




water for people
EVERYONE • FOREVER

A photograph of a public water tap station. Three blue pipes are mounted on a wall, with water flowing from the middle one into a green plastic bucket. Several yellow jerrycans are lined up in front of the tap. In the background, a brick wall and a few people, including a woman in a red dress, are visible.

Getting Politics Right To Ensure Ongoing WASH Systems Delivery - The case of Blantyre

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All Systems Go!
IRC Symposium
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Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua

Peru
Bolivia

India

Uganda
Rwanda
Malawi

- Latin America
- Africa
- India

Location: The 21 Unplanned Areas Of Blantyre, Malawi

FACTS ABOUT BLANTYRE

- 70% of the population live in informal settlements
- 6.3%/ year urbanization rate
- 4.7\$ of LIA residents considered ultra poor
- Poor public services

THE ISSUE 2009

- Few communal water kiosks were running, lots of shortfalls experienced
- Grass-root level party loyalist using the water kiosks as IGAs
- Influential community members managing kiosks
 - No trainings and agreements
- Community fights over management of kiosks

POLITICAL INTERFERENCE AND ITS IMPACT ON WASH SERVICE DELIVERY

- Non-regulated water tariffs
- Disconnection – bill non payment (> 40 million Kwacha)
- Low service level (46.2% not meeting govt standards)
- Vandalism



Vandalized kiosk in Ndirande-Matope

2009 – 2013 INTRODUCED WUA MANAGEMENT MODEL

- Focused on Organizational Development (9 WUAs established)
- However, political interference and lack of transparency was experienced
- Need for a different approach



2014 – 2016: THE SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Development of
Theory of
change for water
supply service

Application of
Political
Economy
Analysis

Identifying actors
and their
interests

STRATEGIES AND APPROACHES 2014-2016

WASH Actors Identified

- Political party governors, MPs
- Religious Leaders
- Local Utility Company
- Local Authority
- Traditional Leader

Interests

- Money
- Power
- Fame
- Job satisfaction
- Project success

STRATEGIES EMPLOYED TO CURB NEGATIVE POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN WATER SERVICE

01

USE OF MEDIA ADVOCACY/INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Partnered with private electronic and print media houses in exposing the malpractice/Naming and shaming

02

STRATEGIC NETWORKS

Involvement of Right Groups/Consumer Right Groups in the fight against political interference in water service



STRATEGIES EMPLOYED TO CURB NEGATIVE POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN WATER SERVICE

03

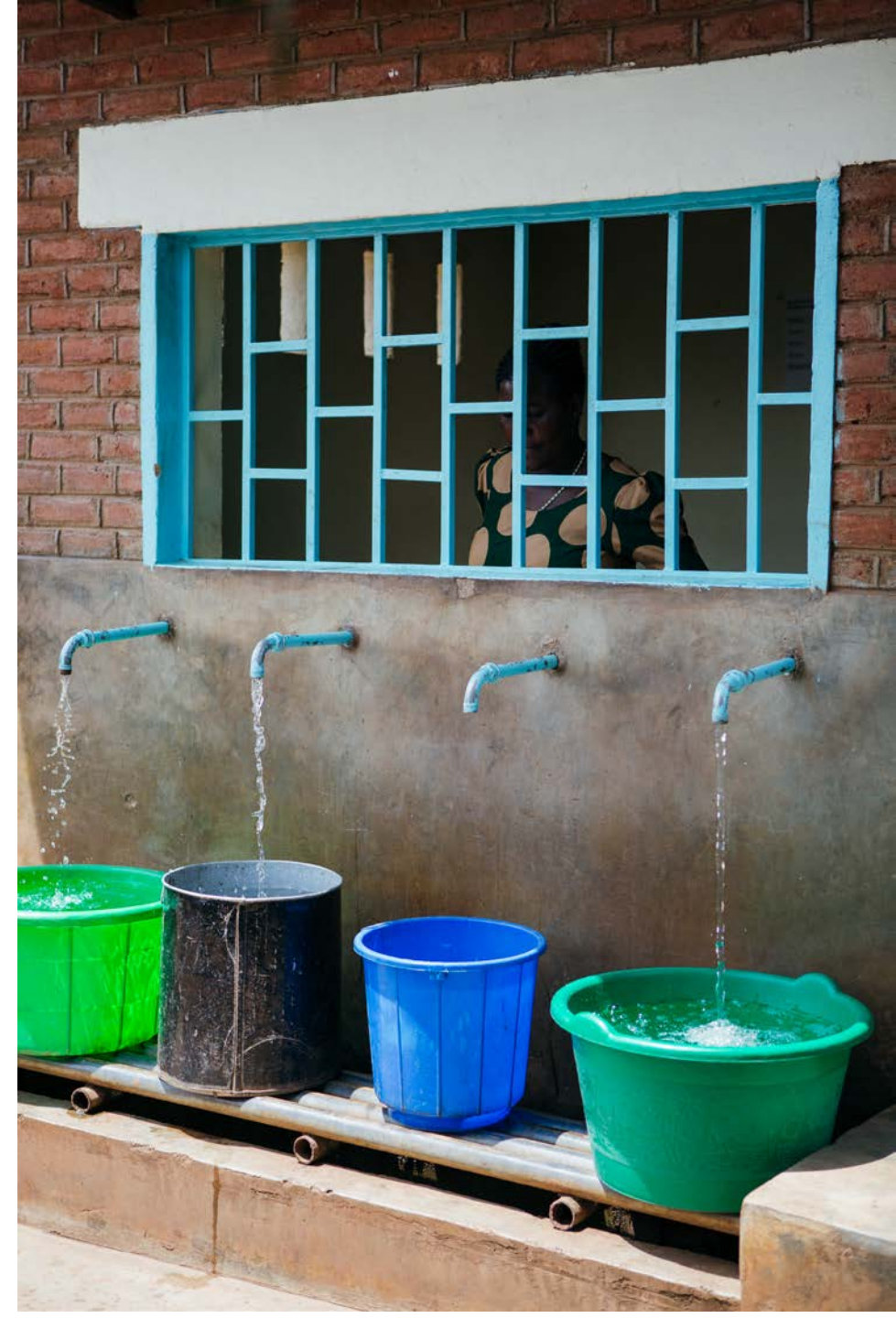
INTERFACE MEETINGS

Formal and informal meeting with politicians and presentation of data on effects/impact

04

INFORMATION SHARING/IEC MATERIALS

Water Users/Community empowerment through information sharing to increase pressure and demand for quality service at water points



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 10th WUA formed in Malabada area after 8 years of fruitless attempts.
Use of media and radio jingles helped
- Extending water service delivery to the unserved
- Job creation (724 jobs)
- Overall LoS at water point level significantly increased - **44.8% within 2 years** (53.8% in 2014 to 98.6% in 2017)





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MALAWI