overwhelming workloads of magistrates, who were also supported by other partners, limiting their availability for this project. In response, funds allocated for mobile court sessions were redirected to provide direct support for children identified through child protection case management, addressing needs related to education support and mitigating risks of GBV, school dropout, child marriages, and general violence against children. Ongoing discussions between the National Child Justice Forum and the project aimed to seek support for fast-tracking cases. The project acknowledged potential delays due to laid-down judicial procedures and requirements such as evidence tendering and witness availability. Despite these challenges, the project successfully met its targets for direct support by the project's conclusion.

Limited Use of Digital Technologies

UNICEF planned to implement a comprehensive digital technology strategy to enhance the monitoring and data collection for violence-related cases in Malawi. The use of mobile phone reporting, specifically SMS through the RapidPro platform, was foreseen to facilitate the near real-time gathering of service-user statistics from various entities like Children's Corners, Community Victim Support Units, Police Victim Support Units, and Child Justice Courts. U-Report mobile-based platform, designed to provide young people with a voice, was intended to be utilized for periodic assessments of knowledge and attitudes related to project-relevant issues. Additionally, a GIS mapping system was envisaged to visualise data, aiding in planning, monitoring, and community engagement throughout the project. However, the project couldn't implement comprehensive digital technology for GIS mapping and real-time data collection.

Overall, the project primarily relied on traditional methods of data collection and monitoring. For water supply an open source, mWater application, was used for reporting at a limited scale. The focus was on manual data collection through forms and routine reporting, maintaining a more conventional approach throughout the project duration. This was mainly due to the limited familiarity of the staff regarding digital technologies, proficiency challenges, and resource constraints.

Overall Progress:

The project's trajectory was marked by adaptability in response to challenges. Despite initial delays, strategic acceleration plans were instrumental in steering the project back on course. Achievements in water supply, sanitation, and child protection activities highlight the project's commitment to meeting and surpassing its objectives. Continuous efforts, especially in mobilisation and assessments, indicated a proactive approach towards sustained success. The project's resilience and ability to adjust strategies in response to challenges highlighted its determination to achieving positive outcomes within the defined project timeline. Overall, the project exceeded the planned targets. However, as anticipated at the application stage, no digital technologies were utilised in the project for monitoring and real-time data collection which could have enhanced the efficiency of the project.

4.3.2. Allocation and Management of Resources

The project made determined efforts in splitting the human and technical resources according to needs identified and emerged during the implementation. For WASH, dedicated technical and programme human resources at UNICEF were deployed for water supply and sanitation initiatives respectively. Similar approach was adopted for child protection at UNICEF. The implementing partners with specific expertise in social mobilisation and outreach for WASH and protection issues were engaged. Specific technical expertise was contracted to fill the gaps including solar powered contractors and behavioural change expert organisations among others. This expedited the implementation, cascading technical knowledge and skills and ensured the compliances to national standards and strategies. However, there was a recognized need for a dedicated team leader or project manager responsible for coordination, facilitation, monitoring, and reporting. This need arose due to the existing technical human resources lacking efficiency in project management, given their other technical priorities and limited skills in integrated project management.

4.3.3. Efficiency of UNICEF's support to Partner Organisations and Departments

UNICEF demonstrated efficiency by collaborating with various partners, including government departments and local organisations with the implementation of water, sanitation, and child protection activities as outlined in the proposal. UNICEF's approach to strengthen the system by leveraging existing government structures, coordinating with different sectors, and adapting to challenges showcased a strategic and efficient implementation process.

Efficiency of Support to NGOs:

UNICEF collaborated with Water for People (WFP), Hygiene Village Project (HVP) and Participatory Development Initiative (PDI) for water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. For the component of child protection, World Vision was engaged. These organisations have long standing expertise and experience in their respective technical areas as well as community engagement. UNICEF's partnership with these organisations also helped in bringing voice, participation, and accountability at par with respective government agencies and service providers.

Initial Funding Delays:

The Hygiene Village Project reported significant challenges related to approval and release of funding from Water for People, experiencing a setback of 6 months in project implementation. Simultaneously, Water for People reported initial delays in the receipt of funding from UNICEF, leading to subsequent delays in disbursing funds to other stakeholders. The potential inefficiencies in UNICEF's funding processes, due to lengthy procedures, caused delays in the initiation and execution of projects. The extended duration required for financial disbursements affected the overall programme quality and timely delivery of UNICEF-supported initiatives.

Resource Displacement Challenges:

The project partners highlighted challenges with the timely disbursement of resources from UNICEF due to their protocols and systems. The back-and-forth process with UNICEF and FCDO systems resulted in difficulties in planning and executing project activities within the stipulated time. The project teams, however, managed to compensate the delays and deferrals through reforecasting and teamwork.

Efficiency of Support to Government Departments/ Ministries:

The project was designed to strengthen and leverage existing government structures and procedures, avoiding the creation of parallel structures. Coordination occurred through established technical working groups at the district level, and the project reported to the District Executive Committees (DECs). The district social welfare officer played a central role in overseeing child protection efforts, with collaboration on justice-related initiatives involving the Malawi Police and the Judiciary (through the National Child Justice Forum) for policy guidance. The National Child Justice Forum (NCJF) has maintained a longstanding partnership with UNICEF, particularly in projects related to child protection. The collaboration involves the NCJF playing a crucial role in capacity building and implementing interventions related to justice. As the NCJF operates with a multi-sector approach, their primary

function is to coordinate justice services among various stakeholders. The representative of NCJF, emphasised the need for improved resource coordination among development agencies supporting justice for children. While acknowledging that UNICEF alone cannot provide all the necessary resources, representative of NCJF proposed the establishment of a basket or seed fund for child justice.

The Ministry of Gender expressed a positive collaboration with UNICEF in addressing child protection issues, emphasising regular national-level meetings with key stakeholders, including UNICEF. However, the representative from the ministry highlighted challenges related to resource constraints and dependency on UNICEF for monitoring initiation. The ministry often waited for UNICEF to include them in plans, affecting the timeliness of their involvement. Although the Ministry of Health boasted an ample human resource base, financial limitations posed challenges, impacting the quantity of essential supplies for example chlorine for water treatment. Despite these challenges, collaborative efforts with partners, notably UNICEF, played a pivotal role in overcoming obstacles and supporting the implementation of interventions. The representative from Ministry of Health emphasised on the project's sustainability, highlighting that UNICEF primarily contributed through financing, while the substantial execution was orchestrated by government machinery and local communities. The project's success in building capacities within communities and governmental structures ensured their ability to independently carry out similar interventions in the future.

4.3.4. Factors Affecting Pace and Quality of Implementation

1. Protracted Conclusion of Programme Document with World Vision:

- **Factors:** Extended negotiations due to policy-related issues, specifically associated with the use of mobile money (financial service that allows people to store, send, and receive money using their mobile phones) during the Covid-19 pandemic as a preventive measure.
- **Impact:** Delayed initiation of project interventions impacted the timelines and duration of activities.
- **Analysis:** These delays underscored the importance of anticipating and proactively addressing unforeseen policy and programme challenges, necessitating agile negotiation strategies and effective risk management.

2. Irregular Community Victim Support Unit Meetings:

- **Factors:** Lack of regular and well-planned joint monitoring visits and meetings.

- **Impact:** Hindered communication and coordination among Community Victim Support Unit members, potentially affecting the efficiency of the victim support system.
 - **Analysis:** Regular routine meetings and enhanced formal communication channels are crucial for fostering collaboration and maintaining the momentum of project progress.
3. **Security Measures Against Theft and Vandalism:**
- **Factors:** Incidents of attempted theft and vandalism of installed water facilities.
 - **Impact:** Raised concerns about the security of project infrastructure, potentially leading to disruptions in service delivery.
 - **Analysis:** The community's proactive measures, such as recruiting local guards, highlight the importance of community involvement in safeguarding project assets and maintaining the integrity of implemented solutions.
4. **Covid-19 Travel Restrictions:**
- **Factors:** Travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
 - **Impact:** Hampered on-site monitoring and supervision of project activities.
 - **Analysis:** Delegating supervision to local offices, collaborating closely with district water development offices and social welfare offices, and utilising remote support highlighted the need for adaptable approaches during global health crisis. Digital technologies could not gain the required level of support and emphasis from the project.
5. **Fuel Shortages:**
- **Factors:** Fuel shortages resulted from an industrial strike by tanker drivers.
 - **Impact:** Disruption in project implementation due to challenges in accessing fuel.
 - **Analysis:** Exploring backup fuel stocks emerged as a practical contingency plan, showcasing the importance of preparedness for external challenges beyond the project's control.

6. Tropical Storms Ana and Gombe:

- **Factors:** Impact of the tropical storms on households and institutional infrastructure.
- **Impact:** Disruption of project activities and damage to water and sanitation facilities.
- **Analysis:** The focus on resilient designs and adaptation to climatic shocks is essential and it underpins the need for strategies to mitigate environmental impacts on various project components.

7. Cyclone Freddy's Impact on Water Scheme Implementation:

- **Factors:** Implementation delays due to Cyclone Freddy causing extensive damage to road infrastructure, making areas impassable.
- **Impact:** Close supervision ensured the adherence and setting of timelines for the contractor, resulting in the timely completion and commissioning of the water schemes.
- **Analysis:** Despite external challenges, effective project management with emphasis on supervision can mitigate delays caused by unforeseen events.

8. Challenges from Cyclone Freddy on Sanitation Facilities:

- **Factors:** Collapsing of latrines and pits in Blantyre due to the continued effects of Cyclone Freddy, with over 16 percent of latrines affected.
- **Impact:** Capacity building for masons intensified, focusing on pit lining and external manholes for efficient pit emptying.
- **Analysis:** Adapting construction techniques and incorporating lessons from environmental challenges are vital for resilience of sanitation infrastructure.

9. Operational Challenges Post-Cyclone:

- **Factors:** Households facing operational challenges post-Cyclone Freddy, with some hesitating to take second loans for latrine reconstruction.
- **Impact:** Communities requested assistance with soft loans for reconstruction, and there was a demand for higher amounts for specialised designs, potentially impacting overall loan accessibility and repayment rates.
- **Analysis:** Balancing community needs with financial sustainability is crucial, and ongoing adjustments in loan offerings may be necessary based on lessons learned.

10. Technological Challenges:

- **Factors:** Limited use of advanced mobile technology and resistance to digital tools like tablets adoption among social workers.
- **Impact:** Delays in data collection and verification including the use of proxy indicators for reporting impacted timely and informed decision-making processes.
- **Analysis:** Bridging the technological proficiency gap is essential for maximising the benefits of advanced monitoring tools and ensuring smooth adoption. Build the proficiency levels of social workers, volunteers, and relevant government offices.

11. Organisational and Resource Challenges:

- **Factors:** Resource constraints impeding the adoption of advanced systems.
- **Impact:** Delays in funding were initially cumbersome, but eventually they were overcome. Natural disasters, like cyclones, necessitated a shift in focus and resources towards disaster impact.
- **Analysis:** Addressing organisational challenges and maintaining contingency funding is critical for sustaining project momentum and resilience in the face of unforeseen events.

12. Operational Challenges:

- **Factors:** The delayed start to the project had an impact on the overall workstream, necessitating continuous advocacy for program acceptance. .
- **Impact:** Disruptions in starting the project, cyclone impacts, and economic issues affecting operations.
- **Analysis:** Recognising and addressing operational challenges is crucial for maintaining project timelines and achieving successful outcomes.

13. Community Engagement and Expectation Management Challenges:

- **Factors:** Difficulties in managing community expectations, especially regarding water system targeting and financing for sanitation facilities.
- **Impact:** Convincing communities to contribute more for the sustainability of water and sanitation systems posed challenges.
- **Analysis:** Effective community engagement strategies are vital for aligning project goals with community expectations and securing their active participation.

14. Leadership and Accountability Challenges:

- **Factors:** Community leaders criticised by communities for unequal distribution of donated goods, and allegations of nepotism and prejudice in distribution, in some instances.

- **Impact:** Dissatisfaction of community members on certain project activities and claims of favouritism by project.
- **Analysis:** Addressing leadership accountability challenges is crucial for maintaining community trust and ensuring fair and transparent project implementation.
- **Analysis:** Strengthening monitoring and reporting mechanisms is essential for informed decision-making and appropriate project adjustments.

15. Escalating Costs of Sanitation Materials:

- **Factors:** Sharp increase in the cost of sanitation materials, particularly cement, energy, etc.
- **Impact:** Concerns raised about the potential impact on budgets, and reluctance in loan uptake by the community members.
- **Analysis:** Consistent and regular monitoring of market dynamics, and adjustments in financial plans are critical to navigate cost fluctuations and maintain community engagement.

16. Establishment of Long-Term Revolving Fund:

- **Factors:** Project establishes a long-term revolving fund with SACCOs to replenish sanitation products based on demand.
- **Impact:** Delayed loan payments from beneficiaries affects the financial health of businesses.
- **Analysis:** Flexibility and adaptability are crucial in ensuring the sustainability of long-term financial mechanisms, particularly in the face of external economic challenges, and exploring linkages with other conditional cash transfers for social protection, for instance, nutrition.

4.3.5. Efficiency Comparison and Cost Analysis

Overall project cost is GBP 3,000,000, of which FCDO's share is 2,700,000 GBP and UNICEF/Non FCDO share is 300,000 GBP. Due to variation in exchange rates, there are different figures about the USD, however the evaluation team analysis is based on overall allocation of 3,947,368 USD of which FCDO's share is 3,552,632 USD and UNICEF/Non-FCDO share is 394,737 USD. Overall 65 percent of the budget was for project activities of WASH (34 percent) and CP (31 percent). Nearly 15 percent was allocated for UNICEF staff, 11 percent for admin, 6 percent for M&E and 4 percent for capital expenditures. Implementing partners of UNICEF also contributed to cash and in kind by 7 to 13

percent under WASH and CP initiatives, and it has not been added in the overall budget reporting and financial analysis.

An analysis of the project spending revealed that nearly 47 percent of spending has been spent on WASH related activities, and 34 percent on child protection activities. Overall 2 percent has been spent on administration and nearly one percent on project evaluation as shown in below table (table 5). More than half of the overall budget (52 percent) has been spent through partners, and 23 percent on project activities directly through the contracted service hired by UNICEF, and another 6 percent on direct supplies provided by UNICEF. Overall, 15 percent of the total spending was the UNICEF staff cost. Another 3 percent was spent on administrative costs and one percent on travel. Hence, overall project administrative cost appeared to be 19 percent. The overall spending constituted of 91 percent FCDO funding and 9 percent share of UNICEF.

Table 6: Overall Project Spending 2021-2023- USD

Cost Category	Admin. Costs	Child Protection	Endline evaluation	WASH	Grand Total
Contractual Services	3,882	253,838	41,013	518,245	816,978
General Operating + Other Direct Costs	51,421	15,249	-	47,959	114,628
Staff and Other Personnel Costs	15,586	267,599	-	258,236	541,421
Supplies and Commodities	2,363	221,934	-	-	224,297
Transfers and Grants to Counterparts	-	746,794	-	1,136,309	1,883,103
Travel	8,675	21,253	-	15,325	45,253
Grand Total - USD	81,926	1,526,666	41,013	1,976,074	3,625,680
Overall Distribution - % excluding staffing which are 16 percent overall.	2%	34%	1%	47%	
FCDO Spending - USD	70,184	1,363,478	36,590	1,821,173	3,291,425
FCDO Share -%	86%	89%	89%	92%	91%
UNICEF Spending - USD	11,742	163,189	4,423	154,901	334,255
UNICEF Share - %	14%	11%	11%	8%	9%

The direct per beneficiary cost including project management for the overall project is 9 USD, and indirect beneficiary cost is close to half dollar (0.53 USD) showing a phenomenal achievement.

More than 1/3rd of the total direct beneficiaries belongs to the WASH component that includes creating solar powered water infrastructure resulting to benefit more than 30,000 beneficiaries and strengthening sanitation marketing that benefitted to 126,000 individuals. Overall WASH costs are USD 15.6 per beneficiary, and this is close to 18 to 20 USD for water, and around 9 USD for sanitation. For CP beneficiaries of 79,812 who facilitated basic services, the per beneficiary cost is 19.12 USD, whereas for CP 4,929 beneficiaries that have been served with legal and administrative services, the per beneficiary cost is 309 USD.

In the context of drinking water systems by utilising solar powered water systems, the programme is ensuring an efficient use of money. In comparison to systems that use more traditional energy sources, solar power is cheaper, cleaner, and more reliable. Findings show that the cost of solar powered water systems per person equate to USD 20 per person, compared to the comparable cost of USD 30 per person associated to the establishment of boreholes. These figures have been provided by the UNICEF team that calculated them as a part of their study to make comparative analysis, as given below. The introduction of a tariff approach, where communities pay for the use of water services, is being better received than the monthly fee model from local households. This is promoting judicious use of limited water sources available within the communities.

Table 7: Costs of Different Types of Water Systems

Type of Water System	Total Life Cycle Cost	Cost Per Cubic Meter of Water
Solar Powered Water System	59,206,262, MWK, (\$80,553)	\$ 0.20
12 Boreholes fitted hand pumps	80,670,670, MWK, (\$109,756)	\$0.27
Diesel Generated Water System	169,395,802, MWK, (\$ 230,740)	\$ 0.56

With an estimated time saving of 15 minutes for water collection, each household is anticipated to save 91 hours per year, equivalent to about 11.5 working days of eight hours. For nearly 7,000 households served by six water supply, an estimated 80,000 working days of eight hours will be available for productive purposes. With an opportunity cost of one dollar per household saved by water collection time, there will be an annual saving of around 80,000 USD. In five to six years, the investment cost of solar schemes will be recovered, resulting in a savings of 400,000 USD for the following five years.

In the context of sanitation, the project adopted a market led approach that included the establishment of revolving fund and strengthening sanitation marketing. The community led sanitation approach where the communities have been sensitized and trained about use of safe sanitation services resulted in a significant increase in the construction of latrines in the communities. Smart subsidies to needy households were introduced for creating access to new sanitation services through vouchers that entitled them to pay only one-third of the standard costs. The scheme ensured that the most marginalised and vulnerable were able to benefit from the new services however this was not successful as many ultra-poor were unable to pay their share. Hence, a revolving fund and access to finance were introduced in the communities to ensure that the poor segment could also benefit. Additionally, in-kind shares and labour elements were introduced by supplying sanitation products to the ultra-poor. It is difficult to assess the direct economic benefit from sanitation, but communities confirmed reduced health costs, and reduction in water borne diseases especially diarrhoea and cholera in the evaluation's household survey.

In response to capacity issues experienced by the Child Protection Ministry, volunteers were identified to help fill gaps in training personnel. The chosen volunteers were enrolled on a 7-week training course to ensure that the quality of the service being provided was not reduced. Similarly, this approach provided an effective solution without any economic impact to the programme. UNICEF and partners are now advocating for the government to hire these volunteer trainers. The establishment of community-based trainings has helped to increase the efficiency of training activities, reducing the distance beneficiaries have to travel in order to attend, helping to increase attendance and enable more people to benefit from the training in each session.

4.4. Effectiveness:

4.4.1. Major Project Achievements

Child Protection Component

Community Structure Strengthening

The community structure strengthening was reiterated by mobilising 196 community structures, encompassing entities such as Community Victim Support Units (CVSUs), Police Victim Support Units (PVSUs), One-Stop Centres (OSCs), Children's Corners (CC), and Community-Based Child Care Centres (CBCCs). This process included the incorporation of new members into these structures, providing them with training on availing effective service provision. Additionally, as part of efforts to enhance monitoring activities and facilitation services, bicycles were supplied to child protection

workers. The objective was to fortify the operational capabilities of these community structures, ensuring they are well-equipped, staffed, and organised to effectively address and respond to child protection issues within their respective communities. The involvement of new members, training programmes, and the provision of bicycles collectively aimed at improving the overall functionality and responsiveness of these community-based structures.

Assessment of One-Stop Centres

A comprehensive assessment was conducted, encompassing 29 health facilities, 20 in Lilongwe and 9 in Blantyre. The primary objective of this review was to determine the gaps and mechanisms in developing high-quality survivor-centred services related to GBV. Following the assessment, 16 facilities, evenly distributed between Lilongwe and Blantyre, were identified for targeted improvements in developing GBV-related quality services. Moreover, recognising the importance of skilled service providers in delivering effective support and protection, a specific training initiative was implemented for 32 OSC service providers from Lilongwe. The training aimed to enhance their capabilities in providing child protection services, thereby contributing to the overarching goal of ensuring survivor-centred and effective support, particularly for children and mothers affected by GBV.

Police Training

A specialised training initiative was implemented for police officers²³ in both Lilongwe and Blantyre. The training programme was designed to empower officers with essential knowledge and skills to effectively prevent and respond to cases of violence, abuse, and neglect involving children. The comprehensive training covered various crucial topics, including victim management, community policing strategies, outreach in schools, mobile reporting techniques, diversion methods, initiatives to combat child marriages, and awareness-raising activities. However, regarding police involvement, the communities reported that police efforts varied depending on the severity of the reported violence. While minor issues received assistance, major cases sometimes faced challenges, including bribery attempts by perpetrators to avoid legal consequences. Communities have limited trust and confidence on the police force by virtue of perceptions of bribery and corruption prevalent among the force for registering the cases.

Psychological First Aid

At multiple instances, the project conducted Psychological First Aid (PFA) trainings. Initially, training for a total of 524 members from various structures in Lilongwe, with 185 females and 339 males. The

²³ Training was provided to 5,119 service providers (2,787 M, 2,332 F), including social welfare officers and police officers.

primary objective was to build the capacity of community members/ volunteers to provide psychosocial services. In terms of service provision, 4,112 (2,410 F, 1,702 M) members received PFA services, showcasing a significant impact on the improved handling of street-connected children and fostering trust recognition. This data underscores the project's commitment to comprehensive psychosocial support and its positive influence on diverse demographics within the community.

Engaging Community Volunteers

Child protection workers played a key role in utilising acquired knowledge and skills, offering Psychological First Aid services, facilitating children's corners, and addressing cases of violence against children and women within their communities. The project leveraged community volunteers for implementing and facilitating child protection initiatives. This proved to be a highly effective approach due to their intimate knowledge of local contexts, cultural sensitivities, and established trust within the community. These volunteers offered increased reach, accessing areas that may be challenging for external agencies. The involvement of these volunteers not only proved to be cost-effective but also ensured sustainability, as community members take ownership of the initiatives. Moreover, cultural awareness of the volunteers enabled the design of interventions to be respectful to local beliefs. The project integrated safeguarding sessions into the training of volunteers working with children. To reinforce safeguarding efforts, the community volunteers were oriented on the child and adult safeguarding policy, again acknowledged through the signing of behaviour protocols, emphasising the commitment to safeguarding principles. UNICEF officers, during programmatic visits, also monitored safeguarding issues by observing children's activities. Notably, the project has not recorded any incidents involving project service providers engaging in unacceptable behaviours, such as misconduct and lack of respect for community members. Throughout the project's implementation, collaboration with relevant district and community stakeholders facilitated the identification of volunteers for various activities. Action plans were developed and were actively monitored by both World Vision International staff and government stakeholders from social welfare, health, and the police. 1,092 (651 F, 441 M) community volunteers were trained for children's corners. By empowering communities, fostering flexibility, and encouraging community-led solutions, the use of volunteers emerged as a comprehensive, resilient strategy for protecting children within their own societal frameworks.

Children's Corner and Journey of Life

As part of the project's approach to mobilising and enhancing community capacity in promoting children's rights and addressing child protection issues in Malawi, the Journey of Life (JoL) community

mobilisation tool was adopted. Originating in the early 2000s, JoL serves as a psychosocial support tool for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children (OVC). Through JoL workshops conducted within the project, each session yielded significant outcomes. These included the development of community action plans on child protection, the establishment or revitalisation of children's corners, the creation or enhancement of Community Based Child Care Centres, and the implementation of various support structures for children in need of care and protection. JoL united essential community members, encompassing community carers, children, youth, youth leaders, nurses, police, religious leaders, and representatives from other organisations, including community and faith-based organisations. Together, they collectively assessed community needs and agreed upon an action plan. The implementation of these action plans by communities contributed to the establishment of new child protection structures and the revitalisation of existing community structures for children. The implementation of JoL played a vital role in achieving tangible and impactful results within the project framework. Following the JoL community awareness workshops, 115 structures were established or revamped, with 64 in Lilongwe and 51 in Blantyre. Among these, 67 structures underwent reinforcement, comprising 23 in Lilongwe and 44 in Blantyre, while 48 structures were newly established, including 19 in Lilongwe and 29 in Blantyre. The structures comprised of a diverse range, featuring one community victim support unit, 61 children's corners, 43 Community Based Child Care Centres, 3 Community Based Organisations, 3 Support Groups, and two Youth Groups. These structures collectively secure spaces to the children for engaging in both recreational and educational activities in the targeted districts.

The children's corner played a pivotal role in the project by serving as a secure and supportive environment for children in the community. These corners functioned as designated spaces where children could openly share their experiences related to care and protection. Besides this, the children's corner actively promoted a culture of reporting the instances of violence. It also facilitated in imparting necessary education and valuable skills to children that empowered them to actively participate in their own protection. Moreover, the children's corner played a preventive role by offering supervised after-school activities. This structured and safe setting helped shield children from exposure to various forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect. By creating a supportive space for recreation, learning, and engagement, the children's corner contributed to the overall well-being of children in the community, fostering an environment that prioritised their safety and protection. The facilitators, with necessary training, played a crucial role in enhancing the overall engagement and functioning of children's corners. The activities conducted were diverse, encompassing play, arts, crafts, traditional dances, awareness about their rights, tree plantation, and sports. Facilitators of

children's corner reported sensitising the children on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), but this was not highlighted by the members of children's corner. These varied activities not only contributed to the enjoyment and recreation of the children but also served as platforms for skill development and expression. The project trained 1,092 (651 F, 441 M) volunteers to be children's corner facilitators, while the direct beneficiaries of children's corner were 99,586 (44,847 M, 54,624 F)²⁴. As a result of the trained facilitators' efforts, an improvement in the mental health of the participating children had been reported. The project showed a significant achievement for reaching to children with disabilities, nevertheless, there was lack of targeted interventions to support children with disabilities for instance, accessibility of corners and enrolment in schools. However, the HH survey indicated that nearly 1/4th of surveyed HHs (27.4 percent) participated in children's corner activities and 6.2 percent of HHs indicated the participation of a member of their family into JoL. An evaluation of the children's corner is scheduled for 2024.

The structured and supportive environment created by the facilitators fostered positive emotional well-being among the children. Additionally, the facilitators played a crucial role in identifying children who may require specialised support, ensuring that those with specific needs received the necessary attention and care. Overall, this training initiative had a positive impact on the well-being and development of children in Lilongwe and Blantyre.

“UNICEF has changed the lives of these adolescents through the experiences they are getting from the lessons in Children's Corner.” – FGD Community

Media and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Campaigns

The project progress reports reported the establishment of a strategic Media and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) Partnership, designating the Development Broadcasting Unit as its collaborator for the Media and SBCC component, emphasising media-driven initiatives for violence prevention and the promotion of positive practices. The campaign applied and utilised various channels and modes of communication, including radio, television, and community engagements, to directly reach 1.08 million beneficiaries and indirectly impact 2.8 million people.

The primary objective was to encourage the reporting of violence, abuse, and neglect of children while disseminating essential information on children's rights. The overarching goals included engaging district officials, amplifying the voices of leaders, building capacity, social mobilisation, and challenging

²⁴ (Difference of 115 exists)

social norms through targeted community and media campaigns. Progress in Media and SBCC activities was marked by several key milestones. Inception meetings and collaborative actions with district officials and stakeholders laid the groundwork and foundation for effective communication strategies. Formative studies were conducted to discern communication preferences and identify trends in reporting and engagements. By combining these elements, the project successfully contributed to the development of a comprehensive child protection framework. The collaboration with the Development Broadcasting Unit served as a pivotal vehicle for amplifying the project's messaging, fostering positive behavioural changes, and creating a more protective environment for children through the combined power of community involvement and targeted media initiatives. Through these platforms, awareness messages were disseminated, creating a substantial impact on the community. Development Broadcasting Unit also facilitated in leveraging media by training the journalists and using local FM radios as a powerful tool for social change. By reaching a broad audience and influencing behaviour through targeted awareness messages, the campaign contributed significantly to the project's overarching goal of enhancing child protection, creating safer communities, and fostering a culture of reporting and prevention.

Reduction in Gender-Based Violence

One of the significant achievements was the reported reduction in gender-based violence incidents, particularly in areas around water points. The improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities contributed to enhancing community safety, demonstrating the interconnectedness of WASH and child protection initiatives. Strengthened community structures, such as Community Victim Support Units and Child Protection Forums, played a pivotal role by providing improved safety measures and enhancing reporting mechanisms. The mainstreaming of gender in protection committees at the local level was noted to facilitate an attitude change towards violence against women and girls. Sensitisation efforts targeting men and boys have led to increased accommodation of women in decision-making structures within community-level committees. However, the integration efforts also encountered challenges related to deeply ingrained gender norms and cultural practices. These challenges highlighted the need for ongoing dialogue and targeted interventions to address cultural barriers and promote gender equality. The project recognised the importance of engaging with communities to understand and navigate these challenges effectively, ensuring that the integration of WASH and Child Protection interventions remained contextually relevant and responsive to the community's needs.

Community Victim Support Unit

The Community Victim Support Unit activities encompassed crucial aspects of reconstitution, orientation, and effective functioning. The CVSUs were reconstituted for their optimal operation, and social service providers underwent orientation in standard operating procedures. This contributed to laying the foundation for a robust case management and allied support services. Overall, 79,812 beneficiaries directly benefitted through case management. The active CVSUs were the central force to enhance community coordination on violence prevention and response. Examples included the conviction of a teacher for child abuse, highlighting the unit's role in justice and accountability. Furthermore, ongoing efforts were directed toward enhancing protection mechanisms within schools, with a specific focus on promoting the concept of safe schools. This multifarious approach validated the vital role of CVSUs in addressing and preventing violence within communities, schools, and institutions, fostering a safer environment for all. Conversely, the fear of privacy invasion hindered the reporting of abuse cases within the community. Various forms of abuse, including forced early marriages, denial of food, verbal abuse, sexual harassment, and violence, were prevalent. The community members highlighted instances of sexual violence, including teachers exploiting students for higher grades but unfortunately this is not reported or shared with peers due to attached stigmas. More efforts are required to break cultural barriers in reporting child protection issues. The number of incidents heard or witnessed around violence are more than what was stated at baseline, but this is also testimony to the fact that communities started to talk about these stigmas which were not previously shared or reported. As per the HH survey, physical violence (78 percent) and emotional/psychological violence (56 percent) were the predominant forms of violence. Both physical violence and emotional/psychological violence were proportionately higher in TA Njewa, and it is largely semi urban area. Nearly 23 percent were cases of sexual abuse and harassment which were proportionately higher in TAs Machinjiri (Blantyre, 30 percent) and Chiseka (Lilongwe, 29 percent). Cases of children being forced to drop out of school were reported 18.5 percent by the respondents, and these were highest in TA Chiseka at 29 percent and TA Machinjiri with 26 percent. Girl children (43 percent) and women (39 percent) were the predominant victims in the last incidents of violence witnessed or heard by the respondents. Girls and women are reported to be the victims by 42.6 percent and 38.5 percent respectively. Parents and/or caretakers were responsible for nearly half (49 percent) of the violence incidents witnessed or heard by the respondents followed by spouses or partners with 29 percent. Table 7 provides an overview of awareness regarding violence in all four TA where evaluation HH survey took place in December 2023.

Table 8: Awareness regarding Violence (HH Survey)

Key Description	Name of the TA				Total
	Njewa	Chiseka	Machinjiri	Kuntaja	
Level of Awareness -%					
Ever witnessed or aware of any violence with women and children	60.4	45.9	48	46.4	50.1
Type of violence ever witnessed or aware of-%					
Physical violence	87.9	73.3	72.3	75.6	77.9
Emotional & psychological violence	69.0	44.4	55.3	51.1	55.9
Child labour	24.1	22.2	25.5	26.7	24.6
Sexual abuse/harassment	20.7	28.9	29.8	13.3	23.1
Forced to drop out of school	12.1	28.9	25.5	8.9	18.5
Early & forced marriage	13.8	17.8	19.1	13.3	15.9
Reported victims of violence in last incidents witnessed or heard by respondents - %					
Girl child	32.8	51.1	46.8	42.2	42.6
Woman	50.0	28.9	29.8	42.2	38.5
Boy child	8.6	6.7	12.8	6.7	8.7
Both boy and girl child	8.6	11.1	2.1	6.7	7.2
Orphans	0.0	2.2	4.3	2.2	2.1
Perpetrators of violence in last incidents witnessed or heard by the respondents - %					
Parents or caretakers	41.4	51.1	51.1	55.6	49.2
Spouse/partner	44.8	20.0	14.9	31.1	28.7
Family member	10.3	13.3	19.1	8.9	12.8
Other community members	3.4	15.6	10.6	4.4	8.2

HIV Care and Access to ART for Children:

In addressing the healthcare needs of HIV-positive children, the project focused on ensuring access to Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services. Out of the 631 registered HIV-positive children, 45 percent were actively accessing ART, despite facing challenges such as neglect and transportation issues. Recognizing the complexity of healthcare services, the initiative incorporated counselling and referrals for those encountering difficulties in accessing services. This approach underscored the project's commitment to a holistic care framework, acknowledging and addressing barriers to ART accessibility for children affected by HIV.

In FGDs, the communities reported that the distance to the hospital posed a significant challenge for community members, especially pregnant women and nursing mothers who had to travel long distances for healthcare. The lack of job opportunities contributed to families experiencing food shortages. Moreover, the absence of accessible family planning services due to the distant hospitals led to missed appointments and unwanted pregnancies. Pregnant women even faced the risk of giving birth on their way to the hospital. This signifies the need for the development of an integrated community development project that includes protection, WASH, Health, Nutrition and Life Skills Development.

The youth and young children were also affected as the limited accessibility to healthcare facilities, including a non-functional health centre, made the services either unavailable or costly. Lack of regular visits from the health surveillance assistant added to the challenges, impacting the health of young children, especially those under five. Moreover, the distance to the hospital impeded young people from accessing resources such as condoms, resulting in unprotected sexual encounters and the risk of potential infections. The HH survey indicated the low prevalence of diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases for past 6 months (June – November 2023). The prevalence of diarrhoea was generally low at one percent and was slightly higher among the household members in TA Chiseka in Lilongwe and TA Machinjiri in Blantyre at 2 percent. Interestingly, no child under the age of five years was reported to have suffered diarrhoea, cholera nor dysentery in the reference period. The 2015/16 prevalence of diarrhoea among children under 5 years was 22 percent, as reported by Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). The evaluators acknowledge that this could be a seasonal effect as data collection for the present survey was conducted in early December before the onset of rains whereas data collection for the 2015/16 DHS was implemented during the rainy season.

Table 9: Prevalence of and Diseases in the Past Six Months (HH Survey)

Disease or Illness	Name of TA				Total (N=1,701)
	Njewa (n=408)	Chiseka (n=443)	Machinjiri (n=453)	Kunjata (n=397)	
Malaria	5.6	9.7	10.6	16.9	10.6
Strep throat	0.5	0.9	1.3	0.5	0.8
Whooping cough	1.7	2.7	4.0	1.3	2.5

Diarrhoea	1.0	1.8	1.5	0.3	1.2
Cholera	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.3	0.4
Dysentery	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.1
Bilharzia	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1

Case Management Approach

The project utilised case management approach to effectively address the needs children with regards to protection. The approach involved the coordination, assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of services to meet the unique and specific needs of the children. The approved indicators under Case Management Booklet of Government of Malawi were used to assess strengths and challenges of households and individual children. This was followed by devising ways to address the weaknesses through identified strengths. Overall, there has been an increase in the number of cases registered through case management from 2021 (before this project) and after the project was introduced (during past two years). Overall, in 2021 a total of 3,445 households were registered which increased by 75 percent in 2022 and reached a number of 6,017 registered households. In comparison, the households assessed in 2022 were 5,022 as compared to 3,081 households in 2021 with an increase of 63 percent in assessed households. The children's ratios in terms of children registered and assessed also increased. There is an increase of 55 percent in the number of children registered evident from 8,164 in 2021 to 12,680 in 2022. Similarly, the number of children assessed increased from 7,299 in 2021 to 10,108 in 2022 with an increase of 38 percent. An increase of 18 percent in the reported incidence of violence was also observed as 10,413 cases were reported in 2022 while only 8,794 were reported in 2021. The incidence of violence when compared against the total number of children assessed indicate that some children experienced repeated cases of violence. However, the repeated cases of violence versus the number of children assessed decreased in 2022 as compared to 2021 implying that the project had been successful in reducing cases of violence against children who were suffering continuously. It is therefore plausible to state that the project contributed significantly to the improvement of service quality of the different children protection services that were either revamped or established under the project. Overall, cases registered in Case Management booklet, CVSUs, PVSUs, and OSCs were reported to be 22,605 (9781M, 12824F).

As depicted by the HH survey, nearly 5 in every 10 of the respondents (52 percent) reported knowing support services or facilities for victims of violence against women and children, highest among the respondents in TAs Machinjiri and Kuntaja, both in Blantyre, at 57 percent and lowest in TA Chiseka in Lilongwe at 43 percent. Three-quarters (75 percent) of those who reported knowing support services

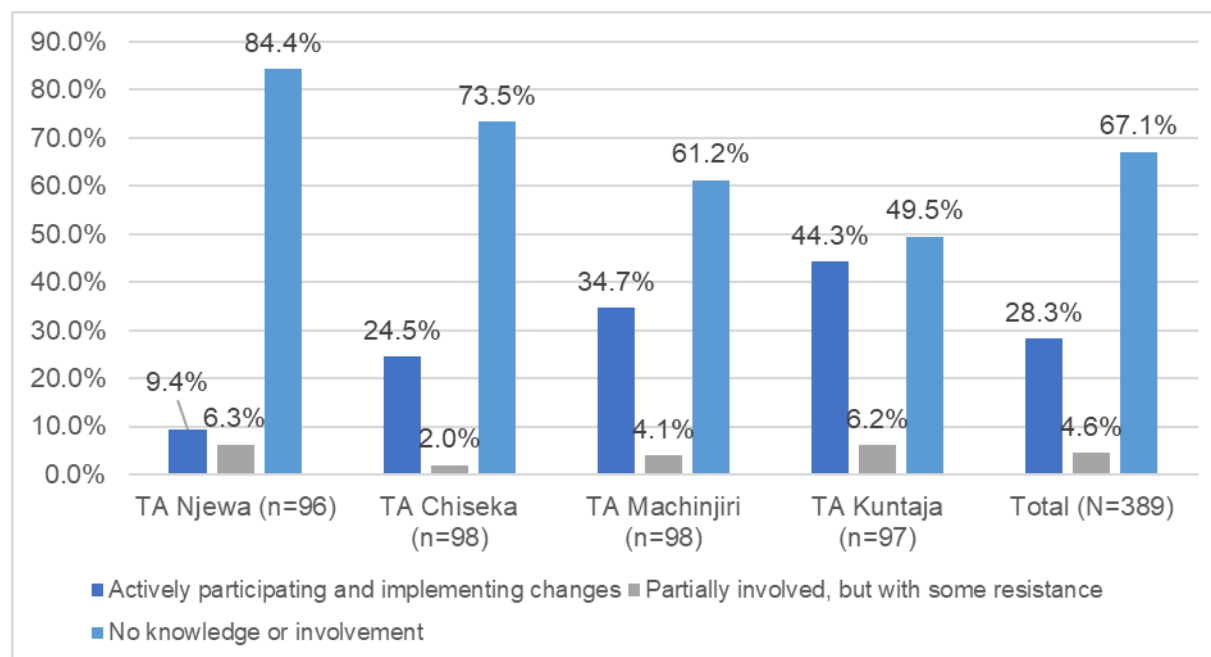
or facilities for victims of violence, also reported to have made use of the services/facilities or they knew someone who used the services. Whereas a quarter of them (24 percent) mentioned counselling. Only 14 percent of the respondents expressed knowledge related to helplines, shelters, and counselling services specifically for the victims of violence. Among these respondents, sources for help included the police (12.3 percent), village head (10.5 percent), local NGOs (7.7 percent), health workers (3.6 percent), and child protection worker (2.8 percent). Formative research is necessary to identify the reasons why people were aware of the existence of services but lacked knowledge about where protection services are available or how to access them.

Table 10: Awareness regarding Violence-related Support Services (HH Survey)

Key Description	Name of the TA				Total
	Njewa	Chiseka	Machinjiri	Kuntaja	
Awareness and utilisation of support services for victims of violence (%)					
Awareness Yes	51.0	42.9	57.1	56.7	51.9
Awareness No	44.8	57.1	38.8	40.2	45.2
Partially	4.2	0.0	4.1	3.1	2.8
Ever used or know someone ever used	75.5	85.7	71.7	70.7	75.1
Types of support services for victims of violence mentioned by the respondents					
Referrals to Police/Hospitals/NGOs, etc.	77.5	80.6	72.1	70.7	75
Counselling	22.5	16.7	27.9	29.3	24.4

Nearly 1/3rd (32 percent) of respondents confirmed that they knew about child protection services of the project. Counselling and community advocacy were cited by 28 percent and 22.4 percent respectively. Helpline(s) and sporting activities were mentioned by only three (3) percent of the respondents. This is likely due to the low ownership of phones in most rural areas of Malawi, coupled with the perception that sporting activities are primarily for physical refreshment rather than as a means to keep children and women away from situations where they could encounter violence and be distressed. Within 1/3rd of the total households (32 percent) that acknowledged the existence of child protection services, nearly four out of five (78 percent) endorsed a significant increase in access to child protection services within the communities and 12 percent reported minimal changes in child protection services. Nearly 7 out of every 10 respondents (67 percent) had no knowledge of the interventions at all or had never been involved whereas 28 percent felt the interventions had led to the active participation and implementation of CP services in their communities.

**Figure 8: Proportion of Respondents Reporting Community Adoption of CP Activities
(facilitated by the project)**



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Component

Construction of Solar-Powered Water Schemes

In collaboration with district councils, UNICEF conducted an assessment to identify suitable sites for solar-powered water schemes based on community needs. In total, six water schemes were successfully designed and implemented, benefiting 30,429 beneficiaries with access to safe water, surpassing the initial target of 30,000 people. All these schemes are linked with a Children Corner, a school or health facility. These water schemes were Mchekeni (in TA Njewa in Lilongwe), Goneko, Mkazomba (both in TA Chiseka in Lilongwe), and Chitole, Alinafe (both in TA Kuntaja in Blantyre) and Chikondhi (TA Machinjiri in Blantyre).

The water supply systems were designed with deep boreholes, equipped with a solar submersible pump. Before reaching the tank, the water underwent the treatment process in a chlorination unit. Distribution at water points occurred through gravity. To ensure sustainability, two water operators per scheme received training on operating and maintaining the systems, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for minor repairs as needed. The availability of safe water had positively impacted sanitation and hygiene behaviours, fostering practices like consuming safe water, and practicing regular handwashing with soap in both schools and communities. This, in turn, played

a crucial role in preventing the oral transmission of waterborne diseases, contributing to an overall enhancement of public health in the targeted communities. 16.7 percent of the respondents of the HH survey reported a reduction in healthcare cost as well. The strategic placement of safe water sources within schools and closer to communities has not only saved time but has also reduced the burden on women and girls, traditionally tasked with water fetching. This newfound convenience has allowed them more time for productive activities, both within schools and households, thereby promoting socio-economic growth. 13 percent women in the HH survey reported to have more time to do their businesses as opposed to spending long hours to fetch water and/or taking care of sick children and relatives.

Moreover, the provision of safe water closer to their doorsteps has significantly improved the safety of women and girls, eliminating the need for long and hazardous journeys to fetch water. As per the HH survey, half of the respondents reported that it was taking them less than five minutes to fetch water for their households while 35 percent reported taking 10-15 minutes and 4-percent reported taking more than 30 minutes. As per baseline study of the project, nearly 27 percent reported to take more than 30 minutes to fetch water. A third of the households (34 percent) applauded the project to have reduced the time spent to collect water because of reduced distances and the available quantities. This was highly stated in TA Kuntaja in Blantyre (71 percent), TA Chiseka (31 percent), TA Machinjiri (30 percent) and TA Njewa (4 percent). The low level of appreciation for the water scheme in TA Njewa was surprising, especially considering that one of the solar-powered schemes was installed near Mchekeni children's corner in Njewa, where a girl child drowned while fetching water from a well. Hence, all safety measures have been in place for this and other schemes. Nearly 21.3 percent indicated that the project increased the sense of safety and security, and this was highest in Kuntaja (37.1 percent) followed by Chiseka (26.5 percent), Machinjiri (19.4 percent) and Njewa (2.1 percent).

Water Management Committees

To ensure sustainable management of water resources and community involvement and ownership in ensuring access to clean and safe water for the community, Water Management Committees (WMCs) were formed, and trainings were provided to the members regarding monitoring, basic operation and maintenance, and the collection fee or tariff each household had to pay to access water.

Gender Mainstreaming and Inclusion

The project actively promoted gender mainstreaming and inclusion by ensuring accessible latrines for girls and women near children's corners. Efforts were made to achieve equal participation of women and men in decision-making roles, with committee selection aiming for a balanced gender distribution to overcome inequities in representation and decision making. Deliberate measures were taken to award executive positions to women, enhancing their contributions as primary users of the schemes. In sanitation work, 30 female practitioners were trained for various roles, marking a significant breakthrough given historical trends of low female participation. Although women's involvement in sanitation remains at 12 percent, this represents notable progress.

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS)

In the realm of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), a focused effort was directed towards the communities, where door-to-door follow-up visits were conducted to reinforce and reiterate CLTS objectives. These visits served as a strategic approach to consolidate the gains made and address any emerging needs or challenges. This concerted effort contributed significantly to behavioural shifts, generating increased demand for improved sanitation practices, and reinforcing accountability structures within the communities. A significant highlight of the CLTS endeavours was a comprehensive five-day triggering exercise facilitated by 144 Health Surveillance Assistants. This extensive exercise was strategically implemented, reaching an impressive 254,000 people and a subsequent construction of 58,999 latrines. The overarching objectives of this exercise included the promotion of fundamental elements crucial for improved sanitation practices, encompassing household latrines, drop hole covers, handwashing facilities, and the facilitation of sanitation loans. The scale and intensity of this triggering exercise underscored a commitment to community engagement, behaviour change, and fostering a sense of accountability in the realm of sanitation.

As per the evaluation's HH survey, nearly nine out of every ten households (89 percent) have access to a latrine facility. Out of this total, 72 percent utilise pit latrines, and 14.4 percent have composite latrines. As per the baseline survey, 77 percent rely on pit latrines, while 7 percent use ventilated improved latrines. Thus, there is a decrease of five percent in pit latrines and a seven percent increase in ventilated improved latrines when the evaluation survey is compared with the baseline survey. Nearly 11 percent of the population lives without any toilet facility, however it was 15 percent in baseline report. Further 48 percent HHs shared their sanitation facilities compared to 46 percent in baseline data. The project did not succeed to make any shift in shared latrines when compared with baseline. Furthermore, the baseline survey did not explore when these latrines were constructed. As per results of the HH survey, only 29 percent of the latrines were constructed before the start of this

project. From 2021-2023, nearly 71 percent of latrines were constructed, with cyclone Freddy being one reason for mobilising the communities to build new resilient latrines. Of these constructed, 82 percent have been built from own or family sources, indicating a significant achievement of market-led sanitation initiatives in the communities. A substantial focus on improved sanitation has been witnessed in Lilongwe district in 2022 and Blantyre district during 2023 respectively. At the TA Njew, a peri-urban area of Lilongwe district, nearly 14 percent of latrines were constructed by the landlords for their tenants. Overall, 15 percent of latrines have been constructed with the support of hired labour, contractors or local partners.

Table 11: Latrines Constructed and Support of Agencies in Communities (HH Survey)

Key Indicators	Name of the TA				Total
	Njewa	Chiseka	Machinjiri	Kuntaja	
Percentage of Latrines Constructed					
2018 or earlier	19.05	18.82	11.11	4.65	13.33
2019	7.10	7.10	5.60	4.70	6.10
2020	11.90	16.50	4.40	5.80	9.60
2021	10.70	11.80	7.80	8.10	9.60
2022	35.70	27.10	16.70	31.40	27.50
2023	15.50	18.80	54.40	45.30	33.90
Agencies that Constructed the Toilets					
Myself and/or family members	64.3	95.7	82.6	83.3	81.4
Toilet Constructors	7.1	0.0	4.3	8.3	5.5
Hired people trained by WVI/partner	7.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.8
Hired labour	7.1	0.0	8.7	0.0	4.1
Landlord	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
Neighbour	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	1.4

Real-time Water Remote Monitoring System:

A significant technological stride was made with the initiation of a real-time water remote monitoring system across 15 solar-powered water schemes, one of which was a part of the project. In

collaboration with Water Missions International, the implementation of the SatWater platform provided a state-of-the-art solution for monitoring water systems. Similarly, through the mWater platform which is an open-source free mobile application, the districts and Water for People have been able to identify which systems and scheme committees need support remotely, and this has helped in the effective planning of the specific support required. In addition to remote monitoring, the partners (Water for People and the District Water Office) also conducted monitoring visits to 4 water schemes (Chikondi, Alinafe, Goneko and Mchekeni) to assess the water management committee performance against the management trainings. The monitoring visits depicted the progress of the water management committees. Through its NGO partner, Water for People, UNICEF continued to build the capacities of the district councils and the water point committees on technical aspects of the systems, financial management, tariff setting, as well as the mWater platform through monitoring support visits and exchange visits. These innovative approaches introduced alerts for prompt action, contributing to enhanced water availability and service quality. Notably, these initiatives also marked a pivotal phase in ownership transition, signifying the handover to the government for long-term sustainability. The incorporation of real-time monitoring reflects a commitment to technological advancements for optimal water management and community well-being. However, it would have been advantageous if all water schemes were equipped with real-time monitoring systems for enhanced efficiency and effectiveness.

Integrated Media-Based Campaigns and Community Engagement:

In the realm of promoting sanitation and hygiene, a multi-layered approach was adopted through extensive media-based campaigns and targeted community engagement initiatives. Utilising a diverse range of media channels, including radio, road shows, door-to-door initiatives, and print materials, the project reached over 500,000 beneficiaries in Blantyre and Lilongwe districts. Specific channels such as the MIJ FM radio programme, road shows, drama, posters, flyers, and radio jingles on Pentecostal Live FM were strategically employed. To promote social inclusion in sanitation service provision, the project facilitated the targeted vulnerable households in the impact areas through the sanitation voucher initiative, providing support with sanitation vouchers. Each beneficiary household contributed around 1/3rd of the cost of the services i.e., MK3,000 for the upgrades and MK10,000 for the pit emptying. This collaborative financial engagement highlighted the community's commitment to the project's success.

Health Surveillance Assistants played a pivotal role in systematic door-to-door sanitation and hygiene promotion, ensuring personalised outreach to households. Four impactful roadshows, blending entertainment and sensitisation strategies, reached approximately 736,761 people, fostering

increased awareness and behavioural change. The strategic placement of metal banners in selected shops not only enhanced visibility but also contributed to sanitation product sales exceeding USD 20,000. These products mainly included cement and SATO products which the masons used to construct or upgrade the latrines. This integrated comprehensive approach of media dissemination and community-level engagement resulted in creating a synergistic impact on sanitation awareness and adoption.

Sustainable Procurement and Distribution of Sanitation Materials:

Procurement of essential sanitation materials was made to fortify the sanitation-related initiatives. This comprehensive procurement of supply chain was comprised of key components such as cement, SaTo pans, handwashing stations, and stools. The procurement process was intricately designed to establish a seamless linkage with Micro Finance Institutions, ensuring an effective distribution and recovery mechanism through hardware shops. A review meeting convened with shop owners resulted in judicious adjustments to sanitation product prices to align with the dynamic economic landscape. Furthermore, the endeavours included the initiation of additional orders for Sato products, underpinning a forward-looking approach to ensure long-term project impact. Simultaneously, there was a dual focus on the procurement and distribution of "Seed" latrine construction/upgrade materials, not only addressing immediate material needs but also fostering ongoing community mobilisation efforts and encouraging the timely repayment of sanitation loans. As part of the overarching sustainability strategy, the project proactively procured sanitation products as "seed" for Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies, enhancing the overall sustainability of the project. Concurrently, the project remained determined in providing continuous monitoring and unwavering support through water management committees, reinforcing a holistic and enduring approach to water and sanitation management.

Sanitation Initiatives: Infrastructure Development and Community Awareness

In the sanitation sector, various initiatives were undertaken to enhance infrastructure and awareness. A comprehensive compendium of affordable latrine technologies was developed through a meticulous review of designs, considering local preferences and availability. A thorough market assessment highlighted a substantial demand for improved sanitation technologies, revealing challenges related to restricted supply chain capacity, lack of knowledge, limited number of service providers, and perceived high costs. The implementation of market-based approaches included the establishment of systems for efficient market operations, identification, and capacity building of sanitation service providers. Emphasis was placed on sustainable solutions such as sand/cement screeding and flapper

installation. Demand creation and awareness efforts comprised of community campaigns, dialogues, and meetings, while the formation of sanitation clubs played a crucial role in creating awareness about improved sanitation products. Customer Satisfaction Surveys (CSS) indicated high satisfaction levels. Additionally, community engagement and mobilization activities involved orientation workshops, mason training, and the development of sanitation business plans. Support was extended to shops involved in sanitation promotion, with a focus on documentation of sold products. The establishment and revitalisation of Sanitation Committees within Village Development Committees were crucial for effective project management, including the procurement and distribution of record books for fund management committees. Nonetheless, in many instances, hygiene and sanitation were compromised due to the community's limited access to resources. Families shared toilets, with some even resorting to using bushes due to the quick filling of shallow sandy soil toilets. Challenges related to menstrual hygiene were evident, with some women using unclean materials during their periods, leading to potential health issues.

In the realm of **Sanitation Capacity Building and Business Development**, masons received comprehensive training in various areas, contributing to the construction of improved latrines. This initiative witnessed an increased demand for enhanced sanitation facilities in urban areas. A total of 153 masons underwent training specifically in low-cost sanitation construction options. To further support their endeavours, start-up kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) were procured and distributed. Simultaneously, sanitation entrepreneurs were supported with valuable assistance, including small business loans and skills training, fostering their development. This also promoted the formal registration of four additional entrepreneurs, ensuring legal recognition and sustainability in their business pursuits. A helpline was established to provide information about sanitation and other services, however the evaluation HH survey indicated that only 14 percent respondents knew about the helpline of the project related to WASH and CP. A dedicated directory for trained masons and established entrepreneurs for WASH was not available as the local masons frequently change their contact numbers. An online helpline for informing the nearest trained masons and shops for sanitation will be helpful in contacting and creating competition among the service providers.

Pit emptiers played an integral part in providing the sanitation services. The project focused on enhancing pit emptying services and involved key strategies aimed at organising pit emptiers into formal associations to facilitate effective monitoring and regulation by city councils. Collaboration with city councils ensures compliance with pit emptying standards and licensing protocols. In Lilongwe, the formation of the Pit-Latrine and Septic Tank Emptying Association of Lilongwe (PLASTEAL) has

taken place, while in Blantyre, efforts are directed towards supporting the Blantyre Pit Emptiers Association (PEA) and facilitating the legal registration of another association in the rural areas of Blantyre.

Additionally, the project contributed to the development of standards and operating procedures for pit emptying, aligning with similar documents in Blantyre. Demand creation activities were conducted in Blantyre urban to promote new latrine construction, upgrades, and safe pit emptying services. A review meeting in Blantyre urban addressed challenges faced by pit emptiers following the floods. The project identified the need for a mapping exercise to monitor pit emptying businesses and prevent health risks associated with poor pit emptying methods and illegal dumping. Call centres were established, to receive inquiries and service requests, particularly for pit emptying (97 queries on pit emptying services). In terms of actual sanitation services, 53,732 people accessed pit emptying services. Only 28 percent of participating HH in the HH survey indicated that their toilet facilities had ever been filled. Of these, 81 percent prefer to reconstruct new latrines rather than emptying it. Only 18.3 percent harvest other purposes. The use of pit emptying is low as majority of the latrines have been constructed during the last five years and there is limited knowledge about such services.

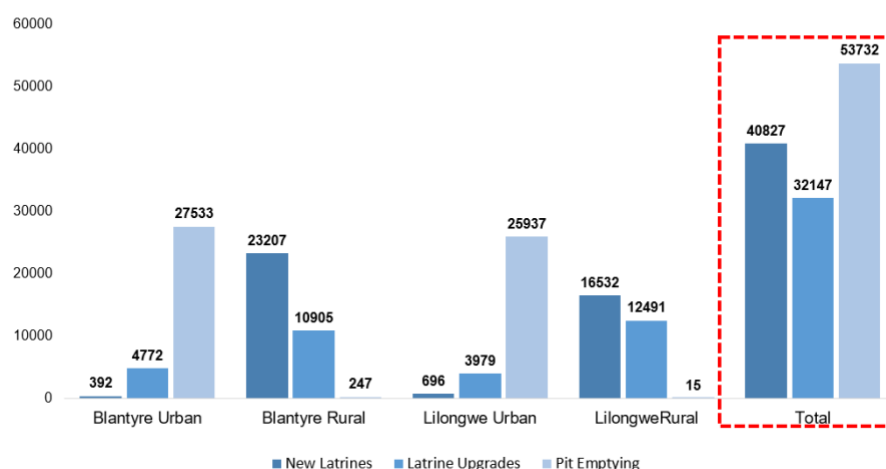
Sanitation Revolving Fund Initiatives and Performance:

To enhance access to sanitation, revolving funds were established at the community level to empower households in purchasing sanitation products within their neighbourhoods. Shop owners, masons, and local leaders played distinct roles in ensuring an effective ecosystem for promoting sanitation. The seed sanitation materials were provided to the shops, and neighbouring communities began accessing the products to enhance their sanitation services. In total, 171 masons and 76 active shops were engaged in the project's impact areas, actively supporting the sanitation revolving initiative according to the project's design. The project also collaborated with 171 sanitation fund managers to coordinate sanitation-revolving initiatives across the impact areas.

Till September 2023, the project provided sanitation revolving loans to 3,150 households valued at MK79,908,810. The loans were provided in form of products and services to the households to ensure that the beneficiaries use the loans for the intended purpose. A total of 1,352 loans were on track with the total value of MK37,144,570 (46 percent). The project continues to follow through these loans in close collaboration with Savings and Credit Cooperatives, management committees and chiefs. In addition, the HH endline survey indicated that a very small portion of the communities knew about the sanitation revolving fund and access to finance for sanitation. 94 percent of the respondents to the

HH survey expressed ignorance of the existence of the fund and in all the four TAs, the proportion of respondents who expressed ignorance was more than 90 percent. Out of those who were aware of the village sanitation fund, only 9 percent (2 out of 22) claimed to have received benefits from the fund. To enhance transparency, workshops and community meetings can be organised to actively engage with residents, answer questions, and gather feedback. Furthermore, expanding beneficiary outreach and reassessing eligibility criteria may improve the fund's inclusivity. Continuous monitoring and evaluation are essential to track the impact of awareness campaigns and ensure the fund's effectiveness within the community. As the fund has been recently established, its true measure of success will only become evident over time as it gains momentum and demonstrates efficiency and more communities are made aware of its existence. The direct beneficiaries, cumulatively, through various interventions have been added as annex 8.

Figure 9: Cumulative Number of People Reached with Sanitation Services by Location



4.4.2. Achievement of Planned Results in ToC and Log Frame

The project theory of change largely remained valid and appropriate during the implementation phase, though the project faced some climate risks and hazards like cyclone Freddy, Cholera, and economic recession and inflation that reduced the purchasing power of the communities. The project pursued for a shift from traditionally subsidised services towards a market led approach for water and sanitation services. All project interventions were meant for system strengthening with a key emphasis on leveraging the existing structures, procedures, and resources available at the community, district, and national levels. At the community level, a determined effort was made to mobilise and enhance the capacities of existing non-formal and formal structures through effective social mobilization

approaches and social behavioural change including use of digital and social media as well as strengthening the community groups for child protection and WASH services. The capacities and systems of service providers at the district and national level were enhanced by involving them in planning, implementation, and monitoring of the interventions. The project effectively utilised the platform of Children Corner for creating awareness and building the confidence of vulnerable children and women as well as building mechanisms and procedures for CBCM, CVSUs, PVUs. The gap of human resources especially for child protection work has been met through deploying and training local volunteers. For WASH, introduction of revolving fund, engaging local micro-finance institutions, strengthening sanitation marketing, joint monitoring of government agencies, and solar-powered water supply schemes has been instrumental to enhance efficiency and sustainability of services while enabling the children and women to become more protective and productive as WASH services became nearer to their home. One key challenge was vandalism especially to different WASH schemes which was handled by deploying security guards and community management committees. The project's children's corners were used to keep the children mobilized and better informed about protection during cholera and the cyclone, when schools were closed, and infrastructure was damaged. Overall, the project successfully achieved all of its desired outcomes i.e., 79,812 beneficiaries with positive attitudes towards CP and linking with service providers; 30,429 beneficiaries with solar water and making payment for services; 126,000 HHs benefitted from constructed latrines on the market led approach; and 4929 beneficiaries benefitted from case management services. For future, it would be advisable to add the element of climate change knowledge along protection in Children Corner and other community groups, so community-based disaster management and climate resilience aspects are adopted.

4.4.3. Effectiveness of Log Frame Indicators and Monitoring Frequency

The project log-frame approved with the project proposal was well aligned with the theory of change in terms of setting the indicators and means of verification. However, the log-frame was revised at the start of the second year in the context of targets, indicators and means of verification. The original log-frame described outcome indicators in terms of percentage changes whereas the revised log-frame set the descriptive targets at the output and outcome levels. This is much appreciated due to ground-realities when efficient data collection system lacking. The records of all changes in the log frame were well maintained. Data for water and sanitation were primarily collected on a quarterly basis except for some cases of verification. Similarly, there were variations for child protection where some indicators were collected on quarterly and other on annual basis. The project was not concluded by

the time this evaluation took place therefore the analysis on log-frame is based before December 2023. Updated log-frame with all achievements up to December 2023 is annexed as Annex-Ia.

The results reported against log frame indicators were proxy, based on the field monitoring reports with regard to the population served. For water, the percentage was calculated based on the population served through water supply schemes in comparison to the total population of the project impact areas. Data were taken from village registers by UNICEF officers. Similarly for sanitation, the project data was collected by Water for People from service outlets including shops owners, masons, pit emptiers and SACCOs. For reliability, this data was endorsed from the sanitation management committee records and health surveillance assistants. For child protection, the reports from partners, and the Government (District Social Welfare Office, Police, Judiciary and Ministry of Health (District health office) are used to verify the results achieved complemented with monitoring visits by UNICEF and partners. Though the guidelines of COVID-19 had been practices in some meetings and training initially, learning from COVID-19 about how to remotely work has not been widely explored under this project. In terms of the assumption, the log frame did not recognize the outbreak of cholera, precautions for COVID-19 and disasters like cyclone even when approval for the final log frame was suggested in 2023. Similarly, the project should have given due emphasis on developing an effective data management and reporting system especially when convergence was expected between WASH and protection issues.

No nationally representative data had been collected during the time when this project was implemented. For child protection, the results reported are collected through programme reports from districts councils and implementing partners. The district councils received the data from the Child Protection Workers who collect the data from the CVSU registers, OSC registers, Children Corner attendance sheets, child protection case management booklets and PVSU registers. The data was then consolidated and sent to the District Social Welfare where it was submitted to the Ministry and project's funding partners. In addition, these results were verified through Programmatic visits weekly progress meetings. HACT assurance activities, which included spot checks, involved cross-referencing narrative reports with reported expenditures. Specific activity reports were compiled at the conclusion of each activity.

For WASH, Water for People kept a database of households accessing sanitation products and services. This was updated every quarter, before sharing the results with UNICEF. The database comprised of newly constructed latrines, latrine upgraded and pit emptying services, which were

accessed in 4 locations (Blantyre Urban, Blantyre Rural, Lilongwe Urban and Lilongwe). The data was collected from shops, masons, saccos, pit emptiers and call centres in some cases. During monitoring visits, UNICEF staff also had an opportunity to see the information from these outlets and compared it with the project results. Through this process, the data was assumed reliable to be used when reporting.

In consultations with Mannion Daniels, the project applied the disability prevalence data from the Malawi Population and Housing Census Disability Report 2018, which indicated a disability prevalence rate of 10.4 percent of the population. This was used to estimate and extrapolate the number of persons with disabilities from each beneficiary group. The evaluation HH survey found that 4.8 to 5.7 percent of the population presented themselves or any member of their family as disabled based on their functionality. Similarly, the project did not have a specific beneficiary selection criterion that effected the assessment of different poor groups and vulnerability. The project should implement a suitable system and assessment procedure to record and document the participation and benefits associated with individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable groups including poorest of the poor.

4.4.4. Processes Impacting Outcome Achievement: Enablers and Constraints

Leveraging Existing Structures:

At the inception of the project, Community Victim Support Units, Children Corners, Community Child Protection Committees, school-based committees, and One Stop Centres were assessed to understand gaps and identify the support required for the implementation of project activities under child protection. These preparatory actions aimed to ensure a smooth transition and effective support for the upcoming project. The emphasis on understanding the status of existing protection structures reflected a commitment to addressing identified challenges and ensuring alignment with Government standards. A similar kind of assessment for potential water supply schemes was held with district councils, health units, schools, and respective government counterparts. The involvement of UNICEF in supporting Government partners brings to fore the collaborative nature of the initiative.

Positive Impact of Linkages in the Justice System

The establishment of linkages among institutions in the justice system allowed for the filing of complaints and their escalation to the senior management and registrar. This proactive approach led to interventions, including rectification, case reassignment, or expedited appeals. Based on contribution and advocacy through WASH component of this project, the revised water policy 2023

and draft sanitation and hygiene policy 2023 highlight the need for climate resilient, sustainable, and equitable water and sanitation services for all especially vulnerable groups.

Challenges in Justice System Initiatives

While strides have been made in enhancing institutional capacities and educating communities on legal processes, resource constraints impact crucial services such as court sittings and community outreach. Inconsistent stakeholder coordination and limited resources, especially for community outreach, create a gap in understanding between the justice sector and the community, highlighting the need for a more comprehensive outreach programme.

"The police thing is a very big issue in our community because there are many violence cases happening, but people fail to report." – FGD with Community

Positive Influences on School Attendance and Hygiene

Initiatives in the school, including provision of handwashing facilities, have positively influenced school attendance. However, challenges such as long distances to schools and issues with education quality persist.

Education Challenges

The cost of education is high, and a perceived lack of seriousness was reported among teachers in delivering effective instruction. As per the evaluation HH survey, 56 percent of the households mentioned that all children below 18 years were in school, whereas 27 percent HHs indicated some children were in school and 17 percent of HHs were not sending children to schools. Key reasons highlighted were underage (35 percent), fee and school contributions (22.7 percent), lack of interest by child (17 percent), poverty (9 percent), pregnancy/early marriages (8 percent) and disability (5.5 percent). Only 3.2 percent of HHs indicated the involvement of their children under the age of 18 years in employment.

"The problem is that primary schools have a low standard of learning and teaching strategies, so even if we send them to school, they are not benefiting. So, the way we are we can't afford to send a child to a private school so that he/she can support us in future." "But the problem is even if they go to school, teachers are not serious; teachers who do business at school, such as selling groundnuts, whilst teaching." "It is a challenge, which means these children will be like us in the future. They will have nothing to do." FGDs with Communities

Addressing Various Forms of Abuse within Homes

Community testimonials reveal various forms of abuse within homes, particularly at the hands of partners and stepparents, emphasising the need for a "Parenting Programme" for nurturing children and adolescents and comprehensive reporting and support systems to effectively address these issues. As per the evaluation HH survey, nearly 31 percent of HHs considered physical punishment of children good for their upbringing. This indicates the need for creating massive awareness among the parents. This has been further validated by the FGDs with communities and schools where such incidences have been reported.

Communication Channels and Reliability

Community members rely on sources like radio, health workers, and leaders – all of which were utilised for information sharing. The reliability of these sources was contingent on trust and evidence provided. While radio was considered censored and certified, proximity to health workers was impactful for instant and examined information.

Importance of Community Input in Project Implementation

Feedback from community members and leaders underscores the importance of considering community input in project implementation. Instances where community preferences were not considered exacerbated challenges, emphasising the need for an inclusive and participatory approach.

“Authorities should consider increasing their visits to our area. Right now, it appears that their service delivery is selective, with more attention given to urban areas than rural ones like ours.”
“What I am trying to say is that when bringing projects to an area it's sometimes very important to listen to what the people in that area want because these are the people that will benefit from the projects.” – FGD with Community

Delayed Programme Cooperation Agreement with World Vision: The delay in finalising the Programme Cooperation Agreement with World Vision was primarily attributed to the need for a meeting with senior management at WVI and additional personnel assignment. This administrative delay had a direct impact on project initiation, highlighting the critical importance of proactive collaboration and timely resolution of administrative issues. The episode underscores the necessity

of efficient communication between partners to prevent unnecessary delays in the commencement of projects.

Funds Transfer Delays to NGO Partners: Delays in the transfer of funds and subsequent liquidation processes had a notable impact on project implementation, particularly affecting sanitation interventions. To address this, there is a clear need for streamlining financial processes and enhancing coordination. Emphasising the importance of timely fund disbursement, efficient financial management emerges as a crucial factor to ensure the seamless flow of resources to implementing partners and prevent interruptions in project activities.

Delayed Recruitment for Child Protection Components: The late recruitment of project officers for child protection components caused a delay in the implementation of related activities. To mitigate such setbacks in future projects, there is a need for improvements in recruitment processes. A comprehensive acceleration plan for delayed activities is essential, highlighting the critical importance of timely human resource management to ensure the projects' progress according to planned timelines.

Impact of Tropical Storms and Cholera on Sanitation Initiatives: Tropical storms led to increased challenges in sanitation initiatives, including pit collapsing and operational hurdles. Similarly, cholera outbreak provided an opportunity to demonstrate sanitation with improved hygiene behaviours and practices. Addressing these challenges requires continuous adaptation to climatic shocks through innovative construction methodologies and social behavioural change communication. Additionally, involving the community in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts is pivotal. Flexibility in construction techniques and community engagement are identified as key factors in mitigating the impact of natural disasters on sanitation projects.

Economic Challenges in Malawi: Currency devaluation, fuel shortages, and rising prices in Malawi presented significant challenges to project implementation. To navigate these economic challenges successfully, strategies such as sensitisation meetings and alternative funding approaches are deemed vital. The adaptive financial management becomes crucial in ensuring sustained progress, requiring strategic planning and diversified funding sources.

Poor of the Poorest Voucher Initiative: The initiative to convert cash contributions into local materials faced challenges related to community affordability and increased costs of sanitation materials. Testing and adjusting financial models based on community needs and feedback emerge as crucial for the long-term success of the Poor of the Poorest Voucher Initiative.

4.4.5. Measures for Improving Capacities of Partners

The project has undertaken a comprehensive set of measures, including training, orientation, policy reviews, and continuous learning, to enhance the capacity of partners and UNICEF programmes for integrated programming on child protection and water, sanitation, and hygiene. The proactive approach to addressing challenges and the commitment to ongoing improvement underscore the project's dedication to achieving its objectives.

1. Government Engagement and Ownership:

The project underscored the pivotal contribution of district officials in enhancing government ownership and securing support. The active engagement of district officials was evident through their initiation and supervision of child protection activities, as well as their involvement in the onboarding activities with the project partners. This engagement was crucial for ensuring government commitment, which is vital for the success and sustainability of the project's initiatives.

The ongoing collaboration with government officials from different ministries signifies a unique opportunity to enhance government ownership and engagement. Bringing together officials who typically have limited interaction allowed for a more holistic and integrated approach at the district level. This collaborative effort addressed issues related to access to safe water, sanitation, and child protection.

To further strengthen coordination efforts with World Vision International, a lead protection implementation partner, UNICEF actively involved government officials at the national, sub-district, and local levels. This approach not only aligns with the project's integrated programming goals but also contributed to fostering a sense of shared responsibility and commitment among diverse government entities.

UNICEF, in conjunction with senior government officials from the Ministry of Gender, conducted a joint visit. The purpose of this visit was to reinforce the minimum government standards required during project implementation. This collaborative effort aimed to align project activities with government regulations and standards, ensuring a cohesive and well-coordinated approach.

Additionally, the joint visit provided an opportunity to engage with communities directly. Emphasis was placed on the importance of maintaining the newly installed water facilities. This underscores the project's commitment to sustainability, with a focus on community involvement and responsibility for the upkeep of water facilities. During these engagements, the project team stressed the need for security measures and highlighted the importance of ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are actively included in efforts to fundraise for maintenance and long-term sustainability of the water facilities.

2. Partnership Agreements and Safeguarding Protocols:

- UNICEF signed a partnership agreement with Water for People, incorporating UN safeguarding policies. The framework included Partner Declaration, Profile, and Due Diligence Verification forms with PSEA and safeguarding protocols.
- During the inception phase, UNICEF extensively communicated safeguarding policies and conducted Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions for implementing partners, emphasizing practical applications.

3. Capacity Building through Training:

- World Vision International (WVI) lead Programme Officer participated in Child Protection Case Management TOT training, focusing on safeguarding and other vital issues.
- PSEA training was conducted for Water for People staff, reinforcing compliance requirements, and emphasizing the importance of reporting frameworks.
- WVI officers participated in PSEA training and GBV through the Agora portal, extending the training to government and civil society stakeholders.

4. Orientation and Sensitization Activities:

- UNICEF, WVI, and Water for People conducted extensive orientations on PSEA, child safeguarding, and violence prevention for staff, volunteers, and stakeholders.
- Project partners, especially World Vision, were sensitized on UNICEF's PSEA and Child Safeguarding policy, with plans to increase UNICEF visibility and monitoring in the field.

5. Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms:

- Reporting boxes were placed in UNICEF offices, and similar initiatives are encouraged for partners to enhance reporting mechanisms.
- WVI officers were trained to identify barriers to reporting and suggest solutions during face-to-face PSEA training.

6. Policy Incorporation in Activities:

- World Vision International ensured the incorporation of safeguarding issues in all activities through participant orientation and training on WVI safeguarding standards.
- Water for People reviewed its procurement policy, introducing measures for ethical practices and conflict of interest declarations.

7. Continuous Learning and Improvement:

- Continuous training and orientation sessions are planned for the next quarter to ensure ongoing capacity development for partners and project participants.

- Regular monitoring visits and programmatic visits by UNICEF officers are utilized to check safeguarding issues through observing children's activities.

8. Adaptability and Conflict Resolution:

- Challenges, such as revised DSA rates and capacity gaps in the early stages of the project, were addressed through explanations, discussions, and an acceleration plan with partners.

9. Signing of Acknowledgment Forms:

- Acknowledgment of safeguarding policies through signing acceptable and unacceptable behaviour protocols is identified as an area for improvement, and corrective actions are planned for the next quarter.

10. Community Empowerment:

- Sensitisation efforts extended to community leaders and members, empowering them to play active roles in preventing sexual violence against children and women.

4.4.6. Strategies for Inclusive Participation

General Project Impact:

The project has positively impacted various groups within the community, and there seems to be an overall positive sentiment regarding the benefits. School children, in general, have found interest in the project, and those with challenges are still attending school due to the appealing aspects of the project.

Criteria for Selection:

There were no specific criteria for selecting beneficiaries; everyone, regardless of their background or origin, had the opportunity to benefit from the project.

Benefits to Marginalised Groups:

Marginalised groups, such as those facing abuse or having disabilities, have experienced tangible benefits. The provision of water close to their residences has eliminated the need for long walks to fetch water, reducing the likelihood of insults and improving their overall living conditions.

Community-wide Impact:

The entire community has benefited from the project, with safe and clean water being distributed throughout. Even teachers residing in the school premises have gained access to improved water sources, contributing to an overall enhanced quality of life.

Challenges and Unmet Needs:

Despite the widespread positive impact, some community members, especially those in poor families, people with disabilities, and those facing various forms of abuse, have not yet received the needed help. The project seemed to have limited reach to individual households.

Involvement of Stakeholders:

Households, the community, chiefs, and water users actively participated in the project, showcasing collaborative effort in its implementation.

4.4.7. Beneficiary Satisfaction and Differential Impacts Across Demographics**Socioeconomic Impact:**

The project instilled courage, particularly in children and socioeconomically deprived communities, by providing easy access to water. Resultantly, the enrolment of children increased due to improved water facilities, showcasing a positive socio-economic impact. Protection measures were implemented for children, reducing the risk of disasters associated with fetching water from streams. Beyond infrastructural improvements, the project created employment opportunities, with security guards hired. Nearly half of the respondents (49 percent) felt the WASH interventions had led to or would lead to reduced incidences of violence against children and women. Slightly less than one in every four respondents (24 percent) felt that the WASH interventions had led to increased participation in schools and community activities and one in five of the respondents (20 percent) felt the interventions had led to reduced cases of child labour as the children were no longer made or forced to spend more time fetching water at the expense of their schooling or other child-relevant development activities.

“As a community it was uplifting because some got jobs as daily wagers from the community. Some would say the money was not enough, but some still went ahead and got the jobs. They got a (the job of a) security guard.” - KII with Head Teacher.

Community feedback indicated approximate equal satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the project's impact, particularly regarding water availability and children's enrolment. On one hand, the implementation of modern toilets and the introduction of children's corner groups positively influenced adolescent girls' awareness of child protection and WASH activities.

“Because now the project brought water to the village, I think there are no longer challenges that adolescents face with regard to water. The water availability has helped adolescents to be smart and clean since the water is now readily available. They wash their clothes and bath regularly.”

FGD with Community

“The project has helped children a lot especially in protecting them by not allowing to go to the streams to fetch water to prevent disasters but now if they go at the tap, they just fetch the water to drink or the want to bath.” – KII with Community Leader

“Thank you, the implementation of water project by UNICEF has helped us a lot, for example at this school, previously there was no water at this school. Learners were drinking water from unprotected wells. But UNICEF has brought water at this school, boreholes have been drilled, and that now learners are able to drink safe and clean water.” – KII with Head Teacher

“The water tanks that you have seen at the school have also been distributed in various nearest villages where a lot of people are benefitting from this water project. The project was meant for the school but not only the school is benefiting but also villages where the students are coming from are accessing this quality water.” – KII with Head Teacher

“Women are not experiencing challenges to fetch water; women are walking short distances to fetch water hence they are being protected from violence as they don’t walk long distances to fetch water.” – FGD with Community

Challenges and Negatives:

Some areas, especially those far from water points, did not benefit equally from the project, leading to disparities in access to clean water. Limited water points caused inconvenience, and certain groups, such as persons with disabilities, faced challenges accessing water. The HH survey found that tube wells or boreholes are the main sources of water for 8 out of every 10 households (80 percent) followed by public taps or standpipes (16 percent). Nearly 2/5th of households in Kunjata and 1/5th in Chiskea have access to water through water points and piped into compounds. Both TAs are largely comprised of rural population. Even in communities where the project had brought piped water, the access and use of this water was not universal mainly due to cost and distances as the piped water was only brought to the schools and/or health facilities thereby benefitting households within reach of the institutions.

Table 12: Main Sources of Water (HH Survey)

Key Indicators	Name of the TA				Total
	Njewa	Chiseka	Machinjiri	Kuntaja	
Main sources of drinking water, including other household usage					
Tube well, borehole	97.9	73.5	90.8	56.7	79.7
Public tap/standpipe	0.0	21.4	9.2	34.0	16.2
Piped into compound, yard, or plot	0.0	1.0	0.0	7.2	2.1

Of the total households surveyed, nearly 1/3rd of HHs (24 percent fully and 12 percent partially) were using improved water sources introduced by the project. It is significantly high in Kuntaja (55 percent fully and 19 percent partially) where rural water supply schemes have been introduced. The communities quoted safe and clean water as the main reason for using, and non-availability of money with family as main reason for not using improved water sources. The urban communities were slightly unhappy around selection of places for water supply evident from FGDs.

“At (a neighbouring village) our friends received tap water but here we didn’t receive water taps we only have one borehole. Most of the times when we go to draw water we come back late and found our husbands angry. They should consider us by giving us tap water or more boreholes as well.” – FGD with Community

“We just heard that we are going to have water here. We were surprised to hear that our neighbouring community is going to have water taps instead of us.” – FGD with Community

“I could have loved if several issues were put in place, as I said earlier that not all the villages in this community that are benefiting from this water project. Only three villages that are close to this school are tapping water from the intake tanks that were constructed at this school.” – KII with Head Teacher

Some schools were equipped with plastic buckets and taps which ensured safe water use during different seasons. However, there were discrepancies in knowledge about UNICEF's contributions among respondents, signalling potential areas for improved communication.

“UNICEF has not implemented any project at our school.” “No, they haven’t implemented anything.”

FGD with Communities (Girls)

Community Satisfaction:

There were mixed sentiments in the community regarding the success of the project. Some expressed satisfaction with the provision of clean water, while others were discontent. Lack of unity among community leaders was cited as a factor contributing to challenges.

Especially in our area a lot of people did not benefit from this project. The water project is just here where the church is.” – KII with Community Leader

“Those who live far from the water points are still using boreholes close to their households.” – KII with Community Leader

“What have you learnt about child protection from this project?”

“They select few individuals not the whole village”.

FGD with Communities (Women)

Activities were not carried out in Kuntaja specifically of provision of WASH services to the community and also of restoration of provided facilities.

FGD with Communities (Men)

(The activities were) carried out in some villages while not in others, like no tap in Nasiyaya village and Mphepo village. – FGD with Community

“The big health problem is water. We have few boreholes and some of us are using water from unprotected wells which is a health a health hazard to the community. If this project of UNICEF of pumping water using solar parcels was distributed to more households, it could have really solved the problem of unsafe water.”

FGD with Community (Women)

Transparency and Accountability:

Dissatisfaction was linked to perceived favouritism and a lack of transparency and accountability in project implementation. Some participants believed that specific groups were favoured over others, indicating issues in the selection and distribution process.

Impact on Children:

The creation of Children's Corners was highlighted as a positive aspect, providing a safe space for children and adolescents, and encouraging reporting of violence cases.

“We have learnt that it is the parent duty to protect children. We were taught on how to protect and take care of our children so that they have a good and protected life.”

FGD with Community

“UNICEF has changed the lives of these adolescent through their experiences they are getting from the lessons in Children’s Corner”. – FGD Community

Protection Measures:

Practice directions, booklets, and guiding statements were issued to ensure proper procedures and management of data. Efforts were made to address challenges in cases involving children in conflict with the law, streamlining procedures and improving efficiency.

4.5. Sustainability

4.5.1. Sustainability and Integration into Future Country Programmes

Monitoring and Evaluation:

UNICEF, in partnership with Water for People, persistently enhanced the capabilities of district councils and water point committees by providing technical training on system-related aspects, financial management, tariff establishment, and proficiency in utilising the mWater platform. These capacity-building efforts were facilitated through programme support and monitoring visits and reciprocal exchanges. By leveraging mWater, district councils/committees and Water for People gained the ability to remotely identify gaps and assistance required to water systems and scheme, enabling effective planning for targeted and specific support. The scaling up of this technology platform of mWater will not only enhance operational efficiency, better need assessments, tracking the progress but will also contribute to the long-term sustainability of projects.

To enhance the functionality of water schemes, UNICEF allocated its resources to implement a real-time water remote monitoring system in 15 solar-powered water schemes, including the Goneko Water Scheme under the project being evaluated. This initiative was conducted in collaboration with Water Missions International (WMI). The system, powered by the SatWater platform, is designed to measure various data variables transmitted via satellite to an online database. It issues alerts in case of

deviations in water production, water quality, or well depth levels. These alerts enable prompt action by UNICEF and its partners, improving water availability and service quality efficiently. The approach proves cost-effective, allowing for remote issue resolution, reducing the need for on-site visits. Data security is maintained through password-protected access, and ownership of the data will eventually be transferred to the government. Water Missions International oversees system maintenance and provides capacity building for government officials to assume management in the coming years. The system operates without daily operational costs, as data is transmitted remotely to the computer platform. There is a need to evaluate the integration of mWater and SatWater platforms for improved planning, tracking the progress and monitoring the water supply and sanitation schemes.

Innovation in Microfinance:

A noteworthy achievement in Malawi is the pioneering collaboration of UNICEF with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to administer sanitation loans through a revolving fund. The project has successfully addressed historical challenges, notably the reluctance of banks and some MFIs to engage in the sanitation sector. The generated data has demonstrated the vital role that MFIs can play in providing crucial support to households and entrepreneurs seeking loans for sanitation-related purposes. The establishment of this system will bring sanitation as the key financial product for MFIs and will be accessible and available to the local communities as the project ends.

Resilient Technologies:

Additionally, the project has contributed to the promotion of resilient technologies, particularly in Blantyre. Technologies resistant to natural disasters, such as pit latrines, have been developed that withstand shocks after a cyclone and flood. These innovations are suitable for disaster-prone areas. While there is still work to be done to develop climate resilient sanitation infrastructure, this represents a positive step forward. Nearly 25.4 percent of the respondents of the HH survey had knowledge of climate resilience water services, and 21.3 percent had adopted some climate resilient options like water harvesting and conservation measures that benefitted them too. This was highest in Kuntaja with 44 percent, followed by Machinjiri with 31 percent, Chieska with 19 percent among the households in TA Chiseka and Njewa with none of the households. With regard to knowledge of the various sources, half of the respondents (51 percent) reported knowing solar as a source of energy, 38 percent reported knowing firewood while 28 percent mentioned sunlight. Electricity, at four percent and generators, at one percent were the least mentioned energy sources for WASH related activities and this could be because access to electricity in the four TAs was relatively low at the time of the evaluation/survey and that generators, generally, were unaffordable because of the cost of buying

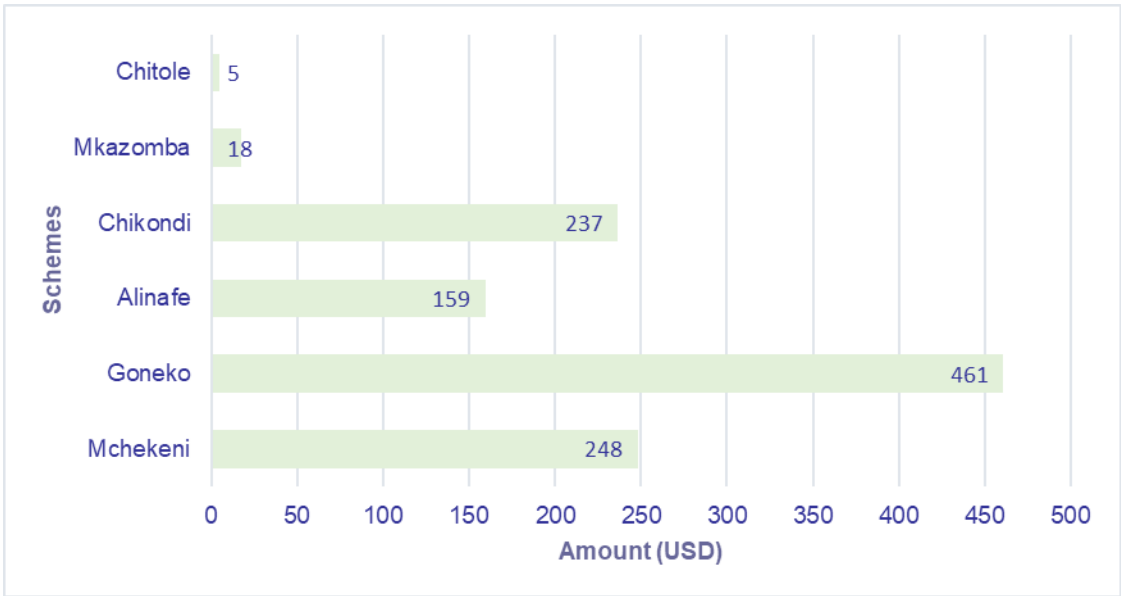
them and their running costs. Use of solar lamps or other appliances for livelihood was reported in 29 percent of the households.

Pay as You Fetch Model:

The water management committees, in collaboration with local leadership and community members, embraced various tariff collection approaches, underscoring their significance for scheme sustainability. The pay-as-you-fetch model was tested in selected water schemes, including Chikondi Children Corner, to analyse tariff revenues. Results indicated that schemes employing the pay-as-you-fetch system collected higher fees compared to those using monthly payment methods. This initiative aligns with the project's goal of contributing to enhanced sustainability through increased tariff collection under the pay-as-you-fetch model.

Monitoring of water management committees by UNICEF and WFP of all 6 water schemes revealed that the Goneko water management committee exhibited superior performance compared to others, as depicted in the graph below. For those committees showing relative lag, encouragement was provided to enhance their efforts, emphasizing the importance of securing funds for the ongoing repair and maintenance of the systems to ensure continuous functionality of the schemes.

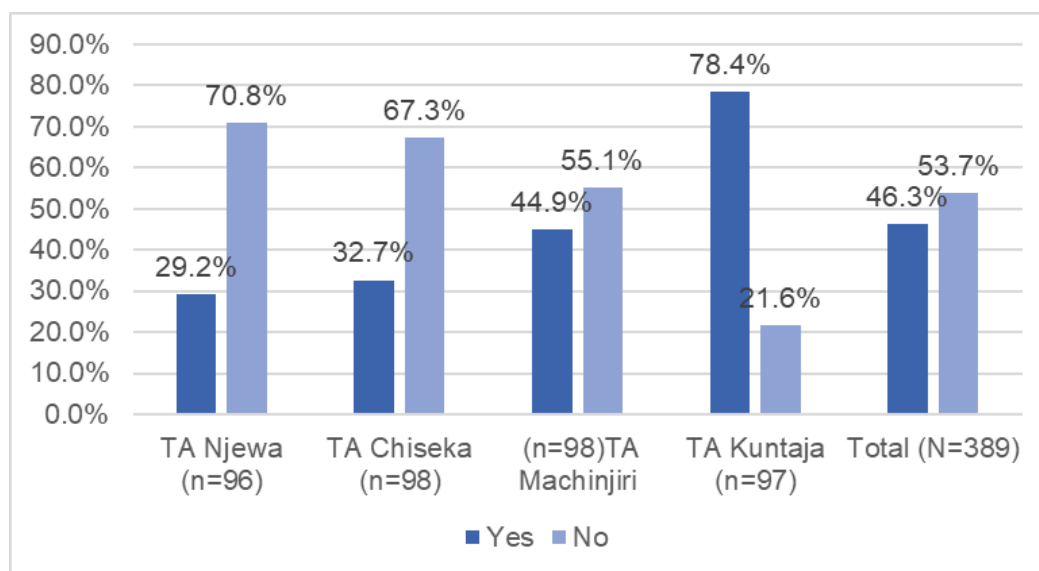
Figure 10: Tariff Collection Trends for Six Water Supply Scheme



Payment for water was reported in 46 percent of the households and was high among the households that were surveyed in TA Kuntaja in Blantyre rural at 78 percent. 34 percent of the households in TA

Kuntaja reported public taps/ standpipes as their main sources of water. In the rest of the TAs, more than half of the households reported not paying for the water they used at home.

Figure 11: Proportion of Households Reporting Paying for Water (HH Survey)



Of the households paying for their water (n=180), average of K750 per month was observed with a maximum payment of K10,000 per month reported by some households in TA Kuntaja in Blantyre. The minimum monthly cost of water was reported at K100 per household, and this mainly related to monthly contributions that the households were meant to make for unforeseen repair works. In certain communities, water was charged based on the volume actually consumed or fetched, typically ranging from K20 to K50 per 20-liter pail. The months of October and November were predominantly mentioned as the lean months of the year with regard to water availability. Rivers and streams were cited as the main alternative sources of water during lean periods followed by communal taps/wells (at a distance and cost) and from the nearest schools, health facilities or churches (21 percent).

4.5.2. Impact on National and Local Resource Commitments and Leverage

Influence on Government Policy and Legislation:

The project has demonstrated alignment with government policies, specifically emphasising community involvement and ownership of interventions, in line with the government's advocacy for community participation. This approach was integrated into the project from the beginning, covering

implementation and evaluation phases. The engagement of community leadership and subjects reflects adherence to government policies and directives.

In terms of solar-treated water systems, the government has considered the project's initiatives. The National Climate Resilient Climate Strategy has incorporated elements of the project's efforts, indicating the alignment of the project with broader national strategies for climate resilience.

Contributions to Legislative Changes:

The project has played a role in influencing local legislation, particularly in the sanitation sector. The sanitation policy, currently under review, has been impacted by the data generated through the project. While specific details are not disclosed due to the ongoing review, the project has contributed to incorporating faecal sludge management as a component of safely managed services. Moreover, the project has supported city councils in developing by-laws that encourage households to adhere to good faecal sludge management standards. This legislative influence indicates the project's commitment to shaping policies that enhance sanitation services.

In collaboration with other donors, the project has made legislative contributions at both national and local levels. For instance, the project has supported the Government of Malawi in developing a report with formal recommendations on professionalising rural water supply services. The data generated from this study has influenced changes, and the government is likely to implement some recommendations in the near future. These legislative contributions showcase the project's impact on shaping water and sanitation services at various governance levels.

4.5.3. Strategies for Sustainable Impact

Community Engagement and Ownership:

Strategy: Engaging the community in project initiatives from the beginning, fostering a sense of ownership.

Effectiveness: Successful in creating a sense of responsibility and ensuring active community participation. Health surveillance assistants contribute to sensitising the community on water safety, market led sanitation and hygiene issues.

Cost-Recovery Mechanism:

Strategy: Charging a fee for water usage and maintaining an account for repairs.

Effectiveness: People pay a small fee for water collection, and the generated income is kept in an account for maintenance. This approach ensures self-sufficiency and reduces reliance on external support.

Income Generation for Repairs:

Strategy: Selling water and using the generated income for maintenance and repairs.

Effectiveness: The communities sell water to generate income for repairs, reducing dependency on UNICEF for maintenance. Plans to extend the water project to other villages with self-generated funds.

Community Gardens for Sustainability:

Strategy: Setting up gardens near water taps to grow vegetables and generate income.

Effectiveness: The communities plan to grow vegetables near water taps and proceeds from sales will be deposited in an account for project sustainability.

Awareness regarding Child Protection and Case Management

Strategy: Ensuring continuity of PVSUs, OSCs, CBCCs, CVSUs, and children's corner by emphasising their importance.

Effectiveness: These structures are expected to continue even after the project ends, as it serves specific needs of the community, and is part of the government policies and systems.

Community Volunteers:

Strategy: Engaging volunteers to promote child protection initiatives in their communities.

Effectiveness: The engagement of community volunteers enhances the effectiveness of initiatives by leveraging local knowledge and fostering a sense of ownership within the community.

Capacity Building for Operation and Maintenance:

Strategy: Training community members to operate and maintain the water scheme.

Effectiveness: Building capacities of the community members ensures that even after project phases out, there is a sense of ownership and the ability to sustain the water project.

Government Involvement and Community Support:

Strategy: Involving the government machinery and communities in project implementation.

Effectiveness: Government involvement and community support assure that the interventions continue even after UNICEF's financial support ends.

Revolving Funds for Sanitation Loans:

Strategy: Collaborating with an MFI for sanitation loans through a revolving fund.

Effectiveness: Demonstrated that MFIs can offer sanitation related loans as a key financial product that will contribute to project sustainability.

Legislative Contributions:

Strategy: Contributing to local legislation, such as faecal sludge management and by-laws.

Effectiveness: Legislative contributions show commitment to shaping policies supporting water and sanitation services at national and local levels.

mWater App for Monitoring and Tracking:

Strategy: Consistent monitoring approach using the mWater application.

Effectiveness: While challenges exist, the app has proven effective at the local level for tracking and monitoring water services by georeferencing, with ongoing efforts to integrate it into the national system.

Promotion of Resilient Technologies:

Strategy: Contributing to the promotion of resilient technologies.

Effectiveness: Innovations like pit latrine with resistant to natural disasters enhance the durability of sanitation infrastructure.

Advocacy for Policy Integration:

Strategy: Advocating for policy integration of revolving funds in sanitation initiatives.

Effectiveness: Advocacy efforts aim to ensure that policies support sustainable financing mechanisms for sanitation projects.

Promotion of Responsible Pit-Emptying Activities:

Strategy: Collaborating with local authorities and awareness campaigns for responsible pit-emptying.

Effectiveness: Collaborative efforts will lead to efficient pit-emptying activities and community involvement in maintaining sanitation practices.

Hygiene Shop and Credit Facility:

Strategy: Establishing a hygiene shop and providing a credit facility for sanitation equipment.

Effectiveness: The shop owner aligns products with community needs, and a credit facility makes sanitation materials accessible and affordable.

4.5.4. Navigating Bottlenecks: Strategies for Sustainable Scaling

The table below highlights the challenges for sustainability, indicated by different sources of data collection and suggests strategies that can be used in future programmes to mitigate those challenges.

Challenge(s) for Sustainability	Explanation	Strategy(s) for Addressing the Bottlenecks
Resource constraints and lack of coordination among development agencies supporting child justice	Limited resources and inefficient coordination among agencies supporting child justice may hinder the comprehensive implementation of initiatives.	Foster enhanced collaboration, communication, and coordination among development agencies to pool resources, share expertise, and avoid duplication of efforts. Establish a unified approach to address child justice issues.
Insufficient Oversight and Coordination at the National Level for Justice Initiatives	Inadequate oversight and coordinated support at the national level can lead to fragmented efforts and ineffective implementation of justice initiatives.	Strengthen national-level oversight mechanisms and coordination frameworks. Develop clear guidelines, protocols, and reporting structures to ensure effective communication and collaboration among stakeholders involved in justice initiatives.
Reliance on Manual Data Collection without Utilising Mobile Applications or Internet-Based Systems	Manual data collection poses challenges in terms of efficiency, accuracy, reliability, and real-time reporting.	Integrate mobile applications and internet-based systems for data collection, ensuring timely, accurate, and accessible information. Provide training and support to stakeholders for the effective use of digital tools to streamline data management.

Sustainability Concerns, Especially Regarding Major Repairs without External Support	Lack of a sustainable maintenance plan may lead to challenges in addressing major repairs without external assistance.	Establish a robust maintenance framework that includes regular assessments, budgeting for maintenance costs, and possibly creating a contingency fund. Promote community involvement in the maintenance process to ensure long-term sustainability and ownership to the services.
Reduced Customer Base in the Business Sector Due to Currency Devaluation	Economic bottlenecks, such as currency devaluation and inflation, can impact the customer base and financial viability of business initiatives.	Implement strategic financial planning, explore alternative revenue streams, and consider adaptive business models. Engage with economic experts to mitigate the impact of currency fluctuations on the business sector.
Pricing Challenges for Masons and Plumbers	Challenges in pricing may affect the availability of skilled labour for construction and maintenance activities.	Work with local communities to establish fair pricing mechanisms, provide training programmes for masons and plumbers, and explore partnerships with vocational training institutions to ensure a steady supply of skilled workers.
Anticipated Challenges in Rural Areas Regarding the Long-Term Willingness to Repay Loans for Sanitation Facilities	Anticipated challenges in loan repayment in rural areas may undermine the financial sustainability and viability of sanitation initiatives.	Tailor financial strategies to the specific socio-economic conditions of rural communities, provide financial literacy programmes, and explore community-driven approaches to ensure the long-term willingness and ability to repay loans.

Affordability Concerns for Major Repairs Without External Assistance	Concerns about affording major repairs without external support may impact the sustainability of infrastructure projects.	Develop financial mechanisms, such as insurance or community-based funds, to address affordability concerns for major repairs. Establish partnerships with financial institutions to explore innovative financing options for WASH and protection initiatives.
Perceived Negative Attitudes in Rural Areas	Negative attitudes in rural areas may impede community participation and cooperation.	Conduct formative research backed with an effective implementation of community engagement programmes, awareness campaigns, and participatory approaches to address and change negative perceptions. Foster a sense of ownership and involvement in project initiatives.
Lack of Customers for Pit Emptiers Due to Economic Factors	Economic factors affecting the demand for pit emptying services may impact the viability of sanitation initiatives.	Explore demand-driven approaches, conduct market analyses, and collaborate with local authorities to prepare necessary regulations, and address economic factors influencing the demand for pit emptying services.
Difficulties in Governance and Oversight Potentially Hindering Project Implementation	Poor governance may hinder effective oversight and implementation of the project.	Advocate for improved governance structures, engage with local authorities to address governance issues, and work towards establishing transparent and accountable project management practices.

Concerns About Delays in Communication and Response Affecting the Timely Resolution of Project Issues	Delays in communication and response may affect the timely resolution of project issues.	Implement efficient communication protocols, establish feedback mechanisms, and leverage technology to ensure swift response and resolution of project issues. Conduct regular learning reviews to identify and address communication challenges.
No Incentives for Community Volunteers	The decision not to provide incentives to community volunteers introduces various challenges that can impact the overall success and sustainability of community-driven initiatives. One major concern is the potential for decreased motivation among volunteers, leading to reduced participation and a lack of long-term commitment. The success of projects relying on community involvement may be compromised without proper recognition and rewards. Additionally, there may be equity issues and strained community relations as volunteers feel undervalued. Sustaining engagement and volunteerism over time becomes challenging without a system of incentives, and concerns may arise about the overall impact on project outcomes.	For recognising the invaluable role played by volunteers, it is crucial to implement a robust incentive system that appreciates their dedication and hard work. By providing meaningful incentives, communities and organisations can effectively motivate volunteers, ensuring their continued and enthusiastic participation in various initiatives. These incentives may take various forms, including certificates, small tokens of appreciation, government ownership, or intangible benefits like skill-building workshops and networking opportunities. The provision of incentives not only reinforces a positive volunteer experience but also strengthens the connection between volunteers and the community organisation, fostering a sense of value and belonging.

No Specific Project Manager Dedicated	The absence of a dedicated project manager can lead to potential lack of centralized leadership and accountability. Without a designated project manager, there may be difficulties in coordinating various project activities, tracking progress, and ensuring that tasks are completed on time. Communication channels and decision-making processes may become decentralised, leading to confusion and inefficiencies. Additionally, the absence of a dedicated project manager could result in unclear responsibilities and a lack of overall project ownership, impacting the ability to address issues promptly and make informed adjustments.	From a sustainability standpoint, assigning a dedicated project manager or focal person from the key stakeholders is essential for maintaining consistency in reporting practices, creating clear accountability, managing institutional knowledge, adapting to changing circumstances, facilitating effective communication with stakeholders, enhancing the coordination among stakeholders, and fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement. This strategic approach is essential for ensuring the adaptability that is required for fitting and integrating into existing structures by enabling the systems to be flexible and robust for the existing and future needs of the communities, ultimately contributing to its long-term viability and impact.
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4.5.5. Enhancing Sustainable Impact: Strengthening Capabilities and Systems

To ensure lasting effects, it is essential to focus on and enhance several key areas.

1. **Technological Capabilities:** Strengthening the technological capabilities of district councils and water point committees is paramount. Investing in advanced monitoring tools and providing comprehensive training on their usage and execution will enhance the on-site and off-site identification and support mechanisms, ensuring the continued success of projects.

2. **Financial Investments:** Adequate financial investments are needed to address resource constraints and support critical aspects like major repairs and maintenance. Allocating funds for technology adoption, capacity building, and addressing challenges in the business sector will add on sustained project success.
3. **Strategic Partnerships:** Strengthening partnerships with development agencies supporting child justice is essential. Improved coordination and collaboration among agencies will streamline efforts and address resource challenges more effectively. Additionally, fostering partnerships with local businesses and community leaders are pivotal for enhancing and sustaining community engagement.
4. **Governance and Oversight Systems:** Facilitating robust governance and oversight systems at both national and local levels are essential. This includes addressing challenges of open communication, overcoming response delays, ensuring efficient coordination, and establishing mechanisms for timely issue resolution.
5. **Technology Integration:** Further integrating digital technologies into data collection processes is necessary. Transitioning from manual data collection to mobile applications or internet-based systems will not only enhance efficiency but also provide real-time insights for decision-making. This will also be helpful to determine the workload and the existing and future requirement of human resources.
6. **Legislative Support:** Advocating for policies that support sustainable financing mechanisms for water and sanitation projects as well as protection issues for example, creating a Children Corner with recreational facilities will contribute to long-term success.
7. **Capacity Building:** Ongoing capacity building, particularly for government officials, water point committees, and community members, is crucial. This ensures that there is a sustained sense of ownership and the ability to operate and maintain water and sanitation systems effectively. Ongoing capacity building for child protection workers, community leaders, and relevant government officials is equally essential. This ensures that there is a sustained ability to identify, report, and respond to child protection issues effectively.
8. **Community Empowerment:** Strengthening community engagement in child protection initiatives is vital. Initiatives like Children's Corners and Community Victim Support Units should be empowered and strengthened to continue operating independently, fostering a sense of community responsibility for child protection.
9. **Innovative Approaches:** Continuing to explore and implement innovative approaches, such as the use of Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) and Revolving Fund for sanitation loans, and

use of mWater for tracking the use of water facilities indicate a commitment for adapting to evolving challenges and opportunities.

10. **Addressing Perception Challenges:** Proactively addressing challenges related to water treatment perceptions and negative attitudes in rural areas about protection and violence is essential. Implementing targeted awareness campaigns and community dialogues, at a small scale initially, can contribute to changing perceptions and fostering a supportive environment for sustained behaviour change.
11. **Inclusive Communication Strategies:** Develop communication materials and campaigns that are inclusive, considering diverse cultural, and literacy levels within the community. Ensure that messages are accessible to all members, including those with disabilities and discriminated by the local groups.
12. **Community Engagement Forums:** Establish inclusive forums where community members, including marginalised groups, can actively participate and provide input. Encourage open dialogue to ensure that the perspectives and needs of all individuals are considered in project planning and decision-making.
13. **Tailored Approaches for Marginalised Groups:** Implement tailored approaches to address the specific needs and challenges faced by marginalised groups, such as providing targeted water, sanitation, and affordable solutions for individuals with disabilities or considering cultural preferences in water access.
14. **Accessible Infrastructure:** Design and implement infrastructure, such as water and sanitation facilities, that is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Consider inclusive designs to accommodate a broad range of users and promote equal access for all community members.
15. **Data Collection on Vulnerable Populations:** Ensure that data collection processes include information on vulnerable populations, helping to identify their specific needs and track the impact of interventions on different demographic groups. This data can inform targeted strategies for inclusivity.
16. **Feedback Mechanisms for All:** Establish accessible and inclusive feedback mechanisms that allow every community member, regardless of background or ability, to express their opinions, concerns, and suggestions regarding water and sanitation initiatives.

4.5.6. Integration of Project Learnings for Sustainable Scaling in UNICEF Programming

The learnings from this project can be seamlessly integrated into UNICEF programming to ensure long-term sustainability and scaling up of similar programmes through the following key strategies:

1. **Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer:**

- **Learning:** The project demonstrated the importance of capacity building at various levels, including community committees, local authorities, and project implementers.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can integrate this learning by promoting and incorporating comprehensive capacity-building components into future programmes. This includes training modules, workshops, and exchange programmes to enhance the skills of local stakeholders, seeking for effective project implementation and community engagement.

2. **Technology Integration for Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- **Learning:** The use of digital technologies, such as mobile applications and remote monitoring systems, has been tested at small scale for real-time data collection and project monitoring.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can include similar technological solutions into its programming, enhancing the efficiency of data collection, monitoring, and evaluation. This facilitates evidence-based decision-making and timely interventions.

3. **Community Engagement and Ownership:**

- **Learning:** Community engagement and a sense of ownership emerged as critical factors for project success and sustainability.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can embed community engagement as a core principle in programme design. This involves fostering community participation, promoting local leadership development, and ensuring that interventions align with the needs and priorities of the communities, enhancing the sustainability of projects.

4. **Innovative Financing Models:**

- **Learning:** The project successfully explored innovative financing models, such as collaborating with Microfinance Institutions for sanitation loans and establishing revolving funds. Similarly, the idea of selling water to nearby areas, or growing community gardens with water can bridge the gaps of finances required for operation and maintenance of WASH services.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can replicate and expand these financing models in future programmes, promoting financial sustainability. This involves identifying suitable partners, designing flexible financial mechanisms, and integrating economic empowerment components into water and sanitation initiatives.

5. **Legislative Advocacy and Policy Integration:**

- **Learning:** The project contributed to local legislative changes and policy integration, influencing protection, water, and sanitation policies, and advocating for professionalising rural water supply services.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can leverage these experiences to actively engage in policy advocacy and contribute to legislative changes. This includes collaborating with governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to ensure that programme outcomes align with broader policy frameworks.

6. **Resilient Technologies and Climate-Responsive Approaches:**

- **Learning:** The project addressed the importance of resilient technologies, particularly in disaster-prone areas, and climate-responsive sanitation infrastructure.
- **Integration:** It is essential for UNICEF to incorporate climate-resilient approaches into programming, considering the impact of climate change on water and sanitation systems. This involves promoting technologies that can withstand natural disasters and incorporate climate considerations into infrastructure design.

7. **Monitoring for Adaptive Management:**

- **Learning:** The project emphasised the significance of ongoing monitoring for adaptive management, allowing for adjustments based on real-time data and feedback.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can institutionalise a culture of adaptive management in its programmes, emphasising continuous monitoring and learning. This involves establishing feedback loops, conducting regular learning reviews, and incorporating lessons learned into the decision-making process.

8. **Promotion of Inclusivity and Equity:**

- **Learning:** The importance of inclusivity and equity in project design and implementation was highlighted.
- **Integration:** UNICEF can mainstream inclusivity by ensuring that programmes address the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups. This involves conducting thorough vulnerability assessments, designing targeted interventions, and fostering an inclusive approach in all aspects of programme implementation.

5. Orientation to Impact

5.1. Community Impact and Resilience Building in Protection and WASH

Prevention of Cholera and Other Diseases:

The project made significant contribution to reduce cholera cases and preventing waterborne diseases in the communities. Water quality was maintained through chlorination, ensuring safe and clean water. Hygiene practices, such as treating water and maintaining clean surroundings, have also been reported to have improved. As per the HH survey, chlorination of water before use was reported in slightly more than half (52 percent) of the households followed by boiling at 11 percent. When all is done, 8 out every 10 households (82 percent) also reported covering the containers where water is kept as one of the water caring methods.

“Through this project we are able to prevent waterborne diseases like cholera because we now have clean and safe water. People are able to practice hygiene by having toilets, enough water, keeping their surrounding clean.” - KII with Community Leader

“It (the project) has helped us to avoid cholera. When one is hygienic, you cannot get cholera. We are protected because of hygiene like taking care of our water and treating it, washing dishes, and covering them, cleaning pots.” - KII with Head Teacher

Disaster Resilience:

Systems, especially piped ones, are less affected by disasters like floods. Boreholes, though susceptible, are still less impacted by disasters as compared to uncovered wells.

“Ah like to the issues of disasters here in our village; we learnt the time we were attacked by Cholera so; the health workers were teaching us about when we fetch water on the borehole, we are supposed to boil the water before use.” – KII with Head Teacher

Increased Protection and Safety:

Children’s corner contributed to an increase in awareness and understanding regarding child protection and safety. Women and children benefited from reduced violence, shorter water-fetching distances, and improved hygiene. Safe water access prevents vulnerability during disasters and displacement. According to the HH survey, the ‘mothers of the house or eldest responsible women’ were reported as those mainly responsible for fetching water in two thirds of the households (66 percent) followed by daughters/girls aged 15 years or older in one-fifth of the households (21 percent) and girls/daughters aged below 15 years in 7-percent of the households. These findings just confirm that women and girls do most of water fetching for the households in Malawi. This also shows the project made a significant influence in reducing the involvement of children in fetching the water.

“Women are being protected from violence as they don’t walk long distances to fetch water. They are so happy because they stopped walking long distance to fetch water, the water taps are near.” -

KII with Head Teacher

“But I also think that child protection is intact now, as communities have water closer to their households and they don’t to travel long distances where they can be attacked or raped. Even for individuals with disabilities, they used to travel long distances to get water but now they get them

near.” - KII with Head Teacher

“A lot of young children and youth know their rights, when they experience or witness any form of abuse they know where to go and report. Children are happy because of the activities happening at children’s corner.” - KII with religious leader

“The children, that are in need, are being helped through this project because they attend children’s corner activities, and they share ideas with their fellow friends. They eat together and sometimes they are given clothes and toys. Children are encouraged to go to school. Those who faced violence in the community are being helped by being referred to police or victim support unit. Those who were forced into early marriage are being encouraged to go back to school.” - KII with Head Teacher

“By promoting inclusion, the marginalised groups have benefited. They are no longer facing abuse, because the water point is just a stone away to their house. They don’t walk long distances to fetch water. Previously some people would insult the marginalised persons at boreholes, for example saying that they have HIV/AIDS. The taps are so near to their residences. Even the ones who take care of these people are able to fetch water at a short distance.” – KII with Head Teacher

Sustainability through Community Involvement:

Involvement of community members in project activities enhances sustainability.

Financial contributions from community members for certain services, such as utilising the money collected from obtaining water for infrastructure maintenance and repairing help sustain the systems. Similarly, market led sanitation encourages the communities to arrange funds either from their savings or avail loan facilities from the revolving fund/ MFIs, showed the potential for sustainability and ownership of services. 28 percent of the participants of the HH survey reported to have participated in village savings and loans.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement:

Water Source Preference:

Challenges arise when alternative projects, like those from the city council, compete, potentially impacting community preferences.

“When the project was introduced, everything was okay. Since they passed through city council for clearance and other things it was like a threat at city council and the city council also started their own project similar to this project and they were asking people to contribute k 50, 000.00 for them to build a toilet. So, some people liked the idea from city council than ours. Otherwise, all was well before the involvement of city council.” KII with Pit Emptier

Training and Capacity Building:

Pit emptiers received training, impacting their job satisfaction and performance. Some challenges reported, like unfulfilled promises of loans, affecting business operations.

“Apart from the toilet flappers I was provided with toilet pumps out wastes from toilets which were almost full. The response from the community was awesome and at first the toilet flappers ran out and I had to order another stock.” - KII with sanitary shop owner

“The project team promised to give me a loan to boost my business but up to now they haven’t fulfilled their promise.” - KII with Sanitary Shop Owner

“The project team mentioned that I would get a commission of 5 percent after I finish selling the products, so because I love development in my village, I just accepted the offer. Since 2022 up today I haven’t received anything.” - KII with Sanitary Shop Owner

Mixed Community Reactions:

Positive responses from some community members, emphasising benefits like clean water and hygiene. Dissatisfaction expressed by others, particularly those without direct access to project benefits.

“Right now, with the ways things are, these need to be fixed because the way this water is coming to us is very slow and although they are trying but I think it was better if every household had this water That would have done us good, and everything would be easy.” FGD with Community

“For people with disabilities, they have never received any assistance. Some people came some time ago, and asked for people with disabilities, but didn’t do anything or follow up after visit. We will wait for your organisation to work with people with disabilities because we have people with disabilities here.” FGD with Community

“For children, we can get help little by little because some children struggle for going to school because of a lack of uniform and writing materials” – KII with Head Teacher

“We also used to drink water from streams and rivers, now we do no longer drink that water. It was unprotected water.” – FGD with Community

“We dislike the project because we do not benefit from this. We have no taps in our villages. We drink from the taps when we come here (to another village). Our children enjoy these taps when they visit this village. We still have boreholes in our village and its one borehole. Congestion is too high in our village due to water scarcity. Once the borehole is damaged, we draw water from the river. We use wells for water that is also being used for cattle and livestock too.”- FGD with Community

“The community should be told or even trained that how modern toilet project works and constructed through the revolving fund which means that the money they pay for sanitation products is same money that is being used to order the products for sanitation. So, when they do not repay, other potential beneficiaries will not get the products. Also, the local leaders should be involved so much as people do fear these local leaders. There also should be a fine for defaulters.” – KII with Shop Owner

5.2. Inclusive Empowerment and Leaving No One Behind

Table 1 presents the beneficiaries of the project across different socially challenged groups, including persons with disabilities, extreme poor, orphans and vulnerable children, and survivors of violence. The project demonstrated notable success in meeting the specified goals for beneficiaries with disabilities and survivors of violence, surpassing the set targets by reaching 28,794 and 16,789

beneficiaries, respectively, against the goals of 4,560 and 2,000 beneficiaries. However, the objectives for assisting the extremely poor and orphans were not met, as only 1,649 extremely poor beneficiaries were reached against the target of 19,200, and 9,521 orphans and vulnerable children were reached against the goal of 20,000. The project aimed to benefit a diverse range of individuals, including marginalised groups facing abuse or disabilities. Tailored approaches were implemented to address their specific needs, such as providing accessible water sources. However, a critical examination reveals that the "leave no one behind" approach may not have been adequately implemented. The absence of specific criteria for beneficiary selection poses a challenge, as certain community members, particularly those in impoverished families, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing abuse, have not received the necessary support. While the project has had a community-wide impact by improving overall water accessibility, some households, especially those with unique vulnerabilities, appear to have been left out, indicating a gap in the project's inclusivity. Addressing these challenges and revisiting the project's strategy could ensure a more comprehensive and equitable impact, aligning it more closely with the principles of leaving no one behind.

The project benefited different social groups in the following ways:

Adolescents:

- Access to activities like children's corner and educational opportunities.
- Access to JoL as a psychosocial support tool.
- Increased awareness of rights and avenues for reporting abuse.
- Prevention of engagement in negative activities through constructive initiatives.

Girls and Boys:

- Enhanced safety through reduced violence and improved hygiene.
- Opportunities for education and prevention of early pregnancies.
- Inclusion in community activities, fostering a sense of belonging.

Extreme Poor:

- Improved access to WASH infrastructure and services.
- Subsidised support for the construction of critical facilities.

Children with Disabilities:

- Improved access to WASH facilities with consideration for physical disabilities.
- Inclusion in community programmes and activities.
- Subsidies for the construction of toilets.

Survivors of Violence:

- Linkages and referral to support services, including police and victim support units.
- Participation in community activities promoting resilience.

Community-Wide Empowerment:

- The project contributed to the empowerment of various groups, creating a more inclusive, responsive, and supportive community.
- Awareness programmes and educational initiatives empowered individuals to take charge of their well-being through individual and collective actions.

Collaborative Decision-Making:

- The inclusion of diverse voices in decision-making processes built a more comprehensive and effective approach.
- Continuous engagement fostered a sense of ownership and shared responsibility among community members.

Challenges:

- Some community members express either dissatisfaction on the initiatives or show their preferences for alternative projects, indicating the need for improved communication and community engagement strategies.
- Unfulfilled promises or delays in meeting the commitments affect the positive perceptions of the project.
- The project lacked a comprehensive needs assessment for individuals with disabilities. Without active involvement of persons with disabilities, the effectiveness of the interventions may be compromised, and the empowerment of individuals with disabilities may not be achieved.
- There are discrepancies between the achieved numbers and the set targets for extremely poor individuals and orphans. Although the overall target for the social groups was overachieved, the project did not adequately address the needs of these specific groups effectively. In some cases, the data for specific groups have been extrapolated based on prevalence from secondary sources particularly for disabilities.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- The project has been successful in achieving its targets in spite of some delays in the inception phase. It is pertinent that an appropriate time for inception phase be given to the partners to lay the foundation with proper need assessments and identification of strategic actions and priorities rather having the pressure of meeting the targets during that time.
- Ongoing training and support for pit emptiers and other community members can enhance

their skills and contributions to the project. However, a systematic approach for training and skill development by using an online course can be introduced to enhance outreach and sustainability of capacity development.

- Addressing challenges related to community preferences requires a strategic communication plan to highlight project benefits and ensure community buy-in.
- Before initiating a project, a thorough needs assessment for different social groups ought to be conducted. Understanding the specific needs and challenges faced by different groups is essential as it will enable the development of targeted and effective interventions.
- Implement measures to ensure the active participation of individuals with disabilities.
- Review and adjust targets for extremely poor individuals and orphans based on the lessons learned. Realistic targets will help in setting achievable goals and ensure that the project remains focused on addressing the most critical needs of the target population.
- In addition to engaging with community leaders, adequately engage with the community members/ beneficiaries, to gather input on project design and implementation. Involving stakeholders in the decision-making process ensures that the project aligns with the actual needs and priorities of the community.
- Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation system. Regular monitoring and evaluation will help identify challenges early on, allowing for timely adjustments and improvements to enhance the project's overall impact.

5.3. Enhancement of Services, Institutions, and Systems for Child Protection and WASH Sustainability

The project has not only made substantial contributions during its active phase but has strategically implemented initiatives that are likely to endure and positively impact CP and WASH even after the formal conclusion of project activities. The emphasis on community engagement, financial sustainability, and collaboration with stakeholders has set a solid foundation for continued progress and positive outcomes.

Child Protection

Establishment of Community Victim Support Unit:

Effectiveness: Reconstitution, orientation, and effective functioning of CVSUs.

Post-Project Impact: The reconstitution efforts have left a sustained mark, ensuring optimal and effective operation well beyond the project's conclusion. Social service providers, having undergone

orientation in standard operating procedures, continue to contribute to the enduring foundation of robust case management and allied support services.

Emphasising Continuity of Children's Corner:

Effectiveness: The children's corner expected to continue after the project.

Post-Project Impact: Integration with government policies ensures sustainability.

Case Management Approach:

Effectiveness: Coordination, assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of services to meet the unique needs of children, with regards to protection.

Post-Project Impact: Higher registration and assessment rates for both households and individual children, demonstrating a sustained commitment to addressing their unique needs.

WASH Services

Capacity Building:

Effectiveness: Enhanced capabilities of district councils and water point committees through technical training.

Post-Project Impact: Improved capacity ensures continued effective operation and maintenance.

Remote Monitoring:

Infrastructure Development:

Effectiveness: Construction of water schemes and toilets.

Post-Project Impact: Increased access to WASH services, reduction in waterborne diseases, and reduced time for accessing WASH services.

Hygiene Promotion:

Effectiveness: Hygiene promotion campaigns educated the community on safe practices, with a particular emphasis on water treatment measures. Creation and distribution of chlorine buckets for water purification in wells and boreholes.

Post-Project Impact: Increased access to clean water.

“The project helped in bringing water in this community so that we can have full access to water, so that we can use the water. They also distributed water buckets in schools, so that students should be using to wash hands.”

“They brought buckets for chlorine in wells and boreholes the whole essence of this was to purify water and making it safe for drinking.”

“They taught us on how we can make Mpondagiya (handwashing facility made from locally available materials), so that people can wash hands after using toilets.”

FGD with Communities

Real-Time Monitoring:

Effectiveness: Leveraged mWater and SatWater platforms for remote identification of gaps.

Post-Project Impact: Continued efficiency, reduced operational costs, and data ownership ensure sustained water system operations.

Collaboration with MFIs:

Effectiveness: Collaboration for administering sanitation loans through a revolving fund.

Post-Project Impact: Establishment of sanitation loans as a financial product ensures accessibility beyond project activities.

Community Engagement and Ownership:

Effectiveness: Engaging the communities for successful in fostering a sense of responsibility.

Post-Project Impact: Active community participation and ownership likely to continue, ensuring ongoing support.

Cost-Recovery Mechanism:

Effectiveness: People paying a small fee for water collection.

Post-Project Impact: Established cost-recovery mechanism reduces reliance on external support, ensuring sustainability.

Selling Water for Maintenance:

Effectiveness: Communities selling water to generate income for repairs.

Post-Project Impact: Self-generated funds for maintenance reduce dependency on external sources, indicating sustainability.

Training for Responsible Pit-Emptying Activities:

Effectiveness: Training sessions for pit emptiers on proper sanitation infrastructure maintenance and hygiene practices.

Post-Project Impact: Continued collaboration suggests a sustained focus on responsible sanitation practices, including improved disease prevention, safer families, and understanding the importance of toilets with flappers.

The training was about how to put flappers in toilets, how to take care of them flappers, where to put flappers and factors considering when putting flappers like are we going to put in toilets with slab only or not. The other thing was to know if people are paying the money willingly or not. Lastly, they taught on how we can put the flapper. The training helped us a lot because we have knowledge on how to prevent diseases. Our families are safe because of this training. We now know the importance of having toilets with flappers.” – KII with Pit Emptyier

5.4. Beneficiary Engagement and Feedback Analysis

The project did not systematically obtain, analyse, or respond to beneficiary feedback. The challenges in engaging with beneficiaries stemmed from a lack of established mechanisms for feedback collection and analysis. The project faced limitations in establishing a structured process to gather input from beneficiaries, hindering the ability to assess their needs and preferences. The absence of a formal feedback loop made it challenging to respond effectively to beneficiary concerns or adapt project activities based on their insights.

5.5. Insights and Strategies for Inclusive Future: Leaving No One Behind

Allocation of Financial Resources:

- Consider allocating more financial resources for non-physical interventions, especially for water-related projects.
- Emphasise the importance of investing in both infrastructure and non-physical interventions for holistic project success.

Implementing Targeted Outreach Programmes:

- To effectively leave no one behind, it is essential to consider the development and implementation of targeted outreach programmes, specifically tailored to address the needs of vulnerable populations and ensure their active inclusion in project initiatives.

Frequency of Resource Disbursement:

- Review and identify mechanisms for better and efficient disbursements of resources to minimise delays in project implementation.

Capacity Building and Management Training:

- Initiate capacity building and management training for schemes at an early stage to minimise delays post-construction.
- Promote a change in mindset early on, preparing communities for the shift from free water to contributing to sustainability.

Government Support and Awareness:

- Acknowledge the crucial role of government support in terms of promotion and decision-making for households.
- Promote early start of advocacy and lobbying for government involvement and improvement in governance to enhance awareness and campaign effectiveness.

Inclusion of Menstrual Hygiene:

- Highlight the importance of incorporating menstrual hygiene components in future projects to address specific needs.

Use of Digital Technology:

- Introduce and leverage digital technology, such as SMS reporting systems or mobile apps, for efficient data collection and communication.

Cross-Learning and Best Practices:

- Intensify cross-learning elements within the region by facilitating regular meetings among partners to share lessons and experiences.
- Promote best practices to enhance service delivery across different projects.

Challenges and Community Feedback:**Resource Collection Delays:**

- Address delays in collecting funds due to the use of revolving funds, particularly when relying on financial managers.

Visibility and Communication:

- Increase project visibility through digital media and field officers working closely with financial managers.
- Enhance communication through platforms like WhatsApp groups for effective information dissemination.

Community Engagement and Design Considerations:

- Design systems and procedures with a focus for scaling up at multiple communities and reaching a larger population.
- Strengthen support for communities in terms of monitoring, operation, and maintenance, considering the potential post-project challenges.

Communication Strategies and Impactful Approaches:

- Recognise the influence of announcements made by local leaders and chiefs for effective hygiene communication.
- Utilise posters, debates, and poems including digital media as impactful communication strategies, tailored to capture community attention.

Gender and NGO Dynamics:

- Express concerns about perceived gender disparities in NGO support, with a focus on girls over boys.
- Advocate for equal opportunities and support for both genders in education and other projects.
- Ensure the placement of female staff in key decision-making positions with respective partners.

Disliked Aspects of the Project:

- Some community members expressed dissatisfaction with the limited coverage of safe water from taps, suggesting a broader outreach and coverage.

Sustainability and Continuous Education:

- Emphasise the need for continuous health education to sustain positive behaviour change among the community.
- Suggest frequent reminders of good practices to prevent relapse into old habits.

Recommendations for Improvement:

WFP, UNICEF implementing partner of WASH component, suggested improvements for future initiatives, emphasizing the need to allocate more financial resources for software interventions like mWater. They proposed reconsidering the frequency of resource disbursements from UNICEF to minimize delays, suggesting that the current six-month period between reconciliations and fresh requests might impact effective project implementation. Additionally, they recommended fostering cross-learning elements among partners to share lessons and experiences for improved service delivery.

In summary, the feedback suggests a mixed picture of UNICEF support. While there were reported challenges with funding delays and resource displacement, the presence of local officers seemed to facilitate decision-making. The recommendations provided by the partners indicate a desire for more frequent disbursements and increased allocation of resources for software interventions, highlighting areas for improvement in UNICEF's support mechanisms.

5.6. Unanticipated Effects**Unanticipated Positive Effects:**

Sustainability through Community Involvement: The involvement of community members in project activities for financial contributions demonstrated unexpected positive outcomes. Community participation in financing certain services for infrastructure maintenance and repairs showcased an unintended but beneficial sustainability mechanism.

Positive Influence on School Attendance: Initiatives in schools, including the provision of handwashing facilities, positively influenced school attendance. The unexpected positive effect is the improvement in attendance attributed to WASH interventions, contributing to enhanced education outcomes.

Influence on Policy Development: The positive impact of linkages in the justice system leading to the establishment of revised water and sanitation policies demonstrates an unexpected effect. The project's advocacy through the WASH component contributed to broader policy changes, emphasising climate resilience, sustainability, and equitable services, especially for vulnerable groups.

Ethical Procurement Practices: The review of Water for People's procurement policy and the introduction of measures for ethical practices and conflict of interest declarations represent an

unexpected positive outcome. This will ensure that all future projects also align with ethical standards, promoting transparency and integrity within the project.

Enhanced Awareness and Safeguarding Measures: The extensive orientations conducted by UNICEF, WVI, and Water for People on PSEA, child safeguarding, and violence prevention have led to heightened awareness among staff, volunteers, and stakeholders. This unanticipated positive effect ensures a more vigilant and informed community, contributing to a safer environment for children and vulnerable populations.

Expanded Reach and Collaboration: The participation of WVI officers in PSEA training and GBV through the Agora portal, with subsequent extension to government and civil society stakeholders, signifies an unexpected positive outcome. This expanded reach fosters collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and a broader impact on the community beyond the project's initial scope.

Unanticipated Negative Effects:

Water Source Preference Challenges: The emergence of alternative projects initiated by the city council, coupled with their competitive nature and the provision of free services, influenced community preferences and choices, potentially impacting the success of the sanitation fund component of the project. This underscores the negative effect of external competition, particularly when the alternative projects are not only in direct competition but also offered at no cost.

Cyclone Freddy: The impact of Cyclone Freddy posed several negative effects on the project implementation. The cyclone caused extensive damage to road infrastructure, rendering certain areas impassable. This situation resulted in delayed project activities and posed challenges to accessing project sites. Despite these adversities, the project management demonstrated effectiveness through close supervision, ensuring adherence to timelines for the completion and commissioning of water schemes.

Mixed Community Reactions: The community's mixed reactions, with positive responses from some and dissatisfaction from others, reveal unexpected challenges in meeting the diverse needs and expectations of the population. This underscores the complexity of community dynamics and the importance of tailored approaches.

Challenges in Engaging Persons with Disabilities: The project lacked a comprehensive needs assessment for individuals with disabilities, leading to challenges in addressing their specific needs effectively. This negative effect emphasises the importance of inclusivity and targeted interventions for vulnerable groups.

Limited Use of Digital Technologies: The limited adoption of digital technologies due to staff familiarity challenges, proficiency issues, and resource constraints resulted in an unexpected negative effect. This impacted the project's ability to implement a comprehensive digital technology strategy, hindering real-time data gathering and monitoring for violence-related cases.

Challenges in Police Involvement: Despite training initiatives for police officers, community feedback indicates challenges in police efforts, varying based on the severity of reported violence. Reports of bribery attempts by perpetrators and limited community trust in the police force highlight unexpected negative effects, that impact the effectiveness of the justice system.

6.CONCLUSIONS AND LEARNINGS

Conclusions:

- The project's theory of change remained valid, navigating challenges like climate risks, cyclones, cholera, and economic downturns. Social mobilisation, capacity building, and reinforcing existing structures were key strategies that worked well despite challenges like vandalism and inflation. Overall, achievement of targets (403,293) exceeded by three times (336 percent) in all the categories against their set target goals (120,000). For female adults and female children, achievements were 243 percent and 762 percent more than agreed targets, respectively. Thus, the project demonstrated effective functioning of the system strengthening approach, and this should be maintained particularly around enhancing the capacities of government institutions and community organisations, and engagement of private sector for market driven WASH approaches.
- The achievements in serving people with disabilities (six times higher) and survivors of violence (eight times higher) highlighted the project's efficacy in reaching vulnerable groups. Despite challenges in meeting targets for orphan and vulnerable children and extremely poor individuals, the overall target of beneficiaries was exceeded. Data related to disability have been extrapolated in project reports by using the prevalence rate of 10.8 percent as per the Malawi Population and Housing Census Disability Report 2018. Moreover, the project did not develop and implement a specific beneficiary selection criterion for other vulnerable groups that included poverty, survivors, marginalised, etc. An appropriate inclusive assessment and recording of data related to such groups are critical to determine the needs and interventions for specific groups and inclusiveness.
- The log frame was revised for descriptive targets, ensuring alignment with the theory of change. The programme achieved its targets, yet assumptions overlooked cholera outbreaks, Covid-19, and cyclones. The frequency of data collection for different indicators varied, and it was collected and reported on the basis of beneficiaries of different components and then collated together as collective beneficiaries. The project lacked effective synchronisation of different data streams evident from extrapolation and proxies used in reporting. It is important to design such systems of data collection and reporting in the future that harmonize different data streams to identify actual number of individuals with all their components.

- Overall, commendable efforts were exhibited in strengthening community structures, providing essential training, media campaigns, and leveraging various strategies as evident from outreach data. Challenges in police responsiveness, deeply ingrained gender norms, and limited awareness of support services emphasise the need for sustained efforts and targeted interventions to maximise the impact. Continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies will be essential for addressing persisting challenges and further enhancing the project's effectiveness.
- Despite delays in baseline surveys and onboarding processes, the project efficiently addressed setbacks through strategic acceleration plans like parallel interventions, enhanced quarterly targets, direct contracting, and redirected resources to provide direct support and emphasising adaptability. WASH through Solar-powered water schemes, Water Management Committees, and Community-Led Total Sanitation efforts has positively impacted public health and empowered local communities as households reported a reduction in water borne diseases in the evaluation survey. Though the project introduced digitalisation like mMater at a limited scale for water supply interventions, such efforts were not visible for child protection and sanitation as envisaged in the proposal. For efficiency and sustainability of services, it is critical to introduce and add digital technologies for integrated planning and management of interventions along with real-time monitoring and reporting.
- Strengthening sanitation marketing and establishment of the sanitation revolving fund contributed to sustainability. The project faced challenges like limited resources for sanitation value chain, cost recovery for water, and lack of including menstrual hygiene management. It is pertinent to note that the ongoing success of the programme will rely on its inclusive approach, integrating technology, community engagement, productive and effective linkages with financial institutions along with a need for continuous monitoring and community feedback systems.
- The positive impact of establishing linkages within the justice system facilitated swift interventions and resolutions evident from the increased number of case referrals and management in the last two years. Notably, initiatives in schools, such as the provision of handwashing facilities and water supply schemes in schools and health facilities, positively influenced attendance in schools and children's corners, though challenges in education quality and accessibility persist. This experience demonstrated the significance of community

engagement in project identification and implementation, with an inclusive and participatory approach to address community preferences which were overlooked in some cases. The Poor of the Poorest Voucher Initiative for vulnerable groups faced obstacles related to affordability and high inflation, necessitating the piloting of alternative approaches and continuous adjustments, based on community feedback for long-term success.

- The project made specific efforts on gender mainstreaming as per UNICEF's gender inclusion approach. Specific sessions on gender related laws were organised to make girls and women aware about their rights and provisions they were entitled under the laws. Similarly, accessible latrines for girls, women, female teachers, and caretakers were established at or near children's corners. Under the sanitation work, the project trained 30 female practitioners (11 masons, 9 shop owners, 2 pit emptiers and 8 sanitation fund managers) who took up various roles in sanitation service delivery. Although the number of women involved in this work is much lower when compared to men (at 12 percent), this is a considerable breakthrough as in the past very few women were interested to participate in sanitation business development. In future, a specific quota for women under sanitation marketing through specific incentives could be created to enhance their participation in businesses, and minimising gender equities in WASH interventions.
- Determined efforts and strategies were applied to increase the equal participation of women and men in decision making roles in the water management committee and other community structures created or reinforced under this project. The committee selection ensures an equal distribution of 50 percent for each gender, or 40 percent male representation and 60 percent female representation. Some executive positions were deliberately awarded to women to enhance their contribution in decision making. Encouraging men's participation in sanitation initiatives in urban areas of the project remained challenging, as many men were occupied with other economic activities and did not actively engage in promotional events. The project worked closely with SACCOs to focus demand creation strategies at workplaces for reaching out to more men for their involvement in latrine improvements through the revolving sanitation scheme.
- The project analysis reveals a strategic allocation of funds, with 47 percent spent on WASH activities and 34 percent on child protection while excluding staffing (15 percent) and M&E and Administrative costs (4 percent). The direct per beneficiary cost, including project

management, was 9 USD, showcasing efficiency, though its assumptions of beneficiaries are not sufficient to determine value for money. Similarly, the project deployed dedicated expertise for water supply, sanitation, and child protection, and established strategic collaboration and partnerships with NGOs and government departments respectively to strengthen resilience. Despite challenges voiced by government ministries, collaboration with UNICEF contributed to overcoming obstacles, particularly in the Ministry of Health emphasising the project's sustainability. The comprehensive approach to capacity building, government engagement, safeguarding, monitoring mechanisms, and adaptability reflects a proactive strategy for sustained success and impactful interventions.

- The collaborative involvement of stakeholders, encompassing households, community members, chiefs, and water users, showcased a collective commitment to the project's success. However, the project did not follow any specific criterion for selection of beneficiaries of CP and WASH interventions except for an initial need assessment for services. The project encountered challenges in reaching individuals from poor families, and those facing various forms of abuse. A more explicit focus on inclusivity and leave no-one behind, particularly targeting persons with disabilities and marginalised groups, could have further augmented the project's effectiveness. Moving forward, addressing the remaining challenges and unmet needs of the local communities with a specific emphasis on social inclusion of marginalised groups will be paramount for ensuring the project's sustained positive impact on the entire community.
- Despite discontent in some areas, the project has positively impacted children's well-being and community health, suggesting the potential for success with targeted improvements and increased community involvement, like improved access to clean water through payments, child protection awareness through initiatives like Children's Corners, and positive influences on school attendance and hygiene practices. However, certain challenges persist, particularly in areas distant from water points and among marginalised groups like people with disabilities. Inequities in access to WASH and CP services, coupled with issues of transparency, unmet fairness, and perceived favouritism, call for a more inclusive and transparent implementation process in existing and new initiatives.
- The evaluation reveals a multifaceted strategy employed by UNICEF in collaboration with various partners to ensure the sustainability and integration of water and sanitation initiatives

into future country programmes. Notable achievements include the successful implementation of introducing community tariff collection for water supply schemes, the pioneering collaboration with Microfinance Institutions for sanitation loans, and the promotion of resilient technologies for improved sanitation with advocacy for policy changes, legislative contributions, and community-driven approaches demonstrate a comprehensive and forward-thinking strategy. The project demonstrated that partnerships and collaboration are critical for leveraging the resources and long-term sustainability, and these should be developed and mobilised at different levels i.e. community, traditional authorities, districts, and state levels for fostering community ownerships and accountability.

- The project tackled multiple challenges that impacted its effective implementation like delays in finalising the programme document with World Vision, irregular Community Victim Support Unit meetings affecting coordination, security concerns leading to attempted theft and vandalism, climate induced disasters like cyclone Freddy, travel restrictions due to Covid-19 affecting on-site monitoring, and fuel shortages disrupting project activities. Lack of interest from teachers in schools was identified and various forms of abuse within homes were addressed. These findings underline the need for development of strengthening and developing a comprehensive integrated reporting and support system, preferably by using digital technologies, to generate evidence for improving need identification, case management and community coordination.
- Challenges such as limited resources and coordination issues regarding child justice, inadequate national oversight, concerns related to manual data collection, the absence of sustainable maintenance plans, economic bottlenecks, and governance shortcomings pose significant obstacles to the success and sustainability of various initiatives. Additionally, negative attitudes in rural areas, economic factors impacting pit emptying services, delays in communication, and the decision not to provide incentives to community volunteers introduce further complexities. The absence of a dedicated project manager or team leaders has also been highlighted as a potential issue for effective coordination and efficient resource management and reporting. To overcome and mitigate many of these risks and challenges, the existing and future programme should include development of a strategic plan with clear milestones, reporting arrangements and a vibrant communication strategy as a key pre-requisite,

Learnings:

- A reasonable time for planning and setting project management arrangements was not envisaged in the proposal evident from the year-01 targets that burdened the team. This was augmented by applying accelerated plans. However, this approach undermined the gestation required for the effective functioning of community and other structures. Communities had knowledge around the issues and concerns of WASH and protection but did not widely know how to engage and seek benefit from it. **In the future, it is recommended to include an ample timeframe for the planning phase and gestation time in project designs and proposals to maximize impact.**
- Initial results of this summative evaluation are promising, as communities reported significant improvements in resilience and protection because of integration of WASH services and protection mechanisms that fostered inclusiveness. However, **community feedback underscores the need for comprehensive service coverage, including water access at all locations, and highlights additional needs in nutrition, health, education, and livelihood interventions.**
- **The children's corner emerges as a strategic entry point for broader child-related initiatives, emphasising the potential for an inclusive and integrated child-centred programme.** A call for programme design within a defined geography, ensuring the involvement of all UNICEF programming components, is crucial for piloting, learning, and subsequent scaling backed with effective planning, efficient data management, and evidence generation.
- Though the project had been largely successful in integrated planning but lacked for integrating data collection and reporting. **The project counted the number of people benefiting from each component (CP, water supply and sanitation) separately. Thus, overall, the actual number of real beneficiaries might be different from what was being reported, as some individuals might had benefitted from all three components, and some individuals might with one component.** Thus, UNICEF and other Malawi programmes would need to revise, develop, and implement data collection systems and procedures to capture the actual number of individuals that benefitted from the integrated programme. This should go beyond CP and

WASH as communities reported the benefits and needs related to education, health, etc.

- The project teams utilised mWater to assess various critical aspects, including the operation and maintenance of the water system, general management procedures, financial performance, risk management protocols, and system security measures. **This shift to mWater aimed to streamline the monitoring process, especially considering the time and financial implications associated with physical visits of district officials and project teams.** It is important for UNICEF and its partners to assess the extent of implementation of such type of applications and document the learning for wider dissemination and scaling up.
- Dedicated human resources within existing teams of WASH, CP and other relevant sections of UNICEF Malawi were deployed who largely managed the project very well. However, this complex project faced a few challenges of coordination between the components and with the partners due to the absence of a dedicated focal person to take the lead on all aspects of the project through facilitation and coordination with respective sections, partners, and stakeholders. **UNICEF should establish clear ToRs for a task or team leader, even if nominated or deployed from the existing staff, to enhance the efficiency with better coordination.**

7. INTEGRATED PROGRAMMAING FOR UNICEF

“Building safe, inclusive, and resilient communities for women and children in Malawi” strode for strengthening Government system and different community structures through capacity development, social mobilisation, market led sanitation and behavioural change communication. Though project could not create arrangements of integrated reporting to determine the individuals who benefitted from both interventions, the FGDs held with the different groups and KIIs with stakeholders during the evaluation showed that this integration worked well and has the potential for scaling up with some adjustments in reporting and project management. The communities mentioned that the access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and improved protection services nearer to their homes had significantly enhanced security and safety of children and women. This also contributed to inclusiveness by improving interactions among different groups, and strengthening the referrals of key protection issues including violence, harassment, etc. The communities highlighted the need for missing of some opportunities and services like universal access to water services across the communities. Similarly, the communities indicated the needs for nutrition, health, education, and other livelihood interventions to strengthen their well-being and income levels. The concept of community gardening nearer water supply schemes to grow vegetables and fruits to generate funds for O&M and other community needs were critical in contributing to sustainability of services as well as access to nutritious food. Further, the results showed positive influence of increased enrolment in schools, employment opportunities of women in sanitation value chain, and increase in the livelihoods/savings. Due to lack of an integrated reporting and M&E system, these successes and linkages among different components and sectors had not been reported and documented. This intensifies the need for development of an effective and integrated M&E system with robust reporting mechanisms preferably using the digital technologies to the best possible extent. Further, the feedback from the communities to the evaluation team underlined the need for designing and implementing an integrated and inclusive child centred programme to address all key components of child rights and child vulnerabilities within a defined geography. This approach is being suggested exclusively for UNICEF consideration to improve local governance, coordination, capacity development, required financing and evidence generation through effective planning and efficient data management.

8.RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of this summative evaluation have been formulated based on the extensive findings, conclusions, and insights garnered throughout the evaluation process. Preliminary recommendations were initially discussed during follow-up virtual calls on the initial findings, conclusions, and recommendations with members of the Reference Group of Project Evaluation and focal persons of the WASH and CP sections of UNICEF Malawi Country Office on December 18, 2023, and December 21, 2023. Further refinement and additional inputs were solicited during a meeting with the Deputy Representative of UNICEF in Malawi held on December 27, 2023, as well as through subsequent follow-up calls with partners. These recommendations have been meticulously finalized and are presented in the table below. They have been designed to enhance the operational and strategic context of existing and future interventions, fostering inclusive and resilient communities in Malawi and other regions where UNICEF is actively engaged.

Background	Recommendations	Potential Constraints	Priority	Target User(s)
The utilisation of digital technologies, as highlighted in the evaluation report, has faced challenges, including limited familiarity, potential resistance to change, and resource constraints. These challenges impact the effective implementation of the project's proposed digital technology approach.	<u>Enhancing Digital Literacy and Technology Adoption:</u> To optimize the use of digital technology in the future initiatives, it is crucial for UNICEF to prioritise the development and execution of a comprehensive Digital Literacy and Technology Adoption Programme. This high-priority initiative should target UNICEF staff, implementing partners, and relevant government departments. The programme should include tailored training modules, hands-on sessions for planned platforms like SatWater, mWater, RapidPro and U-Report, inclusivity considerations, dedicated resource allocation, strategic communication emphasising benefits, and a continuous support mechanism. An	The success of this recommendation may face constraints such as initial resistance to change, time constraints for staff training, and potential budget limitations. To mitigate these constraints, a phased approach to training, involving change management strategies, and seeking additional funding sources could be explored.	High	UNICEF staff, implementing partners, and relevant government departments

	online helpline and directory of sanitation chain that includes trained masons and shops for sanitation will be helpful in contacting and creating competition among the service providers. Overcoming potential constraints through phased training and seeking additional funding sources will position the project for improved efficiency in real-time data collection, monitoring, and collaborative efforts, aligning with the goal of enhancing overall project outcomes and impact. Simultaneously this approach will enable UNICEF and its partners to reduce carbon emissions and building the potential for transferring knowledge and skills remotely and efficiently.			
The impact of cyclones and cholera break on water schemes, sanitation facilities, and project operations underscores the need for a robust response to unforeseen climatic events. In this context, integrating climate resilience	<u>Climate Resilience Integration Framework:</u> It is imperative for UNICEF to institute a comprehensive Climate Resilience Integration Framework across all projects. The framework should underpin on proactive project management strategies, structurally resilient construction techniques informed by environmental challenges, and a flexible adaptable operational approach to address post-cyclone. Community driven climate resilience and disaster risk preparedness and	To address potential constraints such as community reluctance and financial sustainability concerns, continuous community engagement, transparent communication, early warning systems, and adaptive financial adjustments based on community feedback should be integral	High	UNICEF Project Management Team and partners

across all projects becomes crucial to enhance adaptive capacity and minimise disruptions.	management be integrated into all programmes. Leveraging existing platforms for disseminating information will further ensure widespread awareness and understanding of the importance of climate resilience in UNICEF projects, aligning with the organisation's commitment to sustainable and impactful interventions.	components of this initiative.		
Intersectionality analysis recognises that individuals may experience multiple forms of discrimination and disadvantage simultaneously. In projects, understanding how factors intersect with gender can provide a more nuanced understanding of vulnerability. Nearly half of violence cases among children are attributed to	Intersectionality Analysis: Undertake an intersectionality analysis to recognise and assess the intersecting factors that contribute to varying experiences of vulnerability. Consider aspects such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and disability alongside gender to tailor interventions for individuals facing multiple forms of marginalisation. A beneficiary selection criterion, based on inclusive poverty scorecard, is essential for equity and inclusion at all levels. A specific initiative for “Parenting Programme” should be initiated for nurturing children and adolescents with a key focus on protection, inclusion and gender equity.	Conducting an intersectionality analysis requires expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research methods, which may be resource intensive. In addition, learning from other parenting programmes and conditional transfers through poverty scorecards shall be critical for integrated programme.	High	UNICEF Malawi and UNICEF HQ, Policy Makers, Partners

parents and care-givers, and this is significantly high towards girls				
The vulnerability of the project to climate risks necessitates a strategic integration of climate change knowledge into implementation of the programme activities.	<u>Integrating Climate Change Knowledge:</u> This involves incorporating climate resilience aspects into the training of Child Protection Workers, community awareness campaigns, market lead initiatives including private service providers, and disaster preparedness initiatives. The integration process is crucial for fortifying child protection efforts against the impacts of climate change.	Potential challenges may arise from resistance to expanding the programme scope, additional training requirements, and the need for additional resources to develop and deliver climate change training. To address resistance, effective communication strategies can highlight the long-term benefits of climate resilience and sharing the evidence of impact of climate change on child protection, survival, and development. Managing additional training requirements involves developing concise and targeted training modules. Securing resources can be facilitated through strategic partnerships, leveraging existing training platforms, and	Medium	Child Protection Workers, Community Leaders, volunteers Local private service providers. UNICEF, and Government Agencies

		exploring cost-effective training methodologies		
Recognising that child protection initiatives often require substantial time to complete and are subject to community concerns, there is a crucial need to target and focus these activities for maximum impact. Inclusivity and accessibility should be a key aspect of such initiatives, something that was not given due attention in the project.	<u>Community-Centric Approaches:</u> The project design comprises community-centric approaches, emphasising open dialogues with leaders and members, especially vulnerable groups, addressing specific community concerns, and tailoring activities to align with unique needs inclusively and making WASH services accessible for all. Capacity building is vital, requiring targeted training for UNICEF staff and partners, enhancing the skills of child protection specialists in strategic planning, need assessment for specific groups and streamlined project management, with a strong focus on inclusivity and accessibility. Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are recommended to track the efficiency of streamlined activities and regularly assess the impact of targeted approaches on community engagement, ensuring inclusivity in the evaluation process. Active participation, representation, and responsiveness are emphasised to foster a child protection program that is universally accessible and beneficial to all.	Prolonged timelines and community concerns may pose challenges to the efficient implementation of child protection initiatives. Overcoming these constraints involves strategic planning, community engagement, and continuous communication to address concerns and streamline the focus of activities.	Medium	UNICEF's Project Management Team, Child Protection Structures, Community Leaders, and Community Member

Gender-responsive budgeting aims to integrate a gender perspective into the budgetary process, ensuring that financial resources are allocated in a way that considers the unique needs and priorities of individuals within the project.	<u>Gender-Responsive and need driven Budgeting:</u> Implement gender-responsive and need driven budgeting to ensure that financial allocations consider the differing needs and priorities of men, women, and gender-diverse individuals as well as different groups like persons with disabilities, poorest of the poor, survivors of violence, orphans, etc. This can enhance resource distribution and impact, promoting gender equality and equity across all project components.	Existing budgeting practices may resist incorporating gender considerations and even needs of specific group that requires a cultural shift.	Medium	Finance and Budgeting Teams
The recommendation to address funding disbursement challenges arises from the observed difficulties within UNICEF's existing financial procedures, leading to delays in funding allocation and potential resource displacement. The complex bureaucratic processes and communication protocols have been identified as	<u>Addressing Funding Disbursement Challenges</u> Given the challenges associated with funding delays and resource displacement, it is imperative for UNICEF to prioritise the streamlining of its funding processes and communication protocols. This recommendation underscores the necessity of reviewing and optimising existing procedures to expedite financial disbursements to project partners, and even informing the concerned donors and partners.	Lengthy bureaucratic procedures and complex communication protocols within UNICEF may contribute to funding delays especially for institutional funding projects. Addressing these constraints requires organizational reforms, including simplifying procedures, enhancing communication channels, and adopting a proactive approach to address financial challenges promptly. Overcoming these	High	UNICEF HQ, UK Aid

significant contributors to these delays.		constraints is essential to ensure efficient resource allocation and timely project execution.		
The recommendation for the establishment of a long-term revolving fund stems from challenges in securing funds to replenish sanitation products, posing potential threats to the fund's sustainability. Inclusivity considerations, such as disability-related data, are crucial to ensure equitable access to sanitation services.	<u>Adaptive Financial Management:</u> Explore possibilities of replicating the collaboration with Microfinance Institutions for sanitation related financial products and loans in other projects and regions. Assess the economic impact and sustainability of this model and provide guidelines for integrating similar partnerships in future initiatives.		Medium	UNICEF, MFIs
	Strengthen advocacy efforts for policy integration of revolving funds in water and sanitation initiatives. Collaborate with government counterparts and other donors to institutionalize sustainable financing mechanisms for water and sanitation projects. (High priority, targeted at UNICEF, government counterparts, and donors).		High	UK Aid, UNICEF HQ
	Establish a working group involving community representatives, government officials, and UNICEF to review and enhance legislative contributions made by the project. Ensure new water and sanitation policies and strategies underline the		Medium	UNICEF, Government Counterparts and Legislative Bodies

	solutions for findings and community needs that emerged from this project.			
	Tailor financial strategies to specific socio-economic conditions, provide financial literacy programs, and explore community-driven approaches.	Rural communities' limited financial literacy may pose challenges in implementing tailored financial strategies. Implementing financial literacy programmes by engaging local leaders for advocacy and using simple and culturally appropriate educational materials can overcome this challenge. Unpredictable economic conditions in rural areas may impact the ability of communities to repay loans. Collaborating with local economic experts, developing risk-sharing mechanisms, and providing financial planning support to communities can help mitigate this challenge.	Medium	UNICEF
Traditional, one-size-fits-all media campaigns may not effectively reach and engage diverse	<u>Diversifying the Media Campaigns</u> Given the diverse nature of the population, it is imperative to tailor sanitation and hygiene and child protection messages to resonate with	Limited resources for diverse media channels, potential resistance to behaviour change, and varying levels of media	Medium	UNICEF Communication and Media Team, Media

demographic groups, particularly vulnerable households facing unique challenges. There is an acknowledgment that sanitation and hygiene and CP messaging need to be refined to resonate with the specific needs and concerns of these households. Additionally, presence of different communication channels and varying levels of media accessibility within the community necessitates a more inclusive and targeted approach.	the specific challenges faced by vulnerable households. Instead of aiming for a broad reach where information might be limited, campaigns can strategically target specific groups with more in-depth knowledge. This focused strategy has the potential to ensure that desired messaging is not only well-received but also comprehensively understood by those who are already knowledgeable in the subject matter.	accessibility among different demographic groups may pose challenges. Overcoming these constraints requires strategic resource allocation, community engagement strategies, and careful consideration of the diverse media landscape.		Partners and C4D teams
Being a WASH and CP focused project, the project lacked a focus regarding menstrual hygiene management initiatives.	<u>Incorporating Comprehensive MHM Strategies:</u> To enhance Menstrual Hygiene Management, it is crucial to implement comprehensive education programmes in schools and communities. These programmes	Constraints such as cultural taboos and limited access to educational resources may pose challenges. Overcoming these constraints requires	High	School Staff, Community Health Workers, Adolescent Girls, and Community

	should aim to raise awareness and eliminate stigmas surrounding menstruation. Collaborating with local businesses and NGOs to provide subsidised or free products can help address economic disparities associated with access to menstrual products. Advocating for the development and implementation of period-friendly policies in schools and workplaces can also be a positive step in the direction of subsidised menstrual products.	community engagement, culturally sensitive messaging, and the distribution of educational materials. Economic barriers may limit access to menstrual products, and overcoming these constraints involves collaboration with local businesses, advocacy for subsidies, and awareness campaigns. Resistance to policy changes and lack of awareness may hinder implementation, necessitating stakeholder engagement, awareness raising campaigns, and pilot programs to demonstrate feasibility.		Members, NGOs, UNICEF
Needs of persons with disabilities were not specifically focused upon by the project except for making water points accessible and a	<u>Implementing Inclusive Approaches</u> Designing and implementing tailored initiatives that consider the diverse needs of all community members, including those with disabilities, is a high-priority recommendation. This ensures inclusivity in programme	Limited resources for tailored education programmes may pose challenges, but overcoming these constraints involves collaboration with disability organisations,	High	UNICEF, Individuals with Diverse Needs, Community Leaders, NGOs, Government Departments

few sanitation services.	designing and implementation. Prioritising the creation of accessible infrastructure, including sanitation infrastructure, school infrastructure and recreational areas for children's corners and facilities is essential to cater to those with disabilities and handicapped. Developing communication strategies that cater to diverse needs, including accessible formats for individuals with visual or hearing impairments, can further enhance project's success. The programme should establish a link with disabled persons organisation (DPO) or forums to bring necessary accessibility, inclusion, and protection for persons with disabilities.	adapting existing materials, and incorporating inclusive teaching methods. This involves collaboration among urban planners, architects, local authorities, and individuals with disabilities. Existing infrastructure may not be designed for accessibility, and overcoming these constraints involves advocacy for universal design principles, policy changes, and collaboration with relevant authorities. Limited awareness of accessible communication methods may hinder inclusivity, and overcoming these constraints involves training communication teams, utilizing multiple channels, and involving individuals with disabilities in the development of materials. Limited		
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		collaboration with disability advocates may impact the inclusivity of initiatives, and overcoming these constraints involves proactive engagement, building partnerships, and incorporating diverse perspectives in programme planning.		
Nationwide representative and project specific data collection is pivotal in project evaluation, providing a comprehensive and accurate understanding of the project's impact on a larger scale. By collaborating with national statistical agencies, the project can access a wealth of expertise and resources, ensuring the data collected is reliable, relevant, and representative	<u>Enhancing Quality of Data:</u> Enhancing the quality of project review, evaluation, and knowledge management by collecting data that accurately reflects the diverse demographics and characteristics of the targeted population can facilitate a more inclusive and equitable assessment of the project's outcomes and can be a useful source for future initiatives.	The nationwide representative data collection initiative faces several challenges that necessitate careful planning and strategic mitigation strategies. Scaling up data collection efforts to cover a nationwide scale poses logistical challenges, requiring phased implementation and the incorporation of efficient technological tools. Resource constraints, including financial and human resources, may arise due to the extensive nature of the initiative, urging the need for external partnerships,	Medium	UNICEF HQ, National Statistical Agency

of the entire population.		exploration of funding opportunities, and prioritised allocation. Effective collaboration with national statistical agencies may encounter bureaucratic hurdles and methodological differences, emphasising the importance of clear communication channels and relationship-building strategies. Logistical challenges, such as coordinating simultaneous data collection efforts across diverse regions, can be addressed through a robust logistics plan and the utilisation of technology for real-time communication. Additionally, ensuring the quality and reliability of nationwide data collection requires rigorous training programmes, validation checks, and regular audits to maintain data		
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		integrity. While these challenges are significant, they provide opportunities for strategic planning, collaboration, and innovative solutions to enhance the effectiveness of the recommended nationwide data collection approach.		
A combination of data analysis, stakeholder feedback and the overall project evaluation, reflected a proactive response to the identified needs and challenges, aiming to provide a more effective and holistic approach to improving the well-being of children in a specific context.	<u>Implementing an Integrated Approach:</u> Addressing the pressing needs of children requires a comprehensive approach that goes beyond basic services. It is crucial to focus on additional dimensions such as nutrition, health, education, and livelihood interventions. Nutrition initiatives should ensure access to balanced and adequate food, coupled with educational efforts for caregivers. The health dimension involves providing essential healthcare services, vaccinations, and addressing common health challenges. Quality education is a fundamental pillar, necessitating access to formal education, quality teaching, and supportive learning environments. Livelihood interventions play a key role in	Implementing a comprehensive and integrated programme, faces several constraints. The foremost challenge lies in resource limitations, encompassing both financial constraints and a potential shortage of human resources. Logistically, coordinating efforts across diverse sectors such as nutrition, health, education, and livelihoods poses complexity, demanding efficient collaboration and communication. Community resistance or misalignment of	Medium	UNICEF HQ

	economic stability, encompassing income-generating activities, vocational training, and community-level economic opportunities. By integrating these dimensions, UNICEF can create holistic programmes that address the multifaceted needs of children, recognising the interconnected nature of nutrition, health, education, and livelihoods in fostering their overall well-being and development.	priorities could impede the successful execution of the programme, as existing beliefs and practices may not align with proposed interventions. Capacity-building needs for local institutions, community leaders, and service providers may be underestimated, slowing down implementation. Overcoming policy and regulatory barriers, ensuring cultural sensitivity and adaptation, and addressing sustainability concerns pose additional hurdles. Monitoring and evaluating the programme's impact may be compromised by limited data collection and evaluation capacities, while political instability, social unrest, and emergency situations may disrupt long-term development goals.	
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		Navigating these challenges requires a comprehensive risk assessment, adaptive strategies, and effective stakeholder engagement to ensure the successful implementation of the recommended initiatives.		
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9. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI

1. Government of Malawi should prioritise a comprehensive capacity development and implementation programme to enhance digital literacy of Government staff and other stakeholders to strengthen the referrals, monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems.
2. Government of Malawi should develop and implement guidelines for integration of climate resilient framework with focus on structurally resilient construction and flexible post-cyclone approaches for sustainability.
3. Government of Malawi should take necessary steps for incorporation of climate change into child protection worker trainings, community campaigns, and disaster preparedness efforts.
4. Inclusive project design, dialogues, and targeted training of Government of Malawi staff, local development partners and UNICEF should be pursued with a monitoring and evaluation system to streamline child protection and WASH activities.
5. Government of Malawi should explore the creation and integration of a sanitation revolving fund with different donors and introduce financial products of drinking water and sanitation in collaborating with Micro-finance institutions to enhance safely managed WASH services.
6. Social and behavioural change communication should be designed to address the specific needs of different groups with emphasis on inclusiveness, equity, accessibility, and access to finance for all.
7. An education programme for Menstrual Hygiene Management, addressing stigmas, collaborating for product accessibility, and advocating for implementation of period-friendly policies be initiated and integrated into existing programmes.

1.ANNEXES

Annex 1a: Project Log Frame

UK AID MATCH PROJECT NAME	Building safe, inclusive, and resilient communities for women and children in Malawi						
Grant reference (given on approval)	FQME-95ZT-XT		Log frame date/version	16/01/2024			
IMPACT	Impact Indicator 1		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	
Increased resilience to waterborne diseases and increased prevention and response to violence in Malawi	Percentage of children under 5 who report incidence of diarrhoeal diseases in the past two weeks	Planned	22%	21%	19%	19%	
		Achieved		NA	NA		
			Source				
	Impact Indicator 2		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	
	Number of women and girls who have experienced any sexual violence and also sought professional help in the last twelve months	Planned	1300	1430	1573	1573	
		Achieved					
		Source					
	OSC data-						
OUTCOME	Outcome Indicator 1		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	Assumptions
120,000 boys, girls, men, and women in the target communities are	Percentage of people using basic drinking water services	Planned	88%	91% (3% increase)	96% (8% increase)	98% (10% increase)	Political stability, willingness of stakeholders to work together and
		Achieved		Total: 91%	96%	99.2%	
		Source					

more resilient to Protection and WASH vulnerabilities.			Baseline: MICS 2020, Year 1 result: Project baseline completed in February 2022, Year 2: Project end line Milestone 2: Y2 Narrative Report Year3: Evaluation Survey- 99.2 % improved water and 95.6% with less than 30 minutes				collaborate, openness of community members to acquire and apply new skills and knowledge. Promotion and demand creation interventions will increase access to information about services and lead to increased service uptake by girls, boys, men, and women. Increased number of service points will lead to equitable increase in services uptake.
	Outcome Indicator 2		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	
	Percentage of people using basic sanitation services	Planned	80%	85% (5% increase)	90% (10% increase)	95% (15% increase)	
		Achieved		85%	88%	88.7%	
		Source					
			Baseline: MICS 2020, Year 1 result: Project baseline completed in February 2022, Year 2: Project end line Milestone 2: Y2 Narrative Report December 2023- evaluation survey, 88.7% HHs with access to latrines (51.3% are not shared).				
	Outcome Indicator 3		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	
	Number of people using basic protection services	Planned	64,000	70,400	83000	85000	
		Achieved		Total: 44,948 Male: 19093 Female: 25,855	Cumulative Total: 190,109 Male: 93,987 Female: 96,122	Cumulative Total 283,786 Male: 136,225 Female: 147,561	
		Source					
			Project progress reports, administrative data, Annual assessments		Project progress reports, administrative data, Annual assessments Y2 Narrative Report		
INPUTS (£)	DFID (£)		Match funding (£)	Other (£)	Total (£)	DFID SHARE (%)	

OUTPUT 1	Output Indicator 1.1		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	Assumption
30,000 Children, families, and community members adopt positive attitudes and behaviours.	Number of boys, girls, men, and women reporting SGVB to CP services points	Planned	0	-	7,500	12,000	C4D interventions engage the right people, increase their awareness and builds support for positive behaviours and service access and utilization. Openness of men, women, boys, girls, and community members to acquire and apply new skills and knowledge
		Achieved			8,400		
		Source					
		Activity reports, Project progress reports, 'Journey of Life' Y2 Narrative Report					
	Output Indicator 1.2		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	Assumption
WEIGHTING (25%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
		Achieved					
		Source					
INPUTS (£)	DFID (£)		Match funding (£)	Other (£)	Total (£)	DFID SHARE (%)	
OUTPUT 2	Output Indicator 2.1		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	Assumptions
120,000 people (girls, boys, men	Number of additional people	Planned	0	19,000	23,000	30,000	Supply and demand creations are

women) have access to improved and resilient water & Sanitation services	(disaggregated by sex) with access to improved drinking water services in target locations						properly embedded in the programmatic approach. Market of sanitation products is not heavily affected by externalities such as importation taxes, inflation etc
		Achieved		Total: 18274 Male: 8587 Female: 9687	Total: 23,933 Male: 11,375 Female: 12,558	Total 32,555 Male: 15,578 Female: 16,977	
		Source					
		progress reports and UNICEF data sheets					
	Output Indicator 2.2		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	
	Number of additional people (disaggregated by sex) with access to improved market-based sanitation services in target locations.	Planned	0	30,000	60,000	120,000	
		Achieved		Total: 5498 Male: 2694 Female: 2804	Total: 68,677 Male: 32,236 Female: 36,641	Total 137,673 Male: 50,474 Female: 87,199	
		Source					
		progress reports, districts reports					
		Y2 Narrative Report					
INPUTS (£)	DFID (£)		Match funding (£)	Other (£)	Total (£)	DFID SHARE (%)	

OUTPUT 3	Output Indicator 3.1		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	Assumptions
8,000 Boys, Girls, Women, Men	Number of new reported cases of	Planned	0	1,000	6,000	8,000	Promotion and demand creation

receive quality and coordinated services to prevent and respond to all forms of violence.	violence against girls, boys, men and women through UNICEF supported services.	Achieved		Total: 1,553 Male: 186 Female: 1,367	Total: 11,299 Male: 5,111 Female: 6,188	Total 11,299 + 4929 = 1,6288 Male 5,111+ 2132= 7,243 Female 6,188 +2797= 8,985	interventions will increase demand for access and utilization of protection services. Capacity development of service providers will lead to improved service delivery and increased confidence by the public in protection services.
				Source			
				Project Progress report, RapidPro mobile data platform (capturing data from the PVSU, CVSU and courts), Case management data in CPIMS.			
				Y2 Narrative Report			
WEIGHTING (25%)	Output Indicator 3.2		Baseline	Milestone 1 (March 2022)	Milestone 2 (March 2023)	Target (Dec 2023)	
	Number of children's corners linked to other service providers.	Planned	300	450	600	600	
		Achieved		Total: 398 Male: N/A Female: N/A Persons living with disabilities: N/A	Total: 550 Male: N/A Female: N/A Persons living with disabilities: N/A	550+300 = 850	
				Source			
				Project progress reports, RapidPro mobile data platform			
				Y2 Narrative Report – third year data based on the verbal communication			
INPUTS (£)	DFID (£)		Match funding (£)	Other (£)	Total (£)	DFID SHARE (%)	

Annex 1b: Draft UNICEF LEaRNS

Background

Malawi, ranked among the world's poorest nations, faces economic challenges, climate shocks, and significant socio-economic issues. The Malawian economy struggles with poverty, high inflation, and impacts on food supply. Children encounter well-being challenges, including violence and limited access to essential services.

Socioeconomic Indicators: Malawi's challenges encompass slow economic growth, gender-based violence, child marriages, and a literacy gender gap. The Malawi 2063 initiative aims for transformation into an upper-middle-income country.

Social Protection and Political Indicators: Gender-based violence is a serious concern, ranking 145th globally in the UN Gender Inequality Index. Child protection faces funding challenges. Legal frameworks for gender equality and child protection encounter enforcement issues.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Malawi grapples with challenges in safe drinking water and sanitation services, disproportionately affecting women and children. Insufficient funding, ineffective leadership, and gender-inclusive issues hinder progress in the WASH sector.

Project Focus

Targets vulnerable populations in Blantyre and Lilongwe, addressing multidimensional poverty and climate change impacts. Over 3.8 million children face poverty and challenges across their lifecycle.

Child Protection and Violence Prevention: Aims to reduce violence against children, focusing on harmful norms. Seeks a 20% increase in positive practices adoption and awareness about reporting violent incidents.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Focuses on SDG 6, striving for a 20% increase in access to basic drinking water and improved sanitation services. Addresses poor water quality and quantity, emphasizing climate-resilient water supply.

Integration of WASH and Child Protection: Adopts an integrated approach, combining WASH with child protection programming. Emphasizes coordination among stakeholders to address challenges faced by women and children.

Gender Equality and Empowerment: Contributes to gender equality, addressing discrimination, violence, and harmful customs. Targets equal opportunities for women in leadership and recognizes caregiving services.

Strategic Alignment with National Policies: Aligns with Malawi's National Water Policy 2023, National Child Protection Strategy (2022-2026), and National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy (2018-2024).

Project Components and Budget: Outputs include positive behaviour adoption, increased water and sanitation access, and coordinated violence prevention. Primarily funded by the UK government.

Social Inclusion Targets: Directly benefits various groups, contributing to a wide-reaching impact on the community.

Challenges in Data Collection: Despite efforts, certain crucial information, including total resources and budget details from partners, remains unavailable, impacting the depth of the evaluation. Acknowledges the importance of transparency and accuracy.

Theory of Change (ToC): Aims to increase community resilience against waterborne illnesses and violence against women and children. Assumptions include stability, absence of disasters, community acceptance, project coordination, and flexible payment acceptance.

Implementation Status: In the final phase, showcasing adaptability and resilience despite challenges like Cyclone Freddy.

Equity Analysis: While no formal equity analysis conducted, equity and inclusivity were integral to the project design.

Gender, Power, and Human Rights: In-depth exploration of gender dynamics, power structures, and human rights throughout the design and implementation.

Contextual Relevance: Consideration of broader socio-economic, cultural, and political landscapes for contextual relevance.

Key Stakeholders: Involves key stakeholders such as FCDO, UNICEF, development partners, duty bearers, and rights holders.

Evaluation Management Arrangements: Managed by the Chief REKM (Mussarrat Youssuf) with an Evaluation Reference Group. AWF Pvt Ltd engaged Centre for Social Research as local partner for ethical data collection.

Purpose of the Evaluation: The evaluation aims to assess the overall completeness of the project, tailored to meet the specific needs of primary and secondary stakeholders. Primary stakeholders include UNICEF Malawi, UK Aid, and government counterparts of Malawi, while secondary stakeholders comprise NGO partners.

Intended Use by Stakeholders: Primary stakeholders seek assessment against the Theory of Change (ToC) and Log frame, inter-sectoral programming, and identification of operational adjustments. Government counterparts aim to use findings for policy guidance and designing new initiatives. Project beneficiaries anticipate improved lives through evidence-based programming.

Objectives of the Evaluation: The evaluation objectives encompass assessing project achievements, performance metrics, implementation effectiveness, project management adequacy, integrated implementation strategies, lesson learning, and recommendations. It also focuses on accountability and reporting.

Scope of the Evaluation: The evaluation has a thematic/programmatic scope, covering Lilongwe and Blantyre districts from April 2021 to December 2023. The project's original budget is GBP 3,333,334, with variations noted in financial documents. Evaluation criteria align with OECD-DAC guidelines, integrating gender and human rights perspectives.

Methodology

Key evaluation questions focus on efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact orientation. The approach includes participatory analysis, contribution analysis, gender-responsive and equity-focused strategies, and integration of cross-cutting themes. The evaluation framework is structured with clear questions, indicators, and a rubric for standardized assessment. Data collection methods include a desk review, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, household surveys, and field observations.

Ethical Considerations and Quality Assurance: Ethical considerations emphasize participant well-being, voluntary and informed participation, confidentiality, and inclusive approaches. Quality assurance mechanisms include pre-evaluation testing, training and orientation, local expertise, daily data checks and feedback, completeness criteria, guideline implementation, triangulation methods, transparency, and ethical standards. Challenges such as limited data collection time and stakeholder engagement were mitigated through extended efforts and enhanced communication protocols.

Dissemination of Evaluation Learning: The dissemination of evaluation learning is planned through a consultative, inclusive, and participatory process. A summary report titled "UNICEF LEaRNS" has been developed for wide dissemination, incorporating relevant pictures before sharing with key stakeholders.

Progress Against Outputs: The project demonstrated exceptional progress against predetermined outputs, surpassing success targets across various components. Output 1, initially targeting 20,000 beneficiaries, benefited 79,812. Water and sanitation initiatives directly impacted 30,429 and 126,706 people, respectively. Case management reached 4,929 beneficiaries, highlighting significant success. However, concerns about beneficiary enumeration methods raise questions about accuracy.

Progress Against Targets: Ongoing activities contributed to increased beneficiaries, with a grand total of 454,014 across components and genders. Figures indicate achievements exceeding targets by 336%. Noteworthy achievements include surpassing targets for people with disabilities, survivors of violence, and overall beneficiaries, showcasing a remarkable 24,993 beneficiaries over the program's goal.

Project Highlights: The project overcame initial delays, conducted a successful baseline survey, and adapted strategies to navigate setbacks. Triumphs in water supply and sanitation components were notable, achieving 101% and 106% of their respective targets. Despite challenges, child protection progress was substantial, reaching 95% implementation and redirecting funds for children's direct support.

Technology and Monitoring: While a digital tech strategy was planned, challenges in staff familiarity and resource constraints hindered full implementation. However, the project demonstrated adaptability and resilience in adjusting strategies to exceed planned targets, showcasing efficiency in resource allocation and management.

Implementation Challenges: The project faced varied challenges, including security concerns and external factors like cyclones. Adaptive strategies played a crucial role in addressing these challenges. Cost analysis revealed strategic spending, with a direct per-beneficiary cost of USD 9, emphasizing cost-effectiveness.

Child Protection Component Achievements: The Child Protection component achieved substantial progress in strengthening community structures, assessing One-Stop Centres, police training, psychological first aid, engaging community volunteers, and implementing Children's Corner and Journey of Life initiatives. Media and SBCC campaigns reached a significant audience, and there was a notable reduction in gender-based violence. The community victim support unit facilitated justice, while HIV care and access to ART saw positive outcomes.

General Overview

The evaluation encompasses various project components, notably Child Protection and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), with a pronounced focus on community engagement. The project seeks to enhance the well-being of women and children.

Child Protection: Approximately 32% of respondents were aware of child protection services. Counselling and community advocacy were prominent, while helplines and sporting activities had lower recognition. The majority of households supporting child protection services called for increased access. Though 67% lacked knowledge of interventions, 28% felt interventions led to active participation.

WASH: The implementation of six solar-powered water schemes benefited over 30,000 individuals, positively impacting sanitation and hygiene behaviours. The strategic placement of water sources reduced time spent collecting water, particularly benefiting women and girls. Gender mainstreaming efforts and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives contributed to improved community health.

Gender Mainstreaming: Efforts for equal participation in decision-making roles were made, with female involvement in sanitation increasing to 12%.

CLTS: A five-day triggering exercise reached 254,000 people, resulting in 58,999 latrines. 89% of households now have access to a latrine facility, showcasing a decrease in pit latrines and an increase in improved latrines.

Real-time Water Remote Monitoring System: Implemented across 15 solar-powered water schemes, the system collaborates with Water Missions International for the SatWater platform. The mWater platform aids in remote identification and support, ensuring the transition to government for long-term sustainability.

Media-Based Campaigns and Community Engagement: A multi-layered approach was employed for sanitation and hygiene promotion, reaching over 500,000 beneficiaries. Sanitation voucher initiatives and health surveillance assistants played vital roles in personalized outreach.

Sanitation Initiatives: Infrastructure Development and Community Awareness: Affordable latrine technologies based on local preferences were developed, addressing supply chain challenges. Masons received comprehensive training, and support for sanitation entrepreneurs included loans and skills training.

Sanitation Capacity Building and Business Development: Masons received training in various areas, contributing to improved latrines. Associations for pit emptiers were formed, emphasizing compliance and licensing.

Sanitation Revolving Fund Initiatives and Performance: Revolving funds at the community level collaborated with shops, masons, and local leaders. Loans were provided to 3,150 households, with challenges in community awareness noted.

Achievement of Planned Results in ToC and Log Frame: The Theory of Change (ToC) remained largely valid despite climate risks and hazards. The project aimed for a shift to a market-led approach for water and sanitation, emphasizing system strengthening and community mobilization. The transition to government for long-term sustainability signifies collaborative success.

Effectiveness of Log Frame Indicators and Monitoring Frequency: The original log frame aligned with ToC, later revised for efficiency. Data collection frequencies varied, with reliability ensured through multiple sources. Challenges like cholera outbreaks and COVID-19 precautions were not initially recognized in the log frame.

Processes Impacting Outcome Achievement: Enablers and Constraints: Leveraging existing structures and establishing linkages in the justice system had positive impacts. Challenges in the justice system and addressing various forms of abuse within homes require comprehensive approaches. Communication channels' reliability depends on trust, underscoring the importance of community input.

Program Implementation Challenges: Delayed funds transfer impacted project initiation, and late recruitment for child protection components caused delays. Tropical storms and cholera outbreaks necessitate continuous adaptation. Economic challenges in Malawi require adaptive financial management.

Poor of the Poorest Voucher Initiative: Challenges related to community affordability and increased costs highlight the need for testing and adjusting financial models based on community needs.

Measures for Improving Capacities of Partners:

Government Engagement and Ownership:

- District officials actively committed to child protection activities.
- Collaboration with various ministries reinforced an integrated approach.
- Joint visits with senior government officials ensured alignment with regulations.

Partnership Agreements and Safeguarding Protocols:

- UNICEF signed comprehensive agreements with partners, including safeguarding policies.
- Training of Trainers (TOT) sessions conducted for partners on safeguarding policies.

Capacity Building through Training:

- Targeted programs, including Child Protection TOT and PSEA training for staff.
- Orientation and Sensitization Activities:
- Extensive orientations on PSEA, child safeguarding, and violence prevention.
- Plans to increase UNICEF visibility and monitoring in the field.

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms:

- Enhanced reporting with boxes placed in UNICEF offices.
- WVI officers trained to identify barriers during face-to-face PSEA training.

Policy Incorporation in Activities:

- Safeguarding issues incorporated in all WVI activities through participant orientation.
- Water for People reviewed procurement policy for ethical practices.

Continuous Learning and Improvement:

- Ongoing quarterly training for continuous capacity development.
- Regular visits to check safeguarding issues through observing children's activities.

Adaptability and Conflict Resolution:

- Proactive conflict resolution addressing challenges through explanations, discussions, and acceleration plans.

Signing of Acknowledgment Forms:

- Corrective actions planned based on identified areas for improvement in acknowledgment forms.

Community Empowerment:

- Extended sensitization efforts to community leaders, empowering them to prevent violence against children and women.

Strategies for Inclusive Participation:

The general impact of the project has been notably positive, particularly among school children, reflecting an inclusive approach that ensures equal opportunities for all, irrespective of background. Marginalized groups have experienced tangible benefits, with improved water sources significantly reducing the need for long walks to fetch water. The positive effects have extended community-wide, positively impacting households, community members, chiefs, and water users. However, challenges persist, including disparities in access to clean water in specific areas and difficulties in reaching certain groups. The active participation of stakeholders, encompassing households, community members, chiefs, and water users, underscores the collaborative nature of the project.

Beneficiary Satisfaction and Differential Impacts Across Demographics:

The project has generated positive socioeconomic impacts, leading to increased school enrolment and employment opportunities. However, challenges persist, notably in limited water points causing disparities in access. Community feedback reflects a mixed impact, emphasizing the importance of water availability and positive influences on child protection and WASH activities awareness. Despite achievements, community empowerment faces challenges, including unequal distribution of water taps and boreholes, lack of unity among leaders, and discrepancies in knowledge about UNICEF's contributions. Transparency and accountability issues have been raised, emphasizing the need for fairness in selection and distribution processes. From the community leader's perspective, reports indicate disparities in project reach, with specific villages expressing dissatisfaction due to a lack of

tap water. Women in the community have raised concerns about health hazards from unprotected wells, underscoring the need for a wider distribution of water projects. Overall, transparency and equity concerns persist, highlighting areas for improvement in project implementation.

Sustainability and Integration into Future Country Programmes:

The project's sustainability strategies encompass various dimensions, including innovative monitoring and evaluation efforts. Ongoing capacity-building initiatives employ the mWater platform for district councils and water point committees, complemented by a real-time water remote monitoring system in solar-powered water schemes using the SatWater platform. Noteworthy is the collaboration with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) for sanitation loans, showcasing their pivotal role. Resilient technologies, such as cyclone and flood-resistant pit latrines, have been introduced, influencing households to adopt climate-resilient options like water harvesting. The pay-as-you-fetch model, tested in selected water schemes, has shown promise in enhancing tariff revenues and overall sustainability. The project aligns with government policies, integrating into the National Climate Resilient Climate Strategy, and actively supports legislative changes, contributing to the professionalization of rural water supply services.

Sustainable impact strategies emphasize community engagement and ownership, cost-recovery mechanisms, income generation through water sales, community gardens, child protection awareness, volunteer engagement, capacity building, government involvement, and collaboration with Microfinance Institutions. The project's focus on resilient technologies, legislative contributions, responsible pit-emptying practices, and the establishment of a hygiene shop with a credit facility further underscores its comprehensive approach to achieving lasting impact in water and sanitation services. Ongoing efforts are directed towards addressing challenges in the implementation of monitoring tools and integrating them at the national level while advocating for policy integration and sustainable financing mechanisms.

Navigating Bottlenecks: Strategies for Sustainable Scaling:

The strategies for sustainable scaling outline a comprehensive approach to address challenges and enhance the impact of water and sanitation projects. Collaboration and coordination among development agencies are emphasized to foster a unified approach to child justice issues. The integration of mobile applications and internet-based systems for efficient data collection, coupled with stakeholder training on digital tools, is recommended. To tackle resource constraints, financial planning strategies, and innovative financing options for major repairs are suggested. Community engagement and perception management involve formative research, community programs, and robust incentive systems for volunteers.

The pivotal role of a dedicated project manager for centralized leadership and accountability is highlighted. Strategies for sustainable impact include strengthening technological capabilities, allocating funds for technology adoption, and fostering partnerships with development agencies and local businesses. Robust governance and oversight systems, advocacy for sustainable financing mechanisms, and legislative changes are crucial components. Learning integration for UNICEF programming involves capacity building, digital technologies, community engagement, and innovative financing in future programs.

The report recognizes the community impact and resilience building achieved, notably in reducing cholera cases and enhancing protection for vulnerable groups. Inclusive empowerment success is acknowledged for beneficiaries with disabilities and survivors of violence, with identified challenges such as dissatisfaction and unfulfilled promises, presenting opportunities for improvement through ongoing training and thorough needs assessments. Recommendations include allowing appropriate time for project inception, implementing a systematic approach for training, actively involving individuals with disabilities, and establishing a robust monitoring and evaluation system.

Strategic Initiatives for Child Protection and WASH Sustainability:

The Comprehensive Village Support Units (CVSUs) play a pivotal role in ensuring continued support for vulnerable individuals even after the conclusion of the project. The integration of Children's Corners with government policies significantly contributes to the sustainability of positive impacts. The adoption of a case management approach demonstrates a commitment to addressing the unique needs of children over the long term. In enhancing WASH services, capacity building initiatives have been instrumental in fortifying operational capabilities. The implementation of remote monitoring through mWater and SatWater not only ensures efficiency but also reduces operational costs. Collaboration with Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) to establish sanitation loans as a lasting financial product adds to the sustainability of services. Community engagement, coupled with cost-recovery mechanisms and selling water, contributes to the sustained provision of services.

However, challenges persist in beneficiary engagement and feedback analysis, with the absence of structured mechanisms hindering effective responses to concerns. The lack of a formal feedback loop poses challenges in adapting project activities based on beneficiary insights. Insights and strategies for an inclusive future recommend allocating more resources for non-physical interventions in water projects, targeted outreach programs for vulnerable populations, and reviewing mechanisms for efficient resource disbursement. Unanticipated effects include positive outcomes such as sustainability through community involvement, improved school attendance, and policy influence. On the downside, challenges arise from water source preferences, the impact of Cyclone Freddy, mixed community reactions, engaging persons with disabilities, limited use of digital technologies, and challenges in police involvement. Despite these challenges, the overall approach emphasizes a commitment to sustainability and inclusive development.

Project Success and Achievements:

The project exhibited remarkable success and achievements, surpassing set target goals by an impressive 336% and validating the project's theory of change. The approach of strengthening systems through capacity building and engaging the private sector proved effective. Notably, the project made significant strides in inclusivity by serving people with disabilities and survivors of violence, although challenges were encountered in meeting targets for orphan and vulnerable children, emphasizing the importance of inclusive data recording. Log frame revisions successfully addressed descriptive targets despite challenges like cholera outbreaks and cyclones, but there is a need for improved synchronization of different data streams for reporting. Continuous monitoring and adaptive strategies are highlighted as crucial for addressing persistent challenges in police responsiveness, gender norms, and awareness.

Strategic acceleration plans, including parallel interventions and enhanced quarterly targets, efficiently tackled delays. However, the limited visibility of digitalization in child protection and sanitation underscores the necessity for integrated digital technologies. The sustainability of sanitation initiatives is promoted through strengthening marketing, a sanitation revolving fund, and continuous monitoring, emphasizing an inclusive approach and community engagement. Positive impacts on public health and empowerment were observed through WASH initiatives, highlighting the pivotal role of community engagement in project success.

Gender mainstreaming efforts, such as gender-inclusive latrines and training initiatives, were implemented, and strategic allocation of funds demonstrated efficiency, with 47% dedicated to WASH and 34% to child protection. Despite facing challenges like delays, security concerns, and climate-induced disasters, the project showcased the importance of collaborative partnerships for success. The initiative addressed challenges through community tariff collection, collaboration with Microfinance Institutions, and the promotion of resilient technologies. However, obstacles such as limited resources, coordination issues, and governance shortcomings underscore the need for a comprehensive integrated reporting system, digital technologies, and strategic planning to ensure sustained success and overcome risks.

Learnings from the Evaluation:

The evaluation identified key learnings for future project planning and implementation. Insufficient time allocated for planning in the proposal resulted in accelerated plans that hindered the development of effective community structures. The integration of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services with protection mechanisms showed significant improvements in resilience, but community feedback highlighted the need for comprehensive coverage, including nutrition, health, education, and livelihood. The strategic role of the Children's Corner was emphasized, calling for program design involving all UNICEF components. While the project succeeded in integrated planning, recommendations were made for improved data collection systems. The use of mWater for assessment was commended, with a suggestion for wider dissemination of learnings. Dedicated human resources effectively managed the project, but challenges in coordination stressed the need for a dedicated focal person for enhanced efficiency and coordination.

Recommendations:

The recommendations aim to strengthen various aspects of UNICEF's projects. First, a comprehensive Digital Literacy and Technology Adoption Programme is proposed to enhance technological skills among UNICEF staff, partners, and government departments, addressing potential challenges through phased training and seeking additional funding. The Climate Resilience Integration Framework advocates for proactive project management and community-driven resilience strategies. An intersectionality analysis is recommended to address vulnerability factors, while integrating climate resilience into various initiatives is suggested. Community-centric approaches with open dialogues, gender-responsive budgeting, and adaptive financial management are recommended strategies. Diversifying media campaigns, incorporating comprehensive Menstrual Hygiene Management strategies, and implementing inclusive approaches are proposed for tailored interventions. Finally, enhancing the quality of data collection and implementing an integrated approach across dimensions like nutrition, health, education, and livelihood are suggested to overcome various challenges and optimize project impact.

Annex 2: Evaluation Framework

Key Evaluation Questions	Sub Questions	Data Sources/ Approaches to Addressing Key Evaluation Questions	Data Sources	Indicators/ Standards	Success
Efficiency					
- Have the project activities been executed on time, in expected quantity and quality? - Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically and managed efficiently to achieve the intended outcomes? - How efficient was UNICEF in providing the required support to partner organisations/ government departments? - What factors affected the pace and quality of implementation and why? - Was the programme implemented most efficiently compared to alternatives (cost analysis)?	- Were project activities completed within the initially planned timeframes? - What percentage of activities met the expected quantity and quality standards? - What deviations from the schedule were encountered and why? - Were there any specific challenges in meeting quality standards? - How were funds allocated and utilised throughout the project?	Project Documentation Review: Examining project timelines, reports, and budgets to assess the efficiency of activities, resource allocation, and compliance with the project objectives, challenges in implementation of the project activities and their counter measures. Interviews and Discussions: Conducting interviews and discussions with project staff,	Project Documents (Project timelines, progress reports, budget and expenditure reports, quarterly reports, agreements and MoUs signed, partnership documents, risk assessments, ToC, log frame and M&E reports), KIIs (UNICEF staff, project partners, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Water and	- Percentage of activities completed within the planned schedule. - Compliance rates against predefined quality standards or benchmarks - Deviation percentage from the planned timelines - Percentage of funds spent compared to the allocated budget for specific project phases. - Ratio of human resources' skillsets to the	

	• Were there instances where resource allocation caused bottlenecks or delays? • Were there cost overruns or underspending in particular project areas? • How responsive was UNICEF in addressing the needs of other involved stakeholders? • How timely and effective were the support mechanisms offered by UNICEF? • What external factors (political, environmental, socioeconomic) affected the project implementation pace and quality? • Were there internal organisational issues that impacted implementation	stakeholders, and beneficiaries to gather information about the pace and quality of project implementation and management of resources. Cost-Benefit Analysis: Performing a cost analysis to compare the efficiency of the project with alternative approaches to achieving the same outcomes. Observations: Conducting field observations to directly assess the efficiency of project activities.	Sanitation, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and Malawi Police) FGDs (community members, HSAs, and members of children's corner) HH survey, field observations	project requirements • Frequency of resource-related delays or bottlenecks • Average time taken by UNICEF to respond to stakeholders' needs. • Feedback score from partners on the relevance of resources provided. • Comparative cost-benefit analysis against similar interventions or alternative strategies • Identification of areas where cost savings were possible without compromising quality. • Percentage increase in the timely reporting of violence cases through
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	efficiency? • How does the cost of the implemented programme compare to other alternatives or similar interventions? • Were there areas where cost savings could have been made without compromising programme quality? • How effectively has the use of digital technology, specifically the RapidPro platform, contributed to monitoring and strengthening national and district-level data collection on violence against children? • In what ways has the mobile phone (SMS) reporting system enhanced the			the RapidPro platform compared to traditional reporting methods. • Time lapse between case identification and response by authorities or service providers using the mobile phone (SMS) reporting system. • Number of U-report surveys conducted periodically to measure knowledge and attitudes towards child protection issues
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	gathering of near real-time data on cases of violence from various sources, including Children's corners, Community Victim Support Units, Police Victim Support Units, and Child Justice Courts?			
Effectiveness				
• What are the major achievements and results of the project? • To what extent the actual results as captured in the planned ToC and the log frame were achieved? • How useful were the log frame indicators? How regularly the monitoring of key indicators in the log frame has been conducted? If not, what were the challenges? • What processes have enabled or hindered the achievement of outcomes and outputs; and what could have been done differently to address those constraints? • What measures were	• What were the key milestones or accomplishments of the project? • Can quantitative achievements (e.g., number of beneficiaries) be identified, and what were the qualitative outcomes (e.g., behavioural changes)? • Were there any unanticipated or unintended outcomes that emerged as significant achievements? • To what extent	Document Analysis: Reviewing project documents, such as reports, progress summaries, and log frames, to evaluate the major achievements and alignment with the Theory of Change. Interviews and Discussions: Interviewing project staff, stakeholders, and experts to	Project Documents (Final reports and performance summaries, ToC documents, log frame indicators, capacity building reports and training materials, feedback and complaint logs, budget reports, quarterly reports, and M&E reports) KIIs (UNICEF staff, community leaders, Ministry of Gender,	• Number of beneficiaries reached, including men and women, children, and persons with disabilities infrastructure projects completed, or services provided. • Changes in behaviour, community empowerment, or impact on quality of life, based on focus group discussions and

undertaken and/or are required to improve the capacity of the project partners and UNICEF programmes for integrated programming on CP and WASH? • What strategies were adopted by the project to include and provide equal opportunities to men and women, girls, and boys from marginalised communities to benefit from project interventions? • How satisfied or dissatisfied were the men and women beneficiaries with the interventions they received under this project? Were there any differentiated results across groups e.g., women, men, girls, boys, adolescents, and youth, extreme poor, persons with disabilities, survivors of violence, urban/rural etc.?	were the actual results in line with the Theory of Change and Log Frame objectives? • What adjustments or modifications were made to the initial ToC and Log Frame, and what led to these alterations? • Were these changes effective in achieving the desired outcomes, and were there any unanticipated results? • How useful were the Log Frame indicators in capturing and measuring project progress? • Were the key indicators monitored regularly, and if not, what were the challenges in monitoring them consistently? • Did any	gather information on the project's effectiveness and any changes made to achieve the desired results. Capacity-Building Assessment: Evaluating the effectiveness of capacity-building efforts through interviews and reviewing training materials and reports. Inclusion and Equal Opportunity Assessment: Assessing the strategies for inclusion and equal opportunities through interviews, project documents, and direct observations of	Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, District Councils, Malawi Police, and project partners) FGDs (field staff, members and facilitators of children's corner, community members, HSAs, and attendees of JoL workshops) HH survey, field observations	observations. • A comparison of initially planned milestones versus actual outcomes • The impact of changes made to the ToC and Log Frame on achieving desired outcomes. • Percentage of key indicators monitored as per the schedule. • Qualitative feedback on challenges in monitoring Log Frame indicators • Number or categorisation of internal/external obstacles affecting project outcomes. • The success rate of adapting strategies to address constraints. • Measurement
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	indicators prove to be more useful or less relevant than initially anticipated? • What organisational or external processes positively contributed to the achievement of project outcomes? • What hindrances or challenges affected the project's outputs and outcomes, and what could have been done differently to mitigate these constraints? • Were any unforeseen external factors impactful in influencing the project's outcomes and outputs? • What further measures or training could improve the effectiveness of	inclusive practices.		of external factors' impact on the project's success • Assessment of the effectiveness of capacity-building programmes for partners • Evidence of improved integrated programming in CP and WASH • Measurement of the inclusivity of project interventions across various demographic groups • Differentiated results across specific groups (e.g., women, men, children, marginalised communities)
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	integrated programming efforts in CP and WASH? • What specific strategies were implemented to ensure equal access for marginalised communities and different gender groups? • To what extent were these strategies successful in providing equal opportunities for various subgroups within the community? • How satisfied were different beneficiary groups with project interventions, and were there discernible variations among these groups? • Were there any specific findings that differentiated results among various			
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	beneficiary demographics (e.g., gender, age, socioeconomic status)?			
Sustainability				
- To what extent the achieved results continue, be replicated, or integrated into policies, strategies, and programmes in the UNICEF next Country Programme after the funding ceases? - To what extent the project influenced the national or local level commitment for resource allocations and leveraging? - What strategies for sustainability have been adopted and how effective these have been in ensuring the continuity of project benefits beyond the project life? - Are there any challenges that hamper the implementation of sustainability strategy? If yes, how did the project plan to address them? - Which capabilities, investments, partners, and management systems would need to be improved or introduced in order to ensure	- To what extent have the project's achieved results been aligned or integrated into the plans of the upcoming UNICEF Country Programme? - How likely is the replication of these results in future UNICEF initiatives or other stakeholders' initiatives once project funding ends? - What measurable changes have occurred in resource allocations or leveraging at the national or local level due to the project's influence or outcomes?	Sustainability Plan Review: Evaluating the project's sustainability strategies by reviewing sustainability plans and M&E framework. Policy Analysis: Analyse policy changes and government commitments that indicate the project's influence on resource allocation. Stakeholder Interviews: Interviewing project stakeholders and government officials to gather information on	Project Documents (Sustainability strategy documents and action plans, risk assessment reports, M&E framework of the project, project bottleneck analysis, and scaling-up plans) KIIs (UNICEF staff, project partners, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, District Councils,	- Percentage of project results integrated into the upcoming UNICEF Country Programme - Feasibility rating of replicating project results in future UNICEF initiatives - Quantifiable changes in resource commitments influenced by the project. - Stakeholder perceptions of commitment due to the project's influence - Evaluation of the performance and

sustainable impacts? • What are the key bottlenecks to sustain and scale up the outcomes of this project? How to overcome them? • In which ways the learning from this project can be integrated with UNICEF programming to ensure long-term, sustainable, and scaling up of similar programmes?	• How visible are the effects of the project on securing commitments for resources? • What specific strategies were employed to ensure the sustainability of project benefits post-project duration? • Can the effectiveness of these strategies be measured in terms of their impact on continuity of benefits? • What are the primary challenges hindering the implementation of sustainability strategies, and how does the project plan to address these obstacles? • Which areas in terms of capabilities, investments,	the sustainability strategies and challenges. Bottleneck Analysis: Identifying and addressing bottlenecks to sustainability through bottleneck analysis and interviews with stakeholders. Scaling Up Assessment: Assessing the project's potential for scaling up outcomes and identify challenges and strategies. Integration with UNICEF Programming: Examine how the project's learning can be integrated into UNICEF programming to ensure long-term	and Malawi Police) FGDs (Community leaders) HH survey	effectiveness of sustainability strategies by analysing project's key performance indicators • Percentage of project benefits sustained beyond the project duration. • Identification and categorisation of primary challenges to sustainability • Assessment of the efficiency and impact of remedial strategies for addressing sustainability challenges • Analysing the effectiveness of strategies' effectiveness in overcoming bottlenecks • Measurement of the effectiveness of integrating project
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	partnerships, or management systems need improvement to sustain impacts? • How critical are these improvements for ensuring sustained impacts? • What are the main obstacles preventing sustained impact and scaling up of project outcomes? • Are there specific factors that inhibit the successful continuation or expansion of project benefits? • How can the valuable insights and lessons learned from this project be effectively integrated into future UNICEF programming for long-term sustainability and scalability? • What	sustainability and scaling up.		learnings into broader UNICEF initiatives • Number of times the GIS mapping system has been accessed or utilised by project stakeholders.
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	mechanisms can be established to ensure the seamless integration of project learnings into broader UNICEF initiatives? • How has the GIS mapping system contributed to planning, monitoring, and community engagement in the context of the project?			
Orientation to Impact				
• To what extent has the project impacted communities and built their resilience to protection and WASH vulnerabilities for adolescent girls and boys, especially the most marginalised? • How many and in what ways the project empowered, benefited, and included the voices of young people, girls and boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities and other vulnerabilities, and survivors of violence? • To what extent and in which ways the project has	• To what extent have communities been benefitted and impacted in terms of their resilience to protection and WASH vulnerabilities? • What specific measures or adaptation were observed in the most marginalised communities regarding their	Impact Assessment: Conducting impact assessments to measure the project's impact on communities, their resilience to protection and WASH vulnerabilities, and empowerment of vulnerable groups.	Project Documents (ToC, project log frame, impact assessment reports, feedback mechanisms and analysis reports, and documents on response to beneficiary feedback) KIIs (UNICEF staff, project partners, Ministry of	• Measurement of the community's overall resilience to protection and WASH vulnerabilities • Quantification of the number of young people, girls, boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities, and survivors of violence empowered.

improved services/institutions/systems for CP and WASH that will continue after the end of project activities? - To what extent and in which ways the project obtained, analysed, and responded to beneficiary feedback? If not, what were the challenges in engaging with the beneficiaries? - What are the lessons learned with regard to social inclusion of marginalised groups and the way forward?	resilience to these vulnerabilities? - How many young people, girls, boys, the extreme poor, children with disabilities, and survivors of violence were empowered and benefited from the project? - In what ways were the voices of these vulnerable groups included in the project, and how did they benefit? - To what extent have services, institutions, or systems for CP and WASH been improved? - Which specific improvements will be sustained after the project's conclusion, and in what ways? - To what extent and how were beneficiary	Community Feedback and Inclusion Practices: Gathering feedback from community leaders and beneficiaries and observe inclusion practices to assess the project's impact. Beneficiary Feedback Analysis: Assessing how beneficiary feedback is collected, analysed, and responded to, and identify any challenges in engaging with beneficiaries. Social Inclusion Assessment: Evaluating lessons learnt on social inclusion by analysing reports and assessments,	Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, District Councils, and Malawi Police) FGDs (community members, JoL workshop attendees, field staff, and members of children's corner) HH Survey	- Participation rate or frequency of involvement of vulnerable groups in project activities - Evaluation of service quality improvements in CP and WASH - Assessment of improvements that will continue post-project completion. - Measurement of how much beneficiary feedback was incorporated into project activities or adaptations (through FGDs and feedback implementation log – if available) - Identification and categorisation of challenges hindering effective
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	feedback obtained, analysed, and responded to during the project? • Were there any challenges faced in engaging with beneficiaries, especially in the context of obtaining and responding to their feedback? • What lessons have been learned in terms of social inclusion of marginalised groups throughout the project? • What strategies or approaches should be considered moving forward to enhance the social inclusion of these groups? • How has the data collected through U-Report influenced project implementation	conducting interviews and discussions and observations.		engagement with beneficiaries. • Measurement of the degree of inclusion achieved for marginalised groups.
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	and decision-making, particularly in refining activities based on insights gained from young people in Malawi? • To what extent has data from partners handling case management been successfully integrated into the government's Child Protection Information Management System (IMS)? • How has this integration influenced the overall effectiveness of the project in addressing and responding to cases of violence against children?			
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Annex 3: Secondary Sources Used

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- <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview>
- <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/malawi-country-gender-profile-2020>
- <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/what-we-do>
- <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/child-friendly-communities>
- Malawi Demographic and Health Survey 2015-16
- Malawi Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019-20
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Child Protection Case Management System 2020
- National Child Protection Strategy (2022-2026)
- National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children (NPA) 2022-2026
- National Water Policy 2023
- National Sanitation Policy 2008
- The National Sanitation and Hygiene Strategy 2018-2023

Annex 4: Qualitative Data Collection Workplan

Sr. #	List of Data Collection Events	Data Collection Events (Planned)	Data Collection Events (Conducted)
1	Field Staff	4	0
2	Members of Children's Corner	4	4
3	Children's Corner Facilitators	4	3
4	Attendees of Journey of Life Awareness Workshops	4	3
5	Community Members	28	28
6	HSAs	4	4
7	Sanitary Shop Owners	4	2
8	Masons	4	2
9	Pit Emptiers	4	3
10	CLTS Structures	4	1
11	UNICEF Staff	1	2
12	Community Leaders	8	6
13	School Administrations	4	4
14	Water Management Committees	4	1
15	Fund Management Committees	4	1
16	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies	4	1
17	Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare	1	1
18	Ministry of Water and Sanitation	1	0
19	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	1	0
20	District Councils	2	1
21	Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture	1	0
22	Malawi Police	2	0
23	Judiciary (through National Child Justice Forum)	1	1

24	Project Partners	4	2
25	Ministry of Health	1	1

Annex 5: Key Informants

Please note that the names of only those key informants have been mentioned who agreed to provide them. The anonymity of the remaining key informants has been maintained as per their wishes.

Key Informants

- Judiciary (through National Child Justice Forum) - Chifundo Ben Mbvundula
- Holystone Kafanikhale, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Ministry of Health
- Trophina – Principal Social Affair Officer, Ministry of Gender
- Joseph Magoya - Water for People
- Roy Khonyongwa - Executive Director, Hygiene Village Project
- Malla Mabona – CP Component (UNICEF)
- John Kanyama – WASH Component (UNICEF)
- Tamara Zembeni - Water Development Officer, Blantyre District
- Chikondi J Kamwaza – Mason, Chiseka, T/A Chiseka, Lilongwe

Number of Participants in FGDs

Name of TA	Name of FGD	# males	# females
Njewa	Journal of Life Participants	4	6
	Adolescent boys	5	0
	Men only	8	0
	Adolescent girls	0	11
	Adolescent mixed	4	4
	Men only	8	0
	Women only	0	7
	Women only	0	8
	Facilitators of Children's Corners	6	7
	Mixed men and women	4	4
Chiseka	Women only	0	10
	Adolescent girls	0	11
	Facilitators of Children's Corners	4	5

	Women only	0	9
	Journal of Life Participants	5	4
	Facilitators of Children's Corners	4	4
	Men only	12	0
	Men only	9	0
Machinjiri	Facilitators of Children's Corners	6	6
	Adolescent girls	0	11
	Men only	11	0
	Mixed men and women	5	7
	Facilitators of Children's Corners	0	4
	Adolescent boys	8	0
	Women only	0	11
	Women only	0	10
	Journal of Life Participants	1	9
	Men only	6	0
Kuntaja	Men only	7	0
	Adolescents mixed	3	3
	Adolescents' girls	0	12
	Women only	0	8
	Mixed men and women	6	6
	Adolescent boys	11	
	Facilitators of Children's Corners	0	9
	Women only	0	13
	Mixed men and women	6	7

Annex 6: List of Villages under CP Component

No	District	TA	GVH/Village
1	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Khomani
2	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Nsabwemanyazi
3	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Mtande
4	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Motolosi

5	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Mkhaya
6	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Kunsalula
7	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Jamu
8	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Chibenga
9	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Kamgugu
10	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Mayewa
11	Lilongwe	Chiseka	kwanji
12	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Mkazomba
13	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Chikanda
14	Lilongwe	Chiseka	Goneku
1	Lilongwe	Njewa	Kaliza
2	Lilongwe	Njewa	Muzu
3	Lilongwe	Njewa	Kasiyafumbi
4	Lilongwe	Njewa	Kalungu
5	Lilongwe	Njewa	Sankhani
6	Lilongwe	Njewa	Kango
7	Lilongwe	Njewa	Mphonde
8	Lilongwe	Njewa	Mphaza
9	Lilongwe	Njewa	Nsanje
10	Lilongwe	Njewa	Tambala
11	Lilongwe	Njewa	Nkhumbwe
12	Lilongwe	Njewa	Mchekeni

Annex 7: Evaluation Ethics Standards

In addition to the protocols mentioned in section 3.5, the evaluation team reviewed and complied to the guidelines provided in the below-mentioned guidance documents:

- United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System 2016 (including impartiality, independence, quality, transparency, consultative process)
- Ethical Guidelines for UN Evaluations
- UNICEF Ethical Guidelines and standards for research and evaluation and Ethical Research involving Children.
- UNEG guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality and UN System-Wide Action

Plan (UN-SWAP) on gender equality.

- UNICEF Guidance on Gender Integration in Evaluation
- UNICEF adapted evaluation report standards and GEROS.
- UNICEF Guidance Note on Adolescent participation in UNICEF monitoring and evaluation.
- Disability-Inclusive Evaluations in UNICEF: Guideline for Achieving UNDIS Standards

Annex 8: Evaluation Ethics Approval

Research Ethics Approval

28 November 2023

Niaz Ullah Khan & Dr. John Kadzandira
AWF Pvt Ltd, Pakistan, House 502 Street 47 Sector G 10 4
Islamabad, Pakistan

RE: Ethics Review Board findings for: *Summative Evaluation of the Project "Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi"*
(HML IRB Review #814MALA23)

Dear Niaz Ullah Khan & Dr. John Kadzandira,

Protocols for the protection of human subjects in the above study were assessed through a research ethics review by HML Institutional Review Board (IRB) on 14 – 28 November 2023. This study's human subjects' protection protocols, as stated in the materials submitted, received ethics review approval.

You and your project staff remain responsible for ensuring compliance with HML IRB's determinations. Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- ensuring prompt reporting to HML IRB of proposed changes in this study's design, risks, consent, or other human protection protocols and providing copies of any revised materials;
- conducting the research activity in accordance with the terms of the IRB approval until any proposed changes have been reviewed and approved by the IRB, except when necessary to mitigate hazards to subjects;
- promptly reporting any unanticipated problems involving risks to subjects or others in the course of this study;
- notifying HML IRB when your study is completed.

HML IRB is authorized by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Research Protections (IRB #1211, IORG #850, FWA #1102).

Sincerely,



D. Michael Anderson, Ph.D., MPH
Chair & Human Subjects Protections Director, HML IRB

cc: Mussarrat Youssuf, Penelope Lantz, JD

Annex 9: Directly benefited Individuals through Project Interventions

Interventions	Quantities
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Training of Service Providers (Police, Social Welfare)	5,119 (2,787 M, 2,332 F)
Training of Personnel regarding Psychosocial First Aid (PFA)	In17 TAs (Lilongwe) PFA 524 (185 female, 339 male)
Provision of PFA Services	4,112 (2,410 F, 1,702 M)
JoL Structures (Revamped or New)	115 (64 in Lilongwe and 51 in Blantyre)
Direct Beneficiaries reached through Case Management	79,812
HH Registered for Case Management	4,417
Cases registered in Case Management booklet, CVSUs, PVSUs, and OSCs	22,605 (9781M, 12824F)
Strengthening of Community Structures for Child Protection	196 ²⁵
Beneficiaries of Recreational Kits Provided in Children's corner	25,399 (11,714M, 13,685F)
Direct Beneficiaries of Children's corner	99,586 (44,847 M, 54,624 F) (difference of 115 exists)
Training of Children's Corner Volunteers	1,092 (651 F, 441 M).
Direct Beneficiaries Reached with Messages on Child Protection via Radio, TV, and Community Engagement	1.08 million
Children assessed for Individualised Services	3,483 children (1875 girls, 1608 boys)
Child Justice and Mobile Courts	20 beneficiaries (6 F, 14 M)
Community Leaders Engaged in Violence Against Women and Children	540
Water Schemes	6

²⁵ As of 31st December 2023, Children Corners were reported to be 370, CBOs were 80, CC networks 27, CVSUs 27, PVSUs 27, OSC 16. The consultants did not have access to the data of Q3 as it was not compiled yet. Only data till Y3, Q2 has been reported as that information was available to the consultants.

Number of People with Safe Water due to Water Schemes	30,429 (15,877 F and 14,552 M)
People Accessing Pit Emptying Services	53,732
People Accessing New Latrine	40,827
People with Upgrades Latrines	32,147
Shops Supporting Sanitation Revolving Initiative	76
Masons Trained	159
Assessment of One-Stop Centres (OSC)	29 health facilities (20 in Lilongwe and 9 in Blantyre)
Training of OSC Service Providers	32 (15 females 17 males)
Sanitation Clubs Formed	103
Sanitation Entrepreneurs participated in Workshops	73
Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) – Door-to-Door Hygiene and Sanitation Promotion	126,000 HH
Latrines Constructed due to CLTS Triggering Exercise	58,999
People reached due to CLTS Triggering Exercise	254,000
Roadshows	34
Establishment and Revamping of Sanitation Committees	36
Distribution of IEC Materials regarding Sanitation Technologies	3000
Revolving Fund Managers	171
Procurement and Distribution of Record Book to Fund Management Committees	104
Media Campaign for Sanitation Demand	500,000
People with Basic Sanitation Services	126,706 (76,297F and 50,409M)
HH accessing Sanitation Loans from SACCOs	3,000

Annex 10: Access to Drinking Water (HH Survey)

Key Indicators	Name of the TA				Total
	Njewa	Chiseka	Machinjiri	Kuntaja	
Main Sources of Drinking Water including other household usage					
Tube well, borehole	97.9	73.5	90.8	56.7	79.7
Public tap/standpipe	0.0	21.4	9.2	34.0	16.2
Piped into compound, yard, or plot	0.0	1.0	0.0	7.2	2.1
Persons responsible for fetching water in the households that were surveyed					
Mother of the house	83.3	69.4	57.1	53.6	65.8
Daughter age >=15 years	7.3	20.4	30.6	25.8	21.1
Daughter < 15 years	5.2	6.1	8.2	9.3	7.2
Sons	2.1	3.1	3.1	6.2	3.6
Time it takes to fetch water					
Less than 5 minutes	38.5	63.3	38.8	64.9	51.4
10-15 minutes	50.0	23.5	39.8	27.8	35.2
15-30 minutes	9.4	10.2	12.2	4.1	9.0
More than 30 minutes	2.1	3.1	8.2	2.1	3.9
Water treatment/caring methods					
Covering the container	80.2	76.5	84.7	85.6	81.7
Chlorine	32.3	50.0	72.4	53.6	52.2
Boiling	7.3	19.4	6.1	10.3	10.8
Water guard	6.3	6.1	2.0	1.0	3.9
Nothing	12.5	5.1	0.0	1.0	4.6
Agencies mentioned for having constructed the water sources in use					
NGO	24.0	44.2	42.7	69.1	45.4
Religious group	33.3	27.9	2.7	11.1	18.9
Hired people/Aganyu	0.0	5.8	2.7	0.0	2.2
Community member(s) trained by the WVI/partner organisation	0.0	0.0	1.3	4.9	1.6
Water board	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	.9
Other	38.7	22.1	50.7	14.8	30.9

Annex 11: Access to Latrines

Key Indicators	Name of the TA				Total
	Njewa	Chiseka	Machinjiri	Kuntaja	
Ownership of toilets/pit latrines					
Pit latrine	71.9	74.5	71.4	70.1	72.0
Composting toilet	14.6	10.2	16.3	16.5	14.4
No toilet facility/Bush/Field	12.5	13.3	8.2	11.3	11.3
Percentage of Latrines Constructed					
2018 or earlier	19.05	18.82	11.11	4.65	13.33
2019	7.10	7.10	5.60	4.70	6.10
2020	11.90	16.50	4.40	5.80	9.60
2021	10.70	11.80	7.80	8.10	9.60
2022	35.70	27.10	16.70	31.40	27.50
2023	15.50	18.80	54.40	45.30	33.90
Agencies that constructed the toilets					
Myself and/or family members	64.3	95.7	82.6	83.3	81.4
Toilet Constructors	7.1	0.0	4.3	8.3	5.5
Hired people trained by WVI/partner	7.1	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.8
Hired labour	7.1	0.0	8.7	0.0	4.1
Landlord	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.8
Neighbour	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.2	1.4
Pit Emptying					
Latrines ever filled	8	28	33	43	28
Constructed new latrines rather emptying	42	73	96	83	81
Harvested for other purposes	57	27	3.6	16.7	18.3

Annex 12: Effect of Improved WASH on Community Resilience in Context of Violence

	TA Name				Total (N=389)
	TA Njewa (n=96)	TA Chiseka (n=98)	TA Machinjiri (n=98)	TA Kuntaja (n=97)	
Reduced number of incidences of children and women violence	25.0	45.9	61.2	61.9	48.6
Increased participation in schools and community activities	9.4	15.3	30.6	39.2	23.7
Reduction in child labour	4.2	13.3	27.6	35.1	20.1
Reduction in health costs at the household levels	6.3	19.4	21.4	19.6	16.7
Increased access and participation of women to the businesses	6.3	8.2	19.4	18.6	13.1
Child Protection Services Mentioned					
Knowledge about CP services	28	29	40	31	32
Counselling	24.0	24.5	34.7	27.8	27.8
Community advocacy	17.7	18.4	29.6	23.7	22.4
Referral services	11.5	8.2	23.5	19.6	15.7
Helpline	4.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.6
Sporting Activities	5.2	4.1	0.0	1.0	2.6

Annex 13: Guidelines for Data Collection

FGDs with Field Staff

Efficiency:

- What challenges affected the pace and quality of project implementation, and how did your team address them?
- Can you share your thoughts on whether the project was implemented efficiently compared to alternative approaches?

Effectiveness:

- What major achievements and results have you observed or been part of during the project?
What changes would you suggest for future such projects?

- What processes have you witnessed that enabled or hindered the achievement of project outcomes and outputs? What could have been done differently to address these challenges?
- How did the project aim to include and provide equal opportunities to various groups (men, women, girls, boys, marginalised communities)?
- What are the perceived levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction among beneficiaries, especially among different groups?

Sustainability:

- In your view, what strategies are required to ensure the sustainable impact of the project?

Orientation to Impact:

- From your experience, how has the project impacted the resilience of communities, especially marginalised groups, in terms of protection and WASH vulnerabilities for adolescent girls and boys?
- Can you provide examples of how the project has empowered and benefited young people, girls and boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities, and survivors of violence?
- Have you witnessed improvements in services, institutions, or systems for child protection and WASH that are likely to continue after the project's activities have ended?
- How was beneficiary feedback collected, analysed, and responded to during the project, and were there any challenges in engaging with beneficiaries?
- From your perspective, what are the key lessons learned regarding the social inclusion of marginalised groups, and what steps do you think can be taken for improvement?

FGDs with Members and Facilitators of Children's Corner

Efficiency:

- What do you think was the main purpose of children's corner?
- Did the CC effectively achieve its intended outcomes and objectives?
- How efficiently was UNICEF in providing support for the functioning of the CC within the project?
- Were there any factors that influenced the pace and quality of CC implementation, and how were they addressed?

Effectiveness:

- How did the activities at CC contribute to the well-being and development of children?
- What indicators were used to measure the impact of CC?
- Were there any challenges in monitoring these indicators?
- What strategies were adopted at the CC to ensure the inclusion and equal opportunities for

boys and girls from marginalised communities? Are there differences in the impact on different groups, such as girls, boys, adolescents, children with disabilities, etc.?

- How have children and their caregivers at the CC expressed their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the services and activities offered?

Sustainability:

- To what extent do you believe the achievements and services offered at the CC will continue, be replicated, or integrated into future programs or policies once the project funding ceases?
- Have there been any challenges that could potentially hinder the sustainability of the CC? How have these challenges been addressed?

Orientation to Impact:

- To what extent has the CC positively impacted the resilience of children, especially those from the most marginalised groups, with regard to protection and WASH vulnerabilities?
- How have young people, boys, and girls at the CC been empowered and benefited?
- Has the CC contributed to the improvement of services, institutions, or systems related to child protection and WASH?
- How does the CC obtain, analyse, and respond to feedback from children and their caregivers, and what challenges have been encountered in engaging with beneficiaries?

FGDs with Community Members and KIs with Community Leaders

- How does this community define a child?
- When does a person cease to be called a child? i.e., what qualifies one into adulthood? [CHECK: age, marital status, leadership roles etc.]
- What activities are children involved in this community?
- What forms of violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect of children are prevalent in this community? Who are the perpetrators? What reporting mechanisms exist? What referral systems exist? What challenges do boys AND girls face to report violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect?
- And tell us those forms of violence or abuses that happen but are not commonly reported on? Why are they not reported and/or openly discussed?

Efficiency:

- How does the community (and households) ensure the protection of children? What structures exist?
- Which organisation(s) have been instrumental in child protection issues in this area/community? [CHECK: WVI and its partners]

- Who is responsible for addressing cases of VAGBW? Are these people trained? Are men and women involved in issues of VAGBW? How?
- How are referrals for VAGBW structured in this community? How did the project make a difference in the referral systems?
- Please tell us more about children's corners. What are these? Who started these corners? Who was taking part? How beneficial are the children's corners?
- Have you ever participated in children's corner activities? Please tell us more. What was happening in these activities? Who was participating and how were they selected?
- How useful were children's corner activities to the children? And to you parents/caretakers?
- Tell us more about 'Journey of Life' – What is this journey about? How would you describe a person's journey of life? What challenges are met and dealt with?
- What are the major health problems in the area? (Probe for health problems for men, women, the youth and young children, probe for water and food borne diseases and their severity and probe for differences in seasons)
- What natural disasters have occurred in this community in the past 5 years?
- How did the community respond?
- What structures exist to manage WASH during disasters?
- Under the project, what activities were implemented in your community (probe on use of digital technologies as well)?

Effectiveness:

- After each JoL session, what were the key outcomes? [*CHECK FOR: Action plans; establishment or revamping of Children's corners; Establishment or revamping of community based childcare centres (CBCCs); and other forms of support*].
- How was the project organized at the community level? Who was involved and how were they selected?
- Were there other households and/or part of the community that did not take part in the project? Why?
- How did the project ensure that it benefits all households in the community?
- What features or activities would be maintained beyond the project life?
- What are the roles of children in water management at home? Community? School?
- How does the community ensure that children have safe water at all times? During the rainy season? During the dry season?

- Were there times, places, or events where issues about WASH and CP were discussed and/dealt with at the same time? What are these? Were people told why WASH and CP issues were being handled together?
- What activities are being carried out in this area/community on climate change? By whom?
- Tell us how men, women and the youths were being mobilised to participate in the activities of the project including WASH, CP, Children's corners, and journey of life sessions.
- There are likely some households and individuals in this community that did not participate in the project activities (Children's corners, JoL, WASH, CP), what were the reasons?
- What things helped or made it harder for the project to reach its goals in your community?
- Are people in your community happy with the help they got from the project? Did it help some groups more than others?

Sustainability:

- Did the project make local leaders or organisations more willing to help your community?
- What sustainability strategies have you observed being adopted in your community, and how effective have these strategies been in ensuring the continuity of project benefits?
- How is your community planning to keep the benefits from the project going?
- How can you use what you learned from this project to help your community in the future?
- Were you or anyone you know provided any technical or business training regarding latrine construction by the project?

Orientation to Impact:

- How did the project make your community better at protecting and building resilience to WASH services, especially for women, children, and marginalised groups?
- How did the project help children, socioeconomically deprived communities, persons with disabilities, and those who faced violence in your community?
- Did the project make services and systems for child protection and WASH services better? Will they continue to get better after the project is done?
- How did people in your community give their thoughts about the project, and did the project do what you suggested?

KII with UNICEF Staff and Project Partners

Efficiency:

- From your perspective, were the project activities implemented efficiently, meeting the expected quality and timelines?
- How effectively were project resources, including funds, human resources, and expertise,

allocated and managed to achieve project goals?

- Were there specific factors that affected the pace and quality of project implementation, and how was your organisation involved in addressing these factors?
- In what ways has the GIS mapping system been utilised to visualize data collected during baseline and end-line assessments?
- How has the GIS mapping system contributed to planning, monitoring, and community engagement in the context of the project?

Effectiveness:

- What major achievements and results have you observed as a result of the project, and do they align with the project's original plans?
- How useful were the project's indicators, from your perspective, in measuring project success, and were these indicators regularly monitored?
- Were there particular processes that facilitated or hindered the project's success in achieving its intended outcomes?
- What strategies were adopted by your organisation to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities for different groups, and how effective were these strategies in your opinion?
- What coordination mechanisms were utilised for regular coordination with the government departments, donors, partners, and beneficiaries?

Regarding technical and business training and skills imparted to some members of this community in latrine construction by the project:

- How many have been trained and/or engaged; How were they selected? Composition of these people by gender and age?
- How did and/or do they work with members of the community?
- How different are the quality and prices of sanitation materials produced by these people compared to other sanitation materials?
- Are these people able to operate on their own after the trainings and support from the project?

Regarding sanitation revolving fund

- How did it work in terms of organisation, people running it (men, women and the youth including vulnerable groups)?
- How much did the project pump in as capital? How did the community contribute to the capital?

- Which groups of people have benefitted from the revolving fund? How sustainable is the revolving fund?
- Tell us more about 'village savings and loans – VSL' introduced and supported by the project. How were they organized? How did these benefit men, women, youths, and vulnerable groups?

Sustainability:

- Do you believe the results achieved through the project will continue, be replicated, or integrated into policies, strategies, and future programmes in your organisation after the project's funding ends?
- In your role, have you observed any influence by your organisation on national or local-level commitments for resource allocation and support for project-related initiatives?
- Can you share insights into the strategies your organisation has employed and their effectiveness in ensuring the sustainability of project benefits beyond the project's lifespan?
- From your perspective, what challenges have you identified that could impede the implementation of sustainability strategies, and how does your organisation plan to address them?

Orientation to Impact:

- How has the project impacted the resilience of communities in terms of protection and WASH vulnerabilities for adolescent girls and boys, especially the most marginalized?
- Have you observed how the project empowered and benefited young people, girls and boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities, and survivors of violence, and what role did your organisation play in these outcomes?
- Can you share insights into how the project obtained, analysed, and responded to beneficiary feedback, and have there been any challenges in engaging with beneficiaries?
- From your perspective, what are the key lessons learned about social inclusion of marginalized groups through the project, and how does your organisation plan to incorporate these lessons into future programming?

FGD for Children and Adolescents

- Who do you stay with at home?
- What differences do you see among children staying with biological parents, surrogate parents, other relatives, and those staying on their own?
- What chores are children and adolescents involved in at home? How about in the community?
- What things do children and adolescents like (and dislike) about being in this community?

- What challenges do children and adolescents face with regard to water? Sanitation? Hygiene?
- How do girls manage their menses at home? At school? And in the community? What challenges do they face? Where do they obtain sanitary materials during their menses?
- What cases of violence, abuse, exploitation, neglect take place in this community? a). for girls; b) for boys? Who are the perpetrators? What reporting mechanisms exist for reporting these cases? How are girls and boys assisted whenever they have been affected? Are there any cases that go unreported? Why?
- Have you ever participated in children's corner activities by project partners/implementing partners? Please describe what was happening at these sessions? How were children and adolescents participating in these activities? What roles did they assume? How helpful were these sessions? What have you learnt from these sessions about journey of life that you can describe?
- Please describe your school environment. How far? Roughly how many pupils in each class? How many teachers? What do children/pupils like at school? What do they dislike at school? Over the years, what has been the performance of the school in terms of selection to secondary school and/or University? How has the project partners/partners contributed to the schooling status?
- How do children and adolescents participate in mitigating effects of natural disasters? How are children and adolescents affected?
- In your view, how would children be protected on issues surrounding WASH (**ASK SEPARATELY FOR:** water, sanitation, hygiene)? Have there been any activities on WASH in this community? How were the interests of children and adolescents protected?

FGDs with Sanitary Shop Owners

Efficiency:

- In what ways has the project streamlined your business operations to maximize the impact of your services?
- How do the products and services offered by your sanitation shop align with the identified sanitation needs in the local community?
- Who are your primary customers, and what are their typical sanitation needs?
- Have you observed any changes in customer preferences or demands in the past 3 years' time?
- How did you become involved in the project, and what role do you play in supporting project objectives?

- Can you describe any specific project-related products or initiatives that you have been involved in?

Effectiveness:

- Can you provide evidence of how your sanitation shop has effectively met the sanitation needs of the community?
- What challenges have you encountered in running a sanitation shop, and how have you addressed or overcome them?

Sustainability:

- What recommendations can you provide to enhance the sustainability of sanitation access in the community through your shop and similar initiatives?
- Has the project helped you identify any new business opportunities or innovations as a result of your involvement?
- How has collaboration with the project influenced your business operations?

Orientation to Impact:

- Can you describe any positive or negative consequences or impacts on your business due to the project?
- Have you received any training or capacity-building support from the project to improve your knowledge of sanitation products and their usage?
- How has such training impacted your ability to serve customers and run your business?

FGDs with Masons

Effectiveness:

- How do you perceive the relevance of your role as a mason in the context of the water and sanitation project in this community?
- Can you share examples of successful outcomes or achievements in your role as a mason within this project?
- How do you measure the effectiveness of your construction activities, and are there specific indicators you use?

Efficiency:

- How do you collaborate with other stakeholders, such as sanitation shop owners or local authorities, to enhance the effectiveness of your construction activities?
- Are there specific challenges or successes related to collaboration within the project?

Sustainability:

- Have you received any training or capacity-building support from the project to improve your construction skills or knowledge of sanitation infrastructure?
- How has such training impacted your ability to contribute to the project's objectives?

Orientation to Impact:

- What measurable changes have occurred in the community as a result of the construction activities you have been involved in for this project?

FGDs with Pit Emptiers

Effectiveness:

- In what context were you involved in this project?
- How do you perceive the relevance of your role as a pit emptier in the context of this project in this community?
- How do you measure the effectiveness of your pit-emptying activities?

Efficiency:

- In what ways has the project empowered you to streamline your processes to maximise the impact of your work?
- What challenges have you encountered in your role as a pit emptier within the project, and how have you addressed or overcome them?
- Have you implemented any innovative approaches or solutions in your pit-emptying activities?

Sustainability:

- How do you collaborate with other stakeholders, such as masons or local authorities, to enhance the effectiveness of your pit-emptying activities?
- Are there specific challenges or successes related to collaboration within the project?

Orientation to Impact:

- Have you received any training or capacity-building support from the project to improve your pit-emptying skills or knowledge of sanitation infrastructure?
- How has such training impacted your ability to contribute to the project's objectives?

FGDs with CLTS Structures

Efficiency:

- How efficiently does the CLTS structure carry out its responsibilities to promote and maintain sanitation practices within the community?
- How does the composition and role of the CLTS structure align with the identified sanitation needs in the local community?

- In what ways does the CLTS structure involved in the project to address the specific challenges related to WASH?

Effectiveness

- What measurable changes have occurred in the community as a result of the CLTS structure's activities in promoting sanitation?

Sustainability:

- How does the CLTS structure contribute to the sustainability of sanitation practices within the community?
- What recommendations can the structure provide to enhance the long-term impact and sustainability of sanitation improvements?
- Has the CLTS structure received any training or capacity-building support related to promoting sanitation practices (by the project)?
- How has such training impacted the structure's ability to engage with the community and achieve its objectives?

Orientation to Impact:

- Can you describe any unintended positive or negative consequences or impacts on the community or the structure's activities?
- What lessons have been learned by the CLTS structure in promoting sanitation practices, and how can these lessons inform future community-led initiatives?
- Based on your experience, what recommendations would you provide for enhancing the effectiveness and impact of community-led sanitation activities in future projects?

FGDs with HSAs

Efficiency:

- How does the role of Health Surveillance Assistants align with the identified health needs and challenges in the local community?
- In what ways were HSAs addressed in the project activities?

Effectiveness:

- Can you provide evidence of successful outcomes or achievements related to the HSAs' role in promoting health within the community?
- How does the role of HSAs contribute to the effectiveness of health-related interventions in the water and sanitation project?

Sustainability:

- How do HSAs contribute to the sustainability of health and hygiene practices within the community?
- How do HSAs collaborate with other stakeholders, such as local authorities, NGOs, or project implementers, to enhance the effectiveness of health initiatives?
- Are there specific challenges or successes related to collaboration within the project?
- Have HSAs received any training or capacity-building support related to promoting health and hygiene practices?
- How has such training impacted the HSAs' ability to engage with the community and achieve health-related objectives?

Orientation to Impact:

- What measurable changes have occurred in the community as a result of the HSAs' activities in promoting health and hygiene practices?
- How are HSAs involved in engaging with the local community to promote health and hygiene practices?
- Can you share experiences where community engagement has positively influenced the success of a project?
- Have there been any innovative solutions or strategies implemented to overcome obstacles in promoting health?

KII with UNICEF Staff and Project Partners

Efficiency:

- From your perspective, were the project activities implemented efficiently, meeting the expected quality and timelines?
- How effectively were project resources, including funds, human resources, and expertise, allocated and managed to achieve project goals?
- Were there specific factors that affected the pace and quality of project implementation, and how was your organisation involved in addressing these factors?
- In what ways has the GIS mapping system been utilised to visualize data collected during baseline and end-line assessments?
- How has the GIS mapping system contributed to planning, monitoring, and community engagement in the context of the project?

Effectiveness:

- What major achievements and results have you observed as a result of the project, and do

they align with the project's original plans?

- How useful were the project's indicators, from your perspective, in measuring project success, and were these indicators regularly monitored?
- Were there particular processes that facilitated or hindered the project's success in achieving its intended outcomes?
- What strategies were adopted by your organisation to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities for different groups, and how effective were these strategies in your opinion?
- What coordination mechanisms were utilised for regular coordination with the government departments, donors, partners, and beneficiaries?

Regarding technical and business training and skills imparted to some members of this community in latrine construction by the project:

- How many have been trained and/or engaged; How were they selected? Composition of these people by gender and age?
- How did and/or do they work with members of the community?
- How different are the quality and prices of sanitation materials produced by these people compared to other sanitation materials?
- Are these people able to operate on their own after the trainings and support from the project?

Regarding sanitation revolving fund

- How did it work in terms of organisation, people running it (men, women and the youth including vulnerable groups)?
- How much did the project pump in as capital? How did the community contribute to the capital?
- Which groups of people have benefitted from the revolving fund? How sustainable is the revolving fund?
- Tell us more about 'village savings and loans – VSL' introduced and supported by the project. How were they organized? How did these benefit men, women, youths, and vulnerable groups?

Sustainability:

- Do you believe the results achieved through the project will continue, be replicated, or integrated into policies, strategies, and future programmes in your organisation after the project's funding ends?
- In your role, have you observed any influence by your organisation on national or local-level commitments for resource allocation and support for project-related initiatives?
- Can you share insights into the strategies your organisation has employed and their effectiveness in ensuring the sustainability of project benefits beyond the project's lifespan?

- From your perspective, what challenges have you identified that could impede the implementation of sustainability strategies, and how does your organisation plan to address them?

Orientation to Impact:

- How has the project impacted the resilience of communities in terms of protection and WASH vulnerabilities for adolescent girls and boys, especially the most marginalized?
- Have you observed how the project empowered and benefited young people, girls and boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities, and survivors of violence, and what role did your organisation play in these outcomes?
- Can you share insights into how the project obtained, analysed, and responded to beneficiary feedback, and have there been any challenges in engaging with beneficiaries?
- From your perspective, what are the key lessons learned about social inclusion of marginalized groups through the project, and how does your organisation plan to incorporate these lessons into future programming?

KII with School Administration

Efficiency:

- From the perspective of school administration, were project activities executed efficiently and did they align with the expected standards?
- How were project resources, such as funds, human resources, and time, managed within the school, and were they allocated strategically to achieve project objectives?
- How effective was UNICEF's support in facilitating project activities within the school, and were there any notable instances of resource allocation and management guidance?
- Were there specific factors or challenges that impacted the pace and quality of project implementation in the school, and how were these addressed from a school administration viewpoint?
- In your role as a school administrator, do you believe the project was the most efficient way to bring about the intended improvements, or were there alternative methods considered?

Effectiveness:

- Can you provide examples of significant achievements and results you've observed within the school as a result of the project?
- Were there specific school processes that facilitated or hindered the achievement of project outcomes, and how did the school administration address these processes?
- In your capacity as a school administrator, how were strategies adopted by the project

designed to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities for various student groups, and what impact did these strategies have on the school community?

Sustainability:

- Do you believe the improvements achieved through the project will continue or be integrated into school policies once the project's funding ceases?
- Have you observed any influence by UNICEF on local or national-level commitments for resource allocation and support for school-related initiatives?
- Can you provide insights into strategies employed by the school administration to ensure the sustainability of project benefits, and how effective have these strategies been?

Orientation to Impact:

- How has the project impacted the resilience of students and the school community in terms of protection and WASH vulnerabilities?
- What are the key lessons learned about social inclusion of marginalized groups through the project, and what are the next steps to enhance social inclusion within the school community?

KIs with Government Stakeholders

Efficiency:

- Do you think the project activities were executed efficiently and in alignment with expected standards?
- How were project resources, such as funds, human resources, and time, managed and allocated within government departments to achieve project objectives?
- How effective was UNICEF's support in facilitating project activities and coordinating with government stakeholders?
- Were there specific factors or challenges that impacted the pace and quality of project implementation, and how were these addressed from a government stakeholder viewpoint?
- As government stakeholders, do you believe the project was the most efficient way to achieve the intended improvements, or were there alternative methods considered?
- How effectively has the use of digital technology, specifically the RapidPro platform, contributed to monitoring and strengthening national and district-level data collection on violence against children?
- In what ways has the mobile phone (SMS) reporting system enhanced the gathering of near real-time data on cases of violence from various sources, including Children's Corners, Community Victim Support Units, Police Victim Support Units, and Child Justice Courts?

Effectiveness:

- How effective were the coordination mechanisms with the project partners and other involved ministries/ departments?
- Were the project's indicators, from your perspective, effective in measuring success, and were they monitored regularly within government departments?
- What measures were taken by government stakeholders to enhance the capacity of project partners for integrated programming in child protection, safeguarding, and WASH?
- How were strategies adopted by the project designed to ensure inclusion and equal opportunities for various beneficiary groups, and what impact did these strategies have on your government department's functions?
- How effectively has the use of digital technology, specifically the RapidPro platform, contributed to monitoring and strengthening national and district-level data collection on violence against children?
- To what extent has the U-Report platform been successfully integrated into the project to measure knowledge and attitudes towards issues related to child protection?
- How has the data collected through U-Report influenced project implementation and decision-making, particularly in refining activities based on insights gained from young people in Malawi?
- How has the U-Report platform engaged with different segments of the population, and what strategies could be employed to increase participation, especially among underrepresented groups?
- How has this integration influenced the overall effectiveness of the project in addressing and responding to cases of violence against children?

Sustainability:

- Do you believe the improvements achieved through the project will continue, be replicated, or integrated into government policies and future programmes once the project's funding ceases?
- Can you provide insights into strategies employed by government stakeholders to ensure the sustainability of project benefits beyond the project's lifespan, and how effective have these strategies been?
- From your perspective, what challenges have been identified that could impede the implementation of sustainability strategies, and how does the government plan to address them?

Orientation to Impact:

- How has the project impacted the resilience of the community in terms of protection and WASH vulnerabilities, and how has government stakeholders contributed to this impact?
- Can you share examples of how the project has empowered and benefited beneficiaries, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds, and what role did government stakeholders play in facilitating these benefits?
- In what ways has the mobile phone (SMS) reporting system enhanced the gathering of near real-time data on cases of violence from various sources, including Children's Corners, Community Victim Support Units, Police Victim Support Units, and Child Justice Courts?

KIIs with Water Management Committees

Effectiveness:

- In what capacity was the Committee involved in the project?
- How well does the project "Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi" align with the identified needs and challenges in the local context?
- Can you provide examples of how the project's integrated activities and strategies have contributed to the planned results, and what factors have influenced their effectiveness?

Efficiency:

- How efficiently has the project allocated resources to achieve its objectives, and are there areas where resource utilisation could be optimised?

Sustainability:

- How has the project incorporated sustainability considerations in its design and implementation?
- What interventions were done to enhance the sustainability of key project results beyond the project duration, and how can successful strategies be integrated into future programming?

Orientation to Impact:

- What measurable changes have occurred in the lives of the community members, particularly women, children, and vulnerable groups as a result of the project's interventions?
- Can you describe any positive and negative unintended consequences or impacts that were not initially foreseen in the project design, w.r.t. involvement of water committees?

KIIs with SACCOS

Efficiency

- How long have you been a member of the SACCOS, and what motivated you to join?
- In what ways are SACCOS members actively participating in this project?

- How has your membership in the SACCOS contributed to your financial inclusion and access to resources?
- Can you share examples of how the SACCOS has supported members in financial matters related to WASH, CP?

Effectiveness

- Are there particular initiatives or projects related to water and sanitation, CP that the SACCOS has undertaken?
- How has the project involved SACCOS involved?
- What challenges, if any, have SACCOS members encountered in relation to their involvement with the project, and how have these challenges been addressed?
- Have SACCOS implemented any innovative solutions or strategies, with the support of the project?
- With reference to the project, how has SACCOS positively impacted the community's access to water and sanitation facilities?
- Are there specific challenges or successes related to collaboration within the project?

Sustainability:

- How has SACCOS collaborated with other stakeholders, such as local authorities or project implementers, to support WASH, CP initiatives?
- Has the SACCOS provided any training or capacity-building programmes to its members related to the issues covered by the project?
- How has such training impacted the ability of SACCOS members to contribute effectively to the project?
- Are there strategies in place to continue promoting financial inclusion and community development beyond the project's duration?

Orientation to Impact:

- How has SACCOS engaged with the local community to promote awareness and understanding of the issues covered by the project?
- Can you share experiences where community engagement has positively influenced the success of a project?

KIs with Fund Management Committees

Efficiency:

- How efficiently does the Fund Management Committee allocate and monitor funds for water and sanitation projects?

- In what capacity was the committee involved with the project?
- How does the composition and role of the Fund Management Committee align with the identified financial needs related WASH, CP, and GBV in the community?
- In what ways does the committee's involvement address the specific financial challenges outlined in the project objectives?

Effectiveness:

- What were successful outcomes or achievements related to the committee's financial management for this project?

Sustainability:

- How does the Fund Management Committee collaborate with other stakeholders, such as SACCOS, local authorities, or project implementers, to enhance the effectiveness of financial initiatives?
- Has the Fund Management Committee received any training or capacity-building support related to financial management for water and sanitation projects?
- How has such training impacted the committee's ability to manage funds effectively?
- Have there been any innovative solutions or strategies implemented to overcome financial management obstacles?

Orientation to Impact:

- What measurable changes have occurred in the community as a result of the financial contributions and oversight by the Fund Management Committee?
- Can you describe any unintended positive or negative consequences or impacts on the community or the committee's financial activities?
- How does the Fund Management Committee engage with the local community to ensure transparency and garner support for financial initiatives related to water and sanitation?

KII with Judiciary (through National Child Justice Forum)

Efficiency:

- In what capacity was NCJF involved in this project?
- How has the project streamlined legal processes related to child protection within the judiciary?
- Can you provide insights into any innovative practices introduced by the project to enhance the efficiency of judicial proceedings for child-related cases?

Effectiveness:

- In your opinion, how effective has the project been in achieving its stated goals regarding child protection within the legal system?

- Can you share examples of specific cases or instances where the project has demonstrated a positive impact on the effectiveness of the judiciary in handling child-related issues?
- How well has the project contributed to improving access to justice for children and families in need?

Sustainability:

- From a judicial perspective, how sustainable are the changes or improvements introduced by the project in the long term?
- Are there mechanisms in place within the judiciary to ensure the continuity of the project's positive impacts on child protection after its completion?
- How has the project influenced or contributed to the overall sustainability of child protection measures within the legal system?

Orientation to Impact:

- What indicators or measurements does the judiciary use to assess the impact of the project on child protection outcomes?
- Can you share examples of how the project has influenced broader systemic changes in the legal approach to child protection?
- From your viewpoint, how well is the project aligned with the overarching goal of creating a lasting positive impact on child protection within the legal framework?

Annex 14: HH Survey

Hello. My name is _____. I am working with the University of Malawi, Centre for Social Research. We are conducting a survey about the water that you use in your house (its sources, storage, and treatment), sanitation and other hygiene practices and on issues about child care, child rearing practices and child protection. This research is being conducted in the districts of Lilongwe (TAs Njewa and Chiseka) and Blantyre (TAs Machinjiri and Kuntaja).

The information we collect will help to improve health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and child protection services in this area and Malawi as a whole. Your household was selected for the survey. I would like to ask you some questions about your household. The questions usually take about 30 to 40 minutes. All of the answers you give will be confidential and will not be shared with anyone other than members of our survey team. You don't have to be in the survey, but we hope you will agree to answer the questions, since your views are important. If I ask you any question you don't want to answer, just let me know and I will go on to the next question, or you can stop the interview at

any time. In case you need more information about the survey, you may contact the person listed on this card.

Do you have any questions? May I begin the interview now?

SECTION A: IDENTIFICATION

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: Obtain GPS Coordinates for the household and CHECK that the **accuracy level is @ +/-5m**

Date of interview		Time of starting the interview:	
Name of Interviewer	Name of Respondent:	Relationship to head:	
District 1. <u>Lilongwe</u> 2. <u>Blantyre</u>	<u>Name of TA</u> 1. Njewa 2. Chiseka 3. Machinjiri 4. Kuntaja	<u>Name of Village</u>	<u>Name of head of household</u>

Section B: Household Demographics

b.1 S/N (Add rows as appropriate)	b.2 Name of HH member (START WITH HEAD)	b.3 Sex 1. Male 2. Female	b.4 Age (in completed years; enter '00' if <1 year)	b.5 Highest education	b.6 Is [NAME] disabled? Kodi (Dzina) ali ndi ulumali? 0. No 1. Yes	b.7 What type of disability Ali ndi ulumali wanji?	b.8 Did [NAME] suffer from any of the following diseases in the last 6 months? Kodi (dzina) anadwalako matenda otsatirawa mu miyezi isanu ndi umodzi yadutsayi – 6?
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
				0. None 1. Std 1 2. Std 2 3. Std 3 4. etc etc 9. Form 1 10. Form 2		A. Vision impairment B. Hearing impairment C. Mobility impairment D. Cognitive disabilities	a) Dengue b) Malaria c) Typhoid Tayifodi d) Strep throat Nsungu e) Whooping Cough

				11. Form 3 12. Form 4 13. Tertiary		Kukanika kudzindikira zithu E. Speech impairment F. Psychiatric disabilities G. Physical impairment H. Others (please specify):	Chifuwa chokoka mtima f) Diarrhoea kutsegula mmimba g) Cholera Kolera h) Dysentery Kamwazi i) Bilharzia Likodzo j. Other_____
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QNo.	Question	Response options
1.5	Is the head of the household currently employed? Kodi mutu wabanja lino ali pa ntchito?	1. Yes 2. No
1.6	What is the main source of income? Ndi njira iti yeni yeni yomwe mumapezera ndalama zapakhomo panu pano?	a) Self-employed b) Daily wager c) Government support or benefits d) Agricultural or farming income e) Private sector f) Government employment g) Other, Specify
1.6a	Specify source in 1.6	
1.7	What is the estimated monthly income of the family? Kodi mumapeza ndalama zingati pa mwezi?	MK_____
1.8	What is the estimated monthly expenditure of the family? Kodi mumagwiritsa ntchito ndalama zingati pa mwezi?	MK_____
1.9	On an average, how much money do you spend monthly to avail health services, especially related to waterborne diseases (e.g. diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, typhoid, bilharzia etc)? Mumagwiritsa ntchito ndalama zingati pa mwezi kuti mupeze thandizo la kuchipatala pa matenda okudza chifukwa cha ukhondo wa madzi (monga kutsegula mmimba, kamwazi, kolera, tayifodi, likodzo)	MK_____
1.10	How much did the household spend on health care related waterborne diseases in the last 12 months? Pa minyezi 12 yapitayi, mwagwiritsa ntchito ndalama zingati kuti mupeze thandizo la kuchipatala pa matenda okudza chifukwa cha ukhondo wa madzi (monga kutsegula mmimba, kamwazi, kolera, tayifodi, likodzo)	MK_____

Section 2: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Qno	Question	Response options
2.1	What is the main source of drinking water in your house? If unclear, probe to identify the place from which members of this household most often collect drinking water (collection point). Madzi akumwa mumatunga kuti?	a) Piped water (piped into dwelling) b) Piped to yard/ plot c) Piped to neighbour d) Public tap e) Tube well/ borehole f) Dug well protected well g) Dug well unprotected well h) Protected spring i) Unprotected spring j) Rainwater k) Tanker truck l) Surface water (river, dam, pond, lake etc.) m) Other (please specify): _____
2.2	What are sources of water for other household uses (such as cooking, cleaning etc.)? Kodi madzi ogwiritsa ntchito zina zapakhomo (monga, kuphikira, kutsukira mbale ndi zina) mumatunga kuti? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY	a) Piped water (piped into dwelling) b) Piped to yard/ plot c) Piped to neighbour d) Public tap e) Tube well/ borehole f) Dug well protected well g) Dug well unprotected well h) Protected spring i) Unprotected spring j) Rainwater k) Tanker truck l) Surface water (river, dam, pond, lake etc.) m) Other (please specify):
2.3	Does your household have any of the following for storing water: Kodi khomo lanu lili ndi zinthu izi zosungira madzi?	a) Water storage tanks Mathanki b) Cans Zidebe/zigubu

		c) Pitcher Mbiya/Mtsuko d) Other (please specify) _____ e) None
	IF THE SOURCE (Q2.1) IS OUTSIDE HOUSEHOLD, ASK Q2.4-2.6, OTHERWISE SKIP TO 2.7.	
2.4	Who usually goes to this water point to fetch the water for your household (for drinking)? Nthawi zambiri pakhomo pano, ndi ndani amakatunga madzi akumwa?	1. Mother of the house 2. Daughter's age ≥ 15 years 3. Daughter's age < 15 years 4. Sons 5. House maid 6. Father of the house 7. Other, specify _____
2.5	Who usually goes to this water point to fetch the water for your household (for other purposes)? Nthawi zambiri pakhomo pano, ndi ndani amakatunga madzi ogwiritsa ntchito zina?	1. Mother of the house 2. Daughter's age ≥ 15 years 3. Daughter's age < 15 years 4. Sons 5. House maid 6. Father of the house 7. Other, specify _____
2.6	On average how long does it take to travel to this water point one-way? Mumatenga nthawi yayitali bwanji kuti mukafike komwe mumatunga madzi akumwa?	a) Less than 5 minutes b) 10-15 minutes c) 15-30 minutes d) More than 30 minutes (please specify): _____
2.7	Do you have to pay to obtain water? Kodi mumayenera kulipira kuti mutunge madzi?	1. Yes 2. No → Q2.8
2.7a	If yes in Q2.7, how much do you need to pay? Please give a roughly estimate of cost per month in Malawi Kwacha Ngati eya, mumayenera kulipira zingati pa mwezi?	MK _____

2.8	Is water from this point available any time of the day? in sufficient quantity i.e., available whenever required? Kodi Kumalo komwe mumatunga madzi, amapezeka nthawi iliyonse, okwanira?	1. Yes 2. No
2.9	If 'No' to question above, please explain	1. Water source is closed by owners/sellers some part of the day 2. Water source runs out of water some part of the day 3. Other, specify _____
2.10	Is there any time (months) in the year where the water point does not yield water? Pachaka, pali miyezi ina imene madzi samatulukilatu?	1. Yes 2. No
2.10a	If yes to question above, please specify the time of the year in Months Ndi miyezi iti?	SPECIFY MONTHS
2.10b	When the water source dries up, from where do you obtain water during this time? Madzi akauma kumene mumatunga nthawi zonse, ndi kwina kuti komwe mumakatunga?	From neighbours tap/well From communal tap/well From rivers/streams From school/church's tap/well Other, specify
2.10c	What do you do to make your water safe for use including drinking (main method)? Kodi mumatani kuti madzi anu akumwa kuti akhale otetezeka?	a) Boiling b) Chlorine c) Water filter d) Solar disinfection e) Covering the container f) Other (please specify): g) Not applicable
2.11	How do you assess the quality of water that you drink? TICK ALL MENTIONED	a) Colour b) Odour c) Taste d) Source (such as bottled water)

	Kodi mumaona bwanji kuti madzi anu ndi abwino kumwa?	e) Other (please specify):
2.12	Is the water source you use constructed by someone else? Malo amene mumatunga anamangidwa ndi munthu wina wake kapena bungwe/boma?	1. Yes 2. No → Q2.13
2.12a	If yes, who constructed this water source? Ndi ndani amene anamanga?	a. NGO, Name the NGO ____ b. Religious group c. Community member(s) trained by the WVI/partner organisation d. Water board e. Hired people/ Aganyu f. Other, specify: _____
2.12b	If 2.12 is Yes, how was water obtained previously? Asanamange, madzi munkatunga kuti?	. From neighbours tap/well . From communal tap/well . From rivers/streams . From school/church's tap/well . Other, specify
2.13	Have you ever noticed during the last two years that your main drinking water source affected from any extreme climatic event (such as heavy rainfall floods, droughts etc.)? Mu zaka ziwiri zapitazi, malo omwe mumatunga madzi akumwa anakhuzidwapo ndi ngozi zakugwa mwadzidzidzi?	1. Yes 2. No → Q2.14
2.13a	If yes to question above, please explain Chonde fotokozani chomwe chinachitika	1. Water source dried up completely 2. Water source was filled up with silt (siltation) 3. Water source collapsed in 4. Pipes washed away 1. 5 Other, specify _____

2.14	What kind of toilet facility do members of your household usually use? Kodi mumagwiritsa ntchito chimbuzi chotani nthawi zambiri?	a) No facility/ open defecation (bush, field etc.) b) Hanging toilet c) Bucket d) Flush/ pour flush to piped sewer system e) Flush to septic tank f) Flush to pit latrine g) Flush to open drain h) Pit latrine with slabs i) Pit latrine without slabs j) Other (please specify): _____
2.15	Where is this toilet facility located? Kodi chimbuzi chanu chilipati?	a) Within household premises b) Elsewhere (please specify): _____
2.16	Is this facility shared with other households? Kodi mumagwiritsa ntchito ndi anthu a makomo ena?	1. Yes 2. No
2.17	When was your toilet facility constructed? [Mention month and year] Kodi chimbuzi chanu chinamangidwa liti? [tchulani mwezi ndi chaka]	Month: _____ Year: _____
2.17a	Who constructed this toilet facility? Anamanga chimbuzi chimenechi ndi ndani?	1. Myself and/or family member(s) 2. Hired people trained by the WVI/partner project 3. NGO, name the NGO ____ 4. Landlord 5. Other, specify _____
2.18	What was the cost of this facility? Kumanga chimbudzi chimenechi, chinakwana ndalama zingati?	MK _____ 99=D/K
2.19	Who paid for construction of this facility? Ndalama zomangira chimbudzi chimenechi, analipira ndi ndani?	1. Myself/household member 2. NGO, mention the NGO ____ 3. CBO, Mention the CBO ____ 4. Community members

		5. Other, specify _____
2.20	Has your pit or septic tank ever been filled? Kodi chimbuzi kapena septic tank yanu inayamba yadzadzapo?	1. Yes 2. No
2.20a	If yes, where did you empty it? Itadzadza, munapanga chani?	1. Not emptied, just constructed another latrine 2. Pumped by City Assembly 3. Pumped by private service provider 4. Harvested for other purposes 5. Other, specify _____
2.21	Are WASH-related spare parts such as pipes, Water Closet (WC) etc. easily available and accessible? Kodi zipangizo za madzi ndi ntchito za ukhondo zimapezeka mosavuta kudera kuno?	1. Yes 2. No
2.22	Is skilled labour for WASH infrastructure available (such as masons, plumbers, water boring)? Kodi amisili ogwira ntchito za madzi ndi zaukhondo amapezeka (monga omanga, mapulamba, okumba zitsime)?	1. Yes 2. No
	OBSERVE THE FUNCTIONALITY AND CLEANLINESS OF THE TOILET FACILITY	
2.23	Does the household have a specific place to wash hands, with water and soap	a) No → Q2.26 b) Yes, without any disinfectants c) Yes, with soap d) Yes, with other disinfectants such as ash
2.24	If 2.23 is yes, observe: a. Is running water available b. Is soap/ cleaning agent available	1. Yes 2. No 1. Yes 2. No
2.25	ASK: How the soap is being arranged (sources of soap)? Kodi sopo mumamupeza kuti/bwanji?	a) Provided by some organisation (specify the organisation) _____ b) Self-bought c) Other (please specify) _____

2.26	ASK: Do you have any knowledge about critical times of hand washing with soap? Kodi mukudziwa za nthawi zofunikira kwambiri kusamba mmanja ndi sopo?	1. Yes 2. No → Q2.27
2.26a	If yes to the question above, please mention these times Ndi nthawi ziti zofunika kusamba mmanja ndi sopo?	
2.27	Are you aware of the village sanitation revolving fund? Kodi mukudziwa kapena munamvapo za thumba la zachuma chobwereketsa zogwiritsa pa ntchito zaukhondo?	1. Yes 2. No → Q3.1
2.28	Have you or your household ever benefitted from the village sanitation revolving fund? Kodi inu kapena khomo lanu linapindulako/kutenga ngongole kuchoka ku thumbali?	1. Yes 2. No

Section 3: Protection, Violence, and Community Mechanisms

Qno.	Question	Response options
3.1	Have you witnessed or are aware of incidents of violence against women or children in your community? Munayamba mwavako kapena kuona nkhanza zochitira ‘amayi’ kapena ‘ana’ mu dera lanu?	1. Yes 2. No → Q3.2
3.1a	What incidents of violence against women or children? Nkhaza zake zinali zotani?	A. Physical violence B. Emotional and psychological violence C. sexual abuse/harassment D. child labour E. Early and forced marriages F. forced to drop out of school

		G. Other specify _____
3.1b	Who was the victim of the last incident that you witnessed or aware of? Ndi ndani amene anachitiridwa nkhaa yomwe munawaona kapena kudziwa komaliza?	1. Woman 2. Girl child 3. Boy child 4. Man 5. Persons with disability 6. Orphans 7. Other specify _____
3.1c	Who was the perpetrator of the last incident? Kodi ndi ndani amene anachita nkhanza?	1. Parents or caretakers 2. Family member 3. Local leaders 4. Other community members 5. Spouse/partner 6. Other specify _____
3.2	Are you aware of any support services or facilities available for victims of violence against women and children in your community? Kodi mukudziwako malo omwe anthu amene achitiridwa nkhanza akhoza kupitako kukapeza chithandizo?	1. Yes 2. No → 3.3 3. Partially
3.2a	If yes, have you or anyone you know utilised these support services in cases of violence against women or children? Kodi inu kapena wina aliyense yemwe mukumudziwa anayamba wapezako chithandizo kumalo amenewa?	1. Yes 2. No → Q3.3
3.2b	What kind of support services did you or anyone you know utilised? Inu kapena munthu yemwe mukumudziwa anapeza chithandizo chanji?	1. Referred to NGO/Police/Hospital or any other service providers 2. Counselling 3. Other specify _____
3.3	Do you know about any local helplines, shelters, or counselling services specifically for victims of violence? Kodi mukudziwa za number ya foni yaulere yopereka chithandizo, kapena malo, kapena uphungu wa omwe achitiridwa nkhanza?	1. Yes 2. No → Q3.4
3.3a	Where are these services or places?	A. Police

	CHECK ALL THAT APPLY Kodi zithandizo zimenezi zimapezeka kuti?	B. Village head C. Local NGO/CBO D. Health facility E. Helpline F. Social welfare G. Child Protection Worker H. Other specify _____
ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IF THE HOUSEHOLD HAS A CHILD		
3.4	Do your children currently go to school/ educational institute? Kodi ana anu amapita kusukulu?	a) Yes → Q3.5 b) Yes, some go, some don't c) No
3.4a	Why are they not going to school? Chifukwa chiyani ana anu (ana anu ena) sakupita kusukulu?	1. Fees and school contributions 2. Poverty (clothes, food) 3. Lack of interest by parent/care takers 4. Lack of interest by child 5. Distance to the school 6. disability 7. Pregnancy/early marriages 8. Other specify _____
3.5	Are any of your children less than 18 years old involved in any form of labour/ employment? Muli ndi ana aliwonse osakwana zaka 18 omwe ali pa ntchito	1. Yes 2. No → Q3.6
3.5a	What form of labour/employment? Ali pa ntchito yotani?	1. Farm related 2. Daily wager 3. Business 4. Prostitution 5. Other specify
3.6	Do you believe that to bring up, raise, or educate your children properly, the child needs to be physically punished? Kodi mumakhulupilira kuti mwana akule ndi khalidwe labwino, akuyenera kupatsidwa chilango monga chokwapulidwa akalakwitsa?	1. Yes 2. No

3.6a	Please provide reasons to your response to the question above	
3.7	Please tell me if you or any other adult in your household uses these methods for punishment CHECK ALL THAT APPLY Mungandiuzeke ngati inu kapena wina aliyense ngati mumagwiritsa ntchito njira izi popereka chilango?	A. Non-violent (rebuking) B. Physical punishment (shaking, hitting, or slapping a child) C. Severe physical punishment (repeatedly hitting a child hard) D. Psychological punishment (shouting, screaming, yelling at a child, or calling them names)

Section 4: Programme Impact, Behaviour Change, and Engagement

Qno.	Questions	Response options
4.1	Have you utilised or switched to improved water sources introduced by the project (e.g., tap water, boreholes, protected wells)? Kodi munayamba mwagwiritsapo ntchito madzi abwino omwe anabwera ndi project iyi?	a) Yes, regularly (please specify) b) Occasionally (please specify) c) No, not using improved sources
4.2	How has the project's WASH interventions impacted your community's access to clean water sources (select all that apply)? Kodi project iyi ya madzi komanso ukhondo yakuza bwanji kapezedwe ka madzi abwino mdera lanu?	A. Time for water collection has reduced (distance and/or quantity) B. Increased sense of safety and security C. No noticeable change D. Other specify _____
4.3	Has the project introduced or recommended any climate-resilient water sources (e.g., rainwater harvesting, water conservation measures)? Kodi project iyi yabweretsa kapena kulimbikitsa njira zosungira madzi (monga kukolola madzi amvula, ndi njira zina zotetezera madzi)	a) Yes, implemented and found beneficial (probe further): ____ b) Aware but not yet implemented (probe further): ____

		c) No introduction or implementation
4.4	What sources of energy for WASH and livelihood that you are aware of? Kodi ndi njira ziti za mphamvu ya magetsi zomwe zimagwiritsidwa ntchito pa nkhani ya madzi kapena zaukhondo komanso umoyo wa siku ndi tsiku?	A. Solar B. Electricity C. Generator D. Firewood E. Dung F. sunlight G. Other specify
4.5	Do you use solar lamps or any solar appliances for your livelihood?	1. Yes 2. No →Q4.6
4.5a	What do you use it for? Kodi mpamvu ya solayi mumagwiritsira ntchito yanji?	1. Cooking 2. Lighting 3. Heating 4. Other household appliances, e.g charging phones, TV, radio 5. Other specify
4.6	Have you or your household utilised the improved sanitation services facilitated by the project, and if so, how satisfied are you with them? Kodi inu kapena khomo lanu munayamba mwapindulako ndi ntchito zaukhondo zomwe zinabwera ndi project iyi?	1. Yes 2. No →Q4.7
4.6a	How satisfied are with the sanitation services? Ndinu okhutira nazo motani?	1. Satisfied with the improved facilities (probe further) 2. Utilised but unsatisfied with the services (probe further) 3. Not aware of or have not utilized these facilities →Q4.7
4.7	How have WASH interventions enhanced the community resilience in the context of violence (select all relevant options)?	A. Reduced number of incidences of children and women violence B. Reduction in child labour

	Kodi ntchito zachitukuko cha madzi ndi ukhondo za project iyi zathandiza bwanji kuchepetsa nkhanza kwa ana kapena amayi mdera lino?	C. Increased participation in schools and community activities D. Increased access and participation of women to the businesses E. Reduction in health costs at the household levels
4.8	Are you aware of the child protection services introduced by the project (e.g., helplines, counselling, community advocacy)? Kodi mukudziwa za ntchito zoteteza ana zomwe zinabwera ndi project iyi?	1. Yes 2. No → Q4.10
4.8a	What child protection services introduced by the project that you know? Ndi ntchito ziti?	A. Helplines B. Counselling C. Community advocacy D. Referral services E. Other specify
4.9	Have these services led to enhanced access to child protection mechanisms within your community? Kodi ntchito zimenezi zapangitsa kukwera kwa kapezekedwe kachithandizo cha chitetezo cha ana mu dera lanu lino?	1. Yes, it significantly increased access (probe further) 2. Yes, but with minimal change (probe further) 3. No, there's been no noticeable change
4.10	How would you describe the community's response to behaviour change initiatives introduced by the project (including journey of life workshops, engaging schools etc.)? Kodi ntchito za project iyi zapangitsa bwanji kusintha makhalidwe a anthu pa nkhani za madzi, ukhondo komanso chitetetzo cha ana ndi amayi (kuphatikizapo ma workshop a journey of life, kugwira ntchito limodzi ndi masukulu)?	a) Actively participating and implementing changes (probe further) b) Partially involved, but with some resistance (probe further) c) No knowledge or involvement
4.11	Have you or your family accessed any additional protection or support services provided by the project, specifically related to child protection?	a) Yes, and found it helpful (please specify)

	Kodi inu kapena wina aliyense pakhomu pano anapezako thandizo la chitetezo komanso chisamaliro cha ana kuchokera ku project iyi?	b) Yes, but found it less helpful (please specify) c) No, not accessed any such services
4.12	To what extent has your community actively engaged or participated in project activities related to WASH and Child Protection? Ku nkhani ya madzi, ukhondo ndi chitetezo cha ana, dera lanu latengapo gawo lalikulu bwanji/mowirikiza bwanji pa zintchito za project iyi?	a) Actively participating in events and initiatives (probe further) b) Aware but not actively involved (probe further) c) No knowledge or involvement in project activities
4.13	Have any project-supported protection services adapted for climate-related challenges (e.g., disaster preparedness)? Kodi ntchito za chitetezo ndi chisamaliro cha ana komanso amayi zasintha bwanji pogwirizana ndi mavuto obwera chifukwa chakusinthira kwa nyengo. (monga, kukonzekera ngozi zogwa mwadzidzidzi)	a) Yes, and found it helpful in climate-related incidents (probe further) b) Aware but not utilized in climate-specific scenarios (probe further) c) No climate-adaptive services provided
4.14	Are you informed about the specific impacts of climate change on water availability and child protection concerns within your community? Kodi mumadziwa kuti kusintha kwa nyengo kwabweretsa mavuto otani ku nkhani yakapezedwe ka madzi, ntchito zakhondo komanso chisamaliro ndi chitetezo cha ana ndi amayi?	a) Well-informed about climate impacts (probe further) b) Partially informed (probe further) c) No specific knowledge about climate change impact on these areas
4.15	Have you or a member of your household ever participated in Children's corners sessions or activities Kodi inu kapena wina aliyense wa pakhomu lanu mwatengako mbali zochitika za children's corner?	1. Yes 2. No
4.16	Have you or member of your household ever participated in journey of life sessions	1. Yes 2. No

	Kodi inu kapena wina aliyense wa pakhomu lanu mwatengako mbali zochitika za journey of life?	
4.17	Have you or member of you household ever participated in VSL introduced by the project Kodi inu kapena wina aliyense wa pakhomu lanu mwatengako mbali zochitika za banki nkonde	1. Yes 2. No
4.18	If you were asked to place this community on a 3-step ladder now compared to 5 years ago, where step 1 means 'poor/bad state' and step 3 means 'good state' while step 2 means 'neither good nor bad state'. Where would you place this community on the following: Mutafunsidwa kuti muike dera lanu pa muyezo wa masitepe atatu kuyerekeza pano ndi zaka zisanu zapitazi; sitepe yoyamba ikuyimila 'sizili bwino', sitepe yachitatu ikuyimila 'zilibwino kwambiri' ndipo yachiwiri ikuyimila 'pakatikati'. Inu mungayike pati dera lanu lino mu zithu izi? a. WASH Madzi ndi ukhondo Explain your answer b. Girl child safety and protection Chitetezo ndi chisamaliro cha ana aakazi Explain your answer c. Boy child safety and protection Chitetezo ndi chisamaliro cha ana aamuna Explain your answer d. The safety of women Chitetezo ndi chisamaliro cha amayi Explain your answer e. Other groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities Magulu ena monga okalamba ndi anthu omwe ali ndi ulumali Explain your answer	a. WASH ____ Explanation____ b. Girl child safety & protection ____ Explanation____ c. Boy child safety & protection ____ Explanation____ d. Women's safety & protection ____ Explanation

		e. Other vulnerable groups ____ Explanation
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We have come to the end of the interview. Thank you very much for your time and for answering the questions that I had for you.

Annex 14: Consent and Assent Forms

Consent Form

NOTE FOR FACILITATOR

REMEMBER!

- **CONFIDENTIALITY** – 1) tell participants they are NOT being asked to share information about individual issues/cases; 2) try to find a quiet/private place to have the discussion
- **INFORMED CONSENT** – 1) explain the purpose of the activity; 2) participation is in group and voluntary
- **SAFETY** – if you feel any staff conducting this activity or participants may be at risk, do not proceed with the activity. When probing, no information linking to individual survivors should be asked.
- **Conclusion:** At the end of this discussion, thank the participants for their participation. Remind them to contact relevant agencies if they have any concerns.

Date: _____ **Location of FGD:** _____

Facilitator: _____ **Note Taker:** _____ **Translator (if applicable):** _____

Time FGD started: _____ **Time FGD ended:** _____

Translation used: Yes/ No

If yes, the translation was from _____ to _____

Sex of FGD participants: Female/ Male

Age of FGD participants: 15-19 years/ 20-30 years/ 30-40 years/ Over 40 years

List Other Key Demographics (caretakers, participants with physical or intellectual disabilities, etc.)

CONSENT FORM

Hello, my name is _____, and I work with Centre for Research, University of Malawi.

Information Sheet

We are conducting an evaluation regarding the project of Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi to evaluate the extent of access to improved WASH services and services to prevent and respond to violence. We would very much appreciate your participation in this evaluation. Your participation involves a Focus Group Discussion about your experiences with the project. The purpose of this Focus Group Discussion is to determine the access to information, skills, and available support around positive gender norms, determine the access to WASH facilities in the communities, reasons for lack of access, child protection and safeguarding case management and children's corner services being provided. This discussion would last for approximately 45 minutes or less. Please understand that your participation is voluntary, and you can choose to not to answer any question or not to participate at any time. You can also withdraw from the discussion at any time, *without any consequences*. Your decision about whether to participate in this study or to answer any specific questions will in no way affect any services that you receive. If you do choose to participate, please answer the questions honestly and openly, so that we can understand your experience and find out what you really think and have experienced.

The information you provide will be strictly confidential and never connected to you. Other people will not know if you are in this study or what you have said. We will put information we learn from you together with information we learn from other people in the evaluation. No one will be able to tell what information came from you. Please do not share what is discussed here with anyone. When we tell other people about this evaluation, we will never use your name, and no one will ever know what answers you gave. Only a few researchers will have access to this information, and all information will be stored safely and destroyed under the care of the lead evaluator. The discussions will be recorded with your consent for record-keeping purposes but will be discarded later. The information provided by you will not be misused in any form or way. Please be assured that the provided information (such as pictures, recordings etc.) will not be misused in any way and is only being collected for record keeping and evidence purposes. With your consent, your pictures might be used in the Evaluation Report. Your participation in this discussion will not involve any monetary or other form of compensation, and there will be no associated risks.

This evaluation is funded by UNICEF. This means that the team is being paid by the sponsor for doing the evaluation. The researchers do not, however, have a direct financial interest in the sponsor or in the final results of the evaluation. AWF and CSR are the authorised partners to carry out this evaluation. **This evaluation process is being** reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact: Dr John Kadzandira on 0999-951788 or by email to: jkadzandira@unima.ac.mw.

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have.

I understand the purpose of this Focus Group Discussion. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost:



- If you consent to the recording of the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box.
- If you consent to sharing of the Focus Group Discussion to authorised partners, please ✓ the box. ☐
- If you consent to taking and using your pictures (for Evaluation Report) during the Focus ☐up Discussion, please ✓ the box.

Signature:

Date:

CONSENT FORM

(To be signed by the parents/ guardians of the participants under the age of 18 years)

Hello, my name is _____, and I work with Centre for Research, University of Malawi.

We are conducting an evaluation regarding the project of Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi to evaluate the extent of access to improved WASH services and services to prevent and respond to violence. We would very much appreciate your participation in this evaluation. Your participation involves a Focus Group Discussion about your experiences with the project. The purpose of this Focus Group Discussion is to determine the access to information, skills, and available support around positive gender norms, determine the access to WASH facilities in the communities, reasons for lack of access, child protection and safeguarding case management and children's corner services being provided. This discussion would last for approximately 45 minutes or less. We would like to obtain your consent for the participation of your child(s) in this discussion. Please understand that their participation is voluntary, and they can choose not to answer any question or not to participate at any time. They can also withdraw from the discussion at any time, *without any consequences*. Their decision about whether to participate in this study or to answer any specific questions will in no way affect any services that you receive. The information they provide will be strictly confidential. We will put information we learn from your child together with information we learn from other people in the evaluation. No one will be able to tell what information came from them. Please do not ask from them what was discussed in the discussion. When we tell other people about this evaluation, we will never use names, and no one will ever know what answers your child(s) gave. Only a few researchers will have access to this information, and all information will be stored safely and destroyed under the care of the lead evaluator. The discussions will be recorded with you and your child(s) consent for record-keeping purposes but will be discarded later. The information provided by your child will not be misused in any form or way. The information provided by you will not be misused in any form or way. Please be assured that the provided information (such as pictures, recordings etc.) will not be misused in any way and is only being collected for record keeping and evidence purposes. With your and your child's consent, their pictures might be used in the Evaluation Report. Your participation in this discussion will not involve any monetary or other form of compensation, and there will be no associated risks.

This evaluation is funded by UNICEF. This means that the team is being paid by the sponsor for doing the evaluation. The researchers do not, however, have a direct financial interest in the sponsor or in the final results of the evaluation. AWF and CSR are the authorised partners to carry out this evaluation. **This evaluation process is being** reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact: Dr John Kadzandira on 0999-951788 or by email to: jkadzandira@unima.ac.mw.

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have.

I understand the purpose of this Focus Group Discussion. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost:

- If you consent to the recording of the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ ☐ box.
- If you consent to sharing of the Focus Group Discussion to authorised partners, please ✓ ☐ box.
- If you consent to taking and using pictures of your child (for Evaluation Report) during the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ ☐ the box.

Signature:

Date:

Please provide the initial of your child's name:

ASSENT FORM

(To be signed by participants under the age of 18 years)

Hello, my name is _____, and I work with Centre for Research, University of Malawi.

We are conducting an evaluation regarding the project of Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi to evaluate the extent of access to improved WASH services and services to prevent and respond to violence. We would very much appreciate your participation in this evaluation. Your participation involves a Focus Group Discussion about your experiences with the project. The purpose of this Focus Group Discussion is to determine the access to information, skills, and available support around positive gender norms, determine the access to WASH facilities in the communities, reasons for lack of access, child protection and safeguarding case management and children's corner services being provided. This discussion would last for approximately 45 minutes or less. Please understand that your participation is voluntary, and you can choose to not to answer any question or not to participate at any time. You can also withdraw from the discussion at any time, *without any consequences*. Your decision about whether to participate in this study or to answer any specific questions will in no way affect any services that you receive. If you do choose to participate,

please answer the questions honestly and openly, so that we can understand your experience and find out what you really think and have experienced.

The information you provide will be strictly confidential and never connected to you. Other people will not know if you are in this study or what you have said. We will put information we learn from you together with information we learn from other people in the evaluation. No one will be able to tell what information came from you. When we tell other people about this evaluation, we will never use your name, and no one will ever know what answers you gave. Only a few researchers will have access to this information, and all information will be stored safely and destroyed under the care of the lead evaluator. The discussions will be recorded with your consent for record-keeping purposes but will be discarded later. The information provided by you will not be misused in any form or way. Please be assured that the provided information (such as pictures, recordings etc.) will not be misused in any way and is only being collected for record keeping and evidence purposes. With your consent, your pictures might be used in the Evaluation Report. Your participation in this discussion will not involve any monetary or other form of compensation, and there will be no associated risks. Please be assured that your parent/ guardian has also signed a consent form on your behalf. However, you can still refuse to participate in this study.

This evaluation is funded by UNICEF. This means that the team is being paid by the sponsor for doing the evaluation. The researchers do not, however, have a direct financial interest in the sponsor or in the final results of the evaluation. AWF and CSR are the authorised partners to carry out this evaluation. **This evaluation process is being** reviewed by a committee that works to protect your rights and welfare. If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact: Dr John Kadzandira on 0999-951788 or by email to: jkadzandira@unima.ac.mw.

Before you say yes or no to being in this study, we will answer any questions you have.

I understand the purpose of this Focus Group Discussion. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost:

- If you consent to the recording of the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box. ☐
- If you consent to sharing of the Focus Group Discussion to authorised partners, please ✓ the box. ☐
- If you consent to taking and sharing your pictures (for Evaluation Report) during the Focus Group Discussion, please ✓ the box. ☐

Signature:

Date:

CONTACT CARD

If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research subject, or if you would like to obtain information or offer input, you may contact:

Name: Dr. John Kadzandira

Organisation: Centre for Research, University of Malawi

Phone Number: 0999-951788

Email: jkadzandira@unima.ac.mw

Consent Form Acknowledgment:

I, Dr. John Kadzandira, acknowledge that the information provided above is accurate and complete. I understand that this contact card will be used for official communication related to the evaluation project and will be kept confidential.

Evaluator's Signature: _____

Date:

Annex 16: ToRs of the Project

SUMMARY

Type of Contract	Institutional Contract
Description of Services	Summative Evaluation of the Project “Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi”
Purpose	The evaluation aims to generate evidence regarding the overall results of the integrated activities and strategies implemented by UNICEF under the project titled “Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi”. The evaluation will provide a measured view of the achievement of project results against the planned results and draw lessons that can improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and future projects with similar objectives and aid in the overall enhancement of UNICEF programming. The evaluation aims to assess the project achievements of the planned Theory of Change (ToC); attainment of results against the impact, outcome, and output indicators included in the logical framework (log frame); capture changes in the ToC (if any); identify lessons learned; highlight constraints, including unforeseen outcomes; and provide recommendations for ensuring the sustainability of key project results and future programming. The evaluation will also be important in determining the completeness of the project, thus informing the project completion report.
Objectives	The core objectives of the evaluation are: • Assess project achievements concerning agreed project milestones and targets. • Determine the relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness, impact orientation, and sustainability of the project, including integrating gender and human rights considerations. • Examine the efficiency and effectiveness of delivering project results, including organizational effectiveness. • Assess the adequacy of project management and implementation approaches, changes and adaptations in the original ToC, and the extent to which outcomes and outputs

	were achieved about the project Log frame. - Identify strengths and weaknesses in project implementation, focusing on integrated implementation strategies adopted to address issues of violence and access to water and sanitation in targeted communities. - Identify and document lessons learned and provide clear recommendations for future programming in similar areas.
Location/duty	Lilongwe (with some travel to Blantyre)
Expected Start Date	1 st October 2023
Expected End Date	31 Dec. 2023
Duration	3 months

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries, ranked 172 out of 189 countries listed on the Human Development Index in 2019. Some 71 per cent of the population live on less than US\$1.90 per day, and most people in rural communities are subsistence farmers. An estimated 61 per cent of children aged 0–17 years are now considered multi-dimensionally poor (deprived of two or more essential services) compared to 63 per cent in 2012-13.

Malawi is facing significant development challenges. The economy of Malawi is dependent on the rainfed agriculture sector and underproductive. In the last two decades, Malawi's real per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) has remained largely flat and lagging behind its regional peers. While Malawi has made impressive gains on the Human Capital Index (HCI), rising from 0.36 to 0.411 between 2010 and 2020, population growth reinforces the exclusion of women from opportunities, outstrips job creation, strains rural land, and puts unsustainable pressure on classroom capacity and learning outcomes. The literacy rate is 75.5 per cent (female 68.8 per cent, male 83.0 per cent; urban 91.8 per cent, rural 72.1 per cent), such that 1 in 4 people (and over 3 in 10 women) are illiterate (MICS 2019-20).

Malawi's surface water resources are derived from rivers and inland lakes like Lake Malawi. Inconsistent rains extended dry periods, and increased evaporation rates already affect water availability. Increased drought conditions are expected to continue to lower water levels in Lake Malawi and the Shire River. Floods often damage water infrastructure and contaminate ground and surface water sources. Malawi is already one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. The increasingly unpredictable rainfall, watershed degradation, and limited water storage infrastructure reduce the availability and quality of water resources, increase the country's vulnerability to droughts and floods, and hamper energy security and agricultural productivity. As per MICS 2019-2022, 71 % of rural households have access to basic drinking water. Some 46% rural and 43% of the urban households have a basic sanitation facility.

In terms of urban sanitation, very few households (less than 16%) are connected to sewers in the cities of Lilongwe and Blantyre⁷. Pit latrines are the most common sanitation option in the cities at over 70%, and over 20% of these latrines, especially in peri-urban areas, are unimproved⁸. Faecal sludge collection and disposal is done by a few private sector operators, with limited capacity and regulation from city authorities⁹. The gulper is the most common tool used in desludging pit latrines, and very few sewage treatment plants are operational in the major cities. A significant part of the faecal sludge emptied doesn't reach the treatment plants. Illegal disposal in nearby rivers and open space is common because few treatment plants accept faecal sludge, and desludging companies avoid disposal fees, fuel costs and extended travel time to reach the dump sites.

Progress in addressing poverty and vulnerability has stagnated in Malawi over the last 15 years. National poverty has seen a modest reduction from 52.4 percent in 2004 to 51.5 percent in 2016.¹⁰ Despite substantial action towards gender equality in Malawi, including adopting relevant policies and strategies, inequality persists. Malawi ranks 145th of 188 countries on the United Nations Gender Inequality Index and 115th of 153 countries on the Global Gender Gap Index¹¹. Female agency is undermined by prevalent child marriage and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Women's economic empowerment is acutely constrained by relatively high levels of early school dropouts. Female-headed households have fewer assets and reduced access to infrastructure and services, which lowers their productivity.

Malawi has developed a robust policy and strategic framework for protecting children from multiple forms of abuse, exploitation, violence, and neglect, anchored in the Child Care Justice and Protection Act (CCJP) (2010) and the National Children's Policy (2019). However, despite the presence of an established policy framework to ensure the protection of all children in the country, Malawi's children continue to experience multiple forms of violence. Cases of violence for children amongst children aged 1-14 years subjected to violent discipline in the previous month have increased from 72% to 82% (MICS 2019-2020). Gender-based violence among adolescents is unacceptably high, as one in five girls and one in seven boys experience at least one incident of sexual abuse before age 18. There are also disparities along geographical, wealth, and educational lines. For example, 46% of women aged 20- 24 got married before age 18 in rural areas compared to 32% in urban areas. The issues regarding children's health, education, access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and protection from violence, abuse, and exploitation remain a key priority. Children, particularly girls, are the most vulnerable and face multiple barriers that prevent their access to inclusive quality education alternative learning pathways and increase their risk of violence and abuse. These challenges are closely linked to poverty, malnutrition, inadequate access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, and the effect of HIV, which often prevents children, especially girls, from completing their education and reaching their full potential.

In Malawi, 13 percent (2018) of adolescent girls are out of school. There are 132 births (2018) per 1,000 women aged 15-19 years. This is higher than the Africa Human Capital Target for 2023.¹² Child marriage is common, with 46 percent of women aged 18 to 22 reporting having been married before the age of 18, and nearly one-third of young women aged 15 to 19 having already begun bearing children.¹³ Undernourished adolescent girls are predisposed to delivering underweight babies, which increases the risk of neonatal

mortality and stunting and associated impact on educational attainment and lifetime earnings. About 39 percent of children below the age of five are stunted. Moreover, unsafe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene result in diarrheal diseases, exacerbating already poor health outcomes. Integrated approaches are required to address the vulnerabilities of children, especially girls, within a wider set of interventions to support the empowerment of women and girls through agriculture, nutrition, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as sexual and reproductive health.

UNICEF has been supporting the Government of Malawi and its partners in providing life-saving services, including the provision of WASH and quality psychosocial support for survivors of all forms of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A functioning protection system requires capacities commensurate with the system's goals. UNICEF fulfils this work by supporting efforts to increase the capacities of both government and non-government partners to provide a protective environment and deliver high-quality interventions.

Object of Evaluation

To support the government of Malawi to address the above-mentioned barriers and promote sustainable solutions, UNICEF has been working with the government and other implementing partners to deliver significant results for children. UNICEF Malawi secured funding by UK aid from the UK government through its Soccer Aid initiative to implement an integrated project “Building Safe, Inclusive, and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi”, in April 2021, originally for two years and later extended to December 2023.

The 2.9-year project aims to ensure that women, children, and vulnerable populations in target areas are resilient to chronic vulnerabilities and the impact of climate change. In the target communities, children and families face multi-dimensional poverty. There are high rates of water-borne diseases and high rates of violence against women and children. These populations are the primary beneficiaries of the project. The project is unique regarding the programmatic collaboration between WASH and Child Protection (CP) to complement and accelerate impact for both, which is a new combination in the country and the region. Over a period of 2.9 years, the project aims to achieve a 20% increase in the number of children, women, and community members using basic drinking water and sanitation services, as well as accessing improved protection services in the target areas within Blantyre District and peri-urban and rural areas of Lilongwe district. The project is built around four areas: 1) Community mobilization and behaviour change interventions, 2) Improved access to market-based sanitation, 3) Improved access to safe and resilient water supply services, and 4) Strengthening of community-based mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence.

The project supports the development of market-based solutions for delivering more affordable, reliable, and sustainable onsite sanitation services for low-income peri-urban and rural communities. Technical and business skills development is strengthened among entrepreneurs, leading to sustained service delivery in

latrine construction and pit emptying services. The project also facilitates establishing a sanitation revolving fund at the community level to enable the poorest households to access sanitation products/services available in the local market. Demand activation is carried out to create awareness of sanitation products and services.

Under this project, UNICEF intends to scale up its response to Violence Against Girls, Boys, and Women (VAGBW), taking into account the complex linkages between WASH and protection by strengthening children's corners as safe spaces for children, enhancing structures for justice for women and children, including survivors of SGBV, for systematic quality preventive and response services; professional development for frontline service providers in case management and referral, improving the capacity of social service providers in the provision of Psycho-Social Support (PSS), and ensuring quality services.

One of the program's key components was 'Children's corners', i.e. the community spaces for both in and out of school children aged 6 to 18 years. They provide an enabling environment that protects girls and boys from violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect and also responds to their developmental needs, including HIV impact mitigation. The Government of Malawi established the services early in 2000 in response to the impacts of HIV and UNICEF commenced support later in the decade. Children's Corner services have been part of the most recent National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children. By 2023, the goal was to reach over 500,000 additional children through 5,000 centres. Children's Corners are run by community volunteers and technically supported by Child Protection Workers who are trained by the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MoGCDSW). Delivery of services is guided by a Children's Corner Facilitators' Guide and Training Manual. This project used children's corners as an entry point for integrated WASH and CP services. UNICEF's work in the country has improved access to safe water and sanitation and established key elements of the national child protection system, including legislation, infrastructure, and strengthened staff capacities.

Children Corners are a structure established when the community has been taken through the concept of Journey of Life (JoL), which assumes that life is a journey and that children meet various challenges that require the support of parents/guardians and the community to develop to their full potential. During Journey of Life workshops, community members brainstorm on challenges and support required at each child's growth and development stage. Each JoL Workshop results in at least four outcomes, which are a community action plan on child protection, establishment/ revamping of new children's corners, establishment/ revamping of community-based care centres (CBCCs) and several other support for children in need of care and protection.

Journey of Life community awareness workshops were specifically designed for household members in communities at the village level. The workshop should basically be viewed as a community meeting that has been called for by the chief of the village. As such, participants to the workshop come from households within a village and comprise children, women, chiefs'/ village heads, parents, guardians, and chiefs.

The project's overarching goal (or impact) is to increase resilience to waterborne diseases and improve prevention and response to violence in Malawi. The TOC, shown as Fig. 1, and the underlying Log frame is that if (i) girls, boys, families, and community members are empowered with information, skills, and support

around positive gender norms and good sanitation; if (ii) resilient and affordable water and sanitation systems are scaled through revolving funds and green water services; if (iii) child protection case management and children's corner services are scaled up with skilled workers addressing protection issues and providing sustainable WASH, then (a) children, families, and community members are less exposed to harmful norms and practices around violence, adopt positive practices, and know where to report violent incidents that may occur; (b) children, women, and families use improved and resilient water and sanitation services; (c) children, women, and families receive quality and coordinated services to prevent and respond to all forms of violence. The planned ToC has to be evaluated and changes that may have happened during the project implementation have to be captured in the final evaluation.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned results, several strategies have been identified. They range from community engagement, mass media, and interpersonal communication to conducting safety audits, forming village saving and loan groups, establishing village health action groups and village development committees, creating a community-level sanitation revolving fund, implementing solar-powered water schemes, setting up community-based complaint mechanisms, and linking vulnerable children and families to appropriate services for case management.

Project Areas

For CP, the geographical coverage was all Traditional Authorities (TA) in the two districts of Blantyre and Lilongwe. However, for the WASH/CP integration model, the geographical focus was four TAs (2 in each district). All cases of vulnerability were addressed although the project was focusing on GBC, PSS, Justice for Children, ECM, Sexual and Gender Based Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls. Case management was using an approach for early identification, management, and referral.

Key Partners

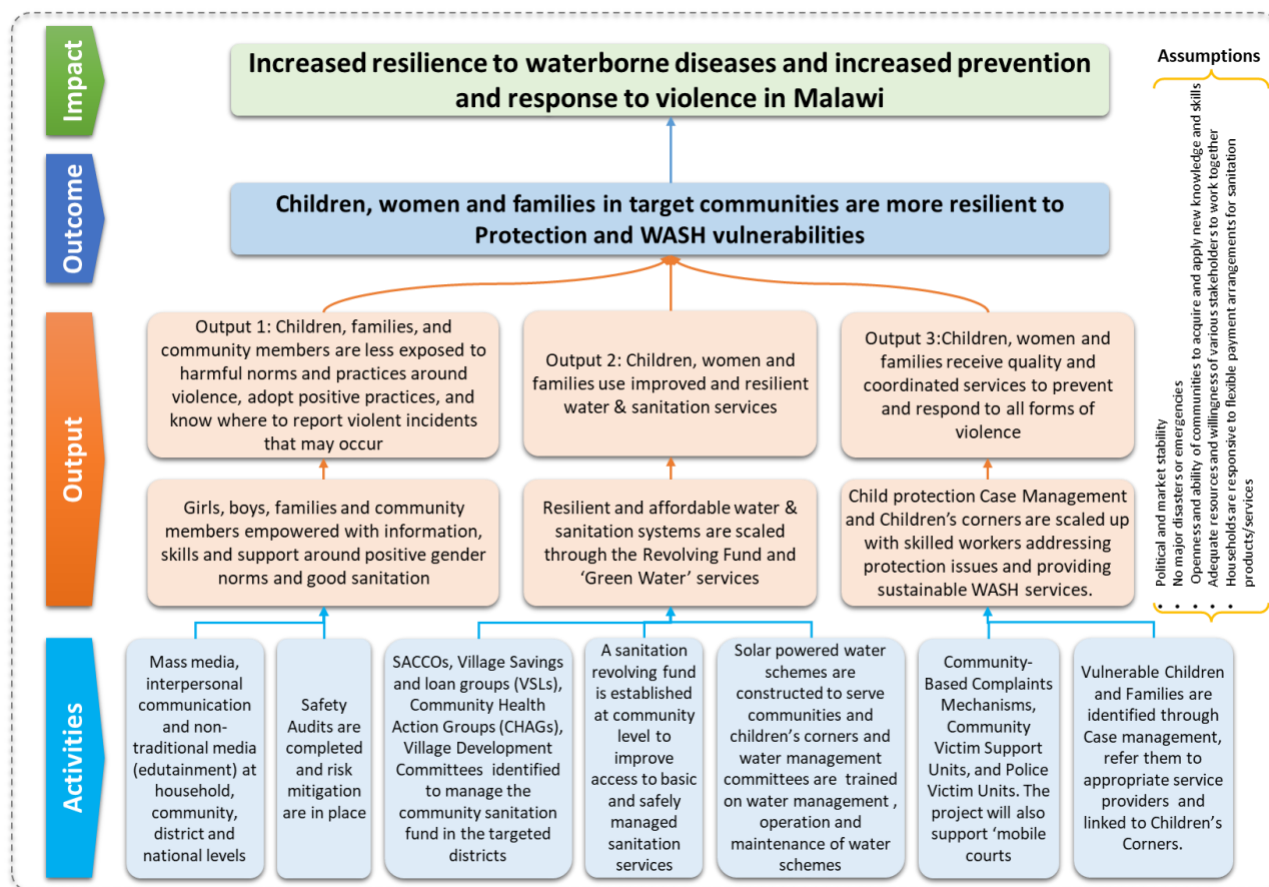
The key implementing partners for the project include the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; the Ministry of Water and Sanitation; the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (including the District Councils); the Ministry of Youth, Sports, and Culture; the Malawi Police; and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The NGO partner WVI worked closely with the government through the District Councils (Social Welfare Department as the lead government sector on children's issues). The evaluation team is expected to map all the partners and ensure their participation in the evaluation process.

7 Lilongwe City Council, 2022, Blantyre City Council 2022

8 Lilongwe City Council, 2022, Blantyre City Council 2022

9 Lilongwe City Council, 2022, Blantyre City Council 2022

Figure 1: Theory of Change



Evaluation Purpose

The evaluation aims to generate evidence regarding the achievement of project results against the planned results and draw lessons that can improve the sustainability of benefits from this project and similar future projects and aid in the overall enhancement of UNICEF programming. The evaluation aims at measuring the attainment of results against the impact, outcome, and output indicators included in the project log frame, capture changes in ToC (if any), extract lessons learned, highlight constraints including unforeseen challenges, and provide recommendations for ensuring the sustainability of key project results. Since this evaluation marks the end of a two-year project, the evaluation will not only highlight the achievements and results but will also provide guidance for future intersectoral program implementation. The evaluation will also be important in determining the completeness of the project, thus, informing the project completion report.

The primary audience of this evaluation include UNICEF MCO, UK Aid, Mannion Daniels, relevant project staff, implementing partners, Ministries and Departments at national and district levels, and the UNICEF regional and global project teams. The results derived from the evaluation will also contribute to an increased understanding of joint implementation in the upcoming Country Programme for similar future integrated programmes.

The evaluation is aimed at the primary target audiences outlined below, with each audience utilizing the evaluation findings as follows:

- UNICEF will use the evaluation to determine whether the project achieved its expected results according to the stated ToC and Log frame, and any changes thereof. The project was unique regarding the sector collaboration between WASH and Child Protection, a new combination in the country and the region. The evaluation results will also strengthen inter-sectoral programming and identify necessary operational adjustments to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of WASH and CP Strategies for the new UNICEF CPD 2024-2028.
- NGO partners, such as the World Vision, Water for People, Hygiene Village Project, and Participatory Development Initiative, will use the evaluation to understand and learn about their contributions to the project results and improve their work in similar future programmes.
- Government counterparts of Malawi, including the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Gender, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, District Councils, and City Councils, will utilize the evaluation findings for policy guidance and strengthening coordination of future projects and programmes.
- The evaluation results will also form the basis for the project completion report of this project which will be written by UNICEF Malawi in collaboration with UNICEF UK.
- UNICEF regional and global offices will be able to learn from the WASH and CP-related lessons and recommendations for program enhancement at the regional and global levels.
- The evaluation will also assess the contributions of community structures established by the project. This will help support community accountability by involving beneficiary families who are benefiting from the project.
- The ultimate beneficiaries of project intervention areas, particularly Malawi, in general, whose lives should be improved through improved programming.

Evaluation Objectives

Specifically, the evaluation will try to achieve the following objectives:

1. Assess project achievements in relation to agreed project ToC, milestones, and targets.
2. Measure efficiency, effectiveness, impact orientation, and sustainability of the project, including the integration of gender, equity (issues around the inclusion of marginalized groups, survivors of violence, and disability) and human rights considerations.
3. Assess in depth the effectiveness of project implementation, partnership, and communication strategies in delivering project results, sustainability of key project results including what elements were most challenging or successful, and why; and the long-term outcomes and effects of the project.
4. Assess the adequacy of project management approaches, potential changes and adaptations in the ToC, and the extent to which outcomes and outputs were achieved in relation to project log frame.

ToR - Summative Evaluation – Project on “Building Safe, Inclusive and Resilient Communities for Women and Children in Malawi”

5. Identify strengths and weaknesses in project implementation with a focus on integrated implementation strategies adopted to address issues of violence and access to water and sanitation in targeted communities.
6. Identify and document lessons learned especially the lessons around the sustainability of key project results and provide clear recommendations for future programming in similar areas.
7. Support in fulfilling accountability requirements for donors and stakeholders.

Evaluation Scope

The following scope of work is to be covered in this evaluation:

- **Thematic/Programmatic Scope:** This evaluation will examine the entire integrated project and the ToC it employed in achieving results toward establishing child-friendly, resilient communities. It will also involve assessing the extent of achievement of anticipated results against the targets as outlined in the project log frame.
- **Geographical Scope:** The evaluation's geographic scope will be limited to the implementation districts (Lilongwe and Blantyre). The project has four sites with the integration of WASH & CP (TA Machinjiri & Kuntaja in Blantyre and TAs Chiseka & Njewa in Lilongwe) activities. The evaluation will cover all these combined sites.
- **Temporal Scope:** The evaluation will cover the entire project period from inception (2021) to the end of the project in Dec. 2023, focusing on the project's progress and outcomes achieved within this period.

Evaluation Criteria and Questions

The summative evaluation analytical framework should be constructed around the evaluation criteria approved by the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization of the Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD-DAC) including Relevance, Coherence, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Impact Orientation, and Sustainability. Taking into account the OECD/DAC guidance to choose the priority criteria for a better focus, only four criteria, i.e. efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability will be used for this evaluation to assess project's achievements, strengths, challenges, and weaknesses.

In addition, the evaluation will embed Gender and Human Rights lenses to assess the extent to which the project was aligned with UNICEF's equity agenda. It will therefore employ a gender-responsive, equity-focused, disability-inclusive, and human rights-based approach for this evaluation (covering the inclusion of marginalized groups such as children with disabilities and survivors of violence) by i) including disability, equity, and gender in evaluation criteria and evaluation questions; ii) making evaluation methodology and data collection and analysis methods equity and gender-responsive and disability-inclusive; and iii) reflecting disability, equity and gender analysis in evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations for strengthening results for children with segregated data by sex and age group (children or adults).

The following key evaluation questions can be used as indicative queries that the evaluation team is expected to use for methodology and developing the evaluation matrix.

Key Evaluation Questions

Focus Area	Evaluation Questions
Efficiency	• Have the project activities been executed on time, in expected quantity and quality? • Have resources (funds, human resources, time, expertise, etc.) been allocated strategically and managed efficiently to achieve the intended outcomes? • How efficient was UNICEF in providing the required support to partner organizations/government departments? What factors affected the pace and quality of implementation and why? Was the program implemented most efficiently compared to alternatives (cost analysis)?
Effectiveness	• What are the major achievements and results of the project? • To what extent the actual results as captured in the planned ToC and the log frame were achieved? What changes, if any, were made in the planned ToC and log frame to achieve the desired results? • How useful were the log frame indicators? How regularly the monitoring of key indicators in the log frame has been conducted? If not, what were the challenges? • What processes have enabled or hindered the achievement of outcomes and outputs; and what could have been done differently to address those constraints? • What measures were undertaken and/or are required to improve the capacity of the project partners and UNICEF programmes for integrated programming on CP and WASH? • What strategies were adopted by the project to include and provide equal opportunities to men and women, girls, and boys from marginalized communities to benefit from project interventions? • How satisfied or dissatisfied were the men and women beneficiaries with the interventions they received under this project? Were there any differentiated results across groups e.g. women, men, girls, boys, adolescents, and youth, extreme poor, persons with disabilities, survivors of violence, urban/rural etc.?

Sustainability	• To what extent the achieved results continue, be replicated, or integrated into policies, strategies, and programmes in the UNICEF next Country Programme after the funding ceases? • To what extent the project influenced the national or local level commitment for resource allocations and leveraging? • What strategies for sustainability have been adopted and how effective these have been in ensuring the continuity of project benefits beyond the project life? • Are there any challenges that hamper the implementation of sustainability strategy? If yes, how did the project plan to address them? • Which capabilities, investments, partners, and management systems would need to be improved or introduced in order to ensure sustainable impacts? • What are the key bottlenecks to sustain and scale up the outcomes of this project? How to overcome them? • In which ways the learning from this project can be integrated with UNICEF programming to ensure long-term, sustainable and scaling up of similar programmes?
Orientation to Impact	• To what extent has the project impacted communities and built their resilience to protection and WASH vulnerabilities for adolescent girls and boys, especially the most marginalised? • How many and in what ways the project empowered, benefited, and included the voices of young people, girls and boys, extreme poor, children with disabilities and other vulnerabilities, and survivors of violence? • To what extent and in which ways the project has improved services/institutions/systems for CP and WASH that will continue after the end of project activities? • To what extent and in which ways the project obtained, analysed, and responded to beneficiary feedback? If not, what were the challenges in engaging with the beneficiaries? • What are the lessons learned with regard to social inclusion of marginalised groups? and the way forward?

Applicable evaluation criteria and specific questions to be covered under this evaluation will be finalized during the inception phase in consultation with the relevant project implementing teams of UNICEF, its counterpart departments/stakeholders, and the reference group members.

METHODOLOGY

The evaluation team is expected to use mixed-methods approach, using quantitative and qualitative methods to collect and analyse both secondary and primary data, attained from documentary reviews and existing monitoring systems, surveys, key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD) to ensure a

robust evaluation. The purpose of using multiple methods and sources is to achieve methodological as well as data-source triangulation to ensure reliability of data, develop a strong evidence base to support the findings and to provide the most relevant and credible answers to the evaluation questions.

As mentioned above, the evaluation aims to assess the intended and unintended results, outcomes, and outputs of the project, as per the ToC and the log frame. Therefore, the evaluation is expected to use a methodology that could help assess project achievements from the perspective of the project Theory of ToC and the log frame. The evaluation team is expected to propose a clear and coherent methodology to effectively measure whether and how far the planned ToC and log frame were used to achieve the intended impact, outcomes, and outputs. To capture any changes in the planned ToC and log frame during project implementation, the evaluation is expected to give a measured opinion if an implicit or explicit ToC that was different from the planned ToC was at play during the project implementation. If so, the evaluation, in retrospect, will try to establish the actual ToC that was used during project implementation, in consultation with the key stakeholders. This would help establish the real pathways of change used through this project to achieve desired results. The evaluation is expected to assess the stronger or weaker links in documented or implicit ToC, any missing elements and how that impacted the project implementation. Therefore, the evaluation team is expected to devise a methodology in view of the below suggestions and in light of the discussions with the key stakeholders during the inception stage to ensure capturing the actual ToC and the log frame used during the project implementation. The methodology must also be able to undertake an effective assessment of results achieved in the impact, outcome, and output targets against the targets in the against the planned log frame targets.

The design should also specify how data collection and analysis methods will integrate disability, equity, and gender considerations throughout the evaluation process, including to the extent possible, inclusion of girls and boys, women, and men, persons with disabilities, as well as a range of project stakeholders. The final methodology will be agreed to during the inception phase in consultation with the Evaluation Reference Group.

Primary data collection methods may include:

- **Key informant interviews:** Interviews with key project stakeholders, including field staff, partners, school administrators, and community leaders.
- **Focus group discussions:** Gender-balanced participation from beneficiaries and other target groups and stakeholders to assess implementation experiences and effectiveness, challenges and lessons learned, and develop recommendations for improvement. Child-focused methods should be employed if conducting FGDs with children.

- **Observation:** Visits to selected communities will provide supplemental evidence and answers to the evaluation questions.

Primary data collected in the field will be supplemented by a desk review of the following documents to be provided by the UNICEF programme teams from CP and WASH:

- Project baseline survey report, and the baseline data sets.
- Routine data generated monitoring mechanism, those of the line ministries and/or implementing partners; monitoring reports for the log frame indicators.
- Project documents: project proposal, log frame, indicator matrix, work plan and budget, monitoring reports, Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) reports, and other documents.
- Periodic Progress Reports submitted to the donor.
- National WASH and CP policies and strategies.
- Other relevant documents and data such as the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), UNICEF Harmful Practices Report, other relevant reports provided by the project teams.

In addition, the evaluation team is expected to review and comply to the guidelines provided in the below-mentioned guidance documents:

- United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Norms and Standards for Evaluation in the UN System 2016 (Including impartiality, independence, quality, transparency, consultative process).
- Ethical Guidelines for UN Evaluations;
- UNICEF Ethical Guidelines and standards for research and evaluation and Ethical Research Involving Children;
- UNEG guidance on integrating human rights and gender equality and UN System-Wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP) on gender equality;
- UNICEF Guidance on Gender Integration in Evaluation;
- UNICEF adapted evaluation report standards and GEROS;
- UNICEF Guidance Note on Adolescent participation in UNICEF monitoring and evaluation;
- Disability-Inclusive Evaluations in UNICEF: Guideline for Achieving UNDIS Standards

Close attention shall be paid to the conformity of different deliverables of this mandate with the GEROS standards, as UNICEF will not accept deliverables that do not comply with these standards or UNEG guidelines. The GEROS standards, that will be also used to determine the rating of the final report by a UNICEF-independent entity, will be shared by UNICEF with the evaluation team during the inception phase. UNICEF REKM Section will assure the quality of the evaluation and guarantee its alignment with UNEG Norms and Standards and Ethical Guidelines and provide quality assurance checking that the findings and conclusions are relevant and proposed adaptations and recommendations are actionable. The inception report and draft final report will be subject to a satisfactory rating by an external quality assurance facility, using quality assurance checklists (to be provided upon signature of the contract),

before payment can be made. The evaluators will be responsible for ensuring that recommendations for quality improvement of the deliverables are fully addressed.

Quality assurance and Assessment: The data collected should be subjected to rigorous quality assurance for validation purposes, using a variety of tools including triangulation of information sources and permanent exchange with the UNICEF. Quality assurance processes will be applied throughout the evaluation processes and for the key deliverables.

Evaluation Matrix: The evaluation team is required to prepare an evaluation matrix to systematically structure and consolidate the data collected for each of the evaluation questions. A detailed evaluation matrix with each evaluation criteria, questions, adequate data collection methods, sample size, and sampling methodology will be proposed by the evaluation firm in its bid. It is expected that the methods and sampling proposed for assessing the effects of interventions on expected beneficiaries are sufficiently robust to ensure the credibility and internal validity of the evaluation results. This matrix will allow them, among other things, to identify the missing data and thus fill these gaps before the end of the data collection. This matrix will also help to ensure the validity of the data collected.

Participation and inclusion: This evaluation should be conducted using a participatory and inclusive approach, involving a wide range of partners and stakeholders. The evaluation team will carry out a stakeholder mapping in order to identify the direct and indirect partners. Stakeholder mapping may include key government agencies, civil society organizations, faith-based organizations and other UN agencies and donor.

DELIVERABLES

In alignment with the scope of work as described above, the consulting firm will be expected to perform the following activities and deliverables as per the schedule and estimated dates indicated in the below table. It is envisaged that the entire consultancy will be a total of 80 working days spread from 25 September to 31 December with workdays overlapping from month to month. Note that weekends are not included as workdays and there will be no double payment for the same days should the consulting firm wish to work on two different activities at the same time.

The following outputs are expected:

- The evaluation team will submit the Inception report, a draft review report, a ppt presentation, a summary brief of the evaluation (graphically designed), and final report (50-60 pages) with an executive summary (of not more than 04 pages) all following UNICEF GEROS standards. A learning brief will be developed to share with the wider audience for the purpose of wider learning and advocacy with the relevant stakeholders. The inception report should include:
 - Introduction, background, purpose, objective, and scope of evaluation
 - Methodology covering the ToC, methods, risks, and mitigation measures.
 - Proposed evaluation design and methods, sampling, ethical considerations etc.
 - Proposed evaluation design matrix

- Data collection tools and interview guides
 - Quality assurance plan
 - Deliverables, and proposed table of contents for the final evaluation report
 - List of Contents for the final evaluation report
 - Detailed workplan
- The final report structure, format and quality should adhere to the UNICEF Evaluation Report standards and the GEROS Quality Assessment System. The contents of the final evaluation report will be finalised.
- during the inception phase. The final report must be accompanied with an executive summary of not more than 04 pages. UNICEF REKM Section will provide details of the UNICEF standards and GEROS assessment of the final evaluation report during the inception phase. Quality assurance of the inception and draft report is mandatory. The evaluation reference group and the ESARO office will provide support for the mandatory review and quality assurance of all key deliverables. REKM Section will be responsible for ensuring that the report and other products meet UNICEF evaluation standards.
- Note that UNICEF welcomes innovative evaluation approaches and creative and innovative presentations of results that can be readily adapted for different audiences including children and young people and persons with disabilities.

Here are the details of the deliverables:

Task/Milestone	Deliverable/Outcome (e.g., Inception, progress, final reports, training material, workshop, etc.)	Estimated # of days	Planned Completion date
1. In consultation with UNICEF team and the Reference Group develop, submit, and present an Inception Report, along with the draft data collection tools, articulating the work approach/methodology and understanding of the work	A comprehensive draft inception report capturing the following: a) detailed evaluation methodology and approach b) ethical standards, c) draft data collection tools d) detailed work plan and budget; e) complete evaluation design matrix.	8	08 October 2023
2. Final inception report after incorporation of comments from UNICEF and the Reference Group and ethical review board	Final inception report as per UNICEF standards.	4	15 October

3. Conduct data collection	Enumerators trained (1 day); data collection tools pre-tested and refined (2 days); and data collection activity completed (12).	20	04 November 2023
4. Complete data cleaning and analysis	Data analysis and interpretation completed	10	10 November 2023
5. Prepare and submit a draft evaluation report as per UNICEF evaluation report standards.	Draft midterm evaluation report submitted. a) the report to follow the agreed format, b) key findings to include data visualization, such as charts, graphs, and infographics, where needed.	20	30 November 2023
6. Conduct a validation workshop with key stakeholders.	Conduct a validation workshop to present and discuss evaluation findings, lessons learned and recommendations.	3	03 December 2023
7. Finalise and submit the final evaluation report	Based on feedback from the validation meeting and written comments from technical review, finalise the evaluation report to be submitted to UNICEF HQ	10	14 December 2023 January
8. Finalise and submit the learning brief, incorporate remaining feedback, if any, on the evaluation report; action matrix for the evaluation recommendations and PowerPoint presentation (to support learning, wider dissemination, and use of evaluation insights)	Based on feedback from the validation meeting and the final evaluation report, a learning brief and PowerPoint presentation and clean datasets to be submitted to UNICEF	3	18 December 2023
9. Evaluation Dissemination Workshop (to support the learning and use of evaluation findings)	Present to the key stakeholders, including UNICEF programme teams, all partners, and stakeholders.	1	20 December
10. Close Contract	All deliverables are met, and	1	31 December

	outstanding issues are resolved.		2023
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Since the project is closing and all activities will be closed in December, a very rigours workplan is required by the evaluation team to ensure completion of work within the stipulated timelines. A detailed workplan with exact timeframes and delivery dates will be jointly firmed up between the contractor and the supervisor upon contract signature. Given the time frame, UNICEF expects a well-resourced team with clear lines of responsibilities and accountabilities.

PROPOSED PAYMENT SCHEDULE

All payments, without exception, will be made upon certification from the supervisor of the contract, of the satisfactory and quality completion of deliverables and upon receipt of the respective and approved invoice.

Travel (local) costs will be reimbursed on actual expenditures and upon presentation of original supporting documents. As per UNICEF operational guidelines, travel will be on economy class and use the most economical route.

#	Deliverables	per cent of the total fee payable
1	Upon satisfactory submission and approval of the inception report.	25 per cent
2	Upon Submission of a satisfactory draft report and presentation of preliminary findings to UNICEF and the Reference Group	30 per cent
3	Upon Submission of satisfactory revised, final report as per UNEG standards and validation workshop;	35 per cent
4	Upon submission of learning brief, summary of evaluation as per UNICEF template; and presentation to wider stakeholders	10 percent

MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT

The consulting firm will work under the overall supervision of the Chief of Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Management Section, who is responsible for overseeing and supervising the entire evaluation process. ensuring independence, quality, and compliance to UNEG standards with support from Research and Evaluation Specialist. REKM team will share evaluation standards/guidelines with the evaluation team during the inception phase. Chiefs of CP and WASH Sections and their respective project team members will support the provision of all key documents as requested by the evaluation team and will provide coordination support, engagement with stakeholders, ensuring participation from all partners as requested by REKM section. The programme teams will have full responsibility for providing all the required information and data to the evaluation team. Any issues in data availability or any other aspects of evaluability must be discussed with the evaluation team during the inception phase to help them develop a suitable approach and methodology. They will also support review and quality assurance of evaluation findings, analysis, and recommendations from programmatic perspective.

Evaluation quality assurance:

The CYFCI M&E team comprised of staff members from all concerned UNICEF sections; representative/s from UNICEF UK as well as the relevant government focal points and ESARO Evaluation Specialist will form the technical reference group (RG) for the evaluation. The RG will support the review of milestone documents and the quality assurance process REKM team will ensure involvement and engagement with the evaluation reference group throughout the review process so that they contribute to the design, shaping, and finalization of key deliverables as well as dissemination of evaluation insights to support learning and action on key recommendations.

Reporting, and communication lines:

- The evaluation team will provide weekly updates to the REKM team by email and/or zoom with regard to progress, support required and observance of timelines for deliverables.
- With the contract supervisor to report progress guided by the agreed work plan.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The bidding firm is required to clearly identify any potential ethical issues, as well as the processes for ethical review and oversight of the data collection process in their proposal. REKM team will share the UNICEF Procedure for Ethical Standards in Research, Evaluation, Data Collection, and Analysis will be shared with the evaluation team. The procedure should be consistently applied throughout the evaluation process. The procedure contains the minimum standards and requires procedures for research, evaluation and data collection and analysis undertaken or commissioned by UNICEF (including activities undertaken by individual and institutional contractors, and partners). A plan should be put in place to protect the safety (physical and psychological) of both respondents and those collecting the data. Details on how the rights to privacy and confidentiality of respondents will be observed should also be included.

Owing to the envisaged participation of human subjects in the evaluation, particularly with children, the evaluation inception report will be eligible for an external ethical review via UNICEF's LTA for ethical approval. Any ethical issues that arise during the evaluation need to be documented including how the evaluators will respond or address each.

GENERAL CONDITIONS: PROCEDURES AND LOGISTICS

This consultancy is open to both local and international firms or companies. The consulting firm will have to find their own office space and use their own equipment, including computers and other types of hardware and software. All costs related to performing and enabling the performance of the assignment, including travel and related costs, must be included in the financial proposal. Interested international firms or companies are required to partner with local firms and/or experts.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

The required organizational experience and skill set of the evaluation team for this assignment shall include the following expertise and experience:

- Well-established institution (university, research institute, NGO, or consulting company) with a minimum of 10 years of experience in designing and conducting evaluations for integrated projects and programmes.
- proven track record and human resource capacity to recruit, train and mobilize the enumerators for data collection and expertise to collect data.
- Previous experience in conducting evaluations and studies for the UN or similar international organisations will be an asset.
- The team must consist of experts specializing in areas of child protection, WASH, gender equality, adolescent development, and participation.
- The team must include national consultant/s to ensure smooth and quick data collection by national expert/s, and/or if needed use of national enumerators.
- Excellent understanding of child rights issues in Malawi.
- Experience in using non-traditional and innovative evaluation methods, including child-friendly and remote data collection methods.
- The firm must submit samples (at least 2) of similar work they have conducted recently.
- Demonstration of capacity to analyse and complete deliverables under possible travel restrictions and social distancing measures.

Academic qualification- Team Leader:

- A master's degree or equivalent in a social science discipline such as statistics, anthropology, sociology, public health, development and social studies, human rights, and gender or another related social science.

Work experience:

- A minimum of 10 years of professional technical experience in conducting evaluations, particularly having led programme and impact evaluations of similar scope.
- Extensive experience in conducting evaluations and assessments in multi-sector programmes. Those with experience in evaluations of UN programmes will have an added advantage.
- Excellent technical experience in the areas of child protection, WASH, child rights and participation, gender equality, adolescent development, and participation.
- Good experience in socio-cultural, geopolitical, and economic country contexts and gender equality and disability-inclusion principles is desirable.

Technical skills and knowledge:

- Strong technical skills in programme evaluation methods, including quasi-experimental evaluation methods.
- Strong skills in both qualitative and quantitative survey design, analysis, and ability to synthesize complex issues.
- Knowledge of UNICEF evaluation standards and quality requirements is mandatory.

- Excellent communication and writing skills in English, with strong presentation skills.
- For national consultant/s, fluency in local languages including Chichewa and/or Yao is required.
- Ability to work independently and accurately.
- Ability to work effectively in teams and in a multicultural environment.
 - High sense of integrity and results-oriented; commitment to delivering results during the tight timeline is a requirement.
 - Computer skills, including internet navigation, and various office applications.

Academic qualification- Support Team Members:

- A master's degree or equivalent in social sciences or related field.

Work experience:

- A minimum of 7 years of professional technical experience in conducting studies/ surveys particularly programme evaluations.
- Experience in child protection/WASH/child rights/health and working with vulnerable populations.
- Proven experience with donor funded projects is essential while experience with UN is a distinct advantage.
- Good experience in socio-cultural, geopolitical, and economic country context, as well gender equality principles is desirable.

Technical skills and knowledge:

- Excellent communication and writing skills in English and interpersonal skills.
- Fluency in local languages including Chichewa and Yao is required for the local consultant/s, or an interpreter should be included for the international consultant in the fee.
- Strong technical skills in both qualitative and quantitative survey design, analysis, and ability to synthesize complex issues.
- Ability to work effectively in teams and a multicultural environment.
- High sense of integrity and results-oriented
- Computer skills, including internet navigation and various office applications.
- Innovation and creativity and ability to present data and findings in a compelling way to different audiences.

APPLICATION AND EVALUATION PROCESS:

Each proposal will be assessed first on its technical merits and subsequently on its price. In making the final decision, the selection team will consider both technical and financial aspects. The Evaluation Team first reviews the technical aspects of the offer, followed by a review of the financial offers of the technically compliant vendors. The proposal obtaining the highest overall score, after adding the scores for the technical and financial proposals together, that offers the best value for money will be recommended for the contract award.

The Technical Proposal should include but not be limited to the following:

- **Methodology**

Detailed Methodology, sampling techniques, data collection methods, ethical standards etc., detailing how to meet or exceed UNICEF requirements for this assignment.

Company Profile

Ensure to include information related to the company's experience as required and outlined in item 13 of this document.

References

Details of two similar assignments undertaken in the last *three* years, including the following information:

1) Title of Project 2) Year and duration of project 3) Scope of Project 4) Outcome of Project 5) Reference /Contact persons

Work Plan

Proposed work plan showing detailed sequence and timeline for each activity and person-days of each proposed team member.

Team Composition

Title and role of each team member

CV's

CV of each team member (including qualifications and experience) Ensure to include information related to the qualifications and experience of each proposed team member as required and outlined in item 9 of this document.

- Any project dependencies or assumptions
-

The Financial Proposal should include but not be limited to the following:

Bidders are expected to submit a lump sum financial proposal to complete the entire assignment based on the terms of reference. The lump sum should be broken down to show the detail for the following:

Resource costs

Daily rate multiplied by the number of days.

Conference or workshop costs (if any)

Indicate nature and breakdown if possible.

Travel Costs

All travel costs should be included as a lump sum fixed cost.

For all travel costs, UNICEF will pay as per the lump sum fixed costs provided in the proposal.

A breakdown of the lump sum travel costs should be provided in the financial proposal.

Any other costs (if any)

Indicate nature and breakdown.

Copy of the company registration

Recent Financial Audit Report

Report should have been carried out in the past 2 years and be certified by a reputable audit organization.

Bidders are required to estimate travel costs in the Financial Proposal. Please note that i) travel costs shall be calculated based on economy class fare regardless of the length of travel and ii) costs for accommodation, meals and incidentals shall not exceed the applicable daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates, as propagated by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC). Details can be found at <http://icsc.un.org>

EVALUATION WEIGHTING CRITERIA:

Offers will be evaluated based on the technical offer and the financial offers. The ratio between technical and commercial is fixed.

The total amount of points allocated to the technical components is 70. Only bidders that obtain **49 points and above** from the technical evaluation will be considered for the stage of financial evaluation.

The Technical Proposal will be scored against the qualification requirements indicated in the previous section of these TORs. The Financial Proposal with the lowest amount will receive the highest score and the other proposals will receive proportional scores. The proposal obtaining the highest overall score after combining the technical and financial scores that offers the best value for money will be recommended for award of the contract. All financial proposals from bidders whose corresponding technical proposals fall short of the minimum threshold mark of 50 points shall not be opened.

Cumulative Analysis will be used to evaluate and award proposals. The evaluation criteria associated with this TOR are split between technical and financial as follows:

70 percent Technical

30 percent Financial

100 percent Total

The total amount of points to be allocated for the price component is 30 points. The maximum number of points (30) will be allotted to the lowest price proposal of a technically qualified offer. All other price proposals will receive points in inverse proportion to the lowest price, i.e. $\text{Max Score of price proposal (30)} * \text{Price of lowest priced bidder} / \text{Score for the price proposal X} = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$

Price of Proposal X

Award of contract

i) The award of the contract will be made to the contractor(s) whose offer has been evaluated and determined as: (i) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and (ii) having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to this tender i.e., Cumulative Analysis evaluation (point system with weight attribution). The below table provides a detailed breakdown of the technical evaluation criteria.

Technical criteria	Max. score
1. Academic Requirements	10
I. A team leader with a master's degree or equivalent in any discipline of social science such as sociology,	
statistics, development studies, social studies, education, human rights, and gender or another related field.	5
II. Team members with master's degree or equivalent in any discipline of social science such as sociology,	5
statistics, development studies, social studies, education, human rights, and gender or another related field	
2. Professional Experience Requirements	20
I. Team leader with a minimum of 10 years of professional technical experience in conducting and leading evaluations, particularly programme evaluations, impact evaluations or outcome evaluations, with proven experience in conducting evaluations in multi-sector projects is required (child protection,	5
WASH, adolescent development, health, education etc).	5
II. Team members with a minimum of 7 years of professional technical experience in conducting evaluations, particularly programme evaluations, impact evaluations or outcome evaluations.	5
III. Previous experience in conducting evaluations for UNICEF and/or UN using the OECD/DAC criteria. Providesamples of relevant work. For any previous UNICEF evaluation, providing GEROs scores of	5
previous report/s is a requirement.	
IV. Provision of 3 traceable referees	
3.0 Proposed Methodology and Approach	35
3.1 The consulting firm demonstrates a good understanding of the assignment – fulfilling all the requirementsmentioned in ToR, especially a clear commitment to complete the evaluation within the given timeline is required	5
3.2 The proposed approach/methodology is relevant to the assignment covering the measurement of innovations and other relevant aspects well. The proposed work plan and approach to implementing the tasks. as per the ToR are well articulated.); use of quasi-experimental approaches to measure progress to impact ispreferred.	25
3.3 Use of non-traditional, child-friendly, and innovative data collection methods within the given timeline (sharea sample of relevant work)	5
TOTAL FOR TECHNICAL CRITERIA*	<u>70</u>
* Minimum score required for technical compliance: 49 marks out of 70	

For further information, please contact:

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