APPENDIX K.SOCIOECONOMIC BASELINE

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1.1. Introduction

Administratively, the Kapichira dam and reservoir and the lower Shire including most of the Elephant Marsh fall into Chikwawa district, while the lower parts of the Elephant Marsh are in Nsanje district.

This section presents a socioeconomic narrative based on primary data of communities in Traditional Authority Kasisi near Kapichira Hydro Power Station who may primarily impact or be impacted by the direct footprint area. It presents corroboration of some of the findings from the communities with interview reports from Chikwawa District Council officials. It further gives an account of Chikwawa district in general, based on secondary data, from which the primary data statistics are compared.

The Socio-economic data was collected from communities using household surveys, key informant interviews with traditional leaders and focus group discussions with groups of men, women and fishermen.

1.2. Sample size determination

These communities were both purposefully and statistically sampled as follows:

- those within 5 km from Kapichira Hydro Power Station downstream Shire along the T146 road (Bwalo, Njereza and Maganga 1 (Due to their closeness to Kapichira Hydro Power Station downstream, they are immediately affected by flashing and would directly be impacted by any catastrophic events from upstream Shire River or dam failure;

- Liwonde, Kandeu and Maganga 2); These would not be impacted by any catastrophic events from the Shire River neither dam failure nor flashing at Kapichira Hyro Power Dam;

- those living within 3 km away from Kapichira Hydro Power Plant on the north eastern side of the power station (Liwonde and Kandeu) hence upstream the Shire River yet shielded by hills from any possible flooding;

- those living up to 14 km away from Kapichira Hydro Power Plant along T146 road yet parallel to Shire River hence further downstream too (Sekela near Mwalija bridge) as communities close to calmer flow of the Shire River, yet impacted differently from those close to the hydro dam site;

- those living across the shire river on the eastern bank facing T146 road; Maganga 2 and Mlangeni. The former was identified due to its nearness to the Kapichira Hydro Power Plant and the latter due to its being further downstream hence corresponding with Sekela on the western bank of the Shire River.

- the larger sample survey encompassing seven villages was statistically established using the Cochran formula for sample determination from unknown or large population, which is given as follows:

$$n = \frac{z_p^2(1-p)}{e^2}$$

Where;
Z = the Z-score for a confidence level of 95% = 1.96;

p = the estimated proportion of an attribute that is present in the population;

e = margin of error

To select a sample with 95% confidence level, an estimated proportion of an attribute in the household population of 0.5, and a margin of error of 6%, the working sample size for the social survey was:

$$n = \frac{1.96^2_{(0.05)}(1-0.05)}{0.06^2} = 267$$

The minimum sample size would be 38 households in each village. However, other villages presented with more households as they expressed interest to be interviewed like in Bwalo. Some adjustments were made on the rest of the villages to allow statistically meaningful comparisons in attributes across the villages.

Table 1 presents a summary of specific communities and traditional leaders who took part in the social surveys. Note that no focus group discussions were held in Kandeu village because the village was mostly picked for pretesting the household questionnaire.

Table 1: Target communities for social surveys

Village	Sex of household head and sample in the quantitative survey				Focus group (number of participants)	Key informant interviewees
	Male		Female			
	(n)	Percent	(n)	Percent		
Bwalo	34	63.0%	20	37.0%	Men (16), Women (14)	Village Head Bwalo
Kandeu	-	-	-	-	None	Group Village Kandeu
Liwonde	32	66.7%	16	33.3%	Men (11), women (11), fishermen (8)	Village Head Liwonde
Maganga 1	35	70.0%	15	30.0%	Men (8), women (13), fishermen (5)	Village Head Maganga 1
Maganga 2	28	70.0%	12	30.0%	Men (8), women (9)	Village Head Maganga 2
Mlangeni	26	70.3%	11	29.7%	Men(8),women(10), fishermen (10)	Village Head Mlangeni
Njereza	30	69.8%	13	30.2%	Men (8), Women	Group Village Head Njereza, Traditional Authority Kasisi
Sekela	19	46.3%	22	53.7%	Men (17), women (21), fishermen (8)*	Village Head Sekela

Total	**204**	**65.2**	**109**	**34.8**		

*Focus group discussion with fishermen at Sekela village was removed from the analysis because it had scanty data as fishing was not actively done in the area

1.3. Population and Distribution

Covering 4 878 sq km, Chikwawa district has a population of 564 684 with 276 890 male and 287 794 female population respectively (NSO, 2018). This population is distributed across 11 Traditional Authorities and sub –Traditional Authorities as presented in the following table. The estimated population for 2024, the year in which this study was conducted was estimated at 654,860.

Table 2: Population and Distribution

Traditional Authority or Area	Population in 2018	Projected population for 2024	Percentage of total for 2024
TA Ngabu	157,742	182,932	28
TA Lundu	62,176	72,105	6
TA Chapananga	88,641	102,796	10
TA Maseya	37,793	43,828	5
TA Katunga	32,943	38,204	4
TA Kasisi/Majete Game Reserve – Chikwawa	23,487	27,238	3
TA Makhwira	79,933	92,698	11
STA Ndakwela/Lengwe National Park	24,234	28,104	4
TA Mlilima	11,947	1,3855	2
STA Masache	22,207	25,753	4
TA Ngowe	10,435	12,101	2
Chikwawa Boma	6,114	7,090	1
Ngabu Urban	7,032	8,155	1
Total for Chikwawa	**564,684**	**654,860**	**100**

Source: Adapted from 2018 Malawi Population and Housing Census, National Statistics Office, Zomba.

The most populous TA is Ngabu at 28% of the total. The Traditional Authority covering the project area at Kapichira is TA Kasisi with an estimated population of 27,238 which includes residents of both Majete Wildlife Reserve and Kapichira Power Station.

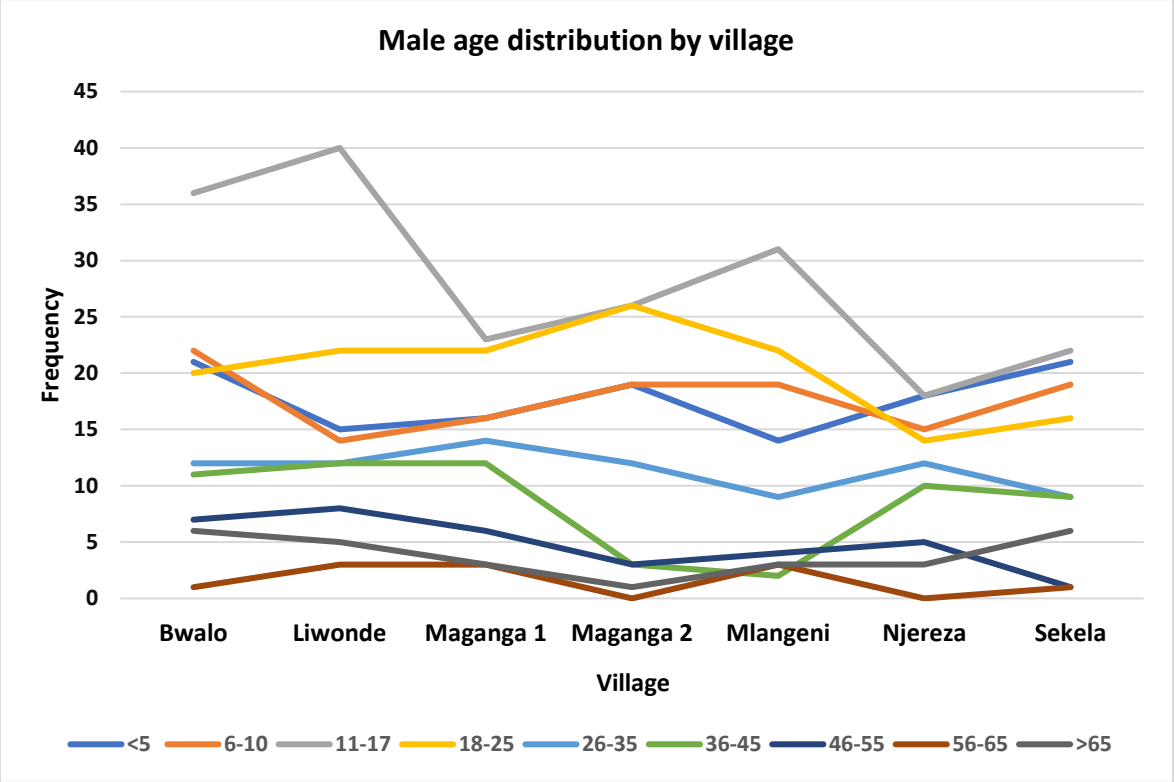
The average household size for the southern region districts of Malawi is 4.3 persons compared to 4.4 for the central and 4.8 persons for the northern districts (Population and Housing Census, 2018). The baseline study estimated an average household size of 4.7 in the seven villages. Table3 presents estimate for individual villages:

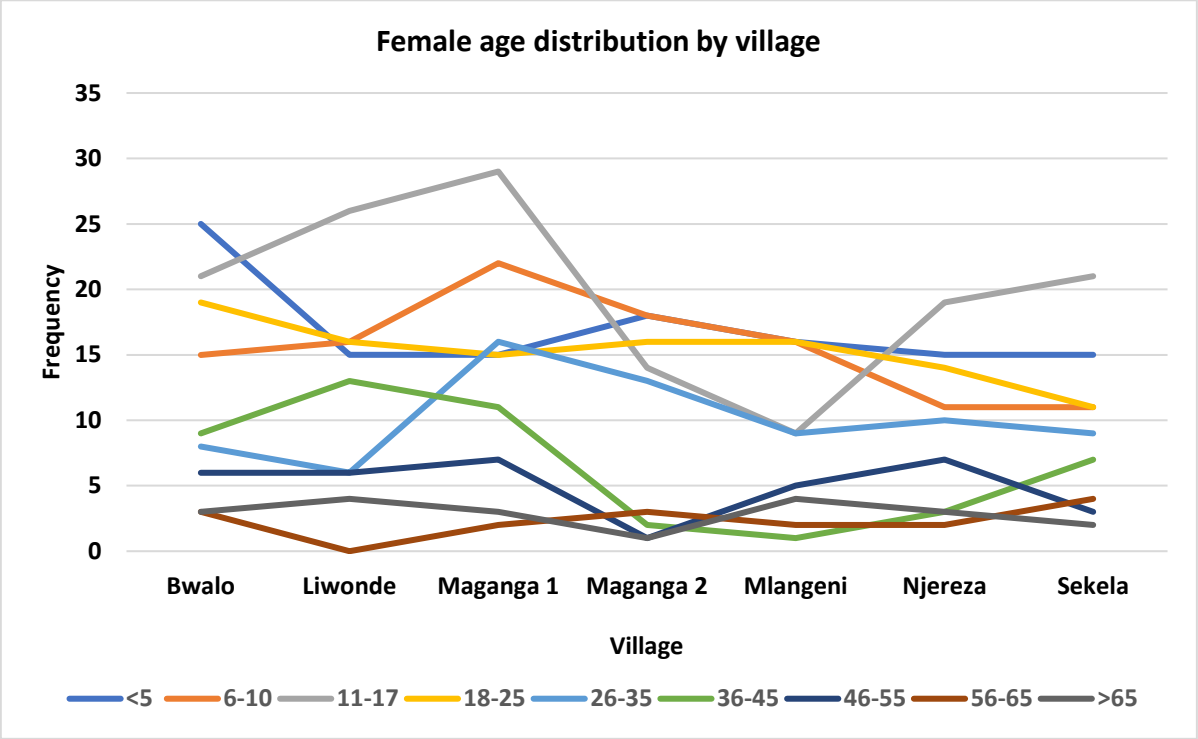
Table 3: Average household size in the study villages

Village	Number of sampled households	Average Household size
Bwalo	54	4.5
Liwonde	48	4.9
Maganga 1	50	4.7
Maganga 2	40	4.9
Mlangeni	37	5.0

Njereza	43	4.2
Sekela	41	4.6
Total	**313**	**4.7**

As expected, the population distribution in the study area presented more children than adults. However, contrary to district statistics, there were more male children than female children by 20%. In both cases children aged 11-17 were the most (see the following figure). Most male children aged 11-17 years were recorded in Liwonde village and the least were recorded in Njereza village. There were generally more people aged above 65 years than those aged immediately below them. The population age distribution is generally diverse.





1.4. Ethnicity and Languages

Malawi people generally enjoy association of people of diverse tribal affiliation and ethnic origins. Intermarriages across tribes is not a strange phenomenon and this has contributed to tolerance of tribal values and cultures. In addition, people have historically moved to other parts of the country and assimilated in those cultures they meet or retain theirs and live freely.

The dominant ethnic groups in Chikwawa are Mang'anja and Sena at 48.6% and 30.7% respectively. Chewa and Lhomwe each constitute 7% with the rest of minor ethnicities as shown in the following table[1].

Table 4: Ethnic groups

Tribe	Population	Percentage
Chewa	41,664	7.4%
Tumbuka	2,281	0.4%
Lomwe	41,207	7.3%
Tonga	1,863	0.3%
Yao	6,291	1.1%
Sena	274,356	48.6%
Nkhonde	415	0.1%
Ngoni	8,173	1.4%
Lambya	99	0.0%
Sukwa	133	0.0%
Mang'anja	172,409	30.6%

[1] 2018 Malawi Population and Housing Census. National Statistics Office, Zomba

Nyanja	688	0.1%
Other	14,520	2.6%
Total	**564,099**	**100.0%**

[2] **Source:** 2018 Malawi Population and Housing Census, National Statistics Office, Zomba.

Due to similarity in cultures and cross cultures across southern region of Malawi, Chichewa language of a lower shire dialect predominantly influenced by Mang'anja is the mostly spoken in Chikwawa district and around Kapichira Power Station. Unless people of foreign origin in trading centers, all people can generally speak and understand Chichewa language in the district.

The direct footprint area is dominated by people of Mang'anja tribe at 85.9% (Table 5). These people migrated from upper shire. "…The people are generally diverse in tribal groups and constitute Mang'anja, Lomwe, Sena, hence they also have a variety of cultural groups including valuing Gule Wamkulu among the Mang'anja. The people came from Blantyre, Nsanje, Thyolo..." – Group Village Kandeu.

Table 5: Ethnicity in the study villages

	Percentage of households						
Village	**Burundi**	**Chewa**	**Lhomwe**	**Nyungwi**	**Sena**	**Tonga**	**Mang'anja**
Bwalo	-	3.7%	-	-	5.6%	1.9%	88.9%
Liwonde	-	14.6%	-	-	4.2%	6.2%	75.0%
Maganga 1	-	2.0%	-	2.0%	2.0%	-	94.0%
Maganga 2	-	30.0%	-	-	5.0%	-	65.0%
Mlangeni	2.7%	-	2.7%	-	-	-	94.6%
Njereza	-	2.3%	-	-	2.3%	2.3%	93.0%
Sekela	-	0.0%	-	4.9%	2.4%	2.4%	90.2%
Total	**0.30%**	**7.30%**	**0.30%**	**1.00%**	**3.20%**	**1.90%**	**85.90%**

There has never been any history of tribal clashes in the area. Therefore, there is no known risk towards implementation of the project from the perspective of major disturbance from tribal clashes

1.5. Religion

Christianity is widely followed in the district by 92% of the population. The rest of the people identified with other religions including traditional and cults. The proposed project site, and surrounding villages is largely of Christian religion with up to 96% of the sampled households presenting to be Christians (Table 6).

Table 6: Religion of the study households

	Christian	Moslem	None	Rasta	Traditional
Bwalo	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Liwonde	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Maganga 1	94.0%	2.0%	-	-	4.0%
Maganga 2	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Mlangeni	100.0%	-	-	-	-
Njereza	97.7%	-	-	-	2.3%
Sekela	82.9%	2.4%	4.9%	2.4%	7.3%

All	**96.50%**	**0.60%**	**0.60%**	**0.30%**	**1.90%**

There is no known threat that may arise from religious clashes in the proposed project area.

1.6. Education

Malawi desires to build a workforce that will advance national development agenda 2063. The key enabler for this is human capacity development aimed at building an educated and highly skilled population to contribute to accelerated economic growth and development. This aligns with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal number 4; Quality Education.

National Education Sector Investment Plan (NESIP-2020-2030) was developed to guide planning and implementation of all education development programmes, projects and activities in the country considering how a skilled population contributes to the overall socio-economic development. Chikwawa district has a literacy rate of 61.5%, which is lower than both the Southern Region and Malawi rates at 67.2 and 73.35 respectively. The district literacy data shows that women have lower literacy rate than men at 51% and 72% respectively.

To lay a foundation for literacy and formal education early child development (ECD) for children from birth to six years is designed to protect and promotes the rights of children to facilitate cognitive, emotional, social and physical development. It is generally provided through Community Based Childcare Centre's (CBCCs). Chikwawa has 325 CBCCs reaching out to 27,786 (12,955 males; 14831 females) children. Regarding primary education, the district has 182 public schools, whereby 23% of these are junior schools.

There are three primary schools in the proximity of the project area: Kandeu, Kapichira and Dzimbiri. The nearest secondary school is Chikwawa District located at about 25km from the furthest group village of Kandeu, north east of Kapichira Hydro Power Plant. Very soon access to secondary education will improve when a new secondary school is completed at Kandeu village.

Net enrolment rates in primary schools in Chikwawa are higher for girls (84%) than boys that stand at 83%. In secondary schools, however, enrolment rates are higher for boys (14%) than girls (7%). School Dropout rates in Chikwawa are higher at secondary school level (4%) compared to primary schools (1%). There are various reasons learners drop out of school such as sickness, pregnancy, poor sanitary facilities especially for girls, lack of support, lack of interest by the learner, early marriages, traveling long distance to school, lack of fees, family responsibilities, violence at school, employment and inadequate teachers. Currently disturbances due to climatic events, such as cyclone Anna and recent covid-19 pandemic have also impacted students' retention in schools. To improve this, back to school campaigns have been conducted mainly by partners in the education sector.

Of interest to the baseline study was whether school going age children were in school, literacy and education level of the household head as well as highest education level attained in the households. All these variables contribute to ease of interpretation of information, which leads to improved decision making for individuals hence finding pathways to address their socio-economic needs. Up to 95% of the children aged 6-10 years were enrolled in school. Villages, which had a few children not enrolled in school were recorded in Bwalo, Liwonde and Maganga 1 villages at 15% each and 7% respectively.

Illiteracy levels among heads of households were remarkably high as the study found that 31.6% of the household heads were illiterate. Table 7 shows literacy of household heads across the study villages. Liwonde and Mlangeni villages had the highest numbers of household heads who did not read and write at 47.9% and 45.9%.

Table 7: Literacy levels of household heads

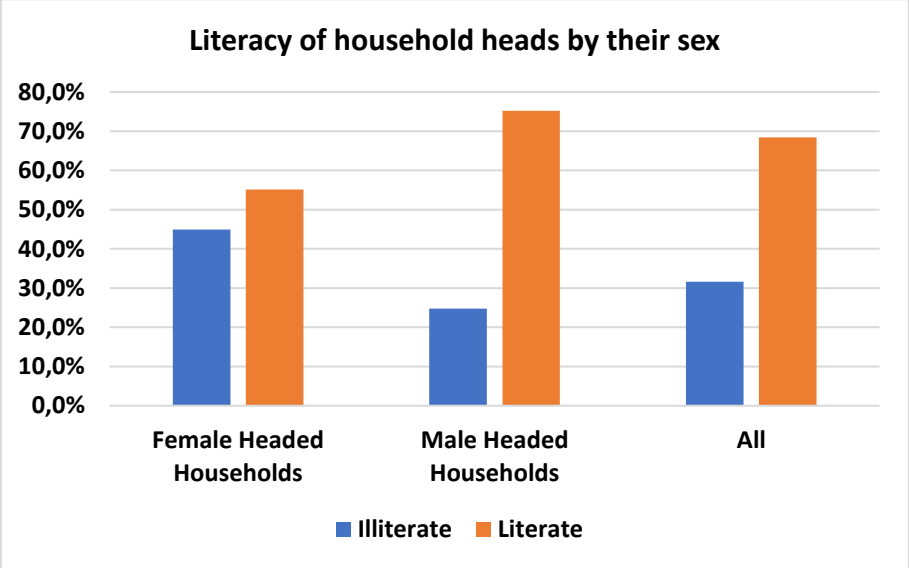
Village	Illiterate household heads	Literate household heads
Bwalo	14.8%	85.2%
Liwonde	47.9%	52.1%
Maganga 1	32.0%	68.0%
Maganga 2	25.0%	75.0%
Mlangeni	45.9%	54.1%
Njereza	32.6%	67.4%
Sekela	26.8%	73.2%
All	**31.6%**	**68.4%**

These statistics have a bearing on attendance of formal education, whereby it is expected that people may not have attended any or indeed dropped out too early before learning to read or write. There is a correlation between illiteracy and never attending formal education in the two villages of Liwonde and Mlangeni. This suggests that there had not been opportunities for adult literacy education in the places close to these villages or interest to take part in the same. Interviews with the education sector official corroborated this. This has an implication on the sort of job opportunities that may avail to communities around the project area if people cannot read nor write.

Table 8: Education level of the household head in the study area in 2024

	Never attended formal schooling	Attempted primary school	Completed primary school (PSLCE)	Attempted secondary school	Completed junior secondary school (JCE)	Completed senior secondary school (MSCE)	Attempted tertiary education	Completed tertiary education
Bwalo	14.8%	53.7%	7.4%	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	1.9%	5.6%
Liwonde	47.9%	33.3%	8.3%	2.1%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Maganga 1	36.0%	34.0%	6.0%	10.0%	8.0%	6.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Maganga 2	25.0%	50.0%	5.0%	10.0%	2.5%	7.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Mlangeni	45.9%	48.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Njereza	34.9%	37.2%	7.0%	9.3%	4.7%	4.7%	0.0%	2.3%
Sekela	26.8%	56.1%	2.4%	12.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	0.0%
All	**32.6%**	**44.4%**	**5.4%**	**7.0%**	**4.2%**	**4.5%**	**0.6%**	**1.3%**

Of interest would be the difference in literacy statistics between male and female headed households. The study found that the proportion of female headed households who were illiterate was about twice the proportion of households with illiterate male headed households (see the following figure). Comparing this statistic to never attending formal education, one can hypothesize to juxtapose these two to present them as windows for creating awareness for adult education to encourage and support more engaging participation of women in socio-economic development.



Household heads may be illiterate, yet children and other household members attend school or indeed may attain higher education levels than the household heads. Therefore, such households may have an advantage in processing information for decision making as compared to those with lower levels of education attainment or none at all. The study examined highest education level among household members other than the head of household and those below 6 years at the time of data collection. The study found that all children with school going age were in school. Overall, 18.8% of households had children aged below school going age of 6 years. For the rest of the household members, 62.6% completed or were attending primary school and 32.7% were pursuing secondary school education. There were also a few (4.7%) who were attending or had completed tertiary education. These were largely present in Bwalo village.

Table 9: Highest education level of other household members than head

Village	Completion of primary school	MSCE Level	Tertiary level
Bwalo	66.7%	21.6%	11.8%
Liwonde	63.9%	30.6%	5.6%
Maganga 1	50.0%	45.2%	4.8%
Maganga 2	58.1%	38.7%	3.2%
Mlangeni	87.5%	12.5%	0.0%
Njereza	46.9%	50.0%	3.1%
Sekela	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
All	**62.6%**	**32.7%**	**4.7%**

1.7. Housing structures

Chikwawa does not have a well-developed housing structures. Nothing much has changed over the years despite high housing demand following labour intensive economic activities in the area such as contractors working in different major projects such as the Shire Valley Transformation Project (SVTP) Canal, Kapichira Dam by EGENCO among others and employees of different government and non-governmental organisations.

The 2018 Malawi Population and Housing Census reported 161,800 housing units in Chikwawa. Only 41% of these were permanent. The rest were semi-permanent (14.8%) and traditional (44.2%). In terms of house ownership, 89.2% live in their own houses; 7.4% in rented houses; 1.9% in institutional houses, while 1.5% live in houses that they neither own nor rent. An earlier survey by the Malawi Social Welfare Monitoring Survey reported that only half of the dwelling houses in the district stood on fired bricks. The rest stood on unfired or mud bricks (37.7%); compacted earth (4.5%); grass (2.9%) and other materials (4.3%) such as cardboards, tarpaulins, mud, black sheets etc).

The baseline study found that most dwelling houses near the project area are made from fired earth bricks and look old. Most of them are generally iron roofed.



Njereza

Picture 1. Housing in Njereza village





Liwonde

Picture 2. Housing in Liwonde village

A few houses with well laid out plans could be spotted in the villages. Some of the houses are connected to national grid, particulary in Bwalo, and Njereza. Table 1.10 shows that 87.9% of families in the footprint area lived in their own houses. Those who lived in rented houses were reported in Bwalo, Liwonde, Maganga 1 and Njereza. A possible explanation is the closeness of these villages to institutions where full- or seasonal-time employment is possible such as SVTP; Majete Wildlife Reserve; Kapichira Hydro Power Station; Dzimbiri Primary School and Traditional Court in Njereza. People may have moved to live closer to such institutions when they got employment or speculated employment openings.

Table 10: House ownership in the study area in 2024

Village	Households not living in own house	Households living in own house
Bwalo	14.8%	85.2%
Liwonde	12.5%	87.5%
Maganga 1	18.0%	82.0%
Maganga 2	5.0%	95.0%
Mlangeni	5.4%	94.6%
Njereza	18.6%	81.4%
Sekela	7.3%	92.7%
All	**12.1%**	**87.9%**

The variation between male and female headed households in terms of whether they lived in own house or not was similar in both cases at a margin of about 5% in each case (following figure). The materials used to construct these houses were largely fired bricks.

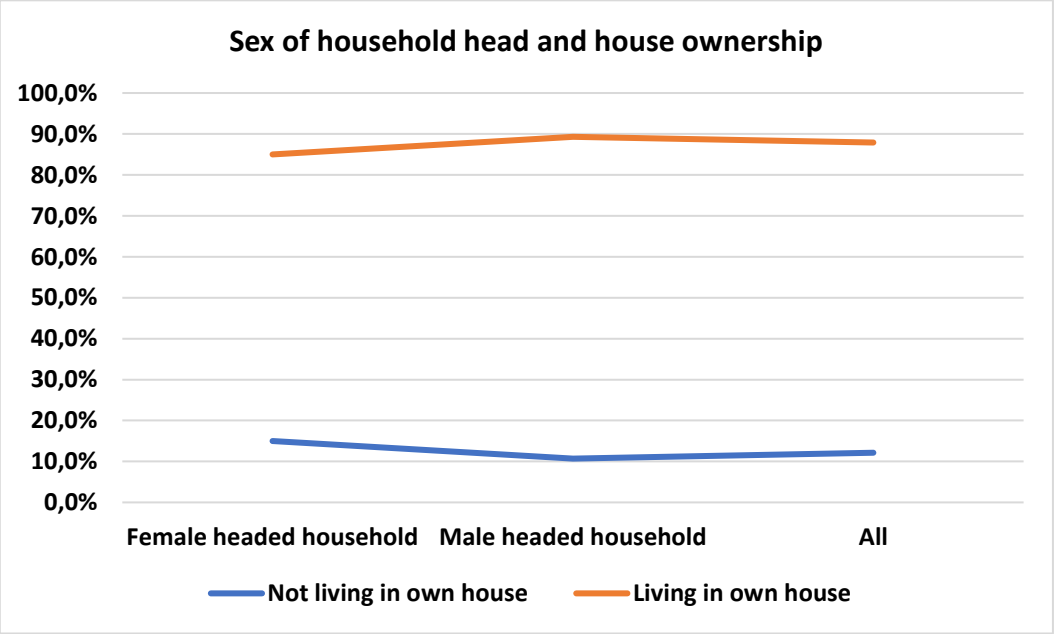


Table 11 further shows that the margin between fired and non-fired brick material that was used in the construction of houses occupied by either male or female headed households was also similar at roughly 9%.

Table 11: Sex of household head and material for house construction in the study area in 2024

Sex of household head	Variable concerning home ownership	Number reporting per option	Fired bricks	Non fired bricks	Other material
Female HHH	Living in own house	No (n=14), (n=2)	87.5%	12.5%	
		Yes (n=82), (n=9)	90.1%	9.9%	
	Total	(n=96), (n=11)	89.7%	10.3%	
Male HHH	Living in own house	No (n=20), (n=2), (n=1)	90.9%	9.1%	
		Yes (n=155), (n=28), (n=1)	84.2%	15.2%	0.5%
	Total	n=175), (n=30), (n=1)	85.0%	14.6%	0.5%
Total	Living in own house	No (n=34), n=4), (n=0)	89.5%	10.5%	
		Yes (n=237), (n=37), (n=1)	86.2%	13.5%	0.4%
	Total	(n=271), (n=41), (n=1)	86.6%	13.1%	0.3%

1.8. Road infrastructure and transport

The goal of the National Transport Policy is to ensure the development of a coordinated and efficient transport infrastructure to foster the safe and competitive operation of viable, affordable, equitable and sustainable transport services. One of the key purposes of this policy is to improve access to transport and transport services in rural areas in order to encourage economic activity. Therefore, it suggests promoting movement of goods and access to services through developed transport infrastructure.

Roads in Chikwawa are classified in five classes namely, main, secondary, tertiary, district, and undesignated roads. Chikwawa district has a road network of 2,656km, majority of them are earth roads covering 94.5 per cent (1,343.4km) of the whole district road network. Most of the earth roads pose difficulties to travel during the rainy season because of the mountainous terrain and slippery clay soils that dominate in the district. Only three roads are bituminous (M01 that connect from Madziabango to Sorgin, T416 from Dyeratu to Kapichira 3.5km out of the 21km and S136 Chikwawa to Chapananga road with 10 km.

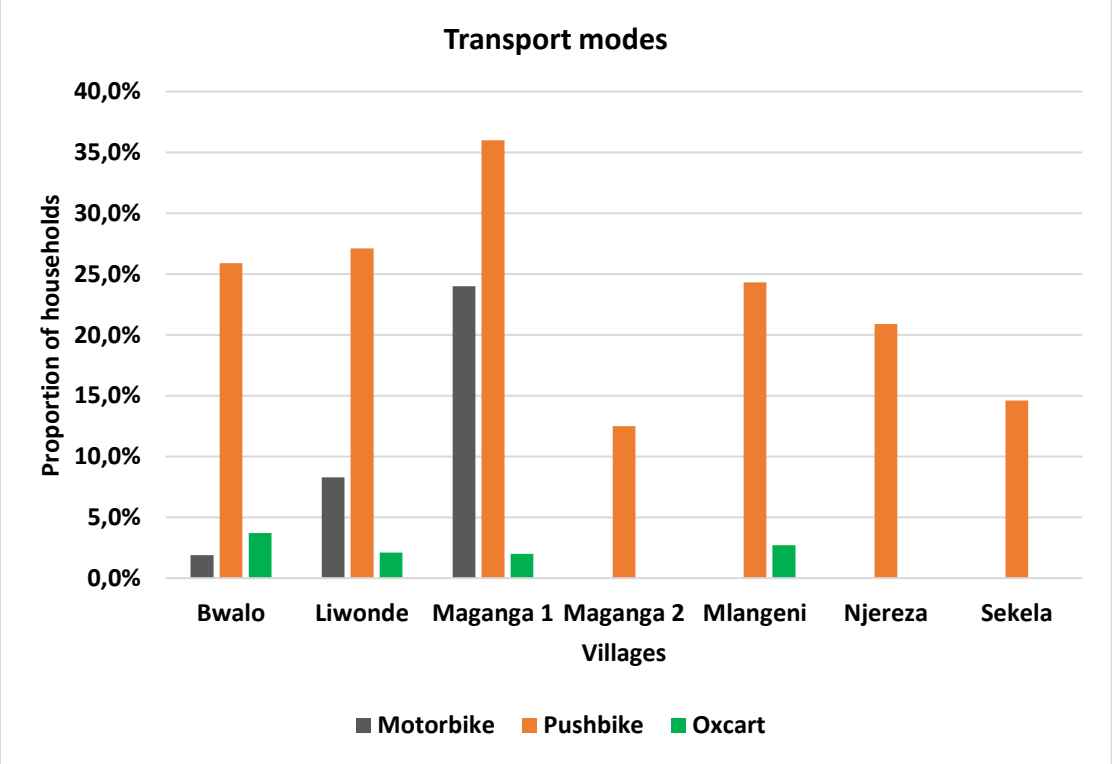
The main road to access Kapichira is the T416 road from Chikwawa Boma running about 20km. This road includes several river crossings, of relevance is the Chilala River bridge and the Mwalija village river crossings. Both crossings were also significantly damaged during the Tropical Cyclone Ana floods. These bridges were rehabilitated by EGENCO during phase one of the MEPRP.

The T416 extends through Liwonde and Kandeu village to the south west of Blantyre district reaching Chileka and Chilomoni. All the study villages are easily accessible throughout the year via T416 except Mlangeni, which gets cut off from the district headquarters for about three months each year during the rainy season due to heavy water flows in Likhubula river. They may access the district headquarters, Chikwawa District hospital and Dyeratu market after waters subside to navigable levels and conditions. Otherwise, they may sail across the shire river but it is too dangerous to paddle a canoe in the rainy season as the waterflow can be too quick and at worst

rise suddenly even carrying debris from upstream. In this case, community members of Mlangeni village may only access health services at EGENCO Clinic or Majete 5 in Kandeu Health Centre, which are about 16km and 20km away respectively. However, to access other social services around Dyeratu and at the District Council, from Mlangeni community members must travel a long way around via Maganga 2 through Kapichira Power Station compound or wait for three months until river flows subside.

Commenting on rurality of Mlangeni and neighbouring villages in terms of access to social services during the rainy season the GVH Kavalo said, “The nearest health facility is the District Hospital at Dyeratu (or the Boma). Unfortunately, one has to cross either the Shire River on one side or the Likhubula river on the other. During the rainy season it is very difficult to cross both rivers. People go for many months without accessing health services. The area almost becomes just like an island”

The common modes of transport in the project area were bicycles and motorcycles. Over 20% of households in Bwalo, Liwonde, Maganga 1, Njereza and Mlangeni owned push bikes. Push bikes were mostly recorded in Maganga 1 village among 36% of the households. A few oxcarts (less than 5%) were recorded in small numbers in Bwalo, Liwonde, Maganga 1 and Mlangeni. Motorbikes, which are fast becoming quicker mode of transport and quite practical in hilly terrain like Maganga 2, Mlangeni, Liwonde were owned by 6.4% of the households. These were mostly reported in Maganga 1 village, where nearly 25% of households owned them (following figure).



Analysing possession of motorbike between male and female headed households shows that it was only in Maganga 1 village where some 20% of the female headed households owned motorbikes (Table 12).

Table 12: Sex of household head and motobike ownership in the study area in 2024

Sex of household head	Village Name	Owning a motorbike	
		No	Yes
Female	Maganga 1	80.0%, (n=12)	20.0%, (n=3)
Male	Bwalo	85.3%, (n=29)	14.7%, (n=5)
	Liwonde	90.9%, (n=30)	9.1%, (n=3)
	Maganga 1	74.3%, (n=26)	25.7%, (n=9)

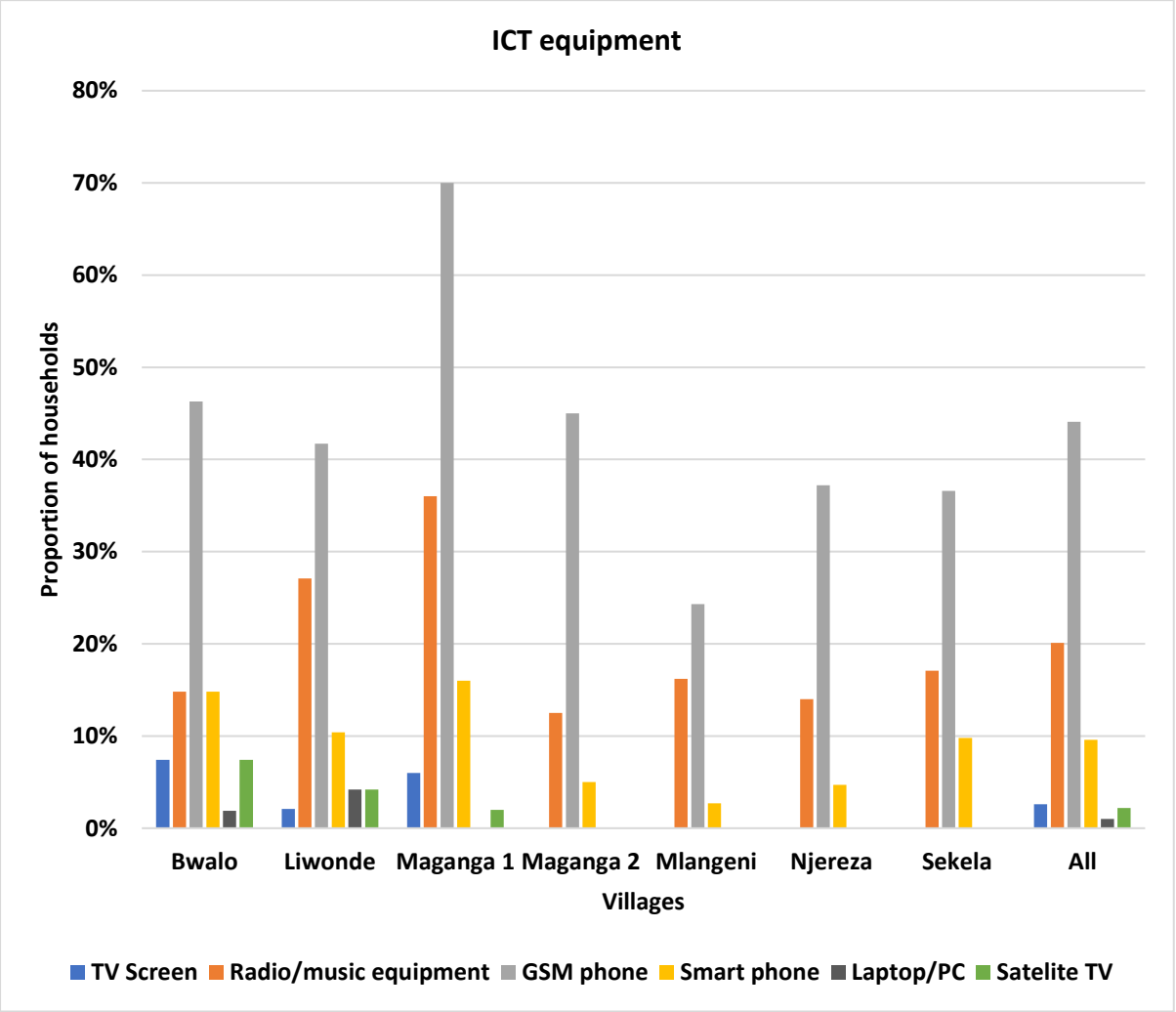
1.9. Telecommunications

The goal of the national ICT Policy is to contribute to socio-economic development through maximum integration of ICT in all sectors and the provision of ICT services to the rural areas.

At the time of this study, there were no local radios neither television services in the area. Communities are served by regional and national radio stations. Some of the radios accessed from the district are MBC Radio 1 and Radio 2 FM, Power 101 FM, Capital Radio 102.5 FM, Radio Islam, Radio Maria, Trans World Radio, British Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America, Zodiak, MIJ Radio, Joy radio, Star FM Radio. The project area is served by the two main communication network providers in Malawi: Airtel and TNM. In some communities, network signal maybe weak especially when moving away from the M1 road.

The SVTP Baseline survey of 2020, reports that 55% of male headed households owned a cellular phone compared to 23% of female headed households. The gender disparities in access to means of communication is one aspect demonstrating general differences between males and females in most parts of Malawi.

This baseline study found that the commonest ICT equipment owned by households was GSM phone, followed by radio. Both of these were reported most in Maganga 1 village where 70% and 36% of households owned a GSM phone and a radio/music equipment respectively. Laptop/computer and satellite television were the least ICT items owned by households in the area and were only recorded in villages of: (i) Bwalo by 2% and 7% of the households respectively; (ii) Liwonde by 4% of the households for each, and; Maganga 1 by 2% of the households for satellite television only (following Figure).



A further analysis on ownership of some the ICT equipment (TV screen, Radio, GSM Phone and smart phone) between male and female headed households was conducted. It showed that no female headed household owned any radio/music equipment in Mlangeni and in Maganga 2 respectively. It also showed that no female headed household owned any radio/music equipment in Maganga 2. This is despite both of these ICT equipment popularly recorded in the survey.

Table 13: Ownership of ICT equipment by sex of household head in the study area in 2024

Village	TV Screen				Radio/music equipment				GSM phone				Smart phone			
	Female HH		Male HH		Female HH		Male HH		Female HH		Male HH		Female HH		Male HH	
	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned	Not owned	Owned
Bwalo	95.0%	5.0%	91.2%	1.90%	95.0%	5.0%	79.4%	20.6%	60.0%	40.0%	50.0%	50.0%	90.0%	10.0%	82.4%	17.6%
Liwonde	100.0%		97.0%	3.00%	86.7%	13.3%	66.7%	33.3%	73.3%	26.7%	51.5%	48.5%	86.7%	13.3%	90.9%	9.1%
Maganga 1	93.3%	6.7%	94.3%	5.70%	80.0%	20.0%	57.1%	42.9%	40.0%	60.0%	28.6%	71.4%	86.7%	13.3%	82.9%	17.1%
Maganga 2	100.0%		100.0%		100.0%		82.1%	17.9%	75.0%	25.0%	46.4%	53.6%	100.0%		92.9%	7.1%
Mlangeni	100.0%		100.0%		100.0%		76.9%	23.1%	100.0%		65.4%	34.6%	100.0%		96.2%	3.8%
Njereza	100.0%		100.0%		92.3%	7.7%	83.3%	16.7%	76.9%	23.1%	56.7%	43.3%	100.0%		93.3%	6.7%
Sekela	100.0%		100.0%		85.7%	14.3%	80.0%	20.0%	71.4%	28.6%	55.0%	45.0%	81.0%	19.0%	100.0%	

1.10. Water and sanitation

The Malawi 2063 goal under "Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene is to promote the adoption of safe water and sanitation practices at individual and household levels. The water policy aims at achieving sustainable water development that is adaptive to climate change, and enhances ecosystem services through enhanced integrated management and development of water resources. This further links to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6), which aims to achieve universal access to safe drinking water, and ensure its availability and sustainable management.

Safe water in Chikwawa district is accessed largely through boreholes (74%) and gravity-fed piped water supply systems (23%). Other sources of water though not safe include unprotected sources such as open wells, rivers and springs. There are 2159 boreholes in the district, 8% of which are situated in Traditional Authority Kasisi, the impact footprint area for the MERP.

Observations from a 2020 SVTP baseline report indicate up to 76% of households in Chikwawa access their water through boreholes slightly lower than presented by a 2016-2018 Integrated Health Survey for district whose statistics present as in the following table4.

Table 14: Water source in Chikwawa District

Water source	Percentage of households using
Borehole	73.9
Piped into yard	11.6
Piped into dwelling	1.0
Open well in yard	2.9
Protected well in yard	0.4
Spring, river, dam	10.2

Source: 2016-2018 HIS Report

The commonest source of water for domestic use in communities near the project site is boreholes. There were no significant variations across the study villages in this. What may be different is number of boreholes per village and rate of discharge of water. For example, Maganga 2 had only two boreholes, whereby women and girls walk long hilly distances to draw water due to the sparse housing pattern in the village. Liwonde had one borehole located at a bottom of a steep slope. It was also reported that the cyclone Ana affected water supply in some villages as some of the boreholes were submerged in waters, a situation which communities highlighted paused health risks to them.

Table 15: Source of water for domestic uses in the study area in 2024

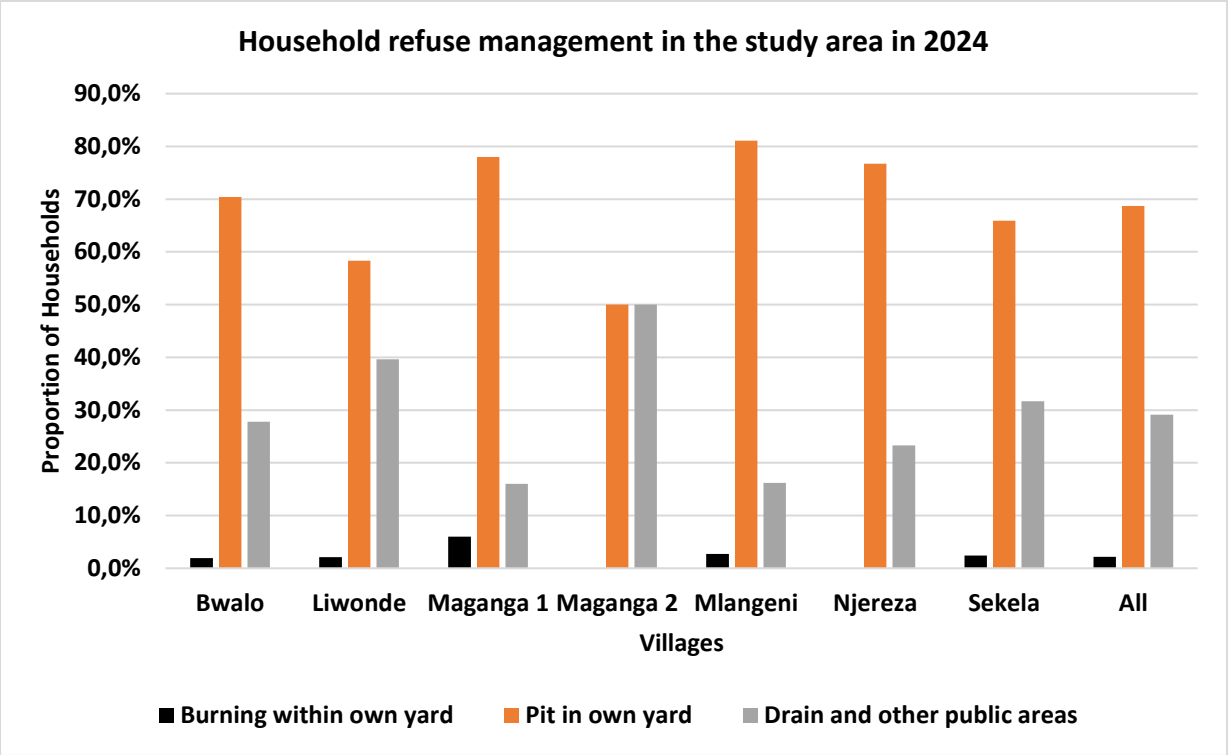
Village	Borehole		Borehole, unprotected well, river		Borehole, protected well,		Unprotected well & river		
	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Total
Bwalo	94.4%	51	1.9%	1		0	3.7%	2	54
Liwonde	85.4%	41			14.6%	7			48
Maganga 1	84.0%	42			16.0%	8			50
Maganga 2	97.5%	39			2.5%	1			40
Mlangeni	100.0%	37				0			37
Njereza	83.7%	36			16.3%	7			43
Sekela	100.0%	41				0			41
Total	**91.7%**	**287**	**0.3%**	**1**	**7.3%**	**23**	**0.6%**	**2**	**313**

Other villages like Bwalo and Maganga 1 indicated to also source water from the Shire River when it is calm. The rate of water discharge from the boreholes impacted water access in Bwalo village, where despite having seven boreholes, time and again women and girls do laundry and dish wash at the banks of the Shire River. The same was observed in Mlangeni. However, this has risk of crocodile attacks mainly in Sekela, Bwalo, Njereza and Maganga 1. For instance, an incident was reported at Bwalo village where a woman was rescued from a crocodile attack at the banks of Shire River a couple of years back.

While most households can access a borehole within a kilometer (SVTP Baseline Report, 2020), some of the communities around Kapichira requested boreholes in their area as part of their requests to the phase two of the MERP. Piped water is largely supplied within the Majete Wildlife Reserve and Kapichira Power Station residential premises. This water is treated right at the Shire River bank within the wildlife reserve premises.

1.11. Waste management

It was noted that Chikwawa district does not have a waste management plan and does not have designated waste disposal sites for all kinds of waste. About 20 % of households dispose their refuse in refuse pits, the rest (80%) commonly dispose of refuse crudely like dumping and open ground burning in their home yards. The baseline study found that 68.7% of the households in the communities dispose of their refuse in pits in their yards. Mlangeni village recorded the highest proportion of households managing their household waste in pits in their yards. Maganga 2 reported half of the households throwing their refuse in public areas. As this village is on slopes of a hill, it is very likely that part of refuse from this village washes away to Shire River. Burning of refuse was the least (2%) method of managing waste and was not recorded in Njereza.



Regarding disposal of human waste, the district reported that 2.3 percent of households (from semi-urban) have flush latrines and 61% have traditional pit latrines. Out of these, 10% have improved pit latrines. In addition, 49% of villages and 46% of Traditional Authorities practice ODF. The mainstream population does not have adequate resources to meet essential sanitation standards. Environmental and sanitation issues have been problematic in the district due to the unavailability of a readily development master plan.

The baseline study found that 64.2% of the households disposed their human waste in pit latrines without a slab. Up to 15% of the households did not have any facility for disposal of human waste. Most were recorded in Mlangeni (29.7%, where no toilet facility had a slab), followed by Bwalo at 22.2%. A further investigation on this matter found that these households used a neighbour's toilet facility.

Table 16: Human waste management in the study area in 2024

Village	None	Pit latrine with slab	Pit latrine without slab
Bwalo	22.2%	27.8%	50.0%
Liwonde	10.4%	6.2%	83.3%
Maganga 1	8.0%	50.0%	42.0%
Maganga 2	10.0%	7.5%	82.5%
Mlangeni	29.7%	-	70.3%
Njereza	7.0%	9.3%	83.7%
Sekela	19.5%	36.6%	43.9%
All	**15.0%**	**20.8%**	**64.2%**

A further analysis on disposal of human waste showed that considerably higher more than half of the female headed households in Mlangeni did not have any toilet facility compared to only 19% of their male counterparts. Furthermore, Njereza and Maganga 2 had the least proportion of female headed households using a toilet facility with a slab at 7.7% and 8.3% respectively and no female headed household had a toilet facility with a slab in Liwonde. The results show differences that may be attributed to vulnerability in household hygiene processes that may be attributed to further vulnerabilities arising from lack of resources and resourcefulness typical of rural female headed households.

Village	No toilet facility				Pit latrine with a slab				Pit latrine without a slab			
	Male HH		Female HH		Male HH		Female HH		Male HH		Female HH	
	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n
Bwalo	17.6%	6	30.0%	6	17.6%	6	45.0%	9	64.7%	22	25.0%	5
Liwonde	6.1%	2	20.0%	3	9.1%	3	0.0%	0	84.8%	28	80.0%	12
Maganga 1	8.6%	3	6.7%	1	60.0%	21	26.7%	4	31.4%	11	66.7%	10
Maganga 2	3.6%	1	25.0%	3	7.1%	2	8.3%	1	89.3%	25	66.7%	8
Mlangeni	19.2%	5	54.5%	6	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	80.8%	21	45.5%	5
Njereza	6.7%	2	7.7%	1	10.0%	3	7.7%	1	83.3%	25	84.6%	11
Sekela	15.0%	3	23.8%	5	35.0%	7	38.1%	8	50.0%	10	38.1%	8

1.12. Land access and use

There are three main categories of land tenure in the district as reflected in the Land (Amendment) Act of 2022: customary, public and private land. Public land includes government owned land in form of establishments like schools, markets, hospitals, government offices, other infrastructural establishments, forest and nature reserves, rivers, lakes and other public areas. This land constitutes 45% of the total land in Chikwawa.

Private land covers 20% of the land in the district. This has mostly been occupied by expansive agricultural estates in the Shire Valley notably Illovo, Presscane, Ekhaya Farms, Agricane and other individual persons owning livestock ranches.

Customary land, which has inherently been distributed to current occupants by means of traditional leadership passed from generations to generations or where villages have moved around due to displacements, which may have occurred due to floods. If not used for dwelling units and cultivation by individual families, the rest is considered to belong to the traditional leaders and may include grazing land, wetlands, graveyards, open areas, markets. It is such land that under customary law may be portioned to other village occupants. However, this is a dying occurrence due to increasing population as most land was shared among clans and families years back including the hills in Maganga 2 village. Key informant interviews with village heads of Kandeu and Maganga 2 showed that this was possible more than 10 years ago. It is estimated that customary land covers 35% of the total land in Chikwawa.

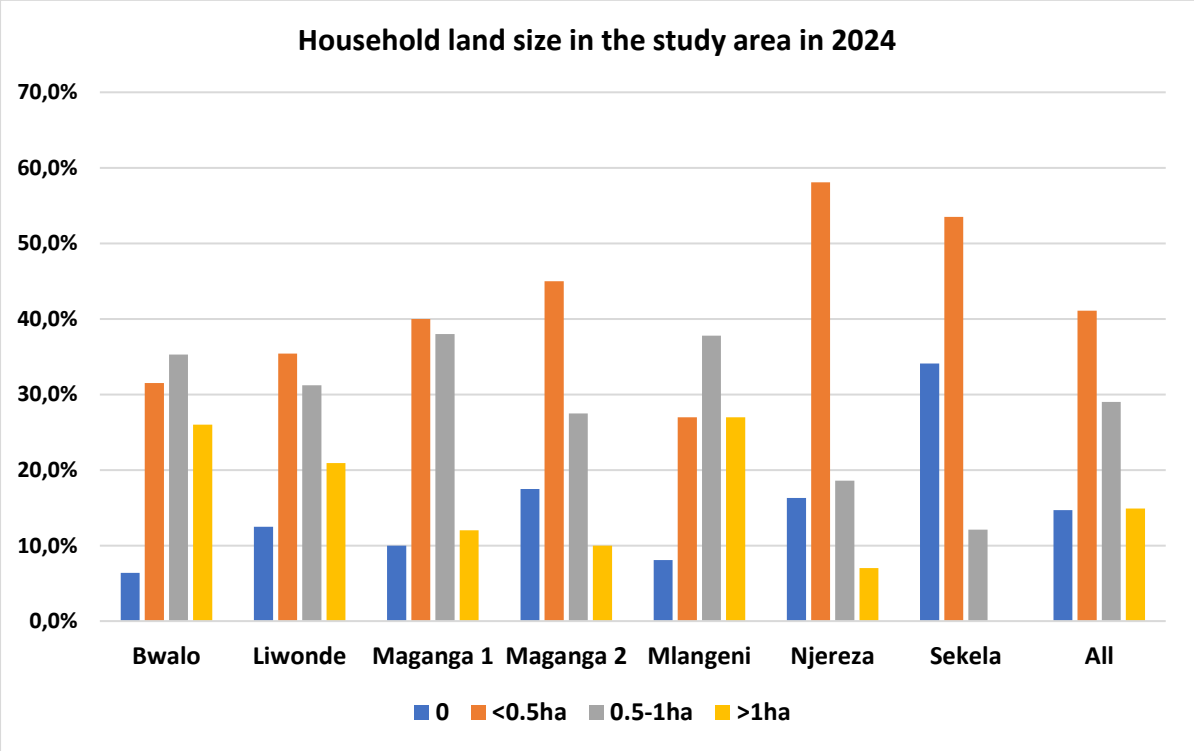
Land use is the description of land under physical plan. It may include commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, institutional and other descriptions. It is estimated that 39% of the population in the district are farmers with an average land holding size of cultivated land of less than 0.5 ha per farm family.

The baseline study found that 81.2% of the households in the impact footprint area owned farming land and land ownership was least among members from Sekela village at 65.9% (Table 17). About 43% of the farming households had land-holding sizes of less than 1 ha and only 18% with a hectare or more.

Table 17: Land ownership in the study area in 2024

Village	Not owning land	Owning land
Bwalo	20.4%	79.6%
Liwonde	16.7%	83.3%
Maganga 1	8.0%	92.0%
Maganga 2	27.5%	72.5%
Mlangeni	13.5%	86.5%
Njereza	14.0%	86.0%
Sekela	34.1%	65.9%
All	**18.8%**	**81.2%**

However, the land parcels are minimal averaging 0.6ha. Most households (41%) owned less than half a hectare and 29% owned between half and a hectare, while up to 14.7% did not own any land at all. Only 14.9% owned more than a hectare of land and none with such land sizes were recorded in Sekela village. These have implications on direct food access through own production considering the average household membership of 4.7.



A detailed analysis respective of sex of household head showed that no female headed household in Maganga 1 owned no land and Mlangeni had the biggest disparity in land ownership between female headed and male headed households. In addition, Maganga 2 had about the same proportion without land between male and female headed households. Of interest would be the actual land sizes that may be claimed to be owned by these households.

Table 18: Percentage of people not owning land by sex in the study area in 2024

Village	Not owning land			
	Male HH		Female HH	
	Percent	n	Percent	n
Bwalo	14.7%	5	30.0%	6
Liwonde	15.2%	5	20.0%	3
Maganga 1	11.4%	4	0.0%	0
Maganga 2	28.6%	8	25.0%	3
Mlangeni	3.8%	1	36.4%	4
Njereza	16.7%	5	7.7%	1
Sekela	25.0%	5	42.9%	9

Therefore, the study further looked at differences in land sizes between male and female headed households across the villages (Table 19). As expected more female headed households did not have any piece of farming land than male headed households at proportions of 19.6% and 12.1% respectively. These were most in Mlangeni where on the contrary no male headed household owned no land. Only 13% of female headed households representing 4% of the total sampled households indicated to own land parcels larger than a hectare. However, male headed households owning at least a hectare of land were just as much at 16% representing 3.8% of the total sampled households. Overall, most households owned less than half a hectare of land at 42.3% and 39.3% respectively for male and female headed households respectively. These represented 27.8% and 13.4% of the total sample. This further demonstrates disparities in access to capital such as land which disadvantages women socio-economically including access to food from own production. The general minimal landholdings have influenced cultivation in hilly terrain in some of the villages like Maganga 2 and Liwonde. The washaway of arable lands due to cyclones further affected communities' abilities to secure food from own production. They have remained not resilient.

"…we used to cultivate maize and chickpeas, crop farming is not as much currently due to lack of arable land, some do livestock farming though minimal and others charcoal making …" FGD participant from a group of women at Liwonde village.

Table 19 Size of owned land in the project area in 2024

Village	0ha				>0 - 0.5ha				>0.5 - 1ha				>1ha			
	Male HHH		Female HHH		Male HHH		Female HHH		Male HHH		Female HHH		Male HHH		Female HHH	
	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n	Percent	n
Bwalo	8.8%	3	5.0%	1	38.2%	13	20.0%	4	29.3%	10	45.0%	9	23.4%	3	30.0%	6
Liwonde	9.1%	3	20.0%	3	30.3%	10	46.7%	7	33.3%	11	26.7%	4	27.2%	1	6.7%	1
Maganga 1	11.4%	4	6.7%	1	40.1%	14	40.0%	6	34.3%	12	46.6%	7	14.3%	3	6.7%	1
Maganga 2	17.9%	5	16.7%	2	46.4%	13	41.7%	5	28.6%	8	25.0%	3	7.2%	1	16.7%	2
Mlangeni	0.0%	0	27.3%	3	30.8%	8	18.2%	2	38.4%	10	36.4%	4	30.7%	4	18.2%	2
Njereza	16.7%	5	15.4%	2	56.6%	17	61.5%	8	23.3%	7	7.7%	1	3.3%	0	15.4%	2
Sekela	25.0%	5	42.9%	9	60.0%	12	47.7%	10	15.0%	3	9.6%	2	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
All	12.1%	25	19.6%	21	42.3%	87	39.2%	42	29.6%	61	28.0%	30	16.1%	12	13.0%	14

1.13. Food security

Access to food through own production is the first step in defining food security among rural households in Malawi. Crop farming is generally the first livelihood option among rural households regardless of its productivity and profitability. This is because it directly links to potential of food security through direct access even though one may not grow all the crops they need. Most food production among smallholder farmers in Malawi is largely rain fed and Chikwawa is no exception.

Up to 89.2% of households in Chikwawa are engaged in farming especially rain-fed (75.8%) agriculture. However, due to arid characteristics of the district, national crops like maize do not grow well hence farmers grow more drought tolerant crops like cotton, sorghum. Maize grows well under irrigated conditions since water may be adequately supplied. However, climate change impacts have led to extreme climatic events in the shire highlands and north of Malawi resulting in flooding year in year out with peak floods recorded in the years 2015, 2019 and 2022 in the Shire Valley. These floods have been too devastating to have even washed away established irrigation schemes, and river banks of the Shire where local people cultivated their food crops in the dry season were not spared. For the footprint area, this was more observed around the banks of the river nearest to Kapichira Hydro Power Station as immediate impact area from dam break following cyclone Anna in 2022.All focus group discussions and key informant interviews with leaders reported losing their only land along the Shire River, where they could grow some food meaningfully as rain-fed crop farming has not been productive due to excessive high temperatures and erratic rainfall. Households would previously grow maize in moisture rich low-lying areas but now most of such areas have been washed downstream Shire River due to flooding. This has led to river bank erosion hence expansion of the width of the Shire River. This wash down was very remarkable during cyclone Anna flooding event.

"People generally do farming; but with the droughts it has become very impossible to harvest anything here. In the olden days, households would do rainy season and dry season (dimba) farming where they would be assured to harvest some crops to last the year and even sell some from the dimbas. But due to washing away of their dimba areas, they are food insecure every year. Now it is hunger after hunger. Climate change has impacted us greatly" – a Key informant interview with Group Village Kandeu on livelihoods.

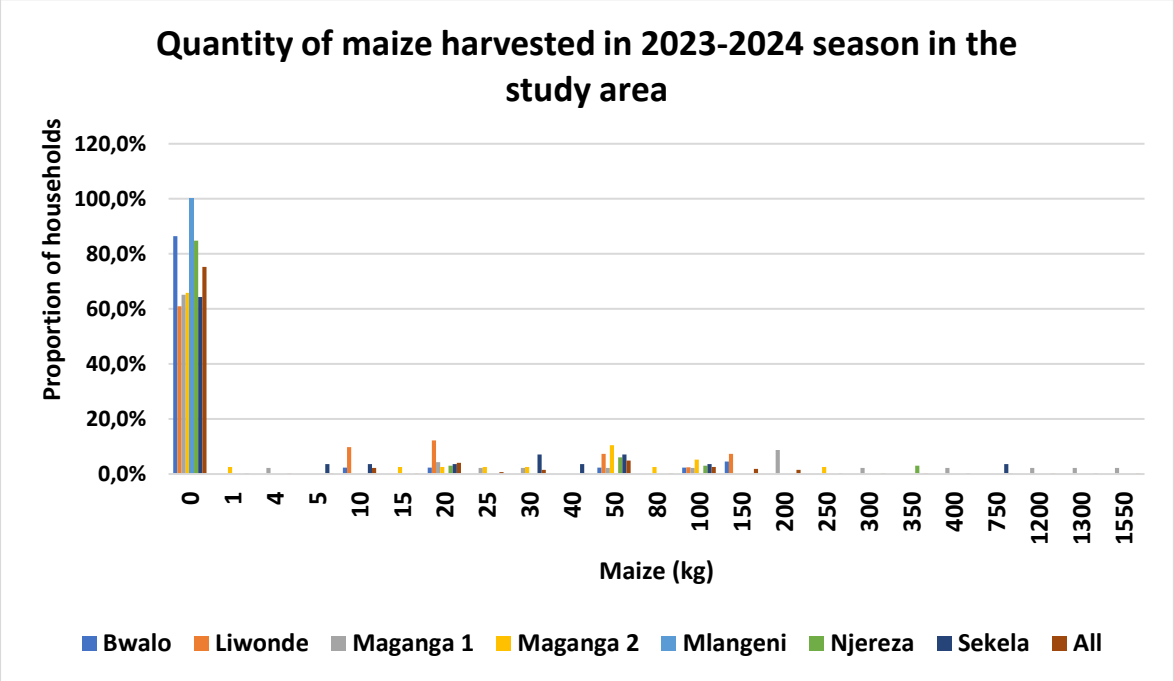
In other villages, like Njereza and Bwalo, the previous flood events like cyclone Anna did not wash away the river banks where community members cultivated dimbas but submerged the dimbas. These have enlarged breeding areas for crocodiles. People also believe that some crocodiles got stranded and hence became closer to villages.

"In terms of crop farming the most reliable farmland are the ones near river bank commonly known as "Kumadimba" but as it stands right now, are uncultivatable because the land till date is covered with water. This has affected farming since that is most of reliable farmland. Some of these are now harbouring crocodiles.." A focus group discussion with men's group at Njereza village.

"*….the land that we used to do irrigation has been covered with sand following the water overflows over the years...we have lost our source of income and food security, because we do not rely very much on the upland fields as the rains here are very erratic"* ... FGD participant from a group of women at Sekera village.

Type of crops

Regarding own production of food crops, all study villages were insufficient even though up to 87% grew maize in the previous year. Maize has been used as a case because national food security in Malawi is primarily defined by the status of grains largely maize availability. While the households have minimal land holdings for cultivation of their crops, productivity is negatively affected due to extreme heat, climatic events, arid nature of the lands and inadequate access to farm inputs like fertilisers. In some of the villages like Mlangeni, Maganga 2, Liwonde, most households grow their rain fed crops on rocky and hilly terrain and previously forested areas. The study recorded minimal harvests from the previous season whereby up to 75% of households that grew maize harvested nothing. In Mlangeni all households registered no maize harvest (following figure).



The minimal maize harvests were the highest quantities of grains that the households had among millet and sorghum in the previous season. Millet was grown in Bwalo, Mlangeni and Sekela villages by a total of 14.6% of the households, while sorghum was reported in all the study villages among a total of 60% of the households. It was least reported in Maganga 2 and Liwonde villages at 10% and 16.7% respectively. It was reported by above 70% across the rest of the villages; Bwalo and Njereza villages at 87% and 83.7% respectively (Table 1-19). However, production was extremely low in these grains as up to 89% and 61.9% of those who grew millet and sorghum harvested nothing. The recorded quantities of sorghum harvests were up to 100kg for 32.6% of the households. These findings demonstrate the degree of vulnerability in terms of food security through direct access the communities were generally.

Therefore, it was necessary to establish their main ways of acquiring grains (maize). Table 20 shows that up to 87.2% bought maize for their household needs at the time if the survey, which was during the month of September, six months after harvest.

Table 20: Access to maize grain in the 2024 study area

Village	Buying	Food rations	Food rations & buying	Food rations & receiving from relations	Receiving from relations	Stocked from own production
Bwalo	63.0%	3.7%	24.1%	1.9%	7.4%	-
Liwonde	45.8%	16.7%	33.3%	-	4.2%	-
Maganga 1	52.0%	4.0%	34.0%	-	10.0%	-
Maganga 2	65.0%	-	27.5%	-	7.5%	-
Mlangeni	77.1%	-	20.0%	-	2.9%	-
Njereza	64.3%	4.8%	26.2%	-	4.8%	-
Sekela	75.0%	4.5%	6.8%	-	9.1%	4.5%
All	62.3%	5.1%	24.9%	0.3%	6.7%	0.6%

The flood prone region of the Shire Valley (Chikwawa and Nsanje) makes it a beneficiary under the Malawi Drought Relief and Recovery Programme (MDRRP) and the Malawi Flood Emergency Recovery Programme (MFERP). Both programmes have assisted rural families with farm inputs support and other household essentials like maize flour, grain legumes, salt, cooking oils, textured vegetable protein, sugar among others. Most non-governmental organisations operating in the district follow the same process.

The Majete Wildlife Reserve as part of the management of the reserve runs various programmes with communities including those next to Kapichira Power station that contribute to food security.

Of interest can be occupations that define livelihoods of the people around the impact footprint area. The study found that most households were piece workers (43%). Some 21.4% identified as farmers and piece workers and 9.9% as business (income generating activities, farming and piece workers, and 8.3% business and piece work. In total, it shows that up to 82.6% of the households engaged in piece work. This also demonstrates economic vulnerability as piece work is not regular. It suggests that generally most households from the footprint area have unpredictable livelihood options.

Table 21: Source of livelihoods for the people around the project area in 2024

Village	Business	Business + farming + piece worker	Business + employee on monthly income	Business + piece worker	Farming	Fishing	Farming + piece worker	Employee on monthly income	Piece worker
Bwalo	5.6%	7.4%	-	9.3%	3.7%	-	13.0%	9.3%	51.9%
Liwonde	10.4%	6.2%	4.2%	12.5%	-	-	18.8%	6.2%	41.7%
Maganga 1	10.0%	26.0%	-	6.0%	-	4.0%	24.0%	-	30.0%
Maganga 2	10.0%	7.5%	-	20.0%	7.5%	-	15.0%	-	40.0%
Mlangeni	10.8%	2.7%	-	2.7%	2.7%	-	29.7%	2.7%	48.6%
Njereza	11.6%	2.3%	-	4.7%	-	2.3%	27.9%	2.3%	48.8%
Sekela	4.9%	14.6%	-	2.4%	9.8%	-	24.4%	-	43.9%
All	8.9%	9.9%	0.6%	8.3%	3.2%	1.0%	21.4%	3.2%	43.5%

The footprint area is generally food insecure and of lower socio-economic standing from both perspectives of own grain production and ability to purchase as up to 82.6% engage in piece work and more than half of their monthly earnings are spent on food items

These assertions are triangulated by insights from focus group discussions and key informant interviews across the study villages:

"The last two years have been very bad…. Our youths here have relied on piece works and seasonal work at Majete Game Reserve and Kapichira Power Station. Majete has more work (seasonal) for our youths here. Some do four months then if they are lucky may be picked again in next batches. Some young women do domestic work in EGENCO staff homes. EGENCO has also helped many families earn some money. Some have bought assets like motorcycles, which they use as bicycle taxis, thereby assisting other community members".. a Key informant interview with Group Village Kandeu on livelihoods.

"*…To be honest things are not alright. There is no one doing productive things, we are in extreme poverty and hungry. But currently, we are deforesting remaining parcels of forests around us to make charcoal. These trees were obtained from the forest surrounding the T/A. Then things changed when the Ministry of Lands ordered that everyone ought to be working on their designated farms. In turn those with forests are benefiting from their land in charcoal….*

… a few weeks ago a certain organisation donated maize, that is the one making us seem like we have food now. We are so many people in this village and cannot sustain on charcoal as a source of income.." – Focus group discussion with men of Njereza Village.

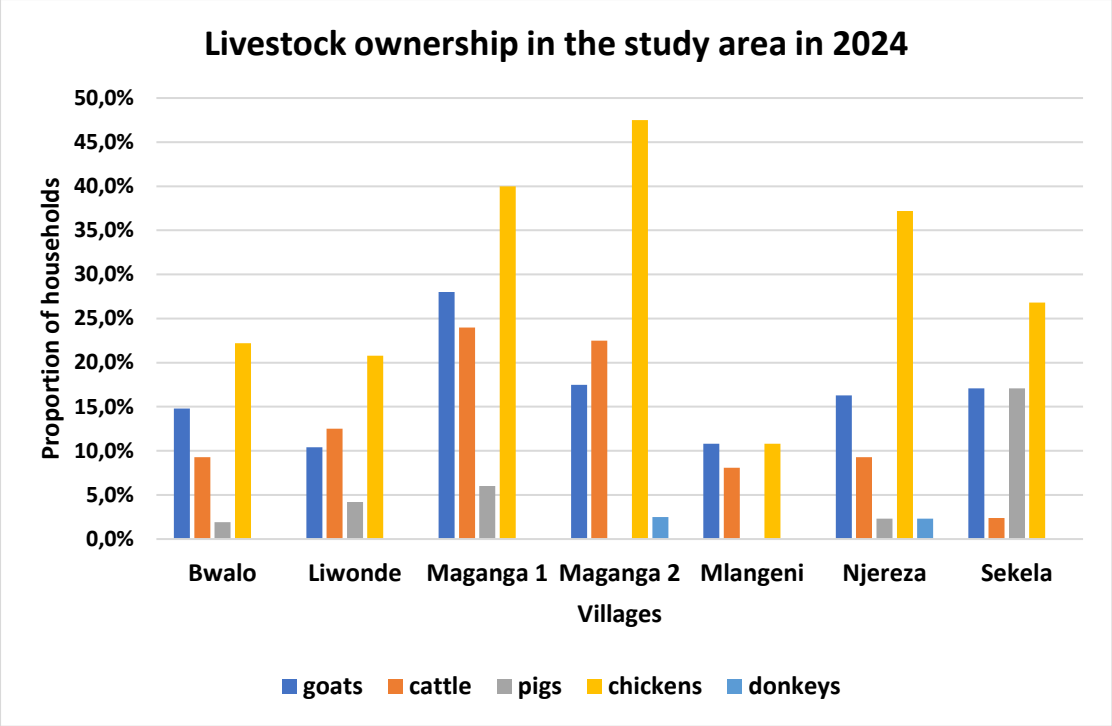
Some households in Njereza village engaged in charcoal business from forests and shrubs around their lands. However, this was becoming limited to those with forested cropping lands but following land titling. To an extent some do sell shrubs and stumps to those seeking to make charcoal. However, there is a high possibility of sourcing trees from the buffer zone of the Majete Wildlife Reserve or the reserve itself even though group members spoke vaguely about it for obvious reasons.

These speculations are corroborated by a women focus group in the same Njereza village. Among their income generating activities they listed: selling fish, maize, firewood and charcoal. The women did not respond clearly on the source of firewood for charcoal making rather they said to source it from their fields. However, no trees were evident in the fields.

Livestock

The major livestock species in the district are cattle, goats, poultry, pig, rabbits and sheep. By number, chickens are the most livestock species kept by a majority of rural families. The last five years had seen an increase in the population of livestock particularly goats and cattle. The district estimates that about 48% of the households own some livestock. The baseline study found that 29%, 16%, 13% and 4% of the households owned chickens, goats, cattle and pigs in impact footprint area.

Generally, the population of goats is considerably supporting families in times of low crop production. Some organizations (such as World Vision International, Catholic Development Commission, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations through the District Agriculture Office) have assisted rural households by providing support with goats programmes.



1.14. Fisheries

As the nature of the project's footprint area spreads downstream Shire River, the survey held discussions with fishermen in Liwonde, Maganga 2, Mlangeni and Sekela. This was to understand how fishing may be impacted with future dam break but also how it has been impacted following dam break from cyclone Anna in 2022 including any changes into their fishing livelihood.

Fish is the cheapest source of animal protein consumed in the district and contributes up to 60% of animal protein. Fisheries support 1324 fishers and 594 farmers and traders in the district. The support of fisheries to the local economy is however declining following a number of factors such as overfishing, habitat degradation of aquatic environment and climate change[2].

Table 22 shows average capture fisheries data for the past three years and shows a downward trend.

Table 22: Capture fisheries in Chikwawa district

Year	Catch (Tonnes)
2018/2019	313.51
2019/2020	339.50
2020/2021	265.41
2021/2022	233.33

Source: Chikwawa Fisheries 2018/19,2020/21 and 2021/22 Annual Reports adapted from the Chikwawa District Council Socio-economic Profile: 2022-2030

The fishing carried out around the footprint area is line and net fishing. Line fishing is popular when the waters are clear but during the rainy season when waters are murky and dirty they use nets.

[2] Chikwawa District Council Socio-economic Profile: 2022-2030

« …we use nets that are recommended by the government as sometimes Officials from the district come to inspect our nets… » Focus group discussion with Mlangeni village fishermen.

This suggests that in the absence of monitoring, smaller nets may be used as documented from Liwonde village fishers below.

The fishers use different kind of nets and may be called different local names around the area. The study gathered the following local names for different types of fishing gear from Maganga 1 village; chasa, chavi, mbedza (line), matchera, chavi (net with weights and floats).

The chasa is popular for different sizes of fish and maybe quickly used to catch some fish for daily diet. Owners of such a gear may rent it out to any family so wishing to do a quick scoop for a day's meal.



A net locally called *chasa,* used to scoop fish in the Shire river – Maganga 1 village

Photo credit: Kapichira Dam Rehabilitation and Strengthening ESIA baseline, 2024



Demonstrating how *chasa* is used to catch fish in the Shire River – Maganga 1 village

Photo credit: Kapichira Dam Rehabilitation and Strengthening ESIA baseline, 2024

… »we also use chasa at night when it is calm….we use a torch to scan the area to look out for crocodiles… we can notice the crocodiles through light reflecting in their eyes… » Focus group discussion with Maganga 1 village fishermen.

Fish species popularly caught are diverse and also depend on which village the river flows but include the following: chambo (Oreochromis karongae), agale (Labeo cylindricus), milamba (Clarias gariepinus), mitcheni, kholomo, nyanda, gundawala (Labeo congoro),

The dwindling catch presented in Table 7.7.16 was corroborated by both fishing commuities in the foot print area and the office of fisheries in the district. To begin with fishers reported that while fish population does fluctuate throughout the year, they notice a reduced catch over the years. In Liwonde village, which is the last village closest to the gate to Kapichira Power Station, sits at the borderline with the Majete Wildlife Reserve. Fishers complained that they are stopped from throwing fish lines beyond the borderline (under the bridge, which connects the access to the Kapichira Power Station compound), even though they are of the view that the fish orignates from downstream. They ascertained their opinions because they encounter different types of fish and more variety during the rainy season whereby fish flows upstream from the Zambezi river.

« …the time of the year that, we as fishermen call hot season (meaning catching more fish) is the rainy season because fish migrate from Zambezi River up to this part of the shire river. As the season is goes to an end we notice different kinds of fish. For this to continue, we offer sacrifice (sprinkle maize flour in the river at specific spots) at the start of each year…

as the Shire River has no village boundaries, we all can access the river from anywhere and so the fish. We have the skills to locate fish. It moves from this side going to Magomelo where they gather and stay there for some time. That place is off bounds to us because it's dangerous even for us fishermen to get there. Later in the season, the fish later comes back this side. We can access the fish on its way up to and back from Magomela.." Focus group discussion with Liwonde village fishermen.

« At Kapichira there is a section which has a lot of fish. When they open the dam gates and the water drains, one can actually pick fish from the shallow river bed using bare hands. But this is a protected area. Its part of the Majete Game Reserve and if one is found, you get arrested » - *Focus* group discussion with Mlangeni fishermen.

The fishermen acknowledged that it was both too dangerous and illegal to fish beyond the bridge to Kapichira Power Station compound. Too dangerous in case there is flashing at the power station. EGENCO no longer sets alarm off to warn people nearest downstream of planned flashing but sends reports through messengers. If one didnt get the report and went fishing they may be in the middle of fast moving waters needing a coordinated rescue. It was illegal because it is under protected waters of Majete Wildlife Reserve.

An account was given of some men from Liwonde who were imprisoned for three years for illegal fishing. A case which was the first of its kind in the village and the fishers were unhappy about it ad threatening to respond through witchcraft (to rangers or whomever on patrol) in future if it continues. Asked how that may be possible they said that they have some 'power'.

« …imagine we can jump into the water and be there for over 15 minutes...we are well protected by our grandparents because this is our livelihood source …when we get under water to tie down our nets we are able see even crocodiles and do identify both natural and human made ones. When we see those made by humans we just know they are after someone…but we just see them. » Focus group discussion with Liwonde Village Fishermen.

The charms also enabled them hold breath or breathe under water. Only those with wives could get under water as itw as their wives who kept the belt of charms to be worn each time the spouse goes to tie down nets in the water.

The fishers reported that the size of fish catch has been dwindling over the years. Fish breeding areas had been washed away or covered with flooding waters over the last few years. This has made fish change breeding grounds and affected the fishers operations as they move longer distances to catch fish. Yet their customers will not accept increased prices forcing the fishers to catch more fish inorder to make a reasonable sale. This has created competition among the fishers too and some do adapt by reducing the size of their fishing gear inorder to maximise catch. This is however illegal as that depletes breeding stock when fingerlings are caught too.

"…we reduced net inches from 4 inches to 3 or 2.5 inches …these nets are available in hardware shops at Dyeratu. We also make some of the nets ourselves from old nets." Focus group discussion with Liwonde Village Fishermen.

"Back in the day we used to catch a lot of fish since the river had a kind of dam in it where the fish would breed. But in the past few years floods came and resulted in siltation of the dam. The river is now heavily silted and very shallow making it difficult to find fish…. We also suspect that siltation has been caused by the strong flowing water that comes out of the dam when Egenco opens its flood gates. Usually, the water comes with very huge force that results in lots of mud being carried with the flow resulting in more siltation. The siltation has made the river to be shallower and wider." - Focus group discussion with Mlangeni village fishermen.

The fisheries officer also gave an account of fisher behaviour and fish catch and populations and general changes following cyclonne Anna flood events. She reported that cyclone Anna brought

too much devastation beyond any cylone that Chikwawa had experienced before both in terms of human and ecological disturbances.

"Cyclone Annah brought in the kind of floods that Chikwawa had never seen before. Due to Chikwawa's geography water from the hills empties into Shire River. During the cyclone Anna it is believed when the dam broke some of the water escaped through the unfinished downpour passing through the already constructed Shire Valley Transformation Project canals with force and the water pressure broke through the canal at some weak points and joined Mthumba river and cut through the M1 road at Mthumba…"- Fisheries Officer, Chikwawa District Council.

"…Fisheries Research report reported that the floods passed through the dam of ethanol's waste (Molasses), hence the water was concentrated with molasses causing deaths of fish in fish ponds including at the research centre in Kasinthula. Some fish just washed away and many fishermen lost their tools i.e. nets and boats…" - Fisheries officer, Chikwawa District Council.

The survey also enquired if fishermen had experienced major changes in the last few years following cyclone Anna. They reported changes in both farm land and fish catch. Their responses were similar to other village members' responses under section 7.7.12 on land.

"*…When the dam at Kapichira was destroyed as a result of the cyclone, the flood waters brought with it a lot of clay soil and other soil debris that got deposited along the river banks. This soil is not good for farming and as such people lost land they used to grow crops. In our village we usually grow crops using residual moisture in the land along the river banks. These days this is not possible due to the heavy deposits of clay soils as a result of the cyclone. Also, the siltation has caused the river to be very shallow which is not good for fish. In the past, the river was deep, the fish catch was quite good. We could get a full 40 litre bucket of fish which when sold one was able to make good money to buy food and other household items. This is not possible now*". Focus group discussion with Mlangeni village fishermen.

In all the fishing villages, fishermen acknowledged negative impacts on both agricultural land and fishing systems from the effects of cyclone Anna. On fishing systems side, they lost breeding grounds and the river is more silted hence shallow. Fishers in Liwonde and Mlangeni have diversified livelihoods by taking up charcoal production in the communal forests, although illegal. In Mlangeni village fishers reported that it was evident that deforestation from the hills surrounding their village was also contributing to siltation in the Shire River hence further affecting fish catch.

"*The loss of the farm land along the river bank has forced people to turn to the mountains where they cut trees to sell or to make charcoal*. …a*gain, we have noted that siltation has perhaps been caused by the careless cutting down of trees in the slopes on the hills near the village. This has increased the amount and size of run off when it rains.."* Focus group discussion with Mlangeni village fishermen.

"Changes are inevitable during floods, for instance there was a deposit of a huge amount of is sand. Hence reducing the depth of the river, resulting in several diversions to occur and the river, which led to the disruption of fishing grounds …." - Fisheries officer, Chikwawa District Council.

On adaptation to changes in fish population and impacts on livelihoods, the fisheries office reported programs on natural resources under the SVTP that focus on community groups. The groups may identify a space where they would reserve nature including land and water based for eco tourism.

"…Under SVTP, there is another program that is currently in the implementation stage. The project is encouraging community members to select a place that should be manually staged to be a tourist centre for natural resources. In terms of Elephant marsh program there are strategies developed for community conservation area. And as it is right now, Committees are being formed comprising of community members, and different types of village groups for them to select their desired site. Through this site, they will preserve wildlife and natural resources while earning some money when visitors come through…
….the selected area can either be both uphill or along the river banks. The activities may involve, taking care of trees, fish, crocodiles, hippopotamus even cultural heritage. Elephant marsh encampuses Chikwawa and Nsanje districts and in it we have six committees that have their designated areas…" - Fisheries officer, Chikwawa District Council.

The Fisheries Officer pointed out some ways and strategies to minimise harm to natural resources and the environment during the rehabilitation and operation of the Kapichira Hydro Power dam. These were quoted as follows:

- *"Good relationship and communication between Kapichira team of workers and fisheries department including technical personnel and sectors in the district council should know more about operation works because technical person are the ones on ground usually have no clue on that's going on or why is that fish are just dying*

- *In my thinking if during operation there is sharing of information on how things are been done on the ground. Looking at how this work works, the council officers such as water, fisheries and environment are the same people that carry the information to the communities. But due to lack of communication there is diversity of information reaching the community.*

- *For instance, there is a certain technical term called "Flashing" where they open the dam gates to flash the water out. During this time the community including concerned departments at the council ought to be informed, since after this flash fish tend to die even* ***crocodiles escape*** *and officers are blank about the justifiable reasons for the death of these aquatic life. Rather just have speculations that maybe the flash involves chemicals and if yes in what percentage and does that pose a threat to people living in villages nearby and the environment?*

- *These are the experiences shared when we go in the field. So, when the council officers encounter such experiences, they fail to defend or give a justifiable reason to the people or whether people are safe or not.*

- *This is a clear indication that during operation there is information gap between Kapichira council officers and the affected communities.*

- *As for the construction site, technically we cannot really give better advice because since construction is not our strong suit but we are expecting that, what comes will be more of*

promoting the developments already existing or maybe on our side will look into how people are benefiting from fish farming.

- *Like I said the problems at hand will not hinder the developmental projects in motion/plan. Developments will progress, but will just ensure that it does not negatively affect the lives of people and aquatic life.*

- *As for biodiversity, we already have a fish barrier we can add another barrier so that ne species of fish should not migrate to the other side.*

- *Reconstruction of the dam is a very welcoming development that will help in several ways such as fixing our electricity problems.*

- *The coming in of the shire valley canal, especially that side of Majete animals will drinking water from the canal, we are hoping that this elephant marsh will not end because a lot of people depend on it for fish farming because that is where several fish are. So, we are hoping that this remains intact.*

- *Finally, the shire valley constructors should fix their weak points to avoid reoccurrence."*

1.15. Energy

Firewood is the most common source of energy for cooking in Chikwawa. It is also widely used in the project area by number of households except at Kapichira Power Station and Majete Wildlife Reserve where hydroelectricity is complimentary.

The 2019/20 Integrated Household Survey reported that about 91.2% and 8.8 % of the population in Chikwawa were using firewood and charcoal respectively for cooking. Further, 89%, 5.4% and 3.3% were using torches (dry cell batteries), firewood and electricity for lighting respectively. Population using national grid for lighting slightly increased to 5.9% over the past four years as noted in SVTP socio-economic studies in the district3.

Nothing much has changed five years later as this baseline survey shows that the majority of the people in the impact footprint area were using firewood and charcoal to meet their energy needs for cooking. In the complex race for survival, deforestation and clearing of shrubs around cropping areas is both for domestic consumption and income generation. The following figure shows that firewood was the most used source of energy for cooking in the households. This firewood was mostly fetched (77.7%) in nearby communal lands (54%), in forests (24%) and nearby farmlands (13.1%). Other means of accessing cook wood energy were through purchase, own production and fetching from own cropping land. In most households, women and girls were the ones who fetched firewood.

[3] Ministry of Water and Sanitation, Shire Valley Transformation Programme ESIA report (2023)

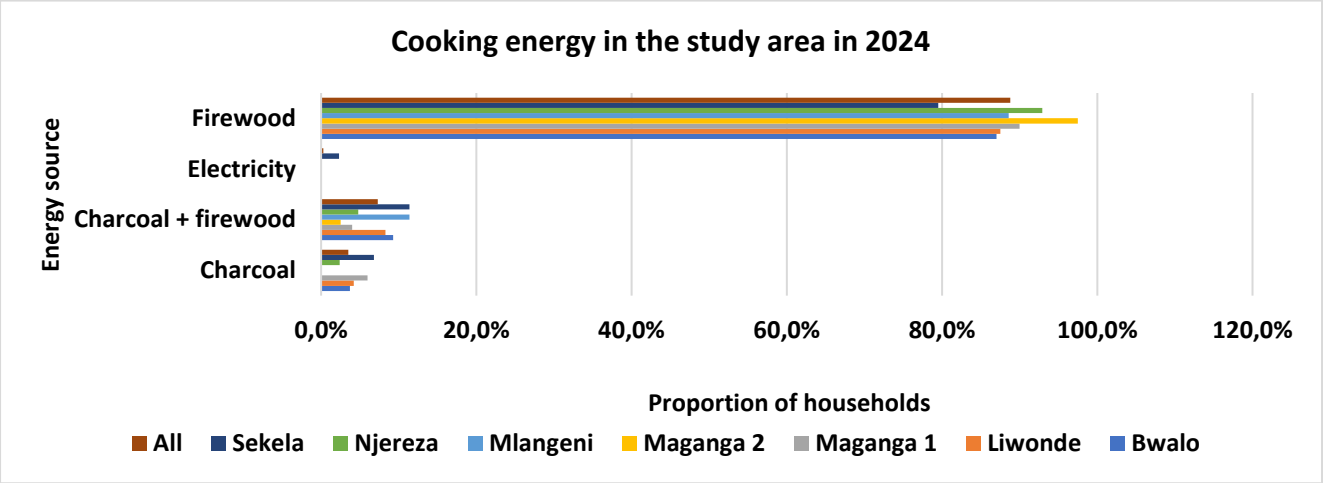


Table 23: Sources of firewood in the study area in 2024

Village	Buying	Buying + Own woodlot	Collect from nearby communal land	Collecting from forest	Collecting from nearby farmlands	Collecting from own farmland	Own woodlot
Bwalo	1.9%	0.0%	31.5%	48.1%	11.1%	1.9%	5.6%
Liwonde			37.5%		62.5%		
Maganga 1			84.0%	10.0%			6.0%
Maganga 2			82.5%	17.5%			
Mlangeni			83.8%	2.7%	13.5%		
Njereza	2.3%	0.0%	60.5%	34.9%			2.3%
Sekela	7.3%	4.9%	9.8%	51.2%		4.9%	17.1%
All	**1.6%**	**0.6%**	**54.6%**	**24.0%**	**13.1%**	**0.6%**	**4.5%**

Charcoal is another energy source for cooking but used by few households around urban centres in the district. Since villages around the project site are largely rural, it is not expected that they use charcoal for cooking because it is relatively expensive. However, some households in Maganga 2, Njereza and Mlangeni are involved in charcoal production to generate cash income. As there were no community forested areas around some of the villages like Njereza, it was feared that community members could fetch trees for charcoal from the buffer zone of the wildlife reserve due to its nearness to it. Both men and women groups independently reported engaging in charcoal production as a livelihood option.



Landscape of Maganga 2 showing depleted forestland. Shire river in the foreground

Photo credit: Kapichira Dam Rehabilitation and Strengthening ESIA baseline, 2024

The District Forestry Officer was key in elaborating some of the challenges that people of Chikwawa face in accessing wood for various purposes including cooking energy. The dimension was from the perspective of impacts of previous cyclones mainly Anna of 2022 on forest cover even though the district had faced a new cyclone each year. Nevertheless, the impacts just deepen, suggesting that the proposed strategies to improve the situation ought to be strengthened. The following were key impacts:

- forest cover: some trees have been washed away for good. In addition, since cyclone Anna damaged many houses, it meant that most trees were cut down to reconstruct houses as one means of recovering from the cyclone.

- relocation of the people following the cyclone, the forests in the upland areas have been cleared for human settlement, and immediate access to fuel wood energy.
- coping strategies following cyclone Anna also affected forest covers, the sale of charcoal for livelihood enhancement has had direct impact on to the environment.
- water flows and distribution in the Shire catchment area there has been so much siltation, which has also reduced fishing and some areas which were initially used for irrigation have been covered with sand.
- It should also be mentioned that Chikwawa is a disaster-prone area, it is either floods or drought, and all these impacts the environment in one way or another; thus, any intervention in the district needs to take these issues into account.

Aside from the impacts of cyclone Anna the Forestry Officer made the following recommendations to ensure that environmental and natural resources are not negatively affected during the rehabilitation of the Kapichira Dam:

- There is need for an intervention that protects the entire Shire Catchment area, not partial protection. Further, there is need for an integrated catchment management where every stakeholder should be involved and contribute their share to the management of the Shire Catchment area; this will result in easy flow of water downstream and further reducing siltation.
- In the environment and natural resources management interventions, there should be good use of indigenous knowledge, and involve all the people in the planning and the dam rehabilitation. The communities have history about Shire River water flows, their experiences should be used in the dam rehabilitation design works.
- The client should intensify on the awareness and sensitization about environmental conservation and the population mindset change on environment and natural resources management; the belief that as people we belong to the entire ecosystem and we are part of it.
- It would be good to bring in incentives to the communities, so that they all realize the immediate benefits of environmental conservation, for instance drawing from the performance-based grants which Shire Valley Transformation Program is undertaking, and also introduce environmental and natural resources management related enterprises.
- The client should also ensure that there is good collaboration and networking with various stakeholders at all levels, district and community levels, so that there can be complementary in some efforts particularly those related to environmental conservation.

1.16. Health services

The health sector is guided by the Health Sector Strategic plan III (HSSPIII) 2023-2030, whose goal is to improve the health status of all Malawians and increase client satisfaction and financial risk protection towards attainment of universal health coverage. This is in line with Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good health and Wellbeing).

Health services in Chikwawa are provided through health posts, dispensaries, health centres and hospitals. Government, Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM), Companies, Non-Governmental Organizations and individual practitioners also provide services through their facilities The health services provided include: Out patients, in patients, nutrition rehabilitation, antenatal, postnatal, ambulatory, referral, laundry, pharmacy, mortuary, Eye Nose and Throat services, dental therapy, radiology, orthopaedics, psychiatry, physiotherapy, theatre, maternal and child health, maintenance, antenatal, postnatal, family planning, laboratory, Information Education and Communication (IEC), HIV testing services, skin clinics and several other preventive health services. Chikwawa District Hospital offers primary health care services through two non-paying and optional paying services. The district has three hospitals namely: Chikwawa District Hospital, Ngabu Community Hospital and St Montfort Hospital. These are the main referral hospitals in the district. They also refer the patients to Queen Elizabeth Centre Hospital for further management if necessary.

The district has 26 Health Centres and four dispensaries namely; Gola, Bereu, Kasinthula and Kapichira (EGENCO clinic).

The EGENCO clinic within the Kapichira Power Station compound offers some services free of charge. For example, if a case requires referral, an ambulance is given freely to carry the patient to the district hospital in Chikwawa.

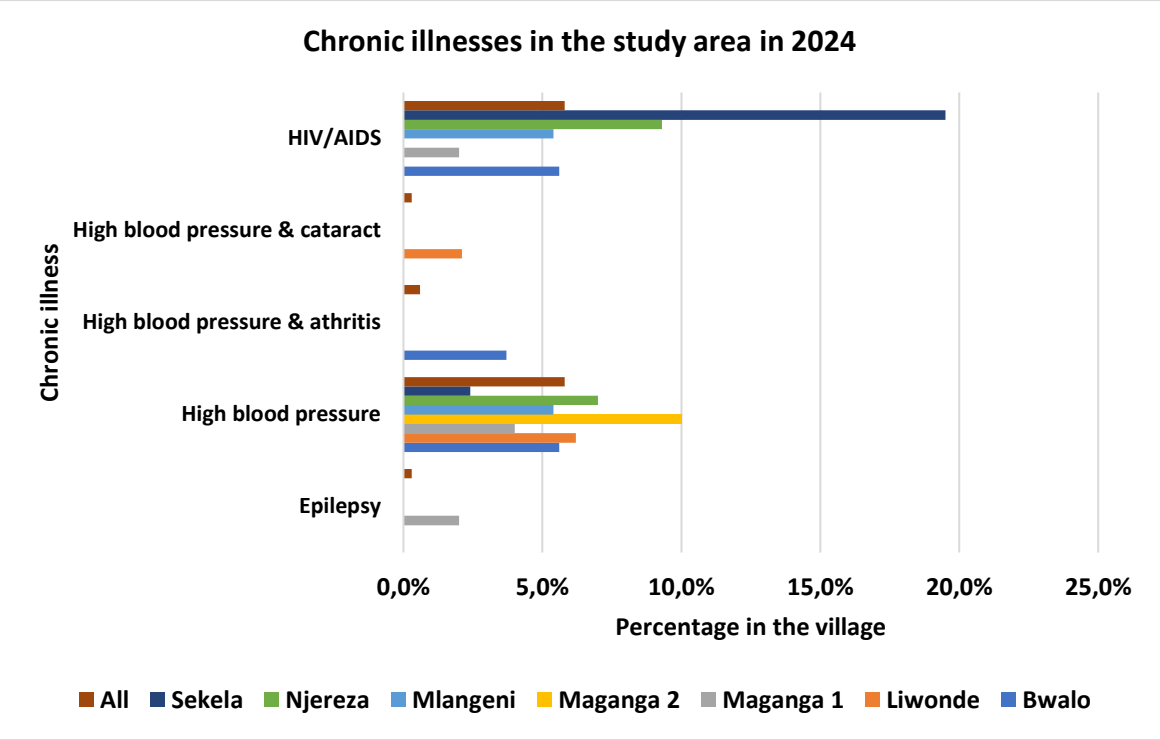
The EGENCO clinic provides all out-patient services including antenatal, postnatal, anti- retroviral therapy, HIV testing and counselling, Sexually Transmitted Infections. This clinic will serve as the nearest clinic for any work-related injuries as well as illnesses of workers on site.

The popular health facilities visited by the communities from the footprint area were Chikwawa District Hospital and Kapichira EGENCO Health clinic (46.3% and 44.7% respectively). Liwonde and Maganga 2 commuity members also accessed Majete 5 Health clinic in Kandeu being neighbouring Kandeu village. From Liwonde to Majete 5 (Hunger) Health Centre is about 4km. Sekela community members only accessed the district hospital as they are the furthest community from Kapichira Power Station at about 20km away but only within 3km from the district hospital. Therefore, choice of health facility was more dependent on proximity even though Kapichira EGENCO required payment for consultation and for certain drugs. Both of these are subsidized. Nevertheless, community members wished all services were free of charge.

Table 24: Health facilities accessed in the study area in 2024

Village	Health Facility		
	Govt-Majete 5 (Hunger)	Govt-ChiKwawa District Hospital	Public-Kapichira EGENCO
Bwalo	0.0%	61.1%	38.9%
Liwonde	29.2%	2.1%	68.8%
Maganga 1	0.0%	26.0%	74.0%
Maganga 2	30.0%	2.5%	67.5%
Mlangeni	5.4%	37.8%	56.8%
Njereza	0.0%	97.7%	2.3%
Sekela	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
All	**8.9%**	**46.3%**	**44.7%**

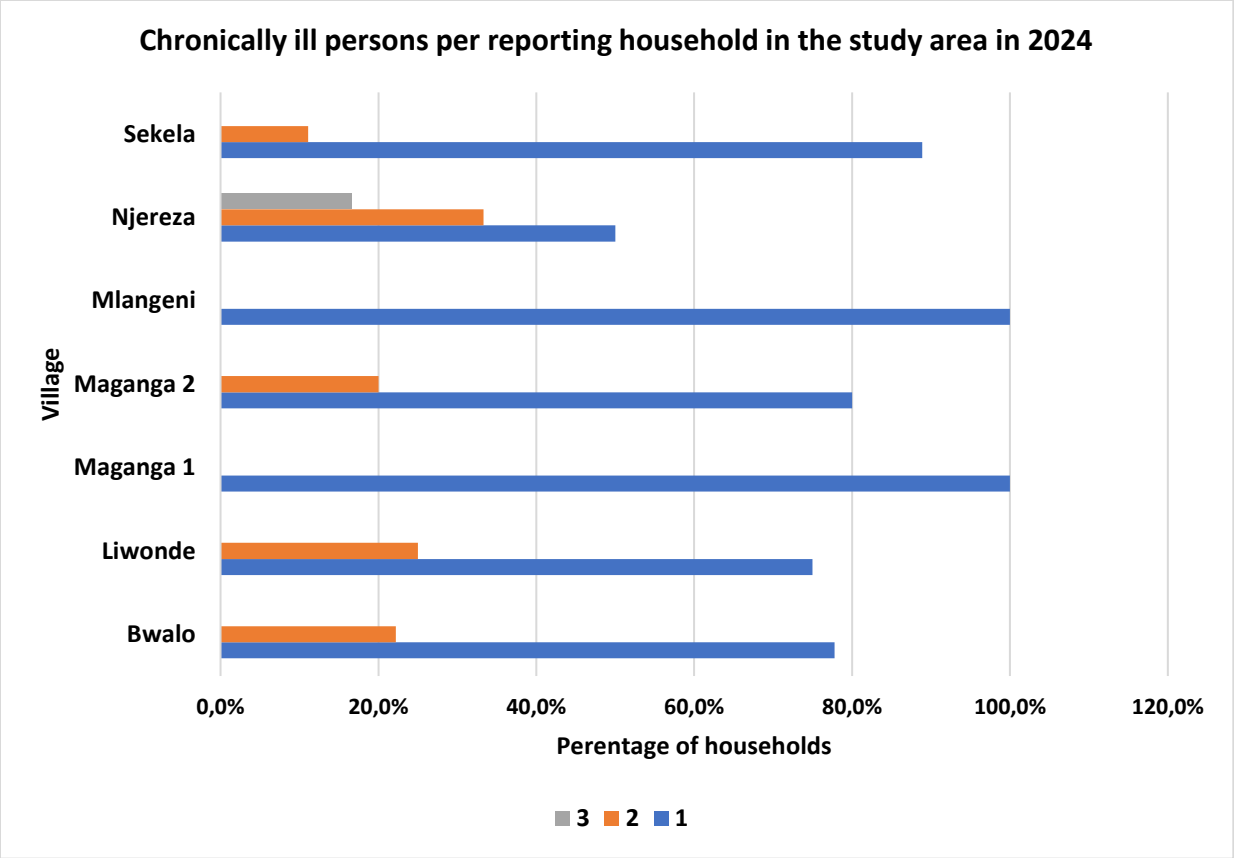
There were a few households (13.1%) with chronically ill members at an an in the communities around Kapichira. The illnesses were self-identified by respondents as HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, cataract, arthritis and high bllod pressure. The following Figure summarises this by showing a picture of the statistics as per the listed illnesses. Overall, high blood pressure and HIV/AIDS were the most recorded illnesses at 5.8% for both. Analysing by village, HIV/AIDS was reported the most and in Sekela village at 19.5% of the households.



The officer in charge at Kapichira EGENCO Health clinic highlighted that there has been a rise in diagnosis of communicable diseases particularly STIs and HIV/AIDS. He attributed this to temporary migration of workers to a number of development projects in and around the Kapichira Hydro Power Station catchment such as Ekhaya farms, SVTP, Majete and Kapichira Power Station.

"There has been an increase in communicable diseases especially in HIV and AIDS cases and STIs, the coming in of projects has increased sexual interactions between the project personnel and the locals. The project personnels usually have cash and take advantage of the high poverty and low literacy levels in the communities" – Officer in Charge for Kapichira EGENCO Health Clinic.

The following Figure is only displaying existence of a chronically ill household member. But regarding the average number of chronically ill members, it was found that some households had up to three members., On average there was one chronically ill member in the reporting household.



The study also looked at easiness of accessing medical assistance for the reported illnessess. It was found that overall 2.2% of reported illnesses did not consistently access medical care. This was highest in Mlangeni at 8.1%. The suggested reason for this is the difficulty in movement between the village and health facilities due to terrain and lack of bridges, which becomes excluded from amenities during the rainy season.

Table 25: Access to medical care for chronic illnesses in the study area in 2024

Village	Consistent access to medical care			
	No		Yes	
	Percent	n	Percent	n
Bwalo	0.0%		14.8%	8
Liwonde	2.1%	1	6.2%	3
Maganga 1	2.0%	1	6.0%	3
Maganga 2	0.0%		10.0%	4
Mlangeni	8.1%	3	2.7%	1
Njereza	2.3%	1	14.0%	6
Sekela	2.4%	1	19.5%	8
All	**2.2%**	**7**	**10.5%**	**33**

Since Kapichira EGENCO Health Clinic is the first responder to any emergencies and out patient services during dam rehabilitation and operation, it was sought to understand adequacy and any provisions in case of the contrary in meeting health service obligations. It was learnt that the clinic will need additional two nurses and a medical assistant.

The clinic does not have adequate emergency facilities, laboratory services and a public health section. These facilities are very essential and will be required if the clinic is anticipated to also serve the Kapichira dam project personnel and all workers' health needs.

For example, "…

- *The public health section in the clinic will help to improve in the preventive side thereby enhancing the curative side, this will be very important on issues to do with HVI and AIDS, STI and communicable diseases management.*
- *The clinic could be engaged to provide health talks with the communities and employees on issues to do with HIV and AIDS and other STI There will also be a need for additional 2 nurses and a medical assistant and capacity building of the clinic personnel in emergency case management to equip them with skills for better management of emergencies related to the project. The drug budget will also need to be increased as the numbers of people to be treated will most likely increase, the project will therefore need to contribute towards the clinic drug budget.*
- *The dam project contractors will need to coordinate with the Clinic management prior to the start of construction works to make proper plans on how the clinic services should be improved to accommodate the project personnel.*
- *The clinic also recommends the following in order to prevent and manage workplace injuries and safeguard employee health:*
  - *The project should ensure to have first aid facilities and trained first aiders*
  - *There is need for procurement of a properly stocked ambulance with all the required emergency facilities.*
  - *The clinic should be involved in workplace inspections periodically to help identify health related workplace hazards…*" Officer in Charge for Kapichira EGENCO Health Clinic

1.17. Security

Security services in the district are mainly provided by the Malawi Police Services. The district has one Police Station at the district headquarters and two Police Posts at Nchalo and Ngabu. New establishments of police units are foreseen at Bereu and Therere.

The district also has a mobile unit camp accommodated within the district headquarters at Mitole.

There are community policing structures in all the villages under this study. These coordinate well with security arms of both Majete and EGENCO in ensuring vigilance. The village leaders also play a facilitators role in any security and safety breaches in their jurisdictions. Key informant interviews with all the traditional leaders showed that there is generally no criminal activities in the area. Cases which are commonly attended to concern domestic issues, disagreements over land boundaries and trespassing animals in someone's land. In some of the villages like Bwalo, it was reported that once

in a while some criminal cases involving stabbing have come up and have been referred to the Malawi Police.

Petty crime involving villagers from villages nearest to Kapichira Power Station had been acknolwedged where some members have connived with those working on seasonal work slots at the power station to steal some items. This was mentioned in a crypted fashion as:

"…if they steal something inside, they rush to our village to blame us and sometimes nab some of us and hand over to the police"- Focus group discussion with men at Liwonde village

1.18. Gender, Cultural and Social Conditions in Chikwawa

1.18.1. Gender

The ESIA team conducted a series of consultations in Chikwawa, which involved district council officials, traditional leaders, community members and civil society organizations. To gather information non-structured interviews were done through focus group discussions and key informant interviews. Stakeholders interviewed indicated that cultural, socio-economic, religious and political factors in their varying degrees, limit women's decision-making powers at household and community levels. It should be pointed out that communities around Kapichira dam in Chikwawa are matrilineal; although they practice both matrilocal and patrilocal systems of marriage. However, what came out clearly is that decision-making on important and productive issues is often made by males, either as husbands, uncles or brothers. The same holds true even in customary land management and transaction, although women are considered custodians of the same. The concept of males as heads at household and even in leadership positions holds strong although we observed tenets of female chiefs in the area (mainly because it is a matrilineal society). Male dominance in decision making was observed in all the focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

These revelations necessitate the need for the Kapichira Dam Rehabilitation Project to consider gender trainings, as even in the roles which men and women do in the community, there is evidence that there are stronger inclinations towards roles differentiations at household and community level on the basis of sex differences. Men still hold the view that they are "breadwinners" and should make decisions at household level. It is imperative that the Project devices means to address these gendered differentiations for equitable distribution of resources, decision making and participation in productive works. For instance, in one village women lamented that "men would stop them from participating in unskilled labour and even carrying out businesses in at Kapichira Dam Rehabilitation, as doing so would be associated with the labelling of being 'prostitutes'. Without clear gender interventions, some sections of the society, women in particular, may not be able to participate in the Project activities, because of these gender-oriented restrictions. The Gender Action Plan (GAP) outlines strategies for creating spaces for gender and social inclusion in the implementation of the Project. The GAP will include trainings programmes on issues of gender and decision making at household level, including how to equitably distribute resources within the household, family and even clans. When women were asked on who makes decisions on the money earned from their endeavors,

they all resoundingly reported that men make such decisions, meaning even if the Project employs women from the area without dismantling these patriarchal social structures, women will remain vulnerable and not benefit from their own work.

1.18.2. Labors and employment

The ESIA team also went about asking possibilities of seasonal labour and employment in the area. It was reported that men tend to work locally, and men tend to work in other districts, particularly the youthful men. As a result, agriculture labourers in the area are mainly old men and women which should be taken into consideration by the Project. Actually, women groups indicated that the coming in of this Project would complement the benefits that the communities are accruing from the Shire Valley Transformation Program, which over the years has retained men in the villages as few have secured casual labour opportunities there. Relatedly, men emphatically indicated that in the recruitment of unskilled labour the locals should be prioritized; as it is the greatest benefit they would get from this Project, for the other benefits in the long term do not really belong to them but the nation at large.

1.18.3. Income and poverty

The focus group discussion and key informant interviews in all the communities and at district level showed that the lowest income group were households headed by females. Financial capacity for female headed households is lower than male headed households, who despite failed agricultural production supplement their income with casual labour and in some communities downstream of Kapichira Dam, there was mention of fishing. The study findings indicate that women are the more disadvantaged in the Project area than men.

1.18.4. Culture

The study found that Chikwawa district is home to a variety of cultural groupings; there are Senas, Mang’anja, Chewa, and Lomwes, with the Senas as the majority. In reflection to the IFC Performance Standards number 7 on Environment and Social Sustainability, while there is no group of people in the Project area that can be categorized as indigenous, still more the Project will ensure that the development works at Kapichira Dam fosters full respect for the human rights, dignity, aspirations, culture, and natural resource-based livelihoods of the local people.

1.19. Stakeholder engagement

1.19.1. Summaries of discussions in focus groups and photos during the socio-economic baseline inquiry

Focus group discussion with Men in Bwalo Village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi

Date: 25 September 2024
Hour: 13:20 – 14:06
Number of people: 16

1. **What generally keeps you occupied in this village?**
   - Farming – we grow various crops like maize, sorghum, millet, pigeon peas, vegetables. We had farming land along the Shire River but most of it has been submerged. Currently, we do not cultivate much because our upland farmlands do not give good crop due to scarcity of rains.
   - So, we do piece works – Some have gotten some casual work at Majete, the SVTP Canal or casual labor in other community members gardens.

2. **About the farming system**
   - We have 2 systems- rainfed and irrigated farming systems. Rainfed starts from December to April while irrigated runs from May to April. Our farm land along the shire is currently still submerged in water. So, it has been three years since we used the land that has been submerged now.

   - **Changes in activity/practice after destruction of the dam?**
     - Loss of farm land since due to flood waters for three years now. In addition, there are crocodiles living in areas that they usually did not due to presence of too much marsh land now.
     - Siltation – There has been oily looking soils of blackish in colour apart from the flooding, nothing grows on this soil. We think these soils came from Kapichira Power Station activities.
3. **About natural resources**
   a) There are some communal forests and grasslands where villagers collect firewood and graze livestock
   b) There has been some changes in the water levels. We think that in the past the water flow was regulated.
   c) Changes in livelihoods – some people cannot grow enough food to feed their families. It is difficult to sustain meals every day in the absence of irrigation farming.

4. **About construction projects**
   a) There has been some construction works near the village where some were involved. These are like the SVTP Canal

   b) Issues encountered

- to pick workers. The salary was also good. Same this with Nikalasi – people used to get jobs at the construction site

Current issues with construction works

- very few villagers now get jobs with the current companies like EGENCO. In the previous years the EGENCO then ESCOM used to come right in the village to recruit people. But now they let us go at the gate and pick Yes/No tags. We think this method is not good enough because you find that they sometimes end up recruiting those who are not from this village.

Concerns on construction sites that we need to take into account

- We want that contractors consider some of the local skills we have in our village. We have brick layers too.

Any other remarks?

- We need alternatives to our lost livelihoods. We think that because EGENCO is responsible for damage of the dam and flooding which submerged our dambo areas. They should not employ more people from far areas just because they are their relations or people from their villages.

Focus group discussion with women in Bwalo Village

Date: 25 September 2024
Hour: 12:50 -13:40
Village: Bwalo Village, T/A Kasisi
Number of participants: 14

1. **In this village what generally keeps you occupied?**

Women in Bwalo village are usually engaged in small businesses such as selling charcoal, tomatoes and potatoes along the roadsides. They also practice both crop and livestock farming, and common crops planted are Millet, maize, groundnuts and sesame. Some few women are also participating in bee keeping and honey making groups facilitated by Majete. Just like for Njereza village there is a fear that the communities might be sourcing firewood for charcoal from Mejete and other forests withing the district.

2. **Do you encounter any safety issues in the village?**

The area usually experiences strong winds which can be destructive.

3. **If there are any, what particular problems have you encountered during construction work around the villages**
   - Women of Bwalo village were not considered for employment opportunities in the previous projects, therefore there has not been significant improvement in household economic status since men usually use their earnings for alcohol and other personal use.
4. **Were there any changes in your activities following the cyclone Ana in 2022?**

The village experienced food shortages post cyclone Ana, the crop that was planted was washed away by floods leading to low yield. The cyclone also led to relocation of some communities thereby putting pressure on the limited land resource.

5. **Do you have any other remarks?**
   - The project should put in place measures to enhance equal employment opportunities for men and women, measures should also tackle issues of sexual exploitation

	
Focus Group Discussion with Bwalo village women	Focus Group Discussion with Bwalo village men

Focus group discussion with women in Liwonde Village of Group Village Kandeu, T/A Kasisi

Date: 27 September 2024
Duration of FGD: 10:50 -11:43
Number of participants: 11

1. **In this village what generally keeps you occupied?**

The women of Liwonde village usually sell charcoal. They also used to practice agriculture before relocating to the current village location. They used to cultivate maize and chickpeas, crop farming is not being practiced currently due to lack of arable land, the village survives on livestock farming and charcoal making.

2. **Do you encounter any safety issues in the village?**

Safety issues in the village are mostly to do with theft of livestock. Recently there has been an increase in theft cases especially theft of goats and chickens

3. **If there are any, what particular problems have you encountered during construction work around the villages.**

The community has not faced any problems from construction project, but they have heard of other communities complaining of missing children during the construction period. The people of Liwonde village hope that this will not happen in their village since their children walk to school alone and are at high risk. Also, this applies to issues of road safety, the women hope that there will be proper road safety measures taking into consideration school going children.

4. **Were there any changes in your activities following the cyclone Ana in 2022?**

Ever since the cyclone, the weather pattern of the area has changed, the area has been faced with erratic rainfall. The community also lost their arable land due to the cyclone and now have limited land for cultivation of crops, this has led to food insecurity and loss of income in the village.

5. **Do you have any other remarks?**

The project should consider employment of locals, the community has educated youth who are looking for employment but are never offered any during implementation of projects. Employment opportunities will help the community as they have very limited sources of livelihoods. The communities are being arrested for fishing in at the dam and leaving them in dire poverty.

Focus group discussion with men in Liwonde Village of Group Village Kandeu, T/A Kasisi

Date: 27 September 2024
Duration of FGD: 11:00 -12:04
Number of participants: 11

I: In Liwonde village, what do people generally do as source of food and income?

In this community, some women are into businesses such as selling mandasi (fritters) and tomatoes which they order from Dyeratu trading centre to sell in the village. As for men, piece works (maganyu) such as farming in other people farms especially dimbas in neighbouring villages such as Mlangeni. Other activities include making charcoal and fishing.

We also have upland farming area only used in the rainy season, which often times is faced with drought. We used to depend on farming when we had farming areas near the river (Madimba) but when EGENCO constructed the Kapichira dam that was the end of our meaningful dimba farming. If that was not enough they also collaborated with Majete who constructed their fence nearby hence their animals eat our crops. Maize does not do well also due to the soil type do not do well with maize, in addition rainfall here in Chikwawa is rare resulting in buying maize year in and year out.

In short, "Abwana anthufe tili pa mavuto" – “Boss, we are in extreme poverty...” compared to our living standards some years back, Shire River used to be beneficial. For example, “timatha kutchola bango nkuluka mphasa ndi kugulitsa” – “Years back we would harvest reeds/bamboos and sell to earn some money”, “fishermen would capture fish and earn a living whilst engaging in irrigation farming all year round”

But all these are just history. Now we have too few options for earning a living. We are trying to find ways to earn something to feed our family but usually tend to be a game of chances. We find something today, tomorrow or next day we get no luck and our families to starve. This is so because the reliable source of income (farming along the Shire River in dimbas) is no more.

a) Do you have any concerns regarding employment opportunities at the construction project for the canal? What are these?

b) Did you have any concerns regarding employment opportunities at the construction project at Kapichira Hydro Power Dam when the dam broke two years ago? What were these?

c) Did you have any concerns regarding gender-based violence connected to the construction works at Kapichira Dam? If Yes, what are these?

Liwonde village is surrounded by two companies; Majete and Kapichira. These two offer seasonal employment opportunities. However, they sometimes prefer to recruit their relations. As of now less than five people from this village are employed there. For instance, one point in time out of 30 people who queued for employment opportunity only three were picked.

When we talk about seasonal farming, nowadays which months do you start cultivating?

“Due to climate change, usually late November or early December whilst back then it was early October. The crops commonly cultivated is sorghum. *Maize is another possible crop here too but wild animals (such as monkeys, warthogs, porcupines, from Majete vandalise our crops and there is nothing one can do about it… because if we kill these animals we would be arrested”*. The porcupines literally eat anything i.e. pumpkins, cassava, maize, cucumbers.

These issues and problems faced from wild animals are never satisfactorily addressed despite reporting to relevant authorities. “*Reports are sent and have been sent in the past but nothing happens in the end. If only they were able to do something, maybe chase their animals back to their cages or give us the permission to kill such animals which will create fear in other animals maybe our problem would be alleviated”*.

“*Previously came in a hyena which killed close to 14 goats in this village in the afternoon and a report was sent. What we hoped, is for them to come and catch their animal and take it away but no, they did nothing.”*

I: How did the Kapichira dam break in 2022 that affect our normal activities as community members of Liwonde village?

- Affected "kwa neighbour kuwale" project where the village was promised installation of free electricity for the first three months in each household. This failed because their priorities shifted to fixing the dam.
- Another thing, they promised us some money as compensation but never fulfilled to date.
- Inadequate PPE's at the work sites during first phase rehabilitation.
- It raised the water level and washed away our crops and submerged our *dimba* gardens. In so doing eliminating the reliable source of food and income.
- The raised water level reached residential area and washed away some houses
- Some people have been arrested for fishing, with a penalty of 2 million "***for destroying wildlife***." The surprising thing is that, they actually become one of the customers. But Maganga/Bwalo villages are fishing peacefully without being arrested. – **This response was in reference to establishment of Kapichira Hydro Power Station and not the breaking of the dam in 2022.**
- The companies' employment rates is very low plus late payments. "If only they were employing us in most of the jobs we would not be doing charcoal business. Most of us have MSCE certificates which are 'rotting' in our home. Imagine why would they hire an outsider for a sweeping job, how hard is that job that none of us in this village cannot do it?" "They usually pretend to want several people yet they already have the people for the job."

Do you have any other remarks on social or environmental concerns on the Kapichira Dam Project?

Random question,

All this information your obtaining now, to whom will it be submitted?

Response: our coming is not the first time, i do remember some of you too but maybe cannot remember all your names. We came here somewhere in June, when we held consultative meetings with some of the communities under Kasisi Authority. We met at Bwalo site and EGENCO team was in attendance too. Our meeting concerning rehabilitation of the dam that broke at Kapichira two years ago. It is a requirement that before the reconstruction of the dam we meet with people that may be affected by any project works. To learn from them any concerns and ideas so that the work is carried out with minimal harm to social life and the environment. The report will be submitted to EGENCO officials, the contractor who will be employed to oversee the project including our donors World Bank and government who are funding the project.

It does not end there though; a consultant will come to conduct monthly monitoring and evaluation to ensure compliance and to identify issues that were over looked in order to be fixed right away. This consultant has power to halt works under extreme circumstances, for example if the bosses are sexually harassing women in exchange of employment. It's different with late payments which can be address in due course because on the other hand the issue violets women rights which is a very sensitive topic. In addition, there will be a committee that will be properly trained how to channel concerns problems from the community to the responsible office's for effective results.

Note from the FGD members: Take home message, it's a plea that let our concerns be delivered in the right hands and when the projects start we would like to know the committee put in place to take concerns. Previously, experience with construction of shire valley irrigation scheme. There was sexual

exploitation of our women but there was nothing as men could do about it because we didn't know where to report such issues.



Focus group discussion with women in Liwonde village.



Focus group discussion with men in Liwonde village

Focus group discussion with fishermen in Liwonde Village of Group Village Kandeu, T/A Kasisi
Date: 27 September 2024
Duration: 12:10 – 12:31

How does the season for catching fish go here?
"*The time of the year that, we as fishermen term as the hot season (meaning catching more fish) is the rainy season because fish migrate from Zambezi River and decent here in the lower shire river. But as the season is going to an end, we notice different kinds of fish and the start of each year we offer Sacrifice* ***by sprinkling maize flour in the river to pray for abundant catch****).*

Fishermen of Liwonde village remarked that they had free access to the river downstream and only up to the bridge to Kapichira Power Station compound.

They had skills to locate the fish in the river. They believed that the fish moves up beyond the bridge and back. When the fish is upstream beyond the bridge, they believe it gathers at Magomelo and breeds then comes back down through the rest of the villages This is how they access the fish.

The place is prohibited to protect you because they can open the gates anytime. And these days they don't set off the alarm anymore to warn villages of much water flow but send a word of mouth through the leaders.

Asked whether women took active role in fishing, the members responded that fishing can be done by both male and females including the youth. But all these played different supporting roles unless it was line fishing, then women could do it alone. But for the nets, the women role may be to hand over some good luck belt of charm to their husbands before going on a fishing mission. Men will tie down the nets at the bottom of the river, or throw the net (chavi) because women cannot manage. Women would use small nets and catch small fish.

How about crocodiles, are there no crocodiles in the sections of the Shire River where you cast nets?
"The good luck belt of charm also protects us from crocodiles… when we get in the water we can see both natural and fake crocodiles"
Usually crocodiles that attack people are 'hired' by someone else. person to conduct the dirty work. …"*for example, If someone has a thing against you they contract someone to send a crocodile to come where you will be fishing to capture you"*.

For the past three years you have been fishing what changes in fish catch have happened?

Generally, the fish catch has gone down. This is because of siltation of the river following floods. There may have been some breeding grounds which were washed away and in the process a lot of fish washed downstream.

So how have you adjusted to the changing fish population affecting catch?
"We reduced size of nets net inches from 4inches to 3 or 2.5 inches (these nets are available ma hardware's.")

Anything else to add/say/ comments/concerns/final remarks?
"Our concern is employing outsiders leaving us who are very close to the company. As a village we are very much concerned because the people surrounding EGENCO are the same people who handed over their ancestral land to EGENCO then ESCOM for them to establish the Kapichira Hydro Power Station. People were displaced without compensation and now they do not employ them fully."

Asked if the people that were displaced were given some land to settle in they responded that they were not.
"… they were just told to move out that the government had use with the place. Even though the contrition started during multiparty democracy political regime, the initial works on feasibility were carried out during the one-party state era, where local people were forced to obey what was instructed without questioning… "

"…we believe that sometimes the EGENCO workers steal things in their compound then they came to pick people from the village as suspects. Some of us have been taken as suspects and beaten for what we did not do..."
The surprising part is that their area has a tight t security that we are not allowed to enter the gates anyhow without a justifiable reason. Only women going to a maize mill are the ones that have an easier access..."

Focus group discussion with men in Maganga 1 Village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi

Date:25 September 2024
Duration of FGD: 14:00 – 14:45
Number of men: 9
Facilitator: So here at Maganga 1 we would like to conduct discussion with a group of women, men and fisherman's since we were informed that some areas near shire river people are into fishing.
FGD member: yes, especially this village, is into fishing and those ones over there are our known fishermen.
Facilitator: Thank you, I will meet them later on.
FGD member: But before you start, I would like to pose a question… you're asking us about our village and anything in-between, but we don't know the real meaning or reason for all these, ***" what is the purpose of your visit?"***

Facilitator: A message was sent out to our T/A Kasisi and your village head (Maganga), requesting them to spread the message that we would be interfacing with people from villages under a few Group Village Heads near Kapichira Power Station. That means you have been selected because you are close to Kapichira Power Station. We have been to Bwalo, Sekela since the river also descends to these communities too and we sought to understand in what way they are also affected by the Shire River floods. As regards fishing Sekela claimed not to engage in fishing activities but Maganga 1. That is why we asked to meet a sample of fishermen to learn how they are affected with rise in water levels, cyclone and dam break.

Discussion

In this village what generally keeps you occupied?

"*Previously, the community depended on farming in dimbas (river banks), we used to have farm lands just right here but Kapichira dam break washed away all our lands replacing the area with water".*

Our source of income is now just piece works (maganyu) for instance at Ekhaya farms, Majete and Kapichira Power Station. These recruit us when they need labourers for some seasonal or emergency work. Such works as making fire-breaks, slashing, land clearing, unskilled labour at construction works, cutting grass, fixing damaged roads and gardening in addition transportation of livestock (i.e. cattle/goats from Chikwawa to Chileka" – this is unofficially done between a Kapichira Power Station resident and a community member).

Maganga community believed that only someone with a link at those establishments is considered for piece work even though they set up the identification of labourers randomly using bits of papers with Yes/No words on them. People remarked stealing some of the livestock which they look after in order to buy some food as they do not get adequate piece work.

Upland farming is less meaningful due to drought nature of the area. Seldom does the community harvest reasonably. In the past three years they barely harvested from like maize, sorghum, groundnuts and cassava. These crops are at risk of being destroyed or eaten by wild animals from Majete Wildlife Reserve like monkeys, common duikers and antelopes.

Effects of floods to farming

The flooding water washed away and occupied our valuable farm lands (*dimbas*) in which, previously they would cultivate three times a year and the third round of maize was harvested in December. But this has not happened in the last two years.

"The breaking of the dam at Kapichira has destroyed our farming patterns in this region"

Do you know the reason the dam broke?

"No! but may be accumulation of water and which later flood to this side. Maybe the dam got silted since it is small in turn raising water levels and since the incoming water came in too strong, with small gates hence the flood…"

Maganga 1 village is located in proximity to the Shire River and Majete Wildlife Reserve, how do you benefit from any of these?.

The communities are prohibited from extracting any wood from the Majete forest. But can fetch dry wood or timber for housing and also herbs from the buffer zone forest. Majete Wildlife Reserve and the local community came to a mutual agreement to take care of the buffer zone forest with a committee in place to ensure compliance, since some of Majete animals descend to this forest as well. Unfortunately, this endangers people's lives. A case was given of a leopard that killed a child in one of the villages next to the buffer zone forest around 7pm. In other cases, wild animals kill livestock in the villages and in such the community takes charge in chasing away the wild animal. The Majete rangers usually come late when they get a report of a stray wild animal.

"As a result, wild animals have been killed for business purposes and trees cut for charcoal business purposes mostly out of frustration".

For those who have had an opportunity to work in these big work places around, apart from segregation interns of employment what are other problems we have encountered at a workplace???

- No consideration of overtime payments

- No personal protective equipment available for the workers
- Recently payment media has shifted to mobile wallet which is taking too long for the money to be recharged
- Being fired suddenly without justifiable reasons even before the contract is over.
- Acceptance of bribe in exchange of employment (chicken)
- False promises: Several years ago, Egenco conducted a survey recruiting all houses in Maganga 1 promising electricity installation for the entire village which never happened. Although electricity poles were installed but later removed them (***kwa neighbour kuwale project***)

Do you have any other remarks Comments/Recommendations on social or environmental concerns on the Kapichira Dam Project?

- Involving the youth in projects available because as it is now the young do not have things to do.
- During employment promote the use of YES/NO recruitment strategy to eliminate possibility of favouritism/Nepotism
- The officers themselves should conduct the recruitment process because the representatives they send forth to do the work on their behalf are very corrupt



Focus group discussion with men in Maganga 1 village

Focus group discussion with Women – Maganga 1 Village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi

Date:25 September 2024
Duration of FGD: 14:15 – 15:01
Number of women: 13

1. **In this village what generally keeps you occupied?**

The women of Maganga village usually do farming both rainfed and irrigation farming. Irrigation has been recently affected by cyclone Anna where farms were washed away. The current rise in shire river has also flooded the irrigable land therefore the leaving the people with no farming land. The women also do small businesses such as selling vegetables, tomatoes and snacks. They also do small scale fishing in Shire River and sell the fish. Others do some piece jobs in in homesteads such as doing laundry, cleaning houses and at EGENCO and Majete,

2. **Do you encounter any safety issues in the village?**

The village experience safety issues that are caused by natural disasters, the area is prone to flooding due to its proximity to the shire river
The village also face frequent Cholera outbreaks which threatens the health of the community - the health department distributes chlorine which is used to disinfect borehole water

3. **If there are any, what particular problems have you encountered during construction work around the villages**

During construction projects men are usually empowered economically and they start engaging in sexual relation with women from Dyeratu and other areas in exchange for money. Some men would even temporary move out of their houses to go and stay with their new girlfriends, leaving their families with no food and other basic needs. This behavior has led to an increase in cases of HIV and AIDS and STIs in the village affecting both men and women. Construction projects also cause increase in cases of theft especially livestock theft cases. Some girls and women have also been impregnated by project staff leaving them without any child support thereby increasing the poverty levels. This has also led to an increase in school dropout rates, due to poverty the girls are easily enticed by the project worker and end up being impregnated or being affected by sexually transmitted diseases.

4. **Were there any changes in your activities following the cyclone Ana in 2022?**

The cyclone disrupted farming activities in the village, the irrigable land has been affected and this has disturbed small scale businesses being done by women. The cyclone also led to loss of livestock which also affected the economy of the households. This in turn has caused food insecurity and school dropouts due to lack of school fees.

5. **Do you have any other remarks?**

Employment opportunities in construction projects has mostly favored people from elsewhere and the women of Maganga women do not benefit. Some employers request sexual favors in exchange with job opportunities, the project should have strong mitigation measures to avoid this practice. Women also need to have equal employment opportunities to be able to take care of their families as it has been observed that most men usually do not use their salaries for supporting their families but rather spends it on women from other areas. The project should sensitize their workers not to disturb marriages and not to engage in promiscuity behaviors. Girls should also be sensitized to prevent being cheated by the project workers, most girls are schooling at Chikwawa District Secondary School and project personnel usually target them on their way to and from school.



Focus group discussion with women in Maganga 1 village

Focus group discussion with fishermen – Maganga 1 Village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi

Date:25 September 2024
Duration of FGD: 14:47 – 15:24
Number of men: 5

What generally keeps you occupied in this village?
There are generally minimal livelihood options for a meaningful life in villages around Kapichirira. In Maganga 1 village the fishermen pointed out that they do not have any formal employment despite living close to these places of work like Kapichira, Majete and Ng'ona Lodge. Some people do businesses like charcoal, making bricks selling diesel. Some order diesel from Dyeratu and sell to those who need it. Some also engage in farm piece work (*ganyu*). A few of the Maganga 1 villagers do access seasonal work at Majete and Kapichira.
We also do farming, but these last few years have been hard due to droughts. Otherwise, we had been growing maize, sorghum, ground nuts, beans, *nseula*.

How do you catch fish?
There are a number of fishing gear like *chasa,* which we use at night mainly. At night is when they can catch more fish using this net. ."*..we put on a torch on the forehead, which we use to observe fish movements and it is also for our own safety from crocodiles..*" Other fishing gear are *matchera,* which is just set in the waters and check it out later. *Chavi*, is a net with weights and floats and it is cast into the river from a boat. This one needs two or three people to work together. One organizes the net

(*chavi*), while the two other steer the boat/canoe and hand over the net to one to cast. *Mbedza,* a fishing line is also used. Lasty *ukonde,* the common net.

Which are your boundaries in terms of where you can catch fish?
The fishermen of Maganga can go as far down as Bwalo but do not because they do not want to crowd there in case others are also catching fish. In addition, it is a bit of a distance to sail that way. Upstream, they can only sail to catch fish up to the bridge connecting to Kapichira Hyro Power Dam compound. They acknowledge that it is illegal to fish beyond the bridge unto Kapichira Yard.

They can sell the fish they catch to nearby villages too.

Does the village experience any wildlife trespasses?
Not really, but there had been a leopard that used to catch goats in the village some years ago.

How has fish type and population changed over the years?
"*Before construction of the Kapichira Hydro Power Station we freely fished in the river, but after construction we noted a decline in fish catches. Now we rely on fish coming down from the Zambezi River as it swims upstream during the rainy season. But regarding the dam break in 2022 following Cyclone Anna, the flow of the river is faster such that fish are not breeding as they used to do. As a result, lower catches*."

When the dam broke, we believe that some fish and crocodiles were washed downstream and now water flows too fast. All in all, fish populations have declined following dam break as fishermen have to stay longer at the river in order to make a catch.

Any other remarks?
Question: How useful to us is what you have asked us?

Response: It is the government condition that before embarking on a project of the nature like rehabilitation of the Kapichira Dam, there is a need to understand the livelihoods of the communities who have been affected by or would be affected by any works coming forth in rehabilitation and ultimately operation.
In this case, although fish may not be quickly replaced by the works at the dam but certain opportunities may come up for residents of the nearby village throughout the project's life. Some of these were listed in the discussion with the general group.



Focus Group Discussion with Fishermen in Maganga 1 village



Maganga 1 fishermen by the Shire River about to demonstrate scooping fish using the *chavi.*

Focus group discussion with Women – Maganga 2 Village of Group Village Kandeu, T/A Kasisi

Date: 30th September 2024
Duration of FGD: 10:32 -11:16
Number of people: 14

1. **What generally keeps you occupied in this village?**
   Farming,
   Doing household chores
   Doing piece works and ganyu labor
   Fetching firewood

2. **Could you describe your cropping system?**
   We depend on annual rainfall for our agriculture. The crops we grow are maize, pigeon peas, sesame, and sorghum.

3. **How would you describe Gender roles in this community?**
   Reproductive work – those associated with providing care at the household- include sweeping the homestead, cleaning plates, washing clothes, fetching water and fetching firewood.
   Productive work – Activities that will bring income to the family include: participating in village banks, selling vegetables, doing ganyu labor, selling charcoal, helping to carry bags ot charcoal, helping to carry wood for burning bricks and helping carry bricks during construction of a kiln.

4. **What are some of the challenges faced by women in these types of work?**
   - Some of the tasks we do are very hard and involve carrying of heavy loads. i.e. the carrying of bags of charcoal or helping carry bricks is associated with heavy loads. As women we would have loved if we were doing simpler jobs such as washing clothes, washing plates.
   - Sometimes we do the heavy jobs while hungry and weak, this makes us fail to accomplish the tasks.
   - We also walk long distances to get to the trading centre at Dyeratu to sell the firewood or the charcoal. Usually, one gets home very late into the night risking being attacked on the way. There has been instances where people have been robbed of their stuff on the way
   - There are no reliable modes of transport from Dyeratu to our village. One ends up walking all the way. Although cars from Egenco do pass along the same route, the don't pick villagers. This is very disheartening. Even though they can easily see that this person is old or weak and might need a lift, they don't stop for her. It is very painful considering that we live in the same community.

5. **How has the construction of the dam affected you?**
   Our lives have not changed a bit from the coming of all these companies to construct the dam at Kapichira. We just see people from other villages and far away places being employed at the construction site. In our village we have able boys and girls, who have some education

and might qualify for some of the jobs at the companies. But they are not considered for employment.

Previous companies that were operating here have a better record in terms of employing locals. We used to have companies like Nikolus who at least offered opportunities to our village boys and girls. Nikolasi was involved in clearing the forest to make way for construction of the buildings at Kapichira. After Nikolasi the other companies that came do not employ locals.

6. **What are the concerns on construction projects that we should take into account?**
   - For those that get an opportunity to get employed, the terms of employment are very poor. The contract period is very short. And it is always on temporary basis. One cannot make concrete development plans with such type of employment.
   - We have also heard that there are cases of sexual exploitation. Where some women are forced to have sex with the bosses to get employed. This tendency is very disturbing and has brought a lot of fear among women.
   - Some people are asked to bring bribes such as goats and even money which they give to the bosses to secure employment.

7. **What should be done by the companies to make it up to you? What should be improved?**
   - They should be considering people from surrounding villages when it comes to employing people. Simple jobs like casual labor, unskilled labor we can easily do.
   - They should be giving people lifts when they meet them on the road. Considering that there are no regular forms of transport that ply along our road, it would be helpful if they be giving us a ride in their company cars.
   - They should provide the village with another borehole. There is only one borehole in the village and it often breaks down (almost every 2 weeks) because its over used.
   - They should also help the villagers with relief items when we experience disasters like prolonged dry spells, and floods.
   - They should stop restricting our entry into the Kapichira campus. We only go there to access amenities like the clinic and the maize mill. But the guards at the gate often gives us problems. We are told to show them a health passport to enter. Other times we are told to go around the fence to use the big gate which is a long way.

8. **Do you have any other remarks?**
   - Yes. We would have loved if things were as they were in the past in terms of our access to natural resources around us. In the past when there was only 2 companies Nikolasi and Majete, we could move around without problems. With the coming of Egenco, it appears it has merged with Majete. We are no longer allowed to go into the forest to fish, collect firewood or gather fruits. If you are found fishing or moving around the reserve, you get arrested and are charged to pay as much as K200,000 or serve very stiff sentences. Some are also denied bail when arrested by the police.
   - The issue about denying our access into the campus is also painful. We need the hospital; we need the maize mill. According to the authorities they claim that when the villagers go inside Kapichira they steal things. But its their own guards and staff who steal not the villagers. In fact, the issue is about some metals which were discarded and buried somewhere in the premises. At some point we heard that people were going to the dump

site to dig them up to re-sell to buyers of scrap metals. We wonder why they are concerned with things that were dumped and are no longer useful.



Focus group discussion with women in Maganga 2 village

Focus Group Discussion with Men of Maganga 2 Village

Date: 30th September 2024
Hour: 11:26 – 12:06
Type of FGD: Men
Number of people: 9

5. **What generally keeps you occupied in this village?**
   - Farming,
   - Making charcoal – although this is now becoming difficult as all the trees are gone. Many have resorted to digging up tree stumps which are then burnt for charcoal. The charcoal is ferried by bicycle and sold in Blantyre using the Chavala road up to Sigelege in Chilomoni.
   - Doing piece works and ganyu labor
6. **How about fishing? –** there are no fishing activities here. It is actually not allowed in the areas near the park. Those are the areas where fish is found anyway. In the other parts of the shire you can't get a good catch.

7. **Could you describe your cropping system?**
   - We have 2 systems. Rain fed and irrigated farming system
   - Rainfed starts from December to April, while irrigation or dambo farming starts from March

8. What were the impacts of the cyclone in this area? How did it affect your village?

- We were badly affected. Especially some of us who used to grow crops in wetlands along the rivers. We suddenly found that everywhere has been covered with sand and silt. We can no longer manage to grow crops in those places. This has affected our livelihoods.
- Flood waters from the cyclone also washed away the fertile soils in most fields. This had resulted in poor harvests.
- Regarding damage to the dam at Kapichira… we just heard that the dam was washed away but we were not affected very much by it. Because honestly, we are not affected by anything that go around in Kapichira. If you ask anyone around he/she will tell you that Egenco has never done anything to this village. We don't get jobs, we get nothing. We only see people being employed there but they are from faraway places.

9. How has construction works around this area affected you

- Some people were relocated. For example, when they were constructing the SVTP canal. But everyone was compensated.
- Majete sometimes helps the community by implementing some development activities in the area. For example – they helped construct a clinic at Kandewu, helped to construct a school at Kandewu primar school. Egenco on the other hand simply does nothing. Even when our borehole breaks down, they never come to help.

10. Has there been any labor related issues reported?

- For those that manage to find work at the dam site, we hear complaints about long work hours, working in the sun and low salaries.

11. Are there any other concerns that you can talk about?

Yes… there are so many issues.

- Most of the villagers here feel the companies operating within Kapichira segregates against us.
- We are not allowed to go inside the campus unless if you have to prove that you are going to the hospital or to the maize mill. They say the villagers are thieves and cannot be trusted.
- Sometimes when we have an emergency- say you want to take a sick family member to the district hospital, there is no opportunity for an ambulance or any transport assistance from the companies. We have to walk all the way and carry the patients on makeshift stretcher.
- During the Covid pandemic- it was communicated to us that we should not be going inside the Kapichira campus as we would spread covid. However, it turned out that the first case of Covid was registered inside the fence. In fact, it was us who were at risk of getting Covid-19… Since staff from Kapichira also visit our villages to farm, tend to their livestock etc.
- We feel management at EGENCO and other companies working around Kapichira have colonialist behaviors. We are at least relieved that with your coming, there has been an opportunity for us villagers to talk about these issues. We will be happy if you will present these issues so that they get to know how we are affected.



Focus group discussion with men in Maganga 2 village

Focus group discussion with Men in Sekela Village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi
Date: 23rd September 2024
Duration: 12:36 – 13:17
Number of people: 18

1. **What generally keeps you occupied in this village?**

In this village we have several things that keeps us occupied.

- Farming – we grow various crops that include maize, sorghum, millet, pigeon peas, vegetables, rice, and sesame. We have farm areas. “kumtunda” – upland and in the dambo- the marshes along the shire river. Kumtunda is for rainfed agriculture while the wetlands is for irrigated farming
- Ganyu labor and piece works – this is the other most important source of livelihood in the village. Men engage in casual labor either in the fields belonging to other people or if lucky one can get a job in the SVTP canal. The canal passes near our village to the North East.
- Fishing – although not everyone engages in this type of work, but we also fish in the shire river. However, for the past few years the fish catch has not been encouraging. It appears as if all the fish has been locked up in the dam up stream. They are no longer found near our village. Sometimes we also suspect that maybe there are some chemicals that are applied at the dam site that killed all the fish. We no longer get as much catch as we used to previously.
- Generally speaking, there are very few livelihood options in this village. Jobs are very hard to get

2. **About the farming system**

- We have 2 systems- rainfed and irrigated farming systems. Rainfed starts from December to April while irrigated runs from May to April. Irrigated farming is done either using pieces

of equipment such as water pumps (for those that have them) but most times we use residual moisture from flood water in the shire river. However, this year this has not been possible as the flood water has not gone away or drained. Our farm land along the shire is currently still submerged in water. Usually what happens is this – flood waters come around March… the water then goes away giving us opportunity to grow our crops in the dambo areas. This year the water has stayed.

In the upland, productivity this year was heavily affected by prolonged dry spells such that most people got almost nothing. All the crops failed.

- Changes in activity/practice after destruction of the dam?

Yes! there has been some changes:

- Loss of farm land since most of the dambo areas has been taken up by flood waters. The water is not going away as usually happens. These places have also become home for crocodiles that sometimes attack people. Very few people dare to go there these days for fear of the crocodiles
- Siltation – apart from the flooding, there has also been deposits of strange looking soil that looks blackish and oily like molasses. This soil does not support crop growth. We believe this soil comes from the water reservoirs at ESCOM.
- These things have greatly affected our livelihoods. We can no longer farm to support our families
- Flooding of the dambo areas has also affected the footpaths connecting the village to Njereza area where there is a primary school. Our children have to go around a longer route to access the school which is resulting in many to abscond school

3. About natural resources

- Use of the Shire river- farming along its banks, fishing. There are some communal forests and grasslands where villagers collect firewood and graze livestock
- Changes in water levels- there has been some changes. In the past we think the water flow was regulated... No wonder we never had a situation where flood waters would stay making it impossible to farm in the dambo areas. Some places also experienced landslides where huge chunks of soil fell into the water and got carried away. The led to further loss of farm land. This has heavily affected the ability of the villagers to grow crops leading to food insecurity.
- Changes in livelihoods – yes most people no longer able to grow enough foods to feed their families. No longer able to have surplus to sell to support children that are in school. There are very few “ganyu” jobs available as very few plots of land in the dambo areas are under cultivation.

4. About construction projects

- There has been some construction works near the village where some were involved. These include:
  - DRIMP- involved some road maintenance works
  - Implichilo – this company was installing the machines at Kapichira station.
  - Nikalasi – this company was constructing the houses in which staff at Kapichira currently stay

- Majete – construction of fire breaks and other structures in the game reserve
- EGENCO – the current company running the Kapichira power generation/rehabilitation works

- Issues encountered:

In the past (with the previous construction companies)

- villagers could get some piece work jobs at the construction site. One villager recalled that Implichilo (which was a foreign based company) used to come into the village on a bus to pick workers. The salary was also good. Same this with Nikalasi – people used to get jobs at the construction site

5. Current issues with construction works

- very few villagers now get jobs with the current companies. In Sekela village for example, its only about 2 people that are employed at ENGENCO.
- There are allegations that people tasked to employ staff ask for money from prospective employees. People have been asked to pay money ranging from K25,000 to K50, 000. One respondent mentioned that there is a story of someone who allegedly paid K80,000 to be employed at the SVTP canal as a driver
- For women we also hear that some are sexually exploited. Although we have no concrete evidence but we suspect that some of the women make “arrangements” with the HR officers to get jobs at the construction site
- Other companies (like Majete) employ people on temporary basis for a very long time. Some people have been on temporary employment for over 5 years.

6. Concerns on construction sites that we need to take into account

- Construction works should seriously look at the issue of employing laborers from nearby villages. Yes, we appreciate that there are some positions that require skills that we may not have/ require people that have gone to school or have specialized training, but for all menial jobs they should employ locals.

7. Other remarks?

- The flood waters that damaged our dambo farm land has resulted in a lot of disturbances in the lives of many villagers. Apart from loss of farm land and productivity, they have cut off the village from Njereza side where we have a school
- Once there was a project to construct a junior primary school in the village- 2 blocks were constructed but have not been completed. One just had its roof blown off! This has crushed all our dreams about a school that is easily accessible. The current route (the longer route) that our kids use to go to school is also only usable during the dry season. Once the rains start, it will be impossible to pass through to attend Njereza school.
- As it is there are 4 villages that are experiencing problems to access the school at Njereza as a result of long distances: Sekela, Chilala, Mwalija and Ndola villages. So, if there was a way for our duty bearers to finalize construction of the junior school in the village it would help a lot.



Focus group discussion with men in Sekela village



Focus group discussion with women in Sekela village

Focus Group Discussion with women in Sekela Village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi
Date: 23rd September 2024
Duration: 12:30 – 13:10
Number of women: 22

1. **What generally keeps you occupied in this village?**

Generally, in this village we are farmers, we get busy daily with farming activities, particularly during rainy season. Of course, sometimes we also engage in irrigation activities, but most of the land that we used for irrigation has been covered by the sand following the cyclone Anne that we had years back.
The other thing that keeps us occupied to earn a livelihood is piece works (ganyu). We spend a good part of our time in search of piece work opportunities to make a living. Most of us are very poor, and making ends meet becomes a challenge.

Ther are very few of us who are involved in small scale business, selling sweet bear, flitters, bananas, tomatoes. Those who are involved in small scale business are also involved in village banks. But our village banks are not very well organized; we do not have any formal trainings received about them.

Aside these livelihood activities, we are also involved in cultural events, particularly initiation ceremonies after we are done with harvesting.

All in all, at the centre of our daily lives are household chores, which we do from collecting water, cooking, taking care of the families. Of course, you should know very well that we do more work than our counterparts, although sometimes these men do not appreciate us. After a busy day, they do not leave you alone at night, when you want to rest, they are on you (laughs).

2. **Do you counter any safety issues in the village?**

On safety issues we can talk in different ways, I will start with the issue of the annual risk of floods and run offs, especially some of us who are downstream. The area floods when it rains, and sometimes it is not just floods but strong run offs, high speed water coming from uphill into the village. Sometimes it can rain upstream, we only receive the water this side, and the waters may come when we do not expect them.

We have also experienced at times strong winds that have blown off roofs for our houses, as you can see that most of our houses are not made from the very strong materials.

If I may add, another safety issue that we can talk about relates to continued food insecurity which we experience in this area. For instance, in this particular year most of the households in this village did not harvest enough. At the moment some of us are surviving on peace works, only taking one meal in a day, and sometimes going to bed on an empty stomach.

3. **What problems have you encountered during construction work around the villages? / Concerns that you have on construction projects.**

Those of us who have had an opportunity to get employed in construction works, and from the stories that our friends share, there a number of problems encountered by us women.
There is an issue of sexual exploitation where men, especially supervisors or foremen demand sex from us. “If you refuse, they find a reason to take you out of the employment, and others have succumbed to the same because they have no choices, they need money to survive”. It is very bad to us women because “men also abuse us by wanting to see our private parts or touch us, even when you do not want. You find that a man is touching your bums or breasts, and they will just laugh it off as if it is something normal”. On these matters sometimes we fail to report them to authorities in fear of reprisal; “one has to weigh the options, either remain in the employment or get kicked out because you have reported on an abuse experienced. We know some of the bosses know these things, but they cover up their fellow men, and sometimes we are blamed that we were provoking them. Imagine a man making a comment saying, ‘these bums will kill us’, or ‘aunt your buttocks do not give us rest’.

Some of the challenges relate to our security as women, sometimes in construction works, we fear to fall off, especially when one has no protective wears. Sometimes the protective wears are not designed to cover us as women, they are designed as if they will only be used by men, and sometimes those protective wears are not even in place.

Something again that we find a problem is that we are given the same type of work, yet you know very well men and women are different, we cannot do similar kind of jobs. When we point that out, we are told that we have to accept the realities of modern days gender. This is said in a very sarcastic and demeaning way.

Sometimes we, women are excluded from the job opportunities for no good reasons provided; only men are taken on board. For instance, there are fewer women working at the canal, even for unskilled jobs, we are not given equal chances as our male counterparts.

We should also point out that the construction jobs are a source of marriage break ups here. When men receive money, they leave us to go and look for other women, either in marriage or for short transactional encounters. This has risked us to diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

4. What are your concerns on construction projects that we should take into account? What are your recommendations?

From the issues we have already raised, we would propose the following:

- Women should also be given equal employment opportunities in construction work
- Women should be respected in construction works; we need our safety to freely work with men in construction work; the environment should be accommodating to us women.
- You should ensure that you end corruption in employment opportunities. Other people pay money to be employed, and some women have to sell their bodies to get job opportunities.

5. Were there any changes in your activities following cyclone Ana in 2022

Yes, there were a number of changes that have happened in this community and area at large following cyclone anna. Some of them are:

- Our farming system and calendar was disturbed. For instance, as indicated we have lost our irrigation area as it is now covered with sand; we can no longer do irrigation activities.
- As a result of the loss of irrigable land, NGOs which we were working with on small scale irrigation initiatives have stopped working with us in this community. Consequently, we have lost out on agriculture extension services in the area.
- Most of the forestry activities have also been disturbed as they relied on the irrigation, where we used to have tree seedlings nursery the areas have been covered with sand following the cyclone ana.
- The cyclone also affected dour sanitation facilities in the village, toilets collapsed, and the few boreholes we have were submerged in water, and certainly this compromised the hygiene of the water that we drink.
- Another effect of the cyclone ana is that children dropped out of school.
- With the water levels getting close to homes, there was a great threat of crocodiles.
- Most of the roads were cut off and connectivity became a challenge, this also affected school going children, for instance the distance between Sekela and Njereza School was cut off.

6. Do you have any remarks.

As we have said, the issue of Gender Based Violence, should not be undermined in your project. We are victims of economic abuse, social abuse, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse. While this project has multiple benefits to us, we are also afraid of these issues. Children also suffer in the process as they lack care from parents who may have weaker families because they are separated or divorced as the men go about chasing multiple partners. We had also forgotten to mention that with money, most men tend to abuse alcohol; your project should sensitize men about this.

Some of the things that we would be dying for in this project are:

- Support us with agriculture inputs, so that we are food sufficient.
- Provide us equal employment opportunities, we, women are also eager to benefit from the project through employment and any other business opportunities.
- We urge you to sensitize all the chiefs in the area when the project is about to commence so that we are aware of it and prepare accordingly.
- The project should not only employ strangers, but we are also ready to provide some of the unskilled labour to the project.
- We are not sure if the project would support bursaries for our girls and also support the elderly.

Focus group discussion with men in Njereza village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi

Date: 24 September 2024
Venue: Njereza village
Hour: 14:24 – 15:20
Number of people: 8

In this village what generally keeps you occupied?
The people in this community mainly depend on farming, first and foremost crop farming especial maize and sorghum then livestock farming.
"In terms of crop farming the most reliable farm land are the ones near river bank commonly known as "Kumadimba" but as it stands right now, are uncultivatable because the land till date is submerged following floods from three years back. This has affected farming since that Some of these lands are now harbouring crocodiles". The crop farming we rely on is maize crops cultivated in the dimba areas whilst sorghum is cultivated in the uplands.
"To be honest the situation on the ground right now, things are not alright. There is no one doing productive things, we are hungry and in deep poverty "
In the meantime some men of Njereza village are deforesting communal lands to make charcoal, which they sell in areas as far as Blantyre or to charcoal vendors. But the communal lands are no more since land parceling exercise was introduced in the area. Therefore, the Ministry of Lands ordered that everyone ought to be working on their designated farm land. *"..so those with forest benefit from their land.*
But for those, who do not have a forest have 'nothing'.

"To be honest, making charcoal is not our thing "*ife ntundu wa mang'anja*". Started this because of the problems at hand. Few weeks back a certain organisation donate maize, that is the one making us seem like we have food now. Right now, we have serious problems because charcoal business can't help us in any way. We are so many pple in this village and cannot certainly rely on charcoal as a source of income, *plus, "mitengoyonso tamaliza kale".... as you can see, we don't have many trees around "chachikulu ndi njal"a. Sometimes others hire us for temporary piece work*

Random questions

1) When will this work start?

Response: We can say that it already started just in the planning phase. For the contractor to start the construction... it highly depends on this report we will produce after this survey.

2) Previously, even if shire flood out, our farm would occupy water. But ever since kapichira dum flood off, the water level is not going down hence our farms still in water. Is there nothing that the contractors can do during construction which can result in improving the current situation?

Suggestions: maybe extra sand to increase depth of the river in that way our farmland maybe cultivatable. Because it's not that Egenco employ us anyway. Those farmlands are the ones that supports us the most.

Did you have any concerns regarding gender-based violence or any challenges connected to the construction works at Kapichira Dam? If Yes, what are these?
This did not only affect our farmlands; we had villages nearby for instance Mwalija which relocated because of the floods. If was actually Majete that helped them. But Egenco did nothing. Egenco do not help us except supply of electricity which robbed us our reliable means of income.
They are aware of our problem but choose to do nothing. As we speak right now, more than people have been captured by animals, some have lost their lives some have sustained serious injuries while some crippled. In addition, Majete game reserve sometimes wild animals go off bounce and reach residential side.

a) Do you have any concerns regarding employment opportunities at the construction project for the canal? What are these?
b) Did you have any concerns regarding employment opportunities at the construction project at Kapichira Hydro Power Dam when the dam broke two years ago? What were these?
Employment of alien people instead of us the locally available human labour. This is because they want already trained personal, but even at that they are still some that know off course they are few but despite that they do not employ them still. It could have been great to hire the few trained individuals we have here so that we can learn from them therefore increasing the number of trained people.
We believe that some works do not require technical knowhow just strength as men and in this village we have such men but they are not giving us the opportunity to benefit from this project.
Our plea is that whenever they have a project in need of labours they should come done in communities and find some capable people to work in the long run earn some money to buy food. For instance, recently EGENCO bought fired bricks and there was a loading job but they did not hire anyone from this village. They brought a team from elsewhere, which is very concerning. Initially during construction, they picked labourers from all villages up to Dyeratu but after that they commonly pick people from Liwonde and Kandeu who are not experiencing any of our problems like floods. Unlike Majete who do quotas of labourers from the surrounding villages.

Do you have any other remarks on social or environmental concerns on the Kapichira Dam Project?

- Contractor should ensure that works have the full personal protective equipment PPE (such as helmet, goggles, work suit with reflector, gumboots)



Focus group discussion with men in Njereza village

Focus group discussion with women in Njereza village of Group Village Njereza, T/A Kasisi
Date: 24 September 2024
Duration of FGD: 14:10 – 15:05
Number of people: 12

1. **In this village what generally keeps you occupied?**

The women of Njereza are conducting the following businesses: selling fish, maize, firewood and charcoal. The women did not respond clearly on the source of firewood for charcoal making, most of them responded that they sourced it from their fields however no trees were evident in the fields. There is a fear that the communities might be cutting trees from Majete and other forest reserved available in the district.
They also practice both livestock and crop farming; however, crop yields have been greatly affected by the floods and Elnino. Crops cultivated include maize, beans, rice and millet. Their livestock include: goats and chickens.

2. **Do you encounter any safety issues in the village?**

Safety issues encountered include extreme weather and climate events such as floods, the area experiences seasonal flooding and previously the primary school was also affected. The women also revealed that they have cases of gender-based violence, which have been reported to village grievance redress committee and victim support unit but the perpetrators who are usually husbands will only apologize when called for dispute resolution meeting and then later keep on violating them.

3. **If there are any, what particular problems have you encountered during construction work around the villages**

- There has been an increase in school dropout of girls, most girls opt to engage in promiscuous behavior with contractor personnel. Some girls got impregnated and were left to fend for the baby by themselves which led to an increase in poverty levels.
- The women also noted that there was environmental degradation of the areas due to clearing of trees to pave way for the construction of the irrigation canal.
- An increase in traffic in the area has led to an increase in dust emissions and an increase in risk of road accident especially with kids.
- Unfair employment, women are not being offered jobs as compared to men.

4. **Were there any changes in your activities following the cyclone Ana in 2022?**

Cyclone Anna disturbed crop farming as most of the crop was washed away.

5. **Do you have any other remarks?**

- The project should consider extending the HIV/AIDs sensitization campaign to also target the communities. This will help to refresh the communities on the realities surrounding HIV prevention and infection management.
- Locals should also be given employment opportunities and equal employment for men and women.

- The project should also put measures to control sexual exploitation in exchange with employment.
- The project should avoid child labor and help the communities in re-enforcing their measures to keep children in school, the village currently has rules that prohibit school going children to drop out of school such as ensuring initiation ceremonies are only conducted during school breaks. The village has also introduced a curfew for all drinking joints to close by 10pm, this is in attempt to minimize noise and disturbances to school going children.
- The Project should ensure they have adequate sanitation facilities to prevent Cholera, they should also work with the health department in sensitization of employees in prevention of Cholera. The area has been having Cholera outbreaks annually and they have been supported with various prevention measures by the district health office.

Focus Group Discussion with Men of Mlangeni Village in Group Village Kavalo, TA Kasisi
Men present: 8
Time:
What generally keeps you occupied in this village?
Most of the men are occupied with farming, fishing, charcoal burning, operating motorbike taxis (*kabaza*) and brick making. Only two men in this village are employed, one works at Ekhaya farms while the other one works with EGENCO mainly in planting trees.
Regarding farming, the agricultural calendar with early filed activities starts in the months of September for the rain fed crops and in March for those crops under irrigation. However, for the past two to three years only a few people do irrigation because a lot of fields have been washed away.

This area grows maize, millet, sorghum, sesame and cotton. But for cotton we have temporarily stopped growing because prices are too low to adequately cover costs of inputs.

Our farming system has significantly changed as we no longer do irrigation following heavy siltation in the Shire River. This has caused the river to swell and submerge and wash away some of the lands in which we practiced irrigation. The dam break brought with it sediments from all the erosion and wash away around the dam.

What were the impacts of the cyclone in this area? How did it affect your village?

Our farming system has significantly changed as we no longer do irrigation following heavy siltation in the Shire River.
We would prefer to see reduced water levels in the Shire River so we have access to our fields for irrigation. With lower (regular) water levels the Mlangeni communities are able to cross the Shire River on canoes to access to the district hospital, market and maize mill in the dry season. But the current high-water levels are a serious threat to lives as people have drowned after canoes capsized. In addition, when the water level in the river is high, crocodiles are everywhere.

How has construction works around this area affected you?
Not much really perhaps because we are on the other side of the river from where some construction projects are underway.
Two members from this village do work with other projects, which are surrounding the village this at Ekhaya farms and EGENCO. For one to get a piece work in the projects and companies around,

people believe that they must bribe their way through e.g., giving tips to a foreman to be employed or to keep a job.

Are there any recommendations you may bring forward in relation to project works around here and in particular the rehabilitation of the dam at Kapichira?
Emloy people openly and entertain no bribes.
During ESCOM time, all the vacancies were presented publicly not these days. We want them to follow the old way because that was fair.
There is a need to notify communities downstream whenever the management at Kapichira plan to open the gates at the dam. This will keep alert of fast-moving high waters in the river hence save lives.

Focus Group Discussion with women of Mlangeni Village in Group Village Kavalo, TA Kasisi
Women present: 10
Time: 11:40 – 12:17
Date: 1st October, 2024

What generally keeps you occupied in this village?
The women of Mlangeni village normally they are busy with farming, doing some casual labour, charcoal burning, doing small business and participating in Village Savings and Loans. For men, normally they do fishing, charcoal burning and moulding bricks.

What were the impacts of the cyclone in this area? How did it affect your village?
Some of the impacts from Cyclone Anna threatening their lives include flooding; they cannot easily cross over the shire river to access services at the district headquarter. In addition, Cyclone Anna washed away fields especially those which were on the banks of shire river. Crocodiles are sighted and can be too dangerous to draw water from the river or cross in a canoe.

If there are any, what particular problems have you encountered during construction work around the villages
Some of the particular problems which have been encountered during the construction work around the village are bribes; the communities are told to pay up to ten thousand kwacha or above to be employed. Other foremen ask to sleep with them to qualify for some job.

What recommendations for the construction do you have?

- Despite that more community members are not educated but they do have some talents and a lot of them are artisans, so these construction projects should consider employing the people who are around the projects so that they can be part and parcel to the development which is happening in their area.
- They should also not be biased when offering employment.

Do you have any fears following Cyclone Anna
People do not have their peace of mind when the rainfall season kicks in because of the risk of huge surge in water levels that occurred at dam break. The next two teras of cyclones just heightened the fear of what may happen next when it rains.

Are there any recommendations you may bring forward in relation to project works around here and in particular the rehabilitation of the dam at Kapichira?
EGENCO should try to make some community sensitization before commencing their dam project. Thus, when they want to employe more labourers. Also, they should try to have some incentives live school scholarships to the communities as part of motivating the students who are doing well in their studies because there is a high rate of drop outs due to school fees and long distance to school is.

Focus group discussion with Fishermen of Mlangeni Village, Group Village Kavalo, TA Kasisi

Date: 1st October, 2024
Hour: 12:30 – 13:02
Number of people: 10

1. **What generally keeps you occupied in this village?**

We are fishermen so mostly we are busy in fishing in the shire river

2. **Could you describe your fishing system?**

We have 2 systems- Using fishing nets and using fish hooks
When it has not rained and the water is clean, we use hooks and worms to catch the fish.
During the rainy season (months such as December) we use nets since the water is murky and dirty. This makes it difficult for the fish to see the net and they get easily caught in the net.
We don't have sections in the river that are deep or kind of dams where we can get lots of fish as in other areas. We solely depend on the free-flowing water in the shire river.
We use nets that are recommended by the government as sometimes Officials from the district come to inspect our nets. He usually targets fishing areas such as "Gombwa" and "Lisungwi"

3. **What types of fish do you catch?**

Milamba
Chambo,
Agale (which is a very beautiful and tasty fish that has very high demand on the market)

4. **Where do you sell the fish?**

We sell to local people from the surrounding villages, and also to homes at Dyeratu and the boma. Some of the fish is exchanged with maize and pigeon peas.

5. **How has fisheries changed in the last 3 years**

Back in the day we used to catch a lot of fish since the river had a kind of dam in it where the fish would breed. But in the past few years floods came and resulted in siltation of the dam. The river is now heavily silted and very shallow making it difficult to find fish. Again, we have noted that siltation has perhaps been caused by the careless cutting down of trees in the slopes on the hills near the village. This has increased the amount and size of run off when it rains.
We also suspect that siltation has been caused by the strong flowing water that comes out of the dam when Egenco opens its flood gates. Usually, the water comes with very huge force that results in lots of mud being carried with the flow resulting in more siltation. The siltation has made the river to be shallower and wider.

In terms of prices, fish prices have gone up due to scarcity of fish on the market.

6. **Are there any roles for women/children in fishing?**

Fishing is done by men and older male children. They are few women who take part in fishing but mainly they do it using hooks rather than nets. The reason is when you are using nets `you need a boat which women cannot manage to row.

7. **Cyclone Anna – Has there been changes on your activities since the destruction of the dam?**

When the dam at Kapichira was destroyed as a result of the cyclone, the flood waters brought with it a lot of clay soil and other soil debris that got deposited along the river banks. This soil is not good for farming and as such people lost land they used to grow crops
In our village we usually grow crops using residual moisture in the land along the river banks. These days this is not possible due to the heavy deposits of clay soils as a result of the cyclone.
Also the siltation has caused the river to be very shallow which is not good for fish. In the past, the river was deep, the fish catch was quite good. We could get a full 40 litre bucket of fish which when sold one was able to make good money to buy food and other household items. This is not possible now.

8. **How did you adapt your practice with these changes?**

The loss of the farm land along the river bank has forced people to turn to the mountains where they cut trees to sell or to make charcoal. This has exacerbated the problem of deforestation.
At Kapichira there is a section which has a lot of fish. When they open the dam gates and the water drains, one can actually pick fish from the shallow river bed using bare hands. But this is a protected area. It's part of the Majete Game Reserve and if one is found, you get arrested.

9. **Other remarks**

Life is currently hard in this village due to unemployment. Most of the young men and women here have no option but to cut trees to sell as firewood or make charcoal a thing which is destroying the environment. We are very happy that you *(from Engenco)* came to talk to us as now we are sure that our concerns will be channeled to the relevant offices at Kapichira. We would very much like if we could be benefiting something from all the works that is taking place at the Dam.

1.19.2. Raw interviews with village leaders during the socio-economic baseline inquiry

Key informant interview with Village Head Bwalo
Duration: 40 Minutes

Social context of the village

What is the history, cultural groups of your village and people?
Bwalo village is under group village headman Njereza, T/A Kasisi, Senior chief Lundu. Its community members comprise one tribe “Mang’anja” and they are original residence, not known immigration history. Some of the people have an affiliation with traditional group called “Gule Wamkulu” but most people belong to religious congregation for instance *I belong to Roman Catholic church.”*

What are the economic activities that generally describe your village?
“The community rely on farming as their source of food and income., But previous cyclone cost them their reliable farms, which were along shire riverbanks, the *dimba* gardens”. The most common crops in the area which survive despite the weather include, sorghum, millet and maize.
“We depend on farming in the dimbas where we cultivate under irrigation. But most of the dimba farms were washed away by the floods whilst some are still submerged” .. Now some people sell vegetables, sweet potato, and maize and selling in the village, which they order from Dyeratu (main market, about 12km away).

Customary and traditional system

What is the role of the chief of village?
Some of the roles of the Village Head, is to make sure that people are living in harmony. The Village Head must also preside over civil and minor criminal cases. If one is not satisfied with the ruling, the person may be referred to other authorities such as the T/A’s court for a second opinion. The case is first handled by the Group Village Head and if not settled it is referred to the T/A. If at this level there is dissatisfaction with the ruling, the final referral is the police.
The most common disputes brought to the Village Head attention include family disputes, breach of public peace and theft. But for any criminal cases, then the Village Head refers such to the police through the community policing committee.

How is the land use and land tenure in the village?
The land is fairly distributed, some areas are for farming some are used as forest and the other as habitant. The government officials from the lands department measured the farms lands but the property deed was not issued.

Educational facilities

What are the schools in the village?
The village has a primary school nearby called Dzimbiri primary school but no secondary school nearby. Instead, Chikwawa secondary is the perceived secondary schools although it is more than 10km from the village. Hence, students who gets enrolled, their parents arrange for safe boarding such as house rent, food and firewood. The means of transportation from the village to school is via bicycle /motorbike taxis, which is very expensive to do round trips.

Health facilities

The nearest health centre is Kapichira EGENCO. For serious cases Kapichira refers patients to the district hospital. In addition, the assigned Disease Control Surveillance Assistant conducts monthly under-five clinics in the village.

Systems

What are the water and electricity supply systems?

The community reliable source of water are boreholes, in which the village has six boreholes in total hence guarantee portable water supply and usage. As far as electricity supply is concerned, the village has electricity supply, that some houses have national grid connection whilst some use solar power.

Are there any development projects in the village?

Two Houses for teachers are being constructed, although the project has a small budget donated those who are constructing the canal. The project was initiated because most teachers reside in areas very far from Dzimbiri primary school. The objective is set to help lessen the burden of travelling long distance to get to the school.

Do you have any other remarks?

Our biggest problem in this village, is that our reliable farms have been washed away by the floods whilst some are just full of water till date rendering farming impossible.

Key informant interview with GVH Kandeu

23 September 2024

Interview held at the residence of the Group Village Head in Kandeu 1 village.

Time start: 14:33hrs; Time end: 15:23hrs

1. **Social context of the village**

a. **What is the history of your village and people?**

Group Village Kandeu has 10 villages namely; Kamdeu 1, Kandeu 2, Patrick, Maganga 2, Daniel, Dymon, Kuzambo 1, Kuzambo 2, Liwonde and Esnele. In Kandeu 1 where the Group Village is resident, there are 146 households with a total population of …… a census was conducted in September 2024.

The village was initially established within Majete forest area before the reserve was commissioned. It was moved to the banks of the shire river at the establishment of the Majete game reserve in the 1960s. Then the village moved again towards the hills following establishment of Kapichira Hydro Power Station in the mid-1990s. The people were advised to move further up to stay clear of potential floods. In addition, they were told that the reserve would stock elephants that could go across water bodies (‘that could swim’).

“When Mozambican refugees came here, they brought with them guns, which they used to poach elephants and wiped them out. So, when the government planned to replace the elephants, we were advised to move out because the Liwonde elephants are not scared to cross water bodies” KII with the GVH Kandeu at Kandeu village

This emphasized that the behaviour of the new stock of elephants would be different from the one the communities around Majete forest were used to, which did not go across the Shire River.

Therefore, sensitisation on this included taking traditional leaders on a tour to Liwonde National Park to see for themselves and learn that elephants cross waterbodies and also to learn from communities how they stay safe from elephants. hence it was too dangerous to continue to live along the Shire River banks close to the reserve.

Which cultural groups reside in your village?
The people are generally diverse in tribal groups and constitute *mang'anja, lomwe, yaos, sena*, hence they also have a variety of cultural groups including valuing *gule wamkulu* among the *amang'anja*. The people came from Blantyre, Nsanje, Thyolo. The *yaos* and the senas have each preserved their cultures here mainly dances. They live in harmony each observing their cultural values and learning and appreciating each other's cultures.
They maintain cultural practices like "…*Zinamwali, kudambwe, malo ovinila amapezeka ndithu…"* despite these hills.

Economic activities and livelihoods in Kandeu 1 village
People generally do farming; but with the droughts it has become very impossible to harvest anything here. In the last two years no rainy season crop survived the heat. Previously they grew maize in moisture rich areas from rains but now such areas have been washed downstream Shire River due to flooding. This has led to river bank erosion hence expansion of the width of the Shire River. In the olden days households would do rainy season and dimba farming where they would be assured to harvest some crops. But due to wash away of their dimba areas, they are food insecure every year.

"*Now it is hunger after hunger. The climate change has impacted us greatly"*.
"The last two years have been very bad…. Our youths here have relied on piece works and also seasonal work at Majete Game Reserve and Kapichira Power Station. At Majete is where there is more work for our youths here. Some do four months then if they are lucky may be picked again in next batches. Some do domestic work in EGENCO staff homes. EGENCO has also helped many families earn some money. Some have bought some assets like motorcycles, which they use as bicycle taxis, thereby assisting other community members".
"We used to cross the river using a floating tree and sometimes a dugout canoe.. around Maganga 1 village. But the coming of EGENCO made it possible to have a bridge
EGENCO is like our relation now. They have really helped my communities"

1. <u>Customary and traditional system</u>
    a) What is the role of the chief of village?
    b) Are there any others customary authorities?
    c) How is the land use and land tenure in the village?
    d) Are there any areas of sacred importance in your village?
    e) Are there any areas of cultural heritage or significance in your village?

2. Customary and Traditional System
The role of the chief
The role of the chief is to encourage and organize his subjects to do development work. Also to advise other chiefs of social problems in the area during their meetings. Discussions from such meetings have led to establishment of schools like the recent construction of Kandeu Community Day Secondary School.

As this was a Group Village Head, there were 10 villages under his authority who liaise in running customary affairs to provide updates to the Traditional Authority Kasisi and feedback to the subjects in their respective villages. The chief also represents the government on the application of the penal code, whereby wrong doers of serious offences like physical harm, murder, serious theft are handed over to the community policing agents in their village with full support of the chief before. The chief also encourages subjects to save trees for shade and protection from winds.

Land use and land tenure

Land tenure is customary in the village and all other villages under GVH Kandeu. The landscape is very hilly and rocky. People seem to rely more on natural trees as natural resources for making charcoal to support their families apart from short season work at Majete and Kapichira Hydro Power Station. They also use the hilly sides to graze goats and grow some upland crops for rainy season like maize and millet. The rolling hills encompassing the village are owned by the community members and if they so choose to make charcoal from it the chief emphasizes that they stick to their land parcel and not cut down their neighbors' trees.

Areas of sacred importance

All villages except three Senele, Dymon and Kuzambo 2 have graveyards. These use neighbors' graveyards when they lose someone.

Areas of cultural heritage or significance in your village

The Group Village was moved first from Majete Game Reserve then later from near the banks of the Shire River at the establishment of the Kapichira Hydro Power Dam. They recognize the entry to the power station intake as a place of sacred importance as that is where they had their graveyard while they stayed near the Shire River. Also, the graveyards are of cultural significance for those who do Gule Wamkulu. This is where they do preparations and rituals for the cultural practice.

1. Educational facilities
    a) What are the schools in the village?
    b) How far is the nearest primary school to this village?
    c) How far is the nearest secondary school to this village?

3. Education facilities

A primary school is within the village. Pupils may also access Kapichira Primary School, 3km away. On average children from eight of the villages under GVH Kandeu generally access schools in GVH Kandeu located at an average of 2km from their households

A new secondary school is currently being constructed within the village. Otherwise, at the compilation of this report, secondary school pupils from Kandeu area studied 24 km away at Mitole Community Day or Chikwawa Secondary School and Chavala CDSS. Parents organise self-boarding arrangements around Dyeratu for children enrolled at Mitole CDSS, as it has no boarding facilities. The same arrangement is made for those enrolled at Chavala Community Day Secondary School. A few pupils may operate from the village but have to walk 3km to Kapichira Hydro Power Station to hitch hike an EGENCO vehicle towards Dyeratu. Some use minibus taxis from the village to Dyeratu at K3000 fare one way.

Health facilities

a) What are the health facilities in the village?

b) How far is the nearest health facility (clinic/hospital.) from this village?

Within the Kandeu village there is one health facility called Majete 5 (Hunger) Health Centre. Similar to primary school access at Kapichira, so can people in and around Kandeu village access the Kapichira Power Station Health Facility.
There is a rural hospital within Chavala, which people access for maternity services. EGENCO does provide ambulance services to the district hospital. *EGENCO has really helped us with the Health clinic at Kapichira.*

Other facilities:
a) How far is Chikwawa District Headquarters from this village?
b) How far is the nearest market from this village?

Markets and Chikwawa district council
Chikwawa District Headquarters is about 24km from Kandeu village. This is also the place where community members in Kandeu and neighbouring villages go to for market. Market days are Mondays and Fridays. It costs MK3000 one way trip from Kandeu to Dyeratu where people can access banks and market

3. Systems
a) What are the water supply systems?
b) What are the electricity supply systems?
c) What are the means of communication (local radio)?

Water and electricity supply systems
The community members access water for domestic use through boreholes. There are seven boreholes within Kandeu village. The boreholes include two at Kandeu primary school. There are seasonal streams during the rainy season which quickly dry out after the short period of rains. Community members mostly use solar electricity for lighting and firewood for cooking. They also use charcoal but it is mostly produced for business. There is no local radio.

Are there any development projects in the village?
Currently there is construction of a community secondary school in the village of Kandeu 1. Some community members from this village have taken up some jobs at the construction site though not many. A quick look at the construction site showed works underway but with minimal work areas showing that it is just in its foundational stage.

Any conflicts in the village in the recent past
There have not been any conflicts over anything in the last three years. However, a few disagreements over land boundaries had been addressed much earlier.

Do you have any other remarks?
Other remarks concerned thanking EGENCO for various assistance to the communities around them in education, health, maize milling, seasonal employment and sometimes transport to Chikwawa District Headquarters.

GVH Njereza - 24/09/2024

Livelihoods / economic activities

The main livelihoods activities for the people of Njeleza village are farming and small-scale businesses. The area mainly does livestock farming as compared to crop farming, mostly rearing goats, chickens, pigs, ducks and cattle. The main crops grown in the areas include maize, beans rice and millet, however this year and the previous year produce has greatly been affected by climatic events such as cyclones and Elnino. Cyclone anna hit the southern part of Malawi in January and its effects were also felt by the people of njereza, the communities had most of their agricultural field washed away while some experienced flooding. The situation was also aggravated by the rising levels of Lake Malawi which translated into rising levels of Shire River, thereby rendering most of the irrigable land flooded. The Elnino experience in the 2022-2023 rainfed agricultural season led to wilting of crops in the field due to prolonged dry spells. Fishing also used to be a major source of income several years ago, but currently it is not considered as one of the livelihoods activities in the village due to the declining numbers of fish species in the area which the GVH attributed to the power generation activities at the Kapichira Hydro-power plant. The chief further explained that the HPP cleaning process flushes out dirty muddy water which clogs the fish gills and eventually leads to death of the fish. Currently only few fish species can be found in the river: Zambo and Bokho, other fish species such as Khlomoko, Tchenga, Nzuluwa/Ntchila and Nzizi have become extinct.

Cultural heritage

The people of njereza are predominantly of Mang'anja tribe who migrated from Salima Chipoka, other tribes such as Lhomwe and Sena are also present but in small numbers. Chieftaincy is matrilineal, so is the land ownership in the village. There are 5000 families in the village. The role of the chief is to lead the village in development activities and also in day-to-day activities of the community. The chief also help in resolving disputes and lead in making rules for governing the community. Cultural heritage activities in the village include traditional dances such as Gule Wankulu, Njole and Mabatcha. The people of Njereza also conducts spiritual offering ceremonies called Gumbasi (Kuthira nsembe) during dry spells to pray for rainfall, this is usually done in Njereza graveyard, which is considered a spiritual site, the graveyard is also used for initiation of Gule Wamkulu. The last offering ceremony happened 5 years ago and is likely to happen again in an event that the area is hit with a dry spell.

Projects development projects in the village

Projects that are currently ongoing in the area include the construction of the SVTP irrigation canal and construction of secondary school blocks.

Security

The village faces security cases mostly to do with theft of livestock especially goats when they have gone for grazing. Njereza village has a police unit which helps investigating the theft cases but also patrol the village at the night.

Water

The people of Njereza village use borehole water for household use, there are a total of 8 boreholes in the village with the longest travel distance of ~1km to fetch water.

Electricity

The village is connected to the ESCOM grid with only a few houses including the TA's residence and the chiefs' courts being electrified. The village was supposed to benefit from, the 'Kwa neba kuwale' project which could have connected more houses to the grid but it was disturbed by cyclone Ana has been momentarily suspended.

Schools

There is one primary school in the village – Njereza primary school. Construction of a secondary school is in progress and currently 2 blocks have been completed, the school is not yet operational, and the village sends their children to Chikwawa secondary school and other small private schools at Chikwawa district council.

Health facilities

The people of Njereza go to Chikwawa district hospital and they have an under-five clinic at Mwalija.

Markets

The people of Njereza village go to Dyeratu market for shopping, there is no other market near the village.

Has there been any conflicts in the village in the recent past? How have they been addressed?

Yes, community members from Bwalo village were caught stealing construction materials from Synohyro contractor. The contractor increased the number of guards to increase security.

Do you have any other remarks?

The project has to ensure that the findings of this research are also disclosed at community level.

KII Village Head Liwonde – 27/09/2024

Social context of the village and traditional system

People of Liwonde village are originally from Machinga district and came to settle in Kapichira where there is currently Kapichira dam. They were relocated to the current location from the dam area during the Kapichira dam construction period. The village is mostly inhabited by the Mang'anja tribe with other tribes like Lhomwe, Yawo and Sena tribes in minority. A total of 135 households live in the village and the last demographic data was collected in 2019. The community still practice some cultural heritage activities and dances such as Chinamwali, Chitsukulumwe/Chiponda, Liphwatha, Dzoma, Nyau and Gule- wamkulu. The village has one graveyard which is also considered a cultural heritage site. Land tenure is customary, and inheritance is through matrilineal system.

Livelihoods

Economic activities in the village include charcoal making and selling, Agriculture (crops and livestock farming). Under crop farming the village used to do both irrigation and rainfed agriculture before being relocated from the current dam area. Currently they are only practicing rainfed cultivation as they no longer have irrigable land, Common crops that are grown in the village include Maize and millet. For livestock, the village rare cows, goats, pigs and chickens.

Water

There are two boreholes in the village, and one has a brick fence. Some households travel a distance of more that 1 Km to fetch water.

Electricity

Only 2 structures are electrified in the village, one house and one maize mill. Egenco had initiated a project to provide electricity to the villages surrounding Kapichira HPP called kwa Aneba kuwale which got disturbed with cyclone Ana. Liwonde village was one of the earmarked villages to benefit from the project.

Schools

The nearest schools are Kapichira primary school and Kandeu primary school, Kapichira is approximately 3 km form the village. For secondary school the communities send their children to Chikwawa secondary school and Makande secondary school which are both at a long distance from

the village, approximately 15km. There is no kindergarten school in the village, the chief emphasized that the community wishes to have one in an event that funding is available.

Health facilities

The community goes to Nkhanga health center and Kapichira private clinic, with Kapichira clinic being the closest at approximately 3 km.

Markets

The people of Liwonde village go to dyeratu market for shopping, there is no other market near the village.

Are there any development projects in the village?

Currently there is only one ongoing project in the village for the construction of a secondary school

Has there been any conflicts in the village in the recent past? How have they been addressed?

The village has launched a complaint to EGENCO regarding compensation for the relocation of the village from the current Kapichira dam site which was done about 23 years ago. The chief complained that they were relocated without being given compensation leaving behind their productive irrigable land, EGENCO is yet to address this complaint. Recently the village has been experiencing livestock thefts especially chickens, the suspects of theft cases are mostly from the Kandeu village. The village has a police unit which helps to deal with security issues in the village including patrolling the village to minimize theft cases.

Do you have any other remarks?

The village head implored the project to make sure that it prioritizes employment of people from his village.

Group Village Maganga 1 - 25/09/2024

1. **Social context of the village**

The people of Maganga 1 are predominantly the Mang'anja tribe who migrated from Chipoka in Salima, the area also has Lhomwes in minority. The area has 97 families but the actual figures on the number of people is not available. in order to preserve their culture, the village has various activities includind traditional dances which they practice. Cultural activities and dances such as Gule Wankulu, Dzoma and Chitsulukulumwe. The village also offer sacrifices to call for rains when hit by dry spells, this is done at the Maganga 1 graveyard which is considered a sacred area in the village. The Maganga Chieftainship is matrilineal and so is the land inheritance. Land in the area is under customary land which and it is controlled by chiefs. The communities of Maganga 1 practice both rainfed Agriculture and irrigation, the common crops grown are Maize and sweet potatoes.

Schools

- The nearest primary school to Maganga 1 is Padzimbiri primary school near Condril campsite approximately 2km.
- The nearest secondary school is Chikwawa secondary school which is approximately 10 km, the village anticipates the finalization of the construction of a secondary school at Njereza village so that their children can travel less distance to school
- For nursery school the people of Maganga 1 send their kids to Mwembedzi kindergarten school which is located in the village

Health facilities

The nearest health facilities in Maganga village are Nkhanga health center and Kapichira private Clinic.

Markets
The people of Maganga village does their shopping In Dyeratu, there are no other markets in the vicinity of the village except for some instances where communities sell stuff e.g. outside their houses.
Projects
There are two projects taking are currently taking place in Maganga village: Ngona lodge expansion project and the SVTP construction of the irrigation canal.

Respondent: Village Chief Maganga 2
Duration: 45 Minutes

Social context of the village
What is the history of your village and people?
Maganga 2 is one of the villages under GVH……. T/A Ngabu.The people living in this community, their forefathers originated from "Neno district" then moved to "Chikowa" T/A Kunthembwe in Blantyre, they later moved and settle in Patheche village T/A kasisi. They migrated to dzinja just near the river bank close to Kapichira. During which, village chiefs, Chavala, Padzuwa and Mitondo were constructing the road leading to their respective villages which was ending at chisamba. They were three roads under construction solely initiated by the chiefs themselves during the federation government of Rhodesia and Nyasaland lead by village chief Maganga. The aim was to construct road networks connecting the villages. The chieftainship was first handed to my sister's child thus in 1986

"*Whilst I was obtaining Malawi congress party cards from Maganga 1 and selling in Maganga 2. In 1993 then I stopped selling cards. Finally in 1994 that is when I was given the leadership role to become the village chief of Maganga 2 after my nephew*.

Which cultural groups reside in your village?
The community is made up of three tribes Ngoni, Mang'anja and Lhomwe. Despite the variation in ethnicity members of the community adopted the same beliefs and values operating as one entity. The people belong to religious groups such as CCAP, Roman Catholic and Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) being one that is dominant.

What are the economic activities that generally describe your village?
The people in the community rely on farming for food and the most common crops being Maize and Nandolo, Nkhungudzu, Chinangwa, Mbatata kalingonda. Although Mapira can also do better with the type of soil here but people in this area do not grow Mapira compared to other neighbouring villages. Farms this area are in high hilly places but each has their own land. Some do Piece works at EGENCO and Majete. The community has 351 households thus a census obtained in August.

Customary and traditional system
What is the role of the chief of village?
As a village chief some of my roles are, welcome newcomers and provide them with a land for settlement and farming thus if the land is still available. As a chief I have lands entitled in my name but some land belongs to families. To participate in developmental activities such as construction of a school i.e. every village is supposed surrounding the project to supply bricks for the development in question, the village chief is the first person who mold the first bricks to set as an example and if there

is anyone not willing to comply the chief has the power to chase that particular individual out of the village.
"A good example is the construction of hunger health facility (Majete 5) every brick you're seeing there that was used to construct the facility was supplied by the surround villages"
"In terms of family disputes, the village head must mediate until families have come together."
Common issues the Village Head resolves include family disputes, land boundary issues. All the neighboring villages of Maganga 2 share the same graveyard. "*We had our own but was invaded due to the Kapichira project. So as of now we just use the GVH Kavalo and Padzuwa graveyards*"

Educational facilities
What are the schools in the village?
The village does not have a school in it, the nearest primary school is Chigumula which is in GVH Kavalo. Although Chigumula is nearby at almost 2km but most students prefer going to Kandeu which is almost 4 km because is new and it has dedicated teachers compared to Chigumula. There is no secondary school either but the nearest is St Monica at Chavala and it is a self boarding.school. Recently school fees has been raised from MK18 000 to about MK30,000. This will result into an increase in school dropout. Although there are institutions that sponsor some students especially in terms of fees it is still a problem because for instance Majete can only sponsor 5-6 students per school, which is still leaving a big gap for parents to fill in such as rent, daily food, upkeep, beddings and bills most of which they cannot afford. So, it is not looking good with the raise of fees. In most cases, this scenario leaves women and girls vulnerable to be coerced into sexual behavior in exchange of food/money eventually leading to early/unplanned pregnancy. This ends in school dropouts too. We have tried to request from those organisations who sponsor education, but they cannot manage to sponsor every needy child as they are four of them so far.
"One of the sponsors promised to recruit 50 female students of which we don't know which children would be lucky to be identified. The biggest challenge are male students, most sponsors are promoting girl child education leaving boy child with no one coming for their aid."

Health facilities
As of now, our nearest health facility is Majete. There is also Kapichira health centre But it's not for free so people prefer hunger. Which will be handed over to the government on 16th October.

Systems

a) What are the water supply systems?
b) What are the electricity supply systems?
c) What are the means of communication (local radio)?

The community rely of boreholes as their source of drinking water. In total there are two bores the whole village, of which one of the boreholes was poorly sited. It is located way far from the people. Hence travelling long distance to fetch water.
The sponsor was *OG*, as a community we selected our convenient site but they complained of the place being rocky tried to convince him otherwise but to no avail. Instead, they borehole was drilled at a location of his choosing. If it were possible we could have just removed it and site it close to residents.
In terms on lighting supply, the majority use torch just a few use solar due to affordability.

Are there any development projects in the village
Often times the community unites and fixes their road from time to time when it has been affected by heavy rains. In addition, they collectively plant tree, trees like *Bando/ kajuju, kesha mpakasha balitcha, phizo and sangowa/chamwamb*a in the forest near the village head's house.

Key informant interview with Senior GVH Kavalo
Date: 1st October, 2024
Hour: 13:21 – 14:10

1. What is the social context of the village?
The people from this village came from Machinga in the 1800s… around 1878 to be specific. The time the first Europeans were coming to Malawi for the first time likes of David Livingstine and others- the village was already here. In fact, one of the first white explorers by the name of Herbet Rose died in this village and was buried here. His tombstone is somewhere in the outskirts of the village near the river. Unfortunately, the tombstone was submerged in water after some floods. His relatives however still come to the village to visit the burial site. Last time they were here they took my picture. Am sure it is somewhere in Britain.
The people in this village are largely chewa. But we also have sena, and mang'anja due to inter marriages. The village was established by the colonial government. It used to control a very big territory from the Likhubula River to where we have Milale Police Roadblock in Blantyre up to Chavala boardering with T/A Kunthembwe. Later the GVH was demarcated by the late Hon Gwanda Chakuamba who decided to bring the Blantyre district boundary nearer *(so that it will be easy from him to claim that he has travelled to Blantyre)*
The first GVH to be established from the bigger Kavalo was Chavala followed by Kasisi then Mbendelana. Later we had chiefs like Njeredza, Kandeu, Kanjala and Chimphanzi. These GVHs have been established just recently.

2. What generally keeps you occupied din this village?
Mainly farming. We grow different crops such as maize, Sesame, Millet, sorghum. In the past we also focused to grow cotton. But most farmers stopped due to challenges associated with the crop.

3. How many households are there in this village?
We have about 370 households.

4. Customary and traditional systems
What is your responsibility as a GVH?
As a GVH, my main roles and responsibilities are looking after the people, leading the villagers during development activities, resolving disputes such as family issues or issues related to land ownership.

Are there any others customary authorities?
Apart from the GVH office, there are other governance structures which help in leading the village such counsellors, village chairman and village police.

How is the land use and land tenure in the village?
The land tenure system follows a matrilineal system – however this doesn't not affect land ownership. A young man who is building his life looks for a place to stay with wife any place he wants. He ca stay at anywhere. The land is assigned to him by the village chief.

Are there any areas of sacred importance in your village?
Yes, there are! One is the burial place for the early explorer Herbet Rhodes. Like I mentioned, this is an old grave belonging to the first Europeans to visit Malawi. Although the tombstone was washed away by water and lost in the flood (submerged in flood waters), is still an important heritage place. To this day, a lot of Europeans from (Britain) do come here to visit the grave. Last time they came they said they are planning to construct something in the village as part of remembering him. It is said that Mr Rhodes had a company in Britain and it is this company that wants to support the construction of this facility.
The other area of sacred importance is a stone/or rock that is on the middle of the road leading into the village. This is a mysterious rock. Anyone who dares ti remove it from the road or takes it away brings it back. It is said the person experiences some things that forces him or her to bring the rock back.
There is a story of a certain priest who came here for a gospel crusade. He took the stone to throw it away teling the locals to stop believing in mystical stories. A few days later he brought it back. The stone has been taken as far away as Chimphanzi but people always bring it back. It is said that the first GVH Kavalo was buried inside his house which is believed to be the spot where the stone is now.

5. Educational facilities
In terms of education, the village has area has 3 primary schools namely; Mtawa and Chigumula which are both junior primary schools (from Standard 1-5), and Mgumbwa which has Standard 1-8 They also have 1 Community Based Care Centre (CBCC) which is found in the Kavalo village. Secondary schools are very far from the village. Secondary school students go to attend high school at Mfela which is close to the Thabwa Roadblock along the way to Blantyre.

6. On Health facilities,
The area has no health facility apart from an under-five clinic which is in located in Kavalo Village. The nearest health facility is the District Hospital at Dyeratu (or the Boma). Unfortunately, one has to cross either the Shire River on one side or the Likhubula river on the other. During the rainy season it is very difficult to cross both rivers. People go for many months without accessing health services. The area almost becomes just like an island.

7. Other facilities
There are no trading towns or centers near the village. The nearest trading town is Dyeratu which very far- about 12 to 15km away. To access markets or buy grocery items, people have to travel to Dyeratu on market days.
In terms of water supply, the village has only 2 boreholes which are not enough for all the households. There is no electricity.

8. Development projects in the village?

There haven't been any serious development activities in the area apart from the construction of the CBCC in the village.

9. Conflicts in the village

Not really big conflicts apart from a time when communities did some demonstrations when they were angry after the death of one village boy who had brain disorder. That time it was believed that he had been bewitched. The GVH was able to resolve the issue and now they are at peace again.

10. Any final words? Recommendations?

Egenco should try to employ members of the community living around Kapichira in some of its programs. This will help to improve the livelihoods of the people and reduce some of the challenges people are facing.

1.19.3. Key Informant Interviews with council officials

Key informant interview with Assistant District Labour Officer, Andrew Nkhonjera
Date: 24th September 2024
Start: 16:01 End 17:11

1. Activities and Responsibilities

Our work as District Labour Office here in Chikwawa, and I know elsewhere involves the following:

- We handle all labour related disputes in the district, from employers and employees, of course many complaints come from employees.
- We process works compensation from private sector and also the public sector
- We facilitate employment exchange, those seeking for jobs come here and also those looking for employment also come here.
- We also conduct labour inspection, we visit offices/work places to see if the employers are complying to the minimum labour standards as stipulated in the laws of Malawi, we also check issues of safety for workers, working conditions, minimum wage, how overtime is handled, how they handle maternal leave issues, leave days, and generally everything to do with the rights of workers in their work places.
- We also insect and check employment of young people, particularly here in Chikwawa the tendency is high in the cattle industry. Cattle farmers often employ vulnerable children or those who are mentally challenged.

2. Labour Context

The following are the major labour concerns in the construction projects in the district of Chikwawa:

- Lack of adherence by employers on the minimum wages
- Employers not paying terminal benefits to the employees
- Engaging workers without a signed contract, particularly for casual labours
- Issues of compensation especially when one is injured while on duty; we have challenges with employers paying compensation.
- The issue of overtime not being paid to the employees.
- Denial of sick leave or deducting from their salary on the days the employee was sick.
- Sexual exploitation, supervisors seeking sexual favours from women to be employed or to be given less strenuous tasks.
- Unfair dismissal and not paying of notice pay.

Resolving of the identified issues

- We do mediation, by inviting concerned parties for discussions and map the way forward.
- We also carry out labour inspection to establish the concerned issues, and find out for ourselves on any labour related issues in the work places. We then write the employers on our findings and recommendations. Sometimes we summon them to our office for hearing.

- There are some cases which we cannot handle here at our office in Chikwawa, so we also do referrals to the industrial relations court, particularly when the employer is not cooperating to settle the issue outside of court. However, it should be mentioned that this route takes time to have the case resolved; we only have four industrial relations judges in the country, and the work is just too much for them. I can report that we have submitted/referred more than 50 cases to the Industrial Relations Court from Chikwawa since 2016, but so far only 5 cases have been heard.

Mechanisms to prevent and control the following:

- **Child labour**:- First I must say from our records issues of child labour are not rampant in the district. This is mainly attributed to the fact that these days most employers do age screening through the use of National Identity Cards, for both skilled and unskilled labour. When we get hints about child labour issues, especially in domestic employment, we normally conduct sweeping exercises, to bring back the children to their homes. However, this becomes problematic when we identify children who are homeless, as we have nowhere to put them; the social welfare has no homes designated for such children. Also, few cases about child-labour are reported from cattle farmers who sometimes employ children to take care of their cattle, but often times they trick us that they are family members who only feed cattle in the afternoon after school.
- **Trafficking in person**: As a district labour office we conduct sensitization on this warning people of the same. I must mention that issues of trafficking in person is done secretively and very difficult for us to detect until something breaks up somewhere. From what I have gathered, it is very common with people in town coming in the villages here to take women that they will work as household maids, and later engage them in prostitution in Lilongwe or Blantyre. Unfortunately, when we try to follow up if such is happening in our areas, people shield each other and give false information, simply because sometimes those who have gone out to either Blantyre and Lilongwe, when they survive the ordeal or when they accept the situation, they remit some funds back home.
- **Gender based violence**: - We conduct awareness meetings in the workplaces, especially construction sites and companies that have a lot of manpower.
- **Sexual exploitation and abuse and Sexual harassment**: - same was with GBV, we also conduct awareness raising on SEA, working with the gender officers and social welfare officers. Further we also work with workers unions so that such issues are reported not covered by the employers. We ensure that in big construction projects such as the Shire Valley Transformation Project (SVTP), and big estates, there are Grievance Redress Mechanisms put in put, where redress of any such issues are sought. We also do spot check patrols, for example with the SVTP.

3. Labour in Construction Projects

Recommendations to minimize disputes

- Encourage employers to follow normal procedures in the recruitment processes, including informing employees about their conditions of work, signed contracts, wages, times, holidays, overtime, pension, compensation, transport, safety.
- For companies that employ many people, it is imperative that there should be labour unions, which will be channels through which the workers can voice out their concerns

to the employer. The employer should be open minded to receive complaints from the workers.

- The contracts, and all terms of employment should be communicated to the employees in a manner and language that they understand and should be given audience to ask questions about anything.
- People employed in the human resources management should have context knowledge about the area, they should be cultural sensitive as they deal with most unskilled labour who come from the area around the project, much as some organizations bring in unskilled labour from outside, which is another source of disputes too, as the natives feel the labor migrants are taking away their economic opportunities, therefore, it is important to also balance up and be sensitive in the recruitment of causal or unskilled labourers.

Methods in recruiting workers for the project considering that the project is surrounded by many villages

- I would recommend that the project utilizes the labour office in the recruitment process; it will minimize issues of corruption and favouritism, and the labour office will follow normal procedures.
- Minimize corruption in the construction companies, some villagers are asked money to be considered for employment, and there is the tendency of sexual exploitation and abuse, where women are demanded to give sex in return for employment opportunities.
- The agency may consider advertising for the job openings openly to the public, so that the villages around the dam also know and are aware of these opportunities instead of just recruiting people from other areas; they face a lot of resistance from the natives in many areas.

Key Informant Interview with the District Social Welfare Officer, Mr A. Macheka
Time start: 10:33 am Time end: 11:26 am

1. Roles and responsibilities

As the social welfare office in the district of Chikwawa, we are responsible for the coordination of all social welfare activities in the district, which include

- family and child welfare issues;
- vulnerable children, and children in conflict with the law
- children with HIV and AIDS
- handling various clients on their social issues in the district
- making referrals on social issues that we cannot handle as an office to other agencies
- facilitating linkages with other stakeholders on social welfare issues in the district
- supporting delivery of social protection systems in the district, such as social cash transfers
- Lobbying for resources for social welfare activities in the district
- Acting as a catalyst for social welfare issues in the district, including sponsorship programs for the needy students in the district

- Linking with other agencies in facilitating households with food insecurity issues in the district.
- Promoting right of children, women and dealing with GBV issues in the district

2. Social Welfare Context

The following would be identified as prevalent social welfare issues in the district

- **GBV cases** – we receive a lot of cases on family breakdown, divorce and separations. Most of the cases relate to men abandoning their families, on the pretext that they are going in search of income opportunities, and later the wives only hear that the man has married elsewhere. With these cases the abandoned women fail to provide for their families left behind by the man, and consequently we have children dropping out of school and more cases of early marriages. In the past year the council has seen increase on GBV cases it handles from an average of 30 cases in a month to 70. The increase is attributed to infrastructure projects in the district such as the Shire Valley Transformation Program among others.

GBV in the infrastructure projects: The Social Welfare Officer also reported that the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) Chikwawa Office, would have more data related to GBV in the work place as they are the GBV service provider for the Shire Valley Transformation Program, and most Frontline GBV committees report to them. The only issues the officer recalled was about the Chinese worker who was reported to be in sexual relationship with a minor but later medical report indicated that the girl was not a minor.

The Social Welfare Officer reported that most of the small GBV cases are handled by the GBV champions at the local level. Who are in close contact with the communities, they only report issue which they cannot handle themselves.

It was also reported there is a District Grievance Redress Committee constituted, with the GRC committees also existing in all the TAs along the canal, but the committees at Group Village Level have not all been fully constituted, which would be very instrumental in managing grievances.

- **Child labour:** The council reported that issues of child labour are sometimes reported, particularly in construction sites, where children are engaged in sand mining and in one project there were reports that children were engaging in carrying buckets as a result of exposure to money some children dropped out of school. There is need that any such program comes up with good labour guidelines that are not in conflict with the laws of the country, and a clear code of conduct signed between the contractor and the client.
- **Trafficking in persons:** The issue of trafficking in person, since it is a clandestine undertaking, we have not dealt with it so much in this district unlike our neighbouring districts like Mwanza, where there are reports of people being trafficked to South Africa. I should mention it though here that the only issue we have is the growing labour migration in the district; we have more people coming from other districts in search of skilled and unskilled labour opportunities at the the canal construction. No doubt, the Kapichira dam rehabilitation would also attract migrant workers in the district.

- **Complaints about food insecurity:** Our office is often flooded with villagers who come to seek for food support. It should be reported that most of the households in this district are dependent on handouts and when they are left out in the listing for whatever reason, they take offense and come to report such cases. It is for this reason that we always encourage the agencies working with our communities to involve us in their targeting and beneficiary identification so that we are well armoured to deal with any social welfare related complaints that come with these interventions.
- The District Social Welfare Officer reported that it has not dealt with any cases of workplace injuries or fatalities.

Mechanisms put in place to control the identified social issues in the district

The following are the mechanism that are put in place to prevent and control these social welfare ills in the district:

- ***Community awareness raising:*** we work and we would want to continue doing so, with our frontline officers, gender officer, child protection officers, social welfare officers at different levels to raise public awareness on the social and gender issues that affect people's well-being and enjoyment of their rights, including right to development.
- ***Advocacy:*** We advocate with other stakeholders in the Child Protection Technical Working Group, so that various identified social welfare issues are dealt with holistically in the district.
- ***Collaboration and network:*** As a Social Welfare we collaborate and network with other stakeholders and agencies, particularly those supporting communities so that when they are undertaking their activities social issues are not given a blind eye, welfare of children, the elderly, orphans, people living with HIV and AIDS, people living with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups would need to be included in all the project design and implementation.

3. Cyclone Anna and Social issues

With the cyclone anna, most households lost their particulars, such as identity cards, cards for social cash transfer programmes, hospital passbooks. They also lost their livelihood sources, some their livestock were washed away, houses were demolished. Actually, cyclone anna brought more vulnerability to the already vulnerable populations. Some household lost their cultivation land as it was infested with sand that came with the waters which overflew, and some of those areas which were initially used for cultivation and irrigation have been reclaimed by the waters. Further cyclone anna also affected the learners in schools, and some schools which were closed that time have not yet started functioning fully, as infrastructure was completely damaged.

4. Recommendations

Putting in place GBV prevention measures: The Kapichira Dam Rehabilitation project should seriously consider putting in place measures to deal with GBV in the work place/at sites as well as in communities. People employed in these places are highly likely to engage in GBV cases, cases of GBV have a close link to economic empowerment/development of the area, especially when sensitization is not well done.

Putting in place sexual harassment and exploitation measures: It is imperative that EGENCO puts in place measures to ensure that as the dam get rehabilitated there is complete awareness on issues of sexual harassment and exploitation in the work places. Social Welfare and Gender have the capacity to support raising this awareness to communities as well as to the workers who will be engaged in the rehabilitation of the dam.

Prevention of child labour and abuse: Children in the area would be at risk of child labour, hence there is need to put in place code of conduct prevention of child labour. Another issue to consider related to children is that they should be good community engagement so that measures are put in place to prevent children from abstaining from school. Sometimes children can absentee themselves from school just to be at the construction site so the machines; this is not only a health risk but often they miss classes in the process.

Active the Grievance Redress Mechanism: It is important that the project puts aside resources towards re-activation of the GRMs, particularly committees at different levels to support grievance redresses.

District Labor Officer – Mr. Austin Kamanula 0999 193 253 – 26/09/2024

1. **Present your activities and responsibilities in the labor**

The district labor office is the policy holder of the labor laws in Chikwawa district. Making sure that all labor laws are being followed in all workplaces. This is achieved through:

- Registration of workplaces
- Conducting labor inspections of the workplaces
- Conducting sensitization of communities on labor and safety issues.

2. **Labor context**

   a. **What are the labor concerns in construction projects in the district?**

- Usually, projects bring about business opportunities in the communities including for small scale businesses such as those selling snacks and other food stuff at project sites, this is a positive thing as it improves household income. It has however been observed that usually parents send their children to go and do the selling, this is considered as child labor as it disturbs the children from attending school, it also exposes the children to sexual exploitation and harassment. There is need for companies to collaborate with the labor office and conduct sensitization of the communities to put a stop to this practice.
- Locals usually complain of employers soliciting monetary/sexual favors from jobseekers in exchange of employment, leading to unequal employment opportunities.
- Most employers do not prioritize reporting accidents to the labor office, leading to legal cases to do with compensation.
- Some employers shun away from forming labor committees with a mindset that if the workers have a voice they might rebel and mobilize each other against management. This ends up creating a gap between management and employees and usually leads to misunderstandings which could sometimes lead to strikes.

   b. **How do you resolve such concerns (through which channel)?**

During the workplace registration process employers are sensitized on all labor requirements and the need to for adherence. Through the labor inspections the labor office visits the workplaces to check their compliance with labor laws including requirements for reporting of incidents, formation of labor committees and checking of employment records. Where non-compliance is observed, employers are required to address the issues in a given timeframe.

   c. **What mechanisms would need to be put in place to prevent and control: Child labor, Sexual harassment and exploitation, Trafficking in persons?**

Employers need to enforce the sensitization of their employees and communities on issues to do with Child labor, sexual harassment and trafficking in persons. Usually, most companies these days do not employ children in their companies, but the common practice where kids

usually sell food stuff near workplaces need to be curbed. Again, cases of trafficking in persons are not common in district, however the district labor offices recommends that the project also tackles issues of TIP during initial project sensitization meetings. The communities have to be encouraged to report to the labor office when they are being offered job opportunities outside the district.

3. **What recommendations do you make in order to minimize labor disputes at workplace and disputes between workers and villagers?**

- All companies need to register with the district labor office as they are setting up their work premises to get a workplace certificate. Some companies don't do this, and they face challenges when there are labor issues such as injuries that require compensation and also when there are disputes in payment of wages.
- Employers need to make sure that they have a workers committee which should act as a bridge between the employer and the workers. This is usually beneficial to both workers and the company management as issues get quickly escalated before they get blown out of proportion. The labor committees are linked with the labor office which can intervene in an event of disagreement between employes and workers
- There is need for the contractor to also have a safety committee that will help to ensure that people are working safely, and all work tools required for safe work are provided to the workers.
- The project should also ensure that all accidents are reported to the labor office, there are procedures which have been put in place by the labor office for reporting of incidents and this is usually highlighted during the stage of company registration.
- The employers also have a mandate to provide properly stocked first aid facilities according to the level of risks associated with the works being undertaken
- The employer will also have to make sure that all workers have workers insurance and pension.

4. **What method (s) could be applied for recruiting workers for the project considering that the project is surrounded by many villages?**

The labor office usually encourages employers to go through their office for employment of project staff. The office has a database of job seekers which they provide to employers thereby minimizing the cases of supervisors engaging in corruption when recruiting workforce.

District Environmental Officer – Levious Mafuta (0995 388 922) – 26/09/2024

1. **Present your activities and responsibilities in the Environment Office.**

The district environmental office is responsible for management of the environmental and ensuring that the communities are living in a safe and healthy environment. This is achieved through sensitizing the communities on how they can take care of the environment and themselves. The office of environment is also responsible for the implementation of environmental safeguards for some government funded projects for example GSED projects, early years project, climate smart project.

2. **What changes have you observed over the three past years in terms of the environmental resources in the district?**

Most visible and alarming changes in the environmental resources is with regards to the forest resources, some areas like Gola, Changoima were forests in the past 2 years but have heavily faced degradation. The changes are noticeable in a space of months, and this is attributed to charcoal making business. There has also been an increase in cases of illegal mining of rare earth stones such

as Blue Aglet, the illegal mining is being done by both locals and some individuals from outside of Chikwawa. Siltation of rivers has also been evident in the past few years; cultivation of the riverbank is the major culprit aggravating this situation.

3. **What mechanisms/projects has the district put in place to promote sustainable management of the environment and natural resources in the district?**

The district works hand in hand with the communities, traditional leaders and other government departments such as DODMA in taking care on the environment including taking part in reforestation activities and also caring for planted trees. The district also encourages the communities to report any illegal mining to the district environmental office. The district conducts community sensitizations to discourage cultivate the riverbank to prevent siltation of the rivers.

4. **What recommendations would need to be considered during the rehabilitation and operation of Kapichira dam?**
    - The project proponent should make sure to conduct an ESIA disclosure once the approval process has been finalized. This will enhance the monitoring of implementation of the ESMP since the council will be knowledgeable on the mitigation measures and those bearing the responsibility for implementation.
    - The project should consider working with the communities in environmental restoration and reforestation activities.
    - The project should also consider prioritizing employment of locals to improve their livelihoods, this will help to take pressure off the natural resources which are being exhausted as an alternative source of income.
    - The project should also seriously look at rehabilitation of borrow pits if such will be utilized, the district has had problems with previous projects in rehabilitation of borrow pits.

The project should inform the environment office when the project starts and also once the construction activities have been completed prior to demobilization of the contractor.

Kapichira Clinic – Dr. Kazembe (0999413490) – 28/09/2024

1. **<u>Health centers context</u>**

The Kapichira clinic has 1 clinician, 2 nurses, and 10 HSAs- The catchment area start from Chavalamisengu, Njereza, Ulira village, Mlangeni, Mwalija, Kasisi, Bwalo, Maganga 1, Majete, Liwonde, Maganga 2, Uti, Padzuwa, Baradawo, Kuzambo 1&2, Kandeu 1&2 and Estele. The clinic treats more than 50 people per day (actual data on statistics to be provided by data clerk)

2. **<u>Diseases and mortality context</u>**
    a. **What are the common cases/diseases that clients present at the district hospital? *Actual data is need*.**

The common cases treated by the clinic include Malaria, diarrhea diseases, pneumonia (statistics to be provided)

    b. **What are the statistics at the clinic for: *Actual data is needed*.**
        i. **child mortality**

The clinic does not have a matenity wing hence does not reecord data on birthrate, maternal motarity and infant motality. Statistics on child motarity shoul be avaliable and will be shared by the data clerk

    c. **What have been the trends or prevalence rates for communicable and water borne diseases over the last five years? *Actual data is needed*.**

There has been an increase in the rates of communicable and water borne diseases in the past five years due to the coming in of more business establishments such as Ng'ona lodge, Zua lodge, Ekhaya farms, African parks – Majete and the Shire Valley transformation project. The clinic would even take as much as 90 people per day which is higher than the clinic carrying capacity. Due to shortage of drugs in other surrounding health facilities the clinic is usually overstretched. Cholera cases are recorded yearly at the clinic, but they are not as severe as the cases recorded in most parts of Chikwawa. Each village has been assigned an HSA and they are vigilant in reporting any cases in early stages therefore allowing for interventions and preventing an outbreak.

d. What are the patient rates for the HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Cholera for the past 3 years? *Actual data is needed*.

There has been an increase in communicable diseases especially in HIV and AIDS cases and STIs, the coming in of projects has increased sexual interactions between the project personnel and the locals. The project personnels usually have cash and take advantage of the high poverty and low literacy levels in the communities.

e. Have you recorded any workplace injuries or fatalities?

There has been an increase in the occupational injuries especially with the coming in of several construction projects. The companies need to ensure that health and safety of employees is prioritized to minimize workplace injuries (records to be provided by data clerk). Lung disease caused due to dust inhalation has also been common at the clinic following some previous construction projects a good example is the rise in pneumonoconiosis. The workers need to be provided with proper dust masks and for employees working with cement special masks with gas cylinders should be provided.

3. Would you like to share any other remarks on the health service at the hospital?

The clinic does not have adequate emergency facilities, laboratory services and a public health section. These facilities are very essential services and will be required if the clinic is anticipated to also serve the Kapichira dam project personnel. For example, the public health section in the clinic will help to improve in the preventive side thereby enhancing the curative side, this will be very important on issues to do with HVI and AIDS, STI and communicable diseases management. The clinic could be engaged to provide health talks with the communities and employees on issues to do with HIV and AIDS and other STI There will also be a need for additional 2 nurses and a medical assistant and capacity building of the clinic personnel in emergency case management to equip them with skills for better management of emergencies related to the project. The drug budget will also need to be increased as the numbers of people to be treated will most likely increase, the project will therefore need to contribute towards the clinic drug budget. The dam project contractors will need to coordinate with the Clinic management prior to the start of construction works to make proper plans on how the clinic services should be improved to accommodate the project personnel. The clinic also recommends the following in order to prevent and manage workplace injuries and safeguard employee health:

- The project should ensure to have first aid facilities and trained first aiders
- There is need for procurement of a properly stocked ambulance with all the required emergency facilities.

The clinic should be involved in workplace inspections periodically to help identify health related workplace hazards.

District lands officer Mr. Jali (0 991 158 088) – 28/09/2024

1. **Present your activities and responsibilities in the Land office.**

The district lands office is responsible for facilitating and processing land acquisitions, compensations, land negotiations, solving land disputes, processing land ownership and land lease.

2. **<u>Land context</u>**
    a. **How is land organized in Chikwawa District Council? What have changed since the Land Act of 2022?**

Land in Chikwawa District Council just like anywhere in Malawi is defined in 3 categories: public, private and customary. The land act of 2022 has brough about an adjudication for creation of customary estates from customary land where the land occupants will be given title deeds. The creation of customary estates in Chikwawa is currently being piloted in the SVTP area after which it will be rolled out in the rest of the district.

    b. **Who are the custodians of the land under each category of land tenure in the district?**

- For public land such as Majete reserve, marketplaces, schools etc. the custodian is the government
- Private land (freehold) the custodian is the person having the land occupant.
- For private land (leasehold) the custodian is the government. The district only has leaseholds and no free holds.
- For customary land the custodians are the Chiefs

    c. **How have the needs of traditional inheritance systems been incorporated in land administration administered by the council?**

When creating the customary estates, one has to list all their family members (wife and kids), this means that in an event of death the land will be inherited by the remaining family members. The land will forever be in the family and can only be leased to another person for a number of years. The government can however acquire the land under customary estate for public use, following proper consultations and compensations to the land holder.

    d. **If there are any existing land disputes in the district, how are they being resolved?**

The district is currently resolving land issues pertaining to ownership issues, land grabbing and boundary issues. These are being resolved by engaging the affected parties and the local leaders.

    e. **What processes need to be followed for acquiring land for constructions of workers camps, burrow pits, waste damping sites by the contractors?**

The project should go through the lands district office when acquiring land, the council will champion the land acquisition process to ensure all laws are followed and land disputes are prevented. The project will have to pay compensation to the landowners and all agreements will be duly signed.

3. **<u>Cyclone Ana</u>**
    a. **What changes if any have taken place following the cyclone Ana?**

Cyclone anna led to changing of river courses leading to washing away of agricultural and residential plots rendering some people homeless. The council had to resettle such people to a safer location, and this led to migration.

4. **Rehabilitation of the dam**
    a. **Contractors will construct worker houses, offices, workshops and other infrastructure, what would you recommend as the possible way to dispose off these structures after completion of the rehabilitation works of the dam?**

The best way to dispose of such facilities would be to re-use them for community or public benefits for example converting them into under-five clinics, kindergarten schools or public offices. Therefore, it is crucial that contractors should work with the district council in acquiring land, to make such arrangements possible. The district council has a database on land status in Chikwawa and would direct the contractors to the right locations.

    b. **What recommendations would need to be considered during the rehabilitation and operation of the dam?**

To facilitate land the land acquisition process and to prevent any land disputes the project should involve the district land office in land acquisition for any project use.

Respondent: Fisheries Officer
Start Time:
End Time:
Duration: 1hr 3 Minutes

Introduction

When shire valley project came in, it was affected by cyclone Anna that resulted into floods, the kind of floods that have never occurred in history. Cyclone Annah brought in the kind of floods that Chikwawa has never seen before.

Due to Chikwawa's geographical position the water originates from uphill emptying in Shire River passing through the already constructed shire valley canals with force and pressure that break through the week points of the canal and joined Mthumba river ***cutting off the M1 road at Mthumba.***

Research report said that the floods passed through the dam of ethanol's waste (Molasses), hence the water was concentrated with molasses which caused deaths of fish whilst some fish were washed away. Even fishermen lost their equipment and tools e.g., *nets, boats.* Few death cases of children who were playing in the canals since canals have no fence but will be construction of bridges in some points.

Now let's come to these questions, you have given an overview that you have two sections, research and extension. So in research could you share just a summary of the key activities you do?

There are cultural centres for instance Domasi, of which our main emphasis is Aquaculture making sure that our fish farmers have a platform to acquire knowledge, skills and improved technologies to enhance fish farming including ***fish breeding.***

Sometimes we do research on what foods are convenient for fish. How to take care of very small fish until mature enough that someone can raise them. Although these centres mostly focuses on fish farming, there is another component of ecology but unfortunately due to the challenges like luck of a laboratory and testing kit's we don't do much neither progress because the goal is to reach the entire Chikwawa including Nsanje

In a nutshell, cultural centre was set to develop and approve technologies and recommend them to the farmers and how to conduct fish farming. In addition, conducting different research of which the results are purified then recommended to farmers.

So when you develop and approve recommendations, how do farmers access them?
As mentioned before apart from research we also have extensions (Extension Planning Area (EPA)). The approved technologies to be used by farms are deployed to extensions so that, farmers can access the required skills to improve production.
“We also conducted on farm trials” thus conducting the research on actual farms of the farmers, in their presence and with their standards so that when it works it is easier to adopt and we are able to validate the practically of the technology.

In Chikwawa it is generally very dry, where are these ponds found? Like what are the characteristics of the areas with ponds?
Usually, this fish farming is conducted by irrigation schemers, in the river banks “*madambo*” thus were they have ponds for fish farming.

Let's come back to technology development, where does the need to improved originates from?
Firstly, we have a policy that guides us, this policy is used to detect our targets and their challenges, in turn discovering the research gaps which are hindering maximum production. Initiation of research depends on the department, if the office has the resources to conduct them on our own. But basically, we are unable to due insufficient funds in our budget
In most cases partners bring in funding to improve in a specific areas, for example, “World Fish came in with a complex project of which one of its component was concerning ways of improving fish farming and profit maximisation through fish farming so they came in for a collaboration
Partners with research projects collaborate with the fisheries department to improve in a specific area as a project and research centre in collaboration with the extension through the agriculture and when we noticed that it’s working we involve farmers in Chikwawa or even beyond such as Nsanje.

Any work that we do that capture fisheries but research based?
- ✓ Yes, the office conduct site assessment survey monthly where *we check fish death rates*
- ✓ Per year we also have ponds survey which looks into all the efforts put in place for higher production.
- ✓ And at random fish backward survey is conducted in all seasons (summer, rainy season and winter)
- ✓ In additional to that, we do have several surveys from students from Bunda

All these assessments provide us with data to use

What are the species we have in Shire River?
We have more than 60 species but we can just mention a few which are the most common ones. Although a recent survey showed that we have 15 to 16 species. So, since fish die depending on seasons hence there was a proposal to conduct this similar survey in all the seasons. The one with more than 60 species it’s an old data from March and the recent one was conducted end June.
Is there a data that has an estimated figure of the population of a particular species comparing different years?
We do not have such a data that measures the density of live fish. This is because such expertise/technologies we do not poses.

What are the changes in other aquatic life other than fish?
Unfortunately, as an office we do not look beyond fish. But this current survey has reviewed some strange species which haven't existed previously
I have heard that tiger fish was spotted in Shire River. Yes, thus one of the species that are found seasonal, it's usually spotted during rainy season and water levels rise.
When the water rises even crocodiles can stray from their natural habitats following the water including in the fish ponds.

In terms of sustainability of fish resources. What are the strategies that the district has put in place to provide sustainability of fish resources?
Off course the only project present that is helping in sustainability its shire valley project in the area called, "elephant marsh" which starts from Kamuzu Bridge all the way to Bangula. This means Kapichira's side there is no support at all. In such areas, our main focus is on resource monitoring which involves surveys and patrols. In addition, we promote participatory management of resources, so that the community members and their local leaders should be on the forefront, protecting wildlife and natural resources

You said resource monitoring, what does is it real involve?
Surveys, enforcement patrols, gear inspection thus where we inspect the tools that the fisherman's use if they are using the recommended tools/equipments or not and if not.
We confiscate illegal tools and equipment
Even if fisherman are adjusting their nets, they adjust according to the recommend measurements because anything less will lead to extinction.

What are the changes made by fisheries management? Have we made any changes?
Changes are inevitable during floods, for instance there was a deposit of a huge amount of is sand. Hence reducing the depth of the river, resulting in several diversions to occur and the river, which led to the disruption of fishing grounds.

So how are we adapting and how are the farmers adapting to the changes
Promoting agricultural adoption and whilst in the villages mostly people just sacrum to the situation at hand.
Under shire valley, there is another program that is currently in the implementation stage. The project is encouraging community members, to select a place that should be manually staged to be a tourist centre for natural resources. In terms of elephant marsh there are strategies put in place for community conservation area
And as it is right now, Committees are being formed comprising of, community members, and different types of village groups for them to select their desired site
So that they may take care of natural resources and wildlife through ecotourism that they may earn some money out of it
Off course this is a process that is in motion and the select area can either be both uphill or along the river banks. The activities may involve, taking care of trees, fish, crocodiles, hippopotamus even cultural heritage. When we talk about elephant marsh thus Chikwawa and Nsanje and in it we have 6 committees that have their designated areas.
The point is they take care of natural resources that should attract tourists and it is a Shire valley component of natural resource management.

I hope it also extends to other communities on the upper part of the canal where water cannot go so that even they can benefit from this development?
No, currently as I mentioned earlier on, the project is in two places, the protected areas and elephant marsh (Thus Lengwe, Majete, Mwavi, Mapambe and Elephant marsh)

What can you recommend to ensure that the environment and natural resources are not negatively affected during rehabilitation and operation of Kapichira dam?

Good relationship and communication between Kapichira team of workers and fisheries department including technical personnel and sectors in the district council should know more about operation works because technical person are the ones on ground usually have no clue on that's going on or why is that fish are just dying.

In my thinking if during operation there is sharing of information on how things are been done on the ground. Looking at how this work works, the council officers such as water, fisheries and environment are the same people that carry the information to the communities. But due to lack of communication there is diversity of information reaching the community.

For instance, there is a certain technical term called "Flashing" where they open the dam gates to flash the water out. During this time the community including concerned departments at the council ought to be informed, since after this flash fish tend to die even *crocodiles escape* and officers are blank about the justifiable reasons for the death of these aquatic life. Rather just have speculations that maybe the flash involves chemicals and if yes in what percentage and does that pose a threat to people living in villages nearby and the environment?

These are the experiences shared when we go in the field. So when the council officers encounter such experiences they fail to defend or give a justifiable reason to the people or whether people are safe or not. This is a clear indication that during operation there is information gap between Kapichira council officers and the affected communities.

As for the construction site, technically we cannot really give better advice because since construction is not our strong suit but we are expecting that, what comes will be more of promoting the developments already existing or maybe on our side will look into how people are benefiting from fish farming.

Like I said the problems at hand will not hinder the developmental projects in motion/plan. Developments will progress, but will just ensure that it does not negatively affect the lives of people and aquatic life.

APPENDIX L. MINUTES OF MEETINGS WITH STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE STUDY

MINUTES OF THE ENTRY MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE ENVIRONMNETAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVSION FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF REHABILITATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM

DATE: 20 MAY 2024

VENUE: KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER STATION DAM AREA AND CLUB HOUSE

TIME: 9:30 – 12:30HRS

AGENDA

- To brief stakeholders about the progress made from the first phase of the emergency power restoration project after flood damage to dam fuse plug, training dyke and shut down of power generation house due to the impact of cyclone Anna in 2022.
- To brief stakeholders about the upcoming dam rehabilitation works, which constitute phase two of the emergency power restoration project
- To introduce the ESIA consultant to project stakeholders
- To mark the beginning of second phase works (ESIA)

1.0	**OPENING** All invited stakeholders including the guest of honor, the District Commissioner for Chikwawa are welcomed to the Kapichira Hydro Power Dam Intake Site.	EGENCO Public Relations Officer
2.0	**INTRODUCTION** The meeting started with a briefing on the pictorial presentation of the Kapichira Dam area showing the fuse plug and construction works for the SVTP irrigation works 2 weeks before the flood damage, after the damage and proposed design on what had already been rehabilitated in the emergency rehabilitation. This was followed by a tour of the Kapichira Dam area, where stakeholders were guided on a walk around the restored training dyke and through a temporary cofferdam that cordons the section of the dam where the SVTP irrigation intake would be constructed.	EGENCO Projects Manager, Harry Msosa
3.0	**MEETING AT THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER STATION CLUB HOUSE** **A welcome, opening prayer and self-introductions** A presentation on the scenario of progress since the dam break (fuse plug, training dyke). After the dam break there was enormous sedimentation and loss of water in the dam beyond levels admissible for power generation. This led to loss of power generation capacity effectively shutting down the plant. At this point EGENCO lost 30% of its power generation into the national grid. The impacts of this dam break were felt nationwide through at least 8 hour long power outages as Malawi lost 21% of its hydro power. Local impacts of the dam break included loss of the construction materials for the SVTP irrigation intake, wash away of a 20 foot container with construction materials, destruction of the domestic water intake site rendering a 3 day water crisis at the power station residential area, and; wash away of Milala bridge effectively cutting out road connection from Chikwawa to the power station, Majete wild life reserve and communities between the power station and the Milala bridge. **A CALL TO REINSTALATION OF POWER GENERATION** The Malawi Emergency Power Restoration Project was designed to respond to the instant loss of up to 21% of power generation for the country. This project would have two phases. Phase 1 included reconstruction of the training dyke (which in this case extends like a cofferdam to block water from reaching the cofferdam for isolating the SVTP irrigation canal intake); construction of a temporary cofferdam to isolate the section for construction of the SVTP irrigation canal intake, and; removal of sedimentation to deepen the dam reservoir to	EGENCO Public Relations Officer EGENCO Projects Manager, Harry Msosa

	levels that would store enough water to restart hydro- power generation. The emergency works also included temporary strengthening of two bridges on the T146 road from Chikwawa to Kapichira Hydro Power Station. Phase 2 will be to re-build the part of the dam that held the fuse plug to have permanently constructed spillway with gates as well as to construct the SVTP irrigation canal intake because it sits on the same dam axis. Other works in phase 2 involve permanently constructing two bridges on the T146 road. The presentation proceeded to thank the stakeholders like African Parks management who had allowed access through the Wildlife Reserve to the part of the dam that was being rehabilitated; SVTP who are next stakeholders also for the fact that they will be a customer for electricity when the canal works are completed, and because their intake will have to be on the dam axis hence constructed by the same contractor who will construct the new spillway gates and fuse plug. Presenter also thanked the TA Kasisi for all the support rendered during the first phase particularly in allowing extraction of surface rocks and great community support for the power restoration component of the first phase. He further thanked the Police for being vigilant over fuel theft, which was taking place particularly from trucks that were ferrying materials to the dam site. The school head teachers of schools along the access roads were thanked for adequately sensitizing children to keep away from heavy trucks frequently using the roads. There was no record of road accident.	
4.0	**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM MEETING PARTICIPANTS**	
	The District Commissioner *Did you meet any challenges at all in implementing the first phase of the power restoration project?*	
	• There was a lot of fuel theft that took long to be identified. The project was implemented during a time of fuel scarcity nationwide so a curtail was formed to siphon diesel from the heavy trucks to be sold elsewhere. Some suspected culprits were identified and matter handled at the court but no one was convicted due to what the court said that evidence was not compelling enough. • Initially, we would not work 24 hours a day, due to requirements at the wildlife reserve (to minimize noise for both tourists and animals) so this affected the speed at which we would finish the works. But eventually we were allowed to. • No blasting would be allowed, due to noise. So, we worked on surface rocks only as we collected some of the rocks from near the power station premises.	EGENCO Projects Manager, Harry Msosa

	How far do you engage with the communities around you?	
	• We have a community clinic and a school here at Kapichira, which are used by communities around us too. • When there is a need for some labourers, we announce in the communities around us.	EGENCO Projects Manager, Harry Msosa
	*How far with electrifying the communities under **Kwa Neba Kuwale Project?*** • We temporarily suspended that project following loss in revenue after the impact of the cylones. But we will restart it when we build enough revenue.	EGENCO Projects Manager, Harry Msosa
	District Labour Officer *Do you have adequate skills transfer arrangements in the phase two project? We ask that while Chikwawa based labourers get short term employment, they may benefit through enhancing their skills at the project works.* • Yes, we will have that incorporated in the project design. During the first phase, we had minimal due to the nature of works.	
	Councillor Kamoto *Would you extend the power line to reach a clinic at….* • We will engage with ESCOM on some of these needs, as since 2016 EGENCO is only responsible for power generation and ESCOM for power supply.	Kapichira Power Station Manager, EGENCO
5.0	**CLOSING REMARKS**	
	Manager of African Parks We are in support of this phase two project as we had been during the first phase. Let us work together for the benefit of the people, ecological system and wildlife. We look forward to meeting the consultants when they engage us	John, Manager, African Parks
	Manager of Shire Valley Transformation Programme We are thanking you EGENCO for coming forward to engage various stakeholders as you plan to go into second phase of this power restoration project, which is building the part of the dam that broke, as well as building the permanent intake for the SVTP. We cherish the relationship we have between us.	Chris Mwambene, Site Manager, SVTP.
	Remarks by TA Kasisi I am happy that the project is now taking shape with the preparations into the second phase underway.	TA Kasisi

	During the first phase, we are thankful that you fixed the road from Chikwawa to here, which helps all of us. We will still wait for the project "Kwa Neba Kuwale" May you please level or grade the section of the road very close to the area where you extracted gravel from as it is really rough?	
	Remarks by EGENCO CEO representative We thank all stakeholders for showing up to this project briefing meeting We promise to connect with ESCOM on supplying and extending power to the clinic mentioned by the Councillor and communities around us	Alexander Zimba
	Remarks by the District Comissioner I am happy that you have engaged such a level of stakeholders engangement. You EGENCO have done a great job. As a council, we will support you through the chiefs, Councillors and Tas. We also have a diverse of skills at the Council secretariat that may be needed through consultation as you engage the consultant for the ESIA works and subsequently the Contractors for the project works. We commend you for the various social corporate responsibility provisions you make. For example, the Kapichira School, maintenance of the T146 road, the clinic and the provision of seasonal employment to community members around the power station. We are thankful that you also carry out humanitarian works for example during cyclone Freddy you mounted a clinic at Jambo camp, which remained there for several months after the camp was pulled down. Many communities were able to access further health services. We as a council ask you to support us in other sectors too. We have acknowledged the road works, health clinic, primary school. But we believe you can do more social corporate responsibility. We thank you for the work you did in phase one of the emergency power restoration project. We hope that you will be effective too in the next phase. Our duty is to ensure that the much needed services have been provided	
6.0	**CLOSING** After a lunch announcement, the meeting closed with a closing prayer at 12:20pm	EGENCO Public Relations Officer

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVSION FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF REHABILITATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM – PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT, SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE AT KAPICHIRA AND KAPICHIRA POWER STATION MANAGEMENT

DATE: 20 MAY 2024

VENUE: KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER STATION CLUB HOUSE

TIME: 13:30 – 15:30HRS

Present:

Check Appendix

AGENDA

To learn of the social and environmental impacts or concerns from the works on phase one of emergency power restoration project.

To learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project

1.0	**OPENING** The meeting was called to order around 13:30hrs, whereby the EGENCO MEPRP link, Projects Manager Harry Msosa welcomed Tractebel-Ruo Consultants to the meeting and briefed Project personnel, Station Management and Social Welfare Representatives the purpose of the meeting.	EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry
2.0	**INTRODUCTION** The meeting started with introductions, first by the EGENCO Team including the Station Management representatives and part of the Social Welfare Committee, ending with Tractebel-Ruo ESIA Consultancy Team.	All
3.0	**DISCUSSIONS** Team Leader of the Tractebel-Ruo ESIA consultancy gave an account of the purpose of the meeting. She highlighted that this was the first interaction with stakeholders on what may be areas of interest to define the scope of the intended Environmental and Social Impact assessment for the Phase 2 of the rehabilitation of Kapichira Hydro Power Dam. For this stakeholder meeting, it was special because they are insiders, being part of the project and resident at the project site. To start the discussion, Team Leader asked the meeting for contributions on their views regarding environmental and social considerations for the rehabilitation of Kapichira Hydro Power Dam. Prior to this she told the meeting that the consultancy team was interested to learn from them as stakeholders on conditions or situation to distinguish how life was before dam break and how it was during phase one of the restoration of the project during immediate repair works, and expectation for the second phase. It was assumed that all were familiar with the Malawi Emergency Power Recovery Project and what the first phase was and what the second phase will be. **The deliberations are given in form of Questions and Responses/comments** *May we start with learning your general work conditions; are you generally satisfied with your social welfare?* Is there anything you would like to comment on?	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne

	To put it in a different perspective, you should explain your environment before cyclone Anna and after it happened. How have you been affected, and what can be improved?	
	• If the chair for welfare was here he would have explained better the changes in our situation as every social welfare issue comes to his desk. But on mechanical works, after Cyclone Anna hit, the plant shut down and there was an element of uncertainty due to the vast devastation to the reservoir and station facilities • Generally, we were worried that the station would need major repairs. We were unsure what the operations and life in general would be like. The Executive Management came over to address us and encouraged us that they would do everything possible for the station to bounce back from this major catastrophe not only to EGENCO but the whole country. Therefore, the devastating effect from the dam break extended nationwide. • Our goal was to restart our operations. The project works concerned fixing the cofferdam temporarily to keep adequate water to restart electricity generation as soon as possible. In addition, we had to remove siltation from tailrace and the penstock. So, during repair works, maintenance department personnel worked much more than they normally do. Double shifts were applied and this made us weary. Nevertheless, we were geared to resume power generation quickly so we had to sacrifice our time. We could not spend much time with our families. Under normal circumstances maintenance is scheduled. • After restoring power, we resorted to our scheduled maintenance. We felt the big relief. However, there was still more work (increased frequency of) of removing siltation from the intake pipes hence affecting the cooling system of the machines at the plant. We are not sure whether it is due to the gush of water from the cylones or due to the increased discharge of water at Liwonde Barrage.	EGENCO Senior mechanical engineer at Kapichira, member of the PIU for MEPRP.
	Was the increased repair works done with the same number staff? • It was generally with the same number of staff but with additional working hours per day. • Frequency of replacement of some parts slightly increased after the cylone Anna *Would you say that after the repair works completed, you were able to work normal hours and spend more time with your families?* • Yes	

	What are your expectations for the phase 2? When they start the construction works sometime in August 2025 there would be contractors and a lot of people around. Do you think you will interface with them or will that be completely separate? • There will be interfacing, however, the contractor will be allocated a camp away from here. So, they will be on their own area and will just be coming here for work and we may interface during work.	
	Brainstorming on residence policies *What happens when somebody retires from their work in this compound regarding the house they lived in? Do they move out or stay in their house?* • When one retires, they move out. The policy allows the retired staff member to stay in the company house for a maximum of three months after which they must relocate to a place of their choice. Transport to be provided by the company. *Is the school and health clinic for the staff only or service is given to the villagers around the power station too?* • Both the school and clinic serve both residents of the power station and the surrounding communities. We also have a maize mill accessed by surrounding communities too. *Do people have to pay for medication at the clinic?* • There are some medications supplied by the Ministry of Health through the District Health Office, which people access freely. Other medications, EGENCO buys and people pay some minimal charge for those when prescribed. The clinic is operating as a service not as a business. *So, is the minimal charge the same for both communities and residents?* • Yes, because as for the employees it is not everyone in the household who can get free treatment at the clinic. Spouse, your children and legally adopted children. • All visitors to an employee's household pay a subsidized fee for treatment. *What sort of services are obtained from the clinic?* • It is an out-patient clinic. Antenatal services and ART are given. Cases requiring referral are sent off by the Clinical Officer on the EGENCO Ambulance to the hospital at no charge	EGENCO Senior mechanical engineer at Kapichira, member of the PIU for MEPRP.

	There are proposals of giving some of the space within the station premises for erecting a contractor's camp (houses, crushing plants, plant vehicle and machinery workshops) next to your residential area, whereby the houses would be permanent so that they should be retained by the Power Station to increase accommodation. *Do we know how many workers would be put up there?* ***Modifying the question:*** In 2013, a *Chinese* contractor worked on units 3 and 4 for power generation and camped inside the Power Station compound. *What was their experience in terms of interaction with the contractor resident in the station premises?* The stakeholders were advised to discuss this matter about campsite in the station premises more when they meet at the social welfare committee. *In this scoping stage, so we seek views to guide how best to incorporate in this case Social Welfare Committee concerns or issues regarding your experience. Your experience should guide us in making the next phase experience better than what you experienced last time. So, this is more of an overview of impacts. It will not be exhaustive.* *So, for details of impacts, we will come back at baseline stage when we get to the full ESIA.* *As part of ESIA, it is a legal requirement to consult communities and Malawi Environmental Protection Authority (MEPA) is very keen on that. So, for you working here at Kapichira, you are the key community. Therefore, it is important that we document issues you raise and how we would deal with them in the ESIA report for all phases such as construction and operation)* *Having the contractors come on EGENCO property is one option and there are other options also. We must understand the impacts of all options so that we compare them. In other options, people will have to sell their arable land. Whilst EGENCO already owns the land here, if other options are taken EGENCO will have to buy the land* **Experiences** • Cultural values in food choices and preparation. Some of their food included dogs and were slaughtered and processed openly. We worried that our children may have hung around with them at the hostels	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry Ruo Consultants, Vincent Ruo Consultants, Vincent Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne Chair, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station

	and ate the dog meat. Otherwise, they collaborated well with us. So, it may be fear of unknown on our side to refuse campsite inside the compound as we do not know what cultural values would be the next contractor team. • Children from the power station households got fascinated by the numbers of trucks frequenting the site and followed them. But this impact was mitigated by advising their warders to make sure that children stayed away from the trucks. **Suggestions for improving conditions in the Station premises if contractor camp is within** Danger warning signs (children crossing) along the roads to be erected. The compound has too few to cater for an expanded population due to Campsite. Therefore, there will be a need for the campsite to have their own water tank. *Were there additional workers coming into the compound during phase One?* • Yes, they worked in the compound and had lunches at the club house. At night the operators returned to Chikwawa Boma. *How many workers approximately worked here during the first phase of rehabilitation and how did you manage them as that meant in addition to the 120 that are here all the time?* • During night and day shifts there were up to 140 workers each shift at peak and about 80 during non peak times. Therefore, there were about 300 people changing shifts each day and being supported with meals. For this reason, there was a need to beef up staff in a number of areas including cookery, security, cleaning. These were pulled out from the other power stations. • Other staff that joined the Kapichira Team were engineers and technicians. • All EGENCO staff were accommodated inside…some in the hostels, including those left behind by the Chinese Contractor. Others stayed in colleagues' houses.	EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry EGENCO, Social Protection and Gender Safeguard Specialist, Walusungu

	• Free meals (lunch and supper) and bottled water were provided to all the workers including the labourers. Bottled water was provided twice each day. *Would it make a difference if the contractor stayed outside the Compound? Or would it be different if the contractor was not Chinese but stayed in your compound?* • We do not have a preference for a contractor. We were just saying how it was last time we had one (of Chinese) in the compound *How long is the construction expected to go for?* • 2 to 3 years *Would you think it is an advantage getting additional permanent houses as when the contractor leaves the houses would still be there?* • It would be good indeed. However, these contractors construct structures which are not good enough to be houses of staff when they are built like hostels (a case is given of the Chinese contractor structures, which were used in unit 3 and 4 construction of the power station in 2013). • Unless the management takes part in designing such structures *After the meeting, the consulting team was led to the camp site that was erected and used by the Chinese contractor. Some of the rooms were inspected and are being used as office for security, some as stores and others are vacant. *Would you rather negotiate for a design of the structures to your liking? (add this recommendation in the tender documents).* Yes As you think around whether to have campsite in the compound or not, your desire to retain their structures as staff houses must make you think about logistical implications when such structures are placed further away from the EGENCO compound in terms of land purchases, and staff movement to the power station in the future.	Chair, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry Chair, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station EGENCO Senior mechanical engineer at Kapichira, member of the PIU for MEPRP.

	Members were urged to be as explicit as possible so that consultants document how they felt about situations. What was not coming out clearly in the conversation was the issue of social interactions that may come up as the compound has staff and their families with grown up children or relations who may be at social risk of engaging with contractors continuously living next to them with money. There are risks of families breaking up; adult girls in the compound may have relationships with the contractors or consulting engineers who would live within.	Ruo Consultants, Vincent
	Who determined to erect the campsite for the Chinese contractor in the EGENCO compound? • It was identified after discussions between the Project Team and Power Station Management.	EGENCO Senior mechanical engineer at Kapichira, member of the PIU for MEPRP.
	Would you have an idea where the campsite can be placed within the compound if you are to retain their structures? • We cannot rule out the impact of social interactions. • For locating a camp site in future, it must be far away from existing residential space. But we can ask that the contractors have their own social amenities… transport…clinic, (the clinical staff complained of congestion with additional people seeking health services as contractors in the compound) club,…to minimize social interactions and have respect for different cultures. • This is something that needs a holistic approach where more stakeholders are engaged. A cost benefit analysis may be applied to conclude it.	*EGENCO Senior Environmental Officer, Lawrence*. EGENCO Senior mechanical engineer at Kapichira, member of the PIU for MEPRP.
	During phase 1 of the power restoration project, was there any patient congestion at the clinic? *Was there a time when there were too many people to be assisted at the clinic or fewer medication during the first phase of the power restoration project?* • That cannot be ruled out. *Do you anticipate such in the second phase of the project?*	

	• We cannot be certain as that may be felt by the clinicians *Understandably, clinicians raised that point. *How were complaints handled between family members or staff and social welfare committee regarding issues of concern from contractors? Did you receive any complaints and how were these solved. Is there another forum besides the welfare committee where one would present any complaints originating from the contractor? This is helpful to understand how complaints or grievances were or are ought to be solved regardless of a contractor' s nationality or race* • Normally, we would have a grievance redress committee, which reports to the human resources personnel of the Power Station. *It was shared that the social welfare committee was new (Three months old). Therefore, any previous matters (during the first phase of the power restoration project could be adequately presented by previous committee members. The stakeholders were advised that during the entire ESIA report they were free to report what they found out from previous committee members regarding social concerns. *What is the social reach of the project? (Vincent)* • It is more than at least 30km, when you think about Nchalo as a destination where workers from here may go to socialize and have some fun. We note some new structures being erected in the village (Liwonde village) neibouring the Power station, we wonder if people are anticipating project impacts in anticipation of the phase two. There are similar developments along the T146 road to Chikwawa. These may be structures of both entertainment and lodging for contractor's workers. Generally, people speculate and put up structures that may be of use to project workers during the project construction period. And certain trading areas may grow from such because afterwards those structures would be rented out to other people or used for other purposes.	*EGENCO, Social Protection and Gender Safeguard Specialist, Walusungu* Chair, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station Member, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station EGENCO Civil Engineer, Alexis EGENCO, Social Protection and Gender Safeguard Specialist, Walusungu Tractebel-Ruo, Stanley

	Are these structures being used now? (Susanne) Some are still under construction The Projects Manager advised the consulting team to have an audience with the Station Manager to understand other concerns concerning campsite for contractor in the compound learning from experiences of sharing workshop facilities whereby contractor uses the existing EGENCO workshop *Why is the Social Welfare Committee not have lady executive members? It is important to have balanced perspectives over issues of social concern* • It has lady members but are not around today as the committee has 12 executive members. The question reflected existing staff gender imbalances at the Power station as more staff are male. In terms of community in the Station compound, there are as much female people. So, the consulting team was advised to organize female spouses of staff at baseline, for a discussion to understand some social concerns from previous developments around Kapichira Power Station better. **For the baseline the Consulting Team was further advised to:** group women separately from men when they engage them so that women may fully express themselves. engage some of the staff by categories, e.g., cooks. They may have something to say about their experiences during the first phase when they had to cook for 400 people. engage the school and clinic and perhaps the schools outside to understand matters. At Kapichira there are 7 Health Surveillance Assistants who report to the Clinic. There are three primary schools within the proximity of Kapichira Power Station. (a) Kapichira, (b) Dzimbiri, and (c) Kandeu. No secondary schools until the one at Kandeu is completed (It is under construction)	EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry Member, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry EGENCO, Social Protection and Gender Safeguard Specialist, Walusungu EGENCO Senior Environmental Officer, Lawrence

	What are the relations and administration for the clinic, and the school operating within EGENCO compound? • The clinic and the staff belong to EGENCO. But Health Surveillance Assistants belong to the Ministry of Health. For the school; the structure belongs to EGENCO and the staff belong to the Ministry of Education. We also house the staff in our houses. • In addition, the school staff also enjoy the same benefits as every EGENCO staff member here; water, electricity and transport. *Do residents pay for water?* • Yes, just a flat rate as a contribution towards maintenance; for the houses they pay a small rental fee; for electricity, they are allocated some units every month *You said there is a disciplinary committee within the welfare committee. What type of issues does the disciplinary committee handle?* • Issues that may be brought to the disciplinary committee are those where one resident has wronged another. At such committee the Human Resources person is a member just as at the Social Welfare Committee. The HR team suggests whether a wronging be handled by their office as administrators or by the Social Welfare Committee. For example, where the issue is small it may be handled by the Social Welfare Committee, where we reconcile and counsel those concerned. • For serious wrongdoings involving a staff relation of householder (dependants), the HR can decide to order removal of that household member depending on the seriousness of the matter. Some cases may be handed over to the Power Station Manager for final arbitration. • Issues that are criminal in nature are referred to the Police, e.g., theft. The Power Station Manager is both a professional in his field and acts as a 'Group Village Head' to handle cases that reach him.	EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry Member, Social Welfare Committee – Kapichira Power Station

	It looks there is an existing system for handling grievances and complaints. You should present it to mirror the GRM at TA level. *Do you have a Grievance Redress Committee? Were there some issues that were recorded?* • For the phase one, internal issue resolving mechanisms through the HR and the OHS personnel were used. No serious issues came up. • However, there was an issue outside the construction period concerning dissatisfaction with shares on compensations on land acquired for extraction of rocks among Group Village Heads and the TA. This was finally arbitrated by the District Commissioner and did not concern EGENCO grievance structures. • Payment to temporary staff…had received with tax deductions, which should have not been the case,..this was sorted on the next day and was not recorded as an issue *Does the district have a document of the grievances resolved in the past?* • Yes *Do you have any documentation of issues that were handled by the social welfare committee or the HR during phase 1 of the project?* • We did not really have major issues to the committee except for that which reached the District Commissioner's Office *How were labourers for work in the Phase 1 identified?* • The HR put up a call for expression of interest for the operators. Whilst for the labourers, we followed our procedure where the HR calls for labourers from the villages around the Station. Notices were sent through village leaders. Works were at Chilala bridge and at the Station. Up to five villages around chilala village were involved. For works at the dam and power station, five villages were also involved and included Kandeu, Manganga 1, Maganga 2, Liwonde and Patrick • We recommend that 20% should be women (cumulative) while adhering to child labor policy. Operators were free to recruit certain skills themselves. But for labourers the Power Station HR distributed call for labourers to villages around here. *Do you have pre-selected communities where you pull out labour from?*	*EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry* Ruo Consultants, Vincent EGENCO, Social Protection and Gender Safeguard Specialist, Walusungu

	The HR announces through the communities around us for contract work as labourers. We do one or two months with some communities then shift to another community afterwards, so that by the end of the day we have served all communities around us with some work. *What sort of work did the labourers do?* • Cutting grass, clearing work areas, brick laying, grouting, gabion baskets both at Chilala and cofferdam *How did it become mandatory for 20% women.* • That is our agreement with World Bank *Is the same agreement applicable to phase2 such that you will pass it to the Contractor?* • Yes, indeed. *How were the operators transported?* • A hired bus from here to Chikwawa Boma. *Have you experienced any stray animals from the Wildlife Reserve up to your houses?* • Monkeys time and again come by. But a leopard was once spotted in the compound and successfully moved back to the reserve by the Game Rangers. *Did the labourers work at night too?* • Yes *Did you have different pay rates for day and night?* • No, they were working for 8hours a day with a break following normal day working hours. These were treated as shifts. But in phase 2 working under contractor, the Sunday work day should be compensated higher than week day. But for the phase 1 we had agreed that we wanted people in day and night shifts. The charge for the operator was based on how many days they had worked and not on which day of the week they worked.	EGENCO Projects Manager and Project Director of MEPRP, Harry

	From a theoretical point of view, why do you now need a contractor when you had internal arrangements that worked? It is actually more expensive to do it the way we did it. *How? Transfer of liabilities?* It is a lot more work. We have our own work to do all the time and that would suffer Management was overwhelmed. We also need to engage someone whom we should be supervising Well they were already working double shifts, besides power was not generating and there was a lot of sacrifice on the part of the Power Station Management **Other notes and lessons from first phase operations** The Operators were accommodated at Dyeratu Dzimbiri School would be very important to engage with at baseline stage as it is on the way to Dyeratu where generally workers go for fun and entertainment. Hence matters of sexual exploitation and abuse may be of interest. *It is also close to Conduril Camp*.	EGENCO Civil Engineer, Alexis EGENCO Civil Engineer, Alexis *Ruo consultants, Penjani*
	CLOSING REMARKS	
	Remarks by EGENCO Projects Manager Thanked all colleagues for showing up for the meeting and encouraged a bigger audience when the consultants come back for detailed consultation during the baseline.	Harry Msosa
	Meeting closed at 3:35pm	

MINUTES OF THE ENTRY MEETING WITH AFRICAN PARKS OF MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE FOR THE ENVIRONMNETAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVSION FOR THE SECOND PHASE OF REHABILITATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM

DATE: 21 MAY 2024

VENUE: MAJETE WILDLIFE RESERVE

TIME: 9:00 – 12:30HRS

Present:

Check Appendix

AGENDA

To learn of the social and environmental impacts or concerns from the works on phase one of emergency power restoration project.

To learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project

1.0	**OPENING** The African Parks Manager, who oversee the management of Majete Wildlife Reserve welcomed Project Team and Tractebel-Ruo Consultants on ESIA mission for the second phase of rehabilitation of the Kapichira Hydro Power Dam	African Parks Manager, John
2.0	**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** The meeting started with self-introductions first by the EGENCO team then consulting team.	EGENCO Senior Environmental Officer, Lawrence
3.0	**MEETING OBJECTIVE** The Team Leader for Tractebel-Ruo Consultancy on ESIA remarked that the purpose of the meeting was to learn from African Parks their experiences with the rehabilitation works during phase one of the MEPRP also having in mind works under the Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP), which is a canal running inside the park originating from the same place where rehabilitation of the dam will be carried out. Furthermore, the African Parks could present mitigation measures to be considered as the project goes into second phase. Essentially, the scoping mission was to establish key areas for detailed baseline study.	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne
3.0	**PRESENTATION FROM AFRICAN PARKS** The manager of African Parks, which is the joint venture with Malawi government in management of Majete Wildlife Reserve made a presentation of the history of the reserve and establishment of public private partnership in 2003. A number of milestones have been achieved and most notable is that the trees have regenerated, most animals have been reintroduced and communities around the reserve have become more conscious of preserving wild life and habitats. They are supportive of wildlife conservation. A map of the reserve was shown and the meeting was briefed that the reserve extends a km away from the Shire river on the left bank of the dam. An overview of rehabilitation of the reserve was given including estimates on animal populations; number of staff and fleet of vehicles between 2002 when agreements on public private partnership started and 20 years later. In this reserve, there are a number of big tropical mammals including elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, rhinoceros, buffalo, giraffes, hippo, and smaller mammals like antelopes, impalas, reedbuck, common duiker, bushbuck, Sharpe's grysbok wild dogs and a number of birds. A snapshot on community engagement was also given, which is a bedrock of vigilance against poaching as well as alerting rangers on stray animals. **COMMUNITY REACH PROGRAMS BY AFRICAN PARKS** African Parks boasts of its success in conservation owing to the support of the communities around the wildlife reserve who for the past 20 years have embraced conservation of wildlife. They have been incentivized through various	African Parks Manager, John

	projects and programs. The area around the park has four camps (Namisempha, Phwadzi, Mathithi and Pende), which are points of interface between the wildlife reserve management and traditional leaders. These form the basis of collaboration with the communities. There are 21 community-based organisations around the reserve who carry out various livelihood activities for the benefit of their community members. Some communities do handicrafts, honey production, sustainable fishing and also entertain tourists through traditional dances and story-telling. The reserve runs a hatchery whereby they distribute eggs to communities. They also do train communities in production of energy saving cookstoves and have supported the communities plant trees in their lands. All Traditional Authorities around the wildlife reserve have collaboration with African Parks on management of the reserve. These include TA Kanduku of Mwanza, TAs Malili and Kunthembwe of Blantyre, TAs Katunga and Kasisi of Chikwawa. Boreholes have been drilled in the communities around the reserve. Primary schools have been rehabilitated and new classrooms constructed. Wildlife education have been given to the primary schools. Once in a while, school children are brought to the reserve to learn about wildlife and view animals. African Parks has provided various scholarships to learners from the primary schools around the village over the past 20 years. The scholarships have supported successful students up to tertiary education including public universities in different professional fields of their choices. Presently, there were 150 students supported on scholarships. The management also recruits interns in various fields. At present there are interns in finance, biodiversity and in tourism.	
4.0	**EXPERIENCES WITH CONSTRUCTION WORKS (BOTH THE SVTP & PHASE ONE OF MEPRP)** The African Parks acknowledged the extent of damage from cyclone Anna not only by loss of hydro-electricity to the park but also the physical damage to infrastructure on the power station and dam. African Parks Management immediately welcomed any measures to restore power and provided access road through their park 24hours a day. Part of the reserve already had an access route to the canal project by the SVTP. The same would be used by the construction vehicles for the emergency power restoration project in the first phase. **Impacts from the first phase included:** • Noise from construction vehicles when reversing (since they also worked throughout the night), this noise was loudest at night and was a big disturbance to residents and tourists in the reserve. No mitigation was suggested as pulling out the reverse alarm would be a work heath safety issue. • Speeding of trucks to the work site • Dust flying into the reserve	

	Impacts from the SVTP works: • For the SVTP, a quarry site was made right in the reserve, cutting down trees of 200 years old. The agreement is to restore the areas opened to the level they were before the project, but it was doubtful they were being restored to such. For the section where the canal is to be buried, African Parks was of the view that the backfilling is not adequate and that where sections of top soil were put back did not meet the expected depth to plant trees. • No closing of gates, into access road to canal works, which risk animals walking out • Leaving gates unmanned at times, which risk animals walking out • Contours have not been aligned **Suggested mitigation of some of the above impacts:** • SVTP must restore the landscapes following the agreements where a 1 metre layer of top soil should be put back. It will be important that SVTP achieves that before dam embankment works start (Phase 2 of the MEPRP). • African Parks will revegetate the areas (on a 3 year plan with communities using water bowsers) once top soils have been adequately added. • Ensure that the gates are always manned.	
5.0	**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS**	
	Often time plans and actual work on the ground are different. This is why we need to continuously connect with stakeholders in the course of implementation of a course of action when we note that we may need to change some of the work design due to both human and natural effects.	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne
	SVTP is relatively a new project, have you had human or naturally induced impacts to the environment in the reserve? • No, but now we are faced with a number of projects that have affected our landscapes and soon a dam in Mpatamanga is coming up. We fear how it will change the flow of the river and affect our aquatic life down here. • We also fear when a lot of people move into the area for development of Mpatamanga Hydro Power Station that they will cut down a lot of trees for firewood and charcoal on the east bank of the Shire river and that will affect the ecology of the river. We are pushing the government to gazette a km stretch on the east bank as part of the reserve to preserve the ecology of the river in this area and maintain natural flows.	Ruo Consultant, Penjani
	African Parks Manager was asked if he had seen the approved drawing for the rehabilitation of the dam. To which he had but when it was shown again in the meeting he wondered what the office looking structure was at the far right	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne

	end of the dam as it appeared to take up more space in the reserve hence requiring further excavations and cutting down of trees. *Are you in contact with the Water Resources Authority regarding regulation of water flow at Liwonde barrage?* • Yes, but our concerns have not been adequately addressed as there are a number of stakeholders being affected by the Shire river flow, so to balance the needs may be more complicated. • Where we can have influence in decision making is the Mpatamanga development. EGENCO reminded African Parks that from September 2023, EGENCO had taken over the design for the intake for the SVTP to align it with dam axis. The natural dam closure will enter into the reserve more than it did previously due to the dam damage. Essentially, EGENCO Engineers (SP) have designed the emergency spillway of reinforced concrete and the SVTP intake. The previous design of the SVTP intake was right inside the reservoir behind the fuse plug and did not align with the dam axis. There will not be significant change in the probable maximum flood from Kapichira. We will use the same quarry sites as Conduril for aggregates. However, for rockfill, that is yet to be decided. The proposal was an area in Kandeu.	EGENCO Civil Engineer, Alexis
6.0	**TOUR TO SECTIONS OF THE CANAL TO BE BACKFILLED** Around 11:30, the meeting participants took a tour along the SVTP canal section that is to be buried up to the intake section, taking stops on the way appreciating gaps in service road infrastructure as well as in contours alignment. This was to appreciate some of the impacts that were mentioned in the presentation by African Parks	All
7.0	**CLOSING** The meeting ended from the tour site around 12 noon	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH CONDURIL AND KRC JV FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION FOR THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM PROJECT (The Malawi Emergency Power Restoration Project)

DATE: 21 MAY 2024

VENUE: KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER STATION DAM AREA AND CLUB HOUSE

TIME: 13:30 – 15:30HRS

AGENDA

- To learn of the social and environmental impacts or concerns from the works on phase one of emergency power restoration project.
- To learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project

1.0	**OPENING**	
	EGENCO Environmental Officer welcomed meeting participants and invited all to introduce themselves. A brief meeting agenda was given.	
2.0	**MEETING OBJECTIVE**	
	Team Leader of the Tractebel-Ruo ESIA consultancy gave an account of the purpose of the meeting, which was to learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne
3.0	**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM MEETING PARTICIPANTS**	
	On Campsite • The campsite for both Conduril and KRC JV is borrowed freely from Dzimbiri Primary School. • The agreement on tenancy was up to December 2023. • However, following extension of stay, the school has proposed a new agreement charging a monthly rental fee of MK9 million. The contractors have asked the client (SVTP) to engage further and conclude the matter. The initial agreement attracted social corporate responsibility including painting school blocks, school desks and leaving behind three houses in the camp area. • The camp is projected to remain until December, 2024 *What are the facilities Conduril had access to during construction?* • A medical aid clinic that was open to the community as well though the community did not utilize it. • The company provided transport for all their workers. • They provided toilets for their workers, more male toilets than female toilets because they had more male workers than female workers.	
	Waste management during construction • Conduril said that since Chikwawa does not have proper waste disposal sites, all their clinical waste was transported to Blantyre for proper disposal.	

	• To avoid or minimize plastic pollution, workers were prohibited from bringing food products that were packaged in plastic. • Monitored waste disposal different bins for each waste and no opportunity for recycle	
	General comments from Conduril and SVTP in Regards to Power restoration • One safety issue they faced was that one of the Conduril workers was attacked by a gazelle from the Majete Wildlife Reserve. • Conduril planted vetiver grass in areas surrounding SVTP canal in efforts to rehabilitate some vegetation the area as well as to prevent soil loss from runoff. They chose vetiver grass because it is less likely to be eaten by wild animals because it is too tough for them. Unfortunately monkeys are fond of uprooting some of it to eat the roots • The restoration plan for the quarry mining site is still under development and Conduril emphasized that the agreement was not to restore the site to its exact former state, but near it. • Conduril minimized the entry of livestock in areas surrounding construction site and within it by visiting local leaders to ask them to keep their constituents from feeding their livestock near the site. • The remaining building were subjected to demolition • Recruitment of workers should be done through the District Council • Occupational Health and Safety should be include Emergency prime, Clinics and Task risk assessment • The Burrow areas were restored as agreed with MWR • The land belongs to the primary schools but there was a formal agreement but the agreed expired • The schools were aware of the period they leased the land to company.	
4.0	**CLOSING REMARKS** The Tractebel-Ruo Consultancy thanked CONDURIL and KRC JV for availing themselves for the consultative meeting as these are one nearest neighbor to the dam rehabilitation physical works. The meeting was reminded that this was only the beginning and expect further consultations in more detail at a later stage.	Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne

	EGENCO Environmental Officer appreciated the meeting and for the remaining part of the day asked Conduril and KRC JV to take the meeting participants to the intake site as well as along the canal where the consultants had been earlier with Majete Wildlife Reserve management	
5.0	Meeting closed around 15:30hrs but proceeded to the intake site for further discussions highlighted above	

MINUTES OF THE ENTRY MEETING WITH COMMUNITY - TA KASISI, GVH CHAPANANGA, NJEREZA AND VH BWALO FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION FOR THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM PROJECT (The Malawi Emergency Power Restoration Project)

DATE: 22 MAY 2024

VENUE: BWALO

TIME: 9:30 – 12:00HRS

AGENDA

To learn of the social and environmental impacts or concerns from the works on phase one of emergency power restoration project.

To learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project

1.0	**OPENING** Spokesperson of TA Kasisi opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed all meeting participants by first recognizing the traditional leadership by way of introducing them to EGENCO and Tractebel-Ruo Consultants.	
2.0	**MEETING OBJECTIVE** Brief remarks were given to the traditional leaders and the community members at large as matter of introduction for the meeting. This was quickly referred to the flood damage at Kapichira Hydro Power Dam and linked to the Consultants' visit as to understand more on how people may be affected in the second phase of the project The meeting was called to get initial experiences of the people about the damage at Kapichira Hydro Power Dam due to cyclone Anna and to understand their fears and expectations from the works in phase two.	EGENCO Senior Environmental Officer, Lawrence Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne
4.0	**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM MEETING PARTICIPANTS**	
	Did you meet any challenges at all before the implementation of the first phase of the power restoration project? • There was no electricity outage in the areas surrounding the Power Station community • Fishing activities were not affected as compared to when Cyclone Anna had occurred, which led to the rehabilitation of the Kapichira Dam. • There were no issues to do with relocation of settlements and land degradation due to the impacts that came with Cyclone Anna. However recent cylones have submerged part of their farming areas, which are usually cultivated in the dry season.	Senior Chief Chalo, T/A Kasisi and The Community
	Did you meet any challenges at all after the implementation of the first phase of the power restoration project? • The community had been allocated to a different settlement due to loss of land, which was resulted by cyclone Anna • The Community lost its land due to the occurrence of cyclone Anna, this disturbed the commercial activities of the community for example farming since the land that was used for farming had been engulfed with the flooded waters and eventually turned into marshes.	T/A Kasisi and The Community.

	• The community experienced marriage disruptions due to the contractors that were hired to carry out the Phase 1 of power restoration pr. • The women in the community were exposed to sexual exploitation, Some of them were asked to offer their bodies in return for employment opportunities at the Kapichira Station. • There was favouritism when it came to choosing to be employed at the construction site • The community and the leaders were not acknowledged during the beginning of the project, this resulted to community not being aware of what the effects of the project might be. The community experienced speeding of heavy duty vehicles which were a danger to the people living around the community especially the children, this issue also had less mitigation measures. • There high levels of theft due to lack of employment at the construction site which resulted the locals to be stealing from the company's construction site as a sign of anger and protest to the criteria used when choosing laborers	
	How far do you engage with the communities around you? • We have a community clinic and a school here at Kapichira, which are used by communities around us too. • When there is a need for some laborers, we announce in the communities around us.	EGENCO
	What are your General comments as a community in regards to Projects under Kapichira Power Station? • The community expressed general concerns on the demolition of temporary camp site and and other significant structures, they suggested it would have been wiser to be leaving these structures behind so that they can be used by the community and as part of developing the community infrastructure wise. • The act of demolishing installed water tanks after completion of the first phase of the rehabilitation process, these tank served the people of the community and also the contractors in terms of provision of water. • The community raised concerns over the welfare community that looks matters to do with Kapichira Power Station not being active but rather docile and they do not exercise their roles, acting as a bridge between the community and the power station. • There is a need for proper introduction by the people carrying out the project to community, as the contractors may also need to know the people of the community and learn how they carry out themselves in the community. • The community raised concerns in the reduction of fish in the Shire river basic which has led to declining yields. • The community asked for an extension of operating hours at the clinic, it should rather be operational at night, since Chikwawa District hospital is far and during the night there is no transport to transport the people to the hospital.	Senior Chief Chalo, T/A Kasisi and The Community

5.0	**CLOSING REMARKS** The community and the leaders were thanked for their various contributions to the meeting. They were further reminded that the consulting team would be back for further capture of issues, wishes and expectations in forma of a typical baseline. TA Kasisi reiterated that his subjects have welcomed the project and will support it in various ways. But he asked that what the consultants were writing should be taken seriously and be applied into the planning. He also advised community members to allow animals graze in their land after harvesting and allow people cut grass freely other than charging people for cutting grass which is freely given by God. It was learnt that after community members got land titles, they started charging others for cutting grass in their lands, a thing which was well tolerated before.	Ruo Consultants, Dalo TA Kasisi
	Meeting ended at 11:50am	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH THE DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL SUB COMMITTEE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION FOR THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM PROJECT (The Malawi Emergency Power Restoration Project)

DATE: 22 MAY 2024

VENUE: CHIKWAWA DISTRICT COUNCIL HALL

TIME: 14:00 – 16:00HRS

AGENDA

- To brief the District Environmental Sub Committee about the progress made from the first phase of the emergency power restoration project after flood damage to dam fuse plug, training dyke and shut down of power generation house due to the impact of cyclone Anna in 2022.
- To brief the DESC about the upcoming dam rehabilitation works, which constitute phase two of the emergency power restoration project.
- To learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project

1.0	**OPENING** Meeting was called to order just before 14:00 hrs by asking a volunteer to open with a prayer Welcome remarks were given by Lukia Ngomano, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer at Chikwawa District Council. She proceeded to invite all meeting participants to introduce themselves	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Chikwawa District Council
2.0	**MEETING OBJECTIVE** EGENCO gave a snapshot of the status of the Malawi Emergency Power Restoration Project, giving a quick background and highlighting the next phase. The presentation focused on the engineer's layout of the proposed rehabilitation and the changes in positioning of the intake for the Shire Valley Transformation Programme irrigation canal as well as the introduction of extra spilly ways made of concrete. This was followed by the need for environmental and social impact assessment prior to start of physical works. Team Leader of the Tractebel-Ruo ESIA consultancy gave an account of the purpose of the meeting, which was to learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project	EGENCO Civil Engineer, Alexis Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne
3.0	**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM MEETING PARTICIPANTS**	
	Did you meet any challenges at all in implementing the first phase of the power restoration project?	
	• The District Council said that the issue of safety in regards to speeding construction vehicles is an issue. It is more concerning because there are schools around. • Another concern was the increasing number of potholes due to EGENCO'S heavy vehicles and they asked that EGENCO come up with solutions to address that problem. • Transfer of skill was not well addressed and implemented for example the target amount of amount was reached or addressed. • Issues to do with safety were not clearly addressed especially their mitigation measures	
4.0	**QUESTIONS TO DESC**	
	What are your responsibilities as DESC?	
	• DESC plays a role in monitoring the project as well as ESMP designated for the particular project. • DESC is also responsible for social safeguarding and disaster risk management	

	• Supervise the project ensuring there are no issues to do with impacts on the environment and the social well-being of the community. To ensure there no issues related to GBV. • Environmental Social Specialist and Gender Based Violence Specialist, all these will people will need to supervise the project as well	
	What are the DESC Recommendations in regards to Phase 2 of the power restoration project? • Build local level infrastructure • They insisted that Tractebel do what past ESIA consultants failed to address, which is upholding contractor agreements. • Proper waste management so that the down stream is not affected by pollution. • DESC to be involved in community sensitization on influence of migrant workers, who may generally have more money than locals at a point in time. • Social safeguards should be put in place and monitored by DESC. • Advised that more local people be employed to promote transfer of skills. • The project should result into Decentralisation • The district council said that after the project, land acquired by EGENCO should be handed over to the council. • The district has functional land committees. • Sources of Quarry should result in permanent land acquisition, at the end of the project the land should be handed to the council since the council also needs some land • Mitigation measures should be put in place together with the timeline of the project	
	What are your General comments as a community in regards to Projects under Kapichira Power Station? • Environmental Social Specialist and Gender Based Violence Specialist, all these will supervise the project ensuring there are no negative issues to do with negative impacts on environment and the social wellbeing of the community and there no issues related to GBV	

	• EGENCO should provide information and spread awareness on how far downstream the impacts of the dam rehabilitation project are anticipated to reach.	
5.0	**CLOSING REMARKS** Tractebel-Ruo Consultancy deputy team leader thanked all meeting members for their time and advised that the same attention they have given to the initial consultation must continue up to when the works complete The Director of Planning and Development thanked EGENCO for creating a forum where various members of the DESC would interface with ESIA consultants as they understand the impending project while also give advice on various areas of social and environmental importance learning from previous and other on-going projects	Tractebel-Ruo Consultancy deputy team leader, Stanley Malombe
	Meeting closed with a prayer around 16:00hrs	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING WITH GVH KANDEU, GVH MANGANGA 2, VH LIWONDE, VH PATRICK FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISION FOR THE KAPICHIRA HYDRO POWER DAM PROJECT (The Malawi Emergency Power Restoration Project)

DATE: 23 MAY 2024

VENUE: Village Liwonde Meeting place

TIME: 9:00 – 12:00HRS

AGENDA

- To learn of the social and environmental impacts or concerns from the works on phase one of emergency power restoration project.
- To learn of social and environmental concerns to be accommodated in the planning for the second phase of the emergency power restoration project

1.0	**OPENING** Spokesperson of GVH Kandeu opened the meeting with a prayer and welcomed all meeting participants by first recognizing the traditional leadership by way of introducing them to EGENCO and Tractebel-Ruo Consultants.	
2.0	**MEETING OBJECTIVE** Brief remarks were given to the traditional leaders and the community members at large as matter of introduction for the meeting. This was quickly referred to the flood damage at Kapichira Hydro Power Dam and linked to the Consultants' visit as to understand more on how people may be affected in the second phase of the project The meeting was called to get initial experiences of the people about the damage at Kapichira Hydro Power Dam due to cyclone Anna and to understand their fears and expectations from the works in phase two.	EGENCO Senior Environmental Officer, Lawrence Tractebel-Ruo, Susanne
3.0	**QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM MEETING PARTICIPANTS**	
	Did you meet any challenges at all before the implementation of the first phase of the power restoration project? • There was no electricity outage in the areas surrounding the Power Station community • Fishing activities were not affected as compared to when Cyclone Anna had occurred, which led to the rehabilitation of the Kapichira Dam. • There were no issues to do with reallocation of settlements and land degradation due to the impacts that came with Cyclone Anna.	Kandeu, Maganga 2,and Liwonde Local Leaders and Communities
	Did you meet any challenges at all after the implementation of the first phase of the power restoration project? • The community had been allocated to a different settlement due to loss of land, which was resulted by	Kandeu, Maganga 2,and Liwonde Local Leaders and Communities

	cyclone Anna • The Community lost its land due to the occurrence of cyclone Anna, this disturbed the commercial activities of the community for example farming since the land that was used for farming had been engulfed with the flooded waters and eventually turned into marshes. • The community experienced marriage disruptions due to the contractors that were hired to carry out the Phase 1 of power restoration project. • The community was subject to pollution (noise and air pollution) due to the presence of heavy machinery and heavy duty vehicles used in the rehabilitation of the project. • The women in the community were exposed to sexual exploitation abuse. Some community members were subjected to a probability of chance employment opportunity, where the local people where given two pieces of papers with one of the papers written YES and the other one NO, when you pick the paper that is written **YES** that means you have the job and when you pick the paper that is written **NOs** it means you have lost the opportunity. • There was an indirect proportion of laborers, a large proportion of men than women. And also majority of the workers were not from the community, the community outlined that there were more laborers that were not from the community but rather other villages. • The land that belonged to the community was taken away from them and turned into public land that is being governed by the Government through the District council of Chikwawa. • There was favouritism when it came to choosing to be employed at the construction site • The community and the leaders were not acknowledged during the beginning of the project, this resulted to community not being aware of what the effects of the project might be. The community experienced speeding of heavy duty vehicles which were a danger to the people living around the community especially the children, this issue also had less mitigation measures. • There high levels of theft due to lack of employment at the construction site which resulted the locals to be stealing from the company's construction site as a sign of anger and protest to the criteria used	

	when choosing laborers	
	How beneficial is Kapichira Power station to the Community? • We have a community clinic and a school here at Kapichira, which are used by communities around us too. • When there is a need for some laborers, we announce in the communities around us. • With the job opportunity there is transfer of skills from the hired contractors to the local community members that will be employed on the construction site. • Due to the station's projects, small scale business of the local people thrive and people are able to make profits from such small scale businesses, and the locals are in a position to take care and provide for their families. • It is an opening opportunity in the development of the community and the areas surrounding the Kapichira Station.	Kandeu, Maganga 2,and Liwonde Local Leaders and Communities
	What are your General comments as a community in regards to Projects under Kapichira Power Station? • The community expressed general concerns on the demolition of temporary camp site and other significant structures, they suggested it would have been wiser to be leaving these structures behind so that they can be used by the community and as part of developing the community infrastructure wise. • The act of demolishing installed water tanks after completion of the first phase of the rehabilitation process, these tank served the people of the community and also the contractors in terms of provision of water. • The community raised concerns over the welfare community that looks matters to do with Kapichira Power Station not being active but rather docile and they do not exercise their roles, acting as a bridge between the community and the power station.	Kandeu, Maganga 2,and Liwonde Local Leaders and Communities

	• There is a need for proper introduction by the people carrying out the project to community, as the contractors may also need to know the people of the community and learn how they carry out themselves in the community. • The community raised concerns in the reduction of fish in the Shire river basic which has led to declining yields. • There is a need to have enough provision of PPEs in the coming phase 2 project, so that those working at the construction sites are protected from hazards. • The community showed concerns of undesirable introduction of behavior to the community from the contractors who are to be hired to carryout the phase 2 work load • The community offered to provide firewood for the contractors who will be carrying the rehabilitation project • Though hilly area, but the community is willing to offer a space for camp site. • There were concerns raised if the company was to put into place precautions of the heavy duty vehicles that will be present in the community helping on the project works • There should be a suggestion box for the laborers, so that they can share the thoughts and concerns over there entire period of employment. • The community asked for an extension of operating hours at the clinic, it should rather be operational at night, since Chikwawa District hospital is far and during the night there is no transport to transport the people to the hospital.	
4.0	**CLOSING REMARKS** • T/A Liwonde sharply indicated that the part where lies the Kapichira dam there was a graveyard back before the dam was built, as such his fore fathers final resting place was disturbed and there was no formal cultural ceremony to calm the spirits. • This having said he emphasized that the dam rehabilitation project might fail, due to the angry spirits	Village Head Liwonde

	that dwells at the palm of the Kapichira Dam. He said there is a need to conduct a spirit oriented ceremony or ritual as a sign of calming down the spirits and as a way of seeking permission for restoration of the dam. • The community agreed to the comments made by T/A Liwonde, that the graveyard acted like a cultural preservation for the living at Liwonde Village • The traditional leadership was advised that EGENCO would consult the managers that were part of the establishment of the power station to map the way forward in addressing any cultural matters that may have been skipped so that spirits rest. • The community and the leaders were thanked for their various contributions to the meeting. They were further reminded that the consulting team would be back for further capture of issues, wishes and expectations in forma of a typical baseline.	EGENCO Senior Environmental Officer, Lawrence Ruo Consultants, Robert
	The meeting ended around 12:00 hrs with a prayer by the spokesperson of Village Head Liwonde	

APPENDIX M.PUBLIC CONSULTATION REPORT

TRACTEBEL ENGIE in association with: Ruo Consultants

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REPORT

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Country/State: MALAWI

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KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT
ESIA Report Disclosure – Meeting Report

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KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT
ESIA Report Disclosure – Meeting Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard 10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure), the Consultant conducted information disclosure sessions between 22-27 November 2025 on the ESIA report with key stakeholders, including EGENCO, the Chikwawa District Environmental Sub-Committee, and local communities located within the footprint of the Kapichira Hydropower Dam. Feedback obtained during these meetings will be incorporated into the ESIA report where relevant.

The consultant also held a disclosure session with African Parks to present the biodiversity findings of the project and discuss the proposed mitigation and offset measures.

At the District Council, all members of the District Environmental Subcommittee attended the meetings.

At Bwalo village, the meetings were attended by community members from Bwalo village and community leaders from Maganga 1 village due to their proximity of the proposed temporary campsite to their village.

Similarly, community members from Liwonde Village were joined by representatives from Group Village Kandeu and Maganga 2 Village, together with their respective leaders, owing to the location of the project's quarry site within Maganga 2 Village.

The meetings started with the presentation on the findings of the ESIA and RAP and the proposed mitigation measures. After the presentation, participants at these meetings were given a chance to discuss the presentation and raise any issues regarding the disclosed ESIA report and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP). Below is a summary of the reactions and comments from each of the Stakeholder groups that attended the disclosure meetings.

2. MEETINGS RESULTS

2.1. Chikwawa District Environmental Subcommittee

A full report was given highlighting background projects; preparation of the ESIA study; Footprint Area; Stakeholders met and their reactions; impacts, risks and mitigation on biodiversity; endangered species.

Table 2-1: Reactions, comments and response during Chickwawa District EnfironnmentalSubcomittee meeting

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response
District Environmental Health Officer	How will wastewater be managed during construction phase?	Under the organization of ESMP contractor/consultant will be responsible for safety measures of the surrounding environment.
	How will you ensure dust and noise suppression in the community health and safety plan?	water spraying during dry season, controlled working hours (no works during the night), and noise-reducing equipment are part of the requirement for the Contractor
District Water Officer	What mitigation measures will be carried out to ensure water quality downstream the dam does not change in ways that risk aquatic life?	Water quality monitoring will be carried out before project works starting at various spots. These will be repeated at a specified frequency during the construction activities.
	Why does the report refer to National Statistical Office Report of 2018?	The population figures given were projects as per the standard formula, but reference is still given to official document of 2018
	Which are the two fish species upstream the dam that are endangered?	*Oreochromis karongae* and *Oreochromis mozambicus*
	Downstream the dam is a good habitat for fish, at what intervals will water quality inspection be conducted during construction phase?	On a monthly basis.
District Fisheries Officer	What will be the roles and responsibilities of the council in the construction phase?	EGENCO will collaborate with the District for the implementation of some measures such as: • Health department for sensitization (awareness-training sessions on communicable diseases (AIDS/HIV, COVID) for the community for ex), to encourage health support initiatives in the Chikwawa District…. • Education Department for educational awareness sessions in local schools • Social welfare for the development of Grievance Redress Committees for GBV cases at village level. • Land department for the acquisition of land; • Environmental Sub Committee for community sensitization on influence of migrant workers and to monitor implementation of the mitigation measures
Civil Society Organisations Chair	From observations from Phase 1 maize and rice yields were affected due to contaminants in the water coming down the dam area. How will you ensure good water quality?	Water quality monitoring will be carried out before project works starting at various spots. These will be repeated on a monthly basis as per the ESMP

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response
District Environmental Officer	EGENCO worked in restoration of land where they extracted surface rocks for the Phase 1 of dam rehabilitation: Could they consider giving out seedlings to communities around to plant in their villages too as a means of community empowerment and environmental conservation?	EGENCO can consider that. But remember that management of trees will need community effort to, which may not be supported under any project component but requiring own effort
	What specific livelihood resettlement will take place for the PAPs?	None of the PAPs will be resettled because none of their dwelling homes will be affected by the Project. The road to clay site passes through an agricultural land and the clay site is not habited at all. Access to a quarry site is largely through EGENCO premises and barely through Liwonde village, while the quarry site is in some rocky hill in Maganga 2 village.
	How will you ensure effective coordination with the communities.	Committees will be established to work with contractors with links with communities
	How will waste be managed? We know that Chikwawa does not have a council area for processing or dumping waste	The contractor will develop a waste management plan that will specify how various categories of wastes will be managed
	What will community engagement be in the project?	The communities in the footprint area were consulted on their concerns and expectations from similar projects. Furthermore, their opinions were integrated in mitigation and enhancement measures accordingly.
		GRMs are excellent feedback from people affected by the project. The District GRM Committee will be oriented on the project and processing of grievances
		The ESIA report disclosure would be carried out at the community level too namely: Njereza (to include GVH Njereza and TA Kasisi), Bwalo (to include VH Maganga 1 and his leaders), Liwonde (to include GVH Kandeu and his leaders; VH Maganga 2 and his leaders).
	Will you establish new GRM committees?	No, as much as possible the Project must work with existing committees. With a big project by SVTP currently underway, it will be very important to just orient members of concerned GRM committees at Traditional Authority level as well as at GVH level.
District Housing Officer	Can the project consider acquiring land for dumpsite, which should be handed over to the council?	EGENCO is open whether land for excavations for quarry or clay site may be permanently or temporarily acquired.
	Who is responsible for the rehabilitation of the dam?	EGENCO
	Who is responsible for construction of the intake?	EGENCO

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response
	Who will be responsible for maintenance of the intake?	This is still under discussion whether it should be SVTP or EGENCO

Closing Remarks by the District Planning and Development Officer:

He thanked the World Bank for supporting the Kapichira Hydro Dam Rehabilitation Project so that people of Chikwawa and Malawi may continue to improve access to electricity for well-being and development. He also thanked EGENCO for supporting the ESIA consultants in carrying out the ESIA study. To the consultants, he advised that feedback from stakeholders is ongoing hence feedback mechanisms must be vibrant. It was appreciated that consultants arranged to come back to the DESC with the report to collect such feedback, which may be incorporated in the report where it enriches the results. Lastly, the DPD assured full support to the project from the district council and asked that relevant officers be involved in monitoring the implementation of the ESMP where applicable.



Figure 2-1: ESIA Disclosure meeting at Chikwawa District Enivronmental Sub Committee

2.2. Bwalo village

Table 2-2: Reactions, comments and response during Bwalo meeting

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response from Consultants/ EGENCO
Village – Bwalo **Men: 81; Women: 57** **1 Man with disability**	Women raised issues related to Gender Based Violence risks, fair access to employment opportunities, and safety during project activities.	- Establish and communicate a zero-tolerance GBV/SEA/SH policy for all project workers and contractors. - GBV clauses in all contracts, with penalties for non-compliance. - All work places will display bill boards - Ensure confidential reporting channels (hotlines, community focal points, suggestion boxes). - Set up a survivor-centred referral pathway linking health, psychosocial, legal, and protection services. - Ensure women know *where and how* to report risks or incidents. - Grievance redress mechanisms to have women representatives at all levels. - Promote transparent recruitment (public announcements) - Set gender targets/quotas where relevant to ensure women's participation.
	Emphasized the need for proper waste disposal during project implementation to avoid pollution.	- Segregate waste at source into hazardous, non-hazardous, biodegradable, recyclable, and construction waste. - Cover waste during transport to prevent spillage, odour, and dust dispersion. - Prohibit open dumping, open burning, or disposal in water bodies, drainage channels, and community lands.
	Men were worried over employment opportunities, transparency in recruitment, and if there would be any community project benefits (social corporate responsibility).	- Set clear targets for hiring local skilled and unskilled labour before recruiting from outside. - Conduct a local labour skills assessment to match available roles with community members where practicable.
	Is the phase I Project the same project as this one? If not, will that one come back?	No, it is different. The cyclone Anna, which destroyed the Kapichira Dam disturbed the flow of water with the consequence on the stop of electricity production.
	Current projects do not consider any support to labourers that get ill on duty but only leave them to fend on their own. How will worker health issues be managed if an employee becomes ill and must absent themselves from work?	Ensure workers understand their rights, obligations, and available support. Provide trained first aiders, first-aid boxes, and emergency transport arrangements. Establish protocols for handling sudden illness or injury, including when to stop work and how to transfer a worker to medical care.



Figure 2-2: ESIA Disclosure meeting at Bwalo village

2.3. Liwonde village

Table 2-3: Reactions, comments and response during Liwonde meeting

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response from Consultants/ EGENCO
Liwonde Village **Men: 55;** **Women: 47;** **Children: 19**	Women raised issues related to Gender Based Violence risks, fair access to employment opportunities, and safety during project activities.	- Establish and communicate a zero-tolerance GBV/SEA/SH policy for all project workers and contractors. - GBV clauses in all contracts, with penalties for non-compliance. - All workplaces will display bill boards - Ensure confidential reporting channels (hotlines, community focal points, suggestion boxes). - Set up a survivor-centered referral pathway linking health, psychosocial, legal, and protection services. - Ensure women know *where and how* to report risks or incidents. - Grievance redress mechanisms to have women representatives at all levels. - Promote transparent recruitment (public announcements) - Set gender targets/quotas where relevant to ensure women's participation.
	When will the project start?	- Sometime next year around July/August. For now, after passing this report, EGENCO is going to procure contractor in February

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response from Consultants/ EGENCO
	What strategy will be used for community employment?	- The Contractor will be guided by a Labour Management Plan. But standard practice is to study the skills of people living near the workplace area and prioritise them on those jobs that they can do. - For such jobs it will be necessary to also consider women (up to 20% can be employed. - No child labour will be entertained. Therefore, contractors shall not employ anyone without a National Identity Card
	Where should community members report issues during project construction?	- There will be various committees at different levels to receive and process any grievances originating from the activities or lack of from the project
	What benefits will distant villages receive if they are far from the campsite?	- First of all, there is not much work as this rehabilitation concerns most works at the dam. - In terms of project benefits, we must not only look at what one would get, we must also consider what items may boost our businesses due to labour influx.
	How will communities be informed that recruitment has started?	- When the contractor has been identified, they will be introduced to the communities, committees. - The committees shall inform the communities when recruitment would start.



Figure 2-3: ESIA Disclosure meeting at Liwonde village

2.4. N'jereza village

Table 2-4: Reactions, comments and response during Liwonde meeting

Designation	Reaction/comment	Response from Consultants/ EGENCO
Njereza Village **Men: 36; Women: 63**	Who between the committee and Human Resource Officer will be responsible for hiring people such that you say a committee will be empowered to monitor any unfairness in recruitment?	- It will be the contractor's Human Resources Officer. But a Workers committee will scrutinize every person to see what skills they have and how far they come.
	How long will the project start?	- The project is expected to start next year around July/August and last for three years
	Is the clay site work expected to run 24 hours for the full 3 years?	- No, work hours will be restricted to day time; like from 6am to 6pm. - Excavation works at the clay site will be carried out according to need, so they may not operate everyday
	Women asked if they will have equal access to piecework such as stone-picking as done in Maganga village for SVTP	- No, the dam rehabilitation project does not have a need of small loose stones.
	They want a clear reporting mechanism for GBV cases.	- The GRM committees will be thoroughly trained in handling GBV cases. Referral pathways will be accessible to all, whether men, women and youth.
	How will you ensure that the recruitment of workers is fair and that down here we are considered	- There may not be a lot of work for everyone as the works are right at the dam, just to rebuild a small area. Even here near the clay site, there will be a few opportunities. However, there are mechanisms for monitoring many aspects of the project including recruitment. The contractor will be checked periodically on recruitment as well as on treatment of workers.



Figure 2-4: ESIA Disclosure meeting at Njereza village

2.5. African Parks

The minutes of meeting written during the meeting is as follows.

Date: [26/11/2025]
Time: [14h00]
Venue: [Majete Wildlife Reserve]

---

1. Attendance

Majete / African Parks (AP)

- John Adendorff – Park Manager, Majete Wildlife Reserve
- Craig Thomas – Conservation / Monitoring
- Michael Thamala – Funding and Reporting manager

Employer / Project / Government

- Representatives of EGENCO / Kapichira Dam (Employer)
- Environmental & Social Assessment / Biodiversity Consultants

A detailed attendance register was signed.

2. Purpose and Intention of the Meeting

The **primary intention** of the meeting was:

- For the **appointed consultants to present the biodiversity component** of the Kapichira Dam Phase 1 wall repair project, including:
  - Baseline terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity;
  - Critical habitat screening;
  - Proposed **offsets and "net gain" measures** associated with the project.
- To **gather comments, concerns and technical inputs** from:
  - African Parks / Majete;
  - EGENCO / Employer;
- To clarify where and how biodiversity mitigation and offsets must address:
  - On-the-ground impacts adjacent to Majete Wildlife Reserve;
  - Legacy impacts from earlier SVTP / canal construction;
  - Long-term conservation priorities for Majete and the wider Shire landscape.

3. Consultants' Presentation – Biodiversity, Critical Habitat & Offsets

3.1 Terrestrial & Aquatic Baseline

- **Terrestrial habitats** in the project footprint:
  - Mixed deciduous forest; fragmented dry miombo; dense dry thickets.
  - Acknowledged as **ecologically important**, even if degraded, especially outside Majete.
- **Aquatic habitats** (Shire River, reservoir, downstream stretch):
  - Degradation noted from bank erosion, sediment build-up and fluctuating water levels linked to dam operations.

3.2 Invasive Species & Flora of Concern

- Presence of **terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species** in:
  - Majete; construction areas; wider area of influence (incl. Elephant Marsh).
- One **near-threatened plant species** (IUCN) recorded downstream and in some construction-related areas, to be specifically considered in project mitigation.

3.3 Fauna & Critical Habitat Screening

- Proximity to Majete means:
  - **Threatened mammals** (e.g. black rhino, African wild dog) and priority birds are present in the broader project influence area.
  - Indirect signs of wildlife (hippo spoor, scat of large mammals) recorded outside the reserve near works.
- Fish:
  - Two threatened fish species known from Majete reach of the Shire considered; current expert view is that the immediate dam/canal sections are **not suitable habitat**, so no viable local populations expected.
- **Critical habitat assessment** (World Bank / IFC criteria):

  - Majete triggers **critical habitat** as a highly threatened ecosystem at national level, and via key mammals and vultures.
  - Elephant Marsh triggers critical habitat for **migratory / congregatory waterbirds**.
  - A historically reported threatened tortoise added as a trigger species needing specific attention.

3.4 Predicted Impacts

- **Construction phase** (dam wall repair, canal, access roads, temporary sites):
  - Wildlife disturbance and possible mortality from truck movements, noise, dust and emissions.
  - Increased **poaching risk** due to worker influx (~150 workers).
  - Spread of invasive species via soil and machinery.
  - Loss / degradation of remaining habitat around works.
  - Increased **human–wildlife conflict** in a big-five landscape.
- **Operation / post-construction phase**:
  - Risk of fauna being **trapped between main and emergency spillways** on the island area.
  - Ongoing disturbance and conflict potential if lighting, traffic and noise are not managed.

3.5 Proposed Mitigation & Offsets ("Net Gain")

Key consultant proposals (to be refined in the Biodiversity Management Plan and Offset Plan):

- Contractor-level measures:
  - Wildlife interaction & safety procedures;
  - Adjusted work schedules; minimised and directed lighting;
  - Strict **zero-tolerance anti-poaching policy for workers**;
  - Invasive species monitoring and control;
  - Use of already disturbed land (SVTP footprint) to avoid new clearing;
  - Restoration of temporary sites after construction.
- Employer / AP measures:
  - Pre-construction biodiversity surveys (dam, canal, borrow pits, quarries, access roads);
  - Buffer zones around nests / key species;
  - **Spillway fauna monitoring and rescue programme**;
  - Non-intrusive conflict-mitigation barriers and staff awareness.
- **Offset / net-gain measures** (core of the presentation's intention):
  - Riparian restoration and aquatic habitat recovery in and around Majete (erosion control, re-vegetation, monitoring).
  - Support to African wild dog and vulture conservation (monitoring, data sharing, community awareness).
  - Invasive species control within Majete.
  - Support to Elephant Marsh community conservation area, with focus on migratory waterbirds.

---

4. Key Comments and Concerns from African Parks / Majete

John clarified at the outset that Majete understood the meeting to be **primarily a biodiversity and offsets presentation**, and that AP's inputs were aimed at strengthening the **practicality and sufficiency** of the proposed measures.

4.1 Local Extinction Risk vs Global IUCN Categories

- AP emphasised that:
  - Many species that are globally "common" are **rapidly disappearing in Malawi** outside protected areas.
  - Majete is a **last stronghold** for many such species.
- Request: offset design and significance ratings must reflect the **Malawian and landscape-level reality**, not only global IUCN status.

4.2 Roads, Dust, Light, Noise and Tourism "Sense of Place"

- Severe concerns over:
  - Chikwawa–Majete road condition (legacy SVTP responsibilities not fulfilled).
  - Poor design/condition of the access road through Majete to the works (culverts, drainage, impacts on Matopi River).
  - **Dust pollution** from heavy vehicles (major dry-season issue).
  - **Light pollution** at Kapichira already visible from Majete, with likely impacts on insect pollinators.
  - **Noise**, particularly from night works and reversing alarms, clearly audible at the lodge.
- AP highlighted that these directly undermine:
  - The **tourism product**,
  - The "sense of place" Majete is known for,
  - And therefore the **financial sustainability** of the park.

4.3 Economic Importance of Majete

- Majete is:
  - One of AP's **top five performing parks** continent-wide;
  - The **top performing park in Malawi** by income and species diversity.
- Approximate figures shared:
  - USD 1 million in tourism income per year;
  - ~ USD 3.2 million annual operating cost;
  - ~ USD 27 million investment to date.
- AP stressed that any biodiversity offsets and mitigation must **seriously address loss-of-income risks**, not only species counts.

4.4 Rehabilitation Failures & Responsibility Line

- Serious concerns raised around:
  - Poor rehabilitation of the **SVTP canal, siphon area and borrow pit** within the Majete landscape;
  - Loss of topsoil and mixing of soil strata, leaving areas effectively sterile.
- AP requested:
  - A clear **GPS demarcation of where SVTP's responsibility ends and where Kapichira Phase 1 begins**, for rehabilitation purposes.
  - That any new offsets / net-gain commitments explicitly acknowledge and seek to **correct or compensate for legacy biodiversity damage** where feasible.

4.5 Ranger Capacity, Security & Poaching Risk

- AP cannot dilute existing ranger deployments (46 rangers + rhino teams).
- Any requirement for increased patrols, protection of workers, or intensive anti-poaching presence linked to the project must be **backed by funded additional ranger posts** and training.
- Security risks include:
  - Big-five presence;
  - Increased theft and fuel pilferage;
  - Potential involvement of external contractors with poor wildlife ethics.

4.6 Implementation Gap & Environmental Auditing

- AP noted a frequent **gap between ESMPs "on paper" and actual implementation**, especially on environmental conditions.
- Request:
  - Robust, **independent environmental auditing** with:
    - Clear roles, frequency and enforcement mechanisms;
    - Strong focus on biodiversity and offsets performance, not just compliance tick-boxes.

4.7 Night Work and Political Pressure

- AP shared past experience where:
  - Night work restrictions in ESMPs were overridden by high-level instructions to work 24/7.
- Concern that without clear, enforced limits, the **real-world impacts on noise, light and tourism** will be much greater than what is currently assumed in the biodiversity and offset models.

---

5. Discussion and Responses

- Employer and consultants acknowledged:
  - The **intended focus of the meeting** as a biodiversity and offsets presentation, and welcomed AP's detailed practical inputs.
  - The need to **strengthen** the biodiversity component and offsets to directly address:
    - Road and dust impacts;
    - Light and noise impacts;
    - Tourism and loss-of-income risks;
    - Legacy rehabilitation obligations.
- Agreement that:
  - A **joint site visit** is necessary to clarify rehabilitation responsibility lines and physical conditions on the ground.
  - Additional ranger capacity and a clear **security model** must be costed and integrated into project planning.
  - Environmental auditing arrangements for Kapichira Phase 1 need to be **stronger and more continuous** than in previous phases.

---

6. Agreed Actions and Next Steps

1. **Update biodiversity & offset documentation**
   - Consultants to revise the Biodiversity Assessment, Biodiversity Management Plan and Offset / Net Gain Plan to:
     - Explicitly state that this meeting was convened for the **presentation of the biodiversity component and proposed offsets**;
     - Integrate AP's concerns on local extinction risk, roads, dust, light, noise, tourism and legacy rehabilitation.
2. **Joint site visit – canal, siphon, borrow pit and access road**
   - Employer, consultants, SVTP/World Bank and AP to undertake a joint visit to:
     - Inspect current conditions;
     - Agree GPS demarcation of SVTP vs Kapichira responsibilities;
     - Inform realistic rehabilitation and offset measures.
     - Identify Borrow pit sites

    - Identify borrow pits for top soil recovery.
3. **Road, dust and light management plan**
    - Employer and consultants to prepare a specific **Road & Lighting Management Annex** to the ESMP / biodiversity plan, covering:
        - Chikwawa–Majete section and access road to site;
        - Dust suppression measures;
        - Lighting design to reduce spill into Majete and limit impact on pollinators.
4. **Ranger / security plan and budgeting**
    - AP and Employer to define required **additional ranger posts, training and equipment** to cover project-related security and anti-poaching;
    - Costs to be included in project budget as part of impact mitigation / offset.
5. **Spillway fauna monitoring & rescue protocol**
    - AP and Employer to jointly develop a protocol for monitoring the island between spillways and safely rescuing trapped fauna during high flows.
6. **Riparian restoration, invasive species & species conservation offsets**
    - Consultants and AP to detail offset projects for:
        - Riparian restoration and aquatic habitat recovery within Majete;
        - Invasive species management;
        - Long-term monitoring and conservation of African wild dog and vultures.
7. **Environmental auditing**
    - Employer to propose a strengthened **environmental auditing framework**, including biodiversity and offset performance indicators, with independent auditors and clear follow-up procedures.
8. **Record-keeping**

    - All parties to maintain written records (minutes, emails, site photographs, GIS layers) so commitments made during this biodiversity and offsets process are traceable and enforceable

9. **Rehabilitation plan**
    - Shared with Majete for approval.

---

7. Closing

- The Chair thanked the consultants for their **biodiversity and offsets presentation**, and all participants for their constructive engagement.
- It was noted that the success of Kapichira Dam Phase 1 repairs, from a conservation perspective, will depend on:
    - **Proper implementation** of mitigation and offset measures, and
    - Ongoing **collaboration** between EGENCO, consultants, DNPW and African Parks / Majete.

.



Figure 2-5: ESIA Disclosure meeting at African Parks – Majete Wildlife Reserve

APPENDIX - OFFICIALS AND LEADERS' ATTENDANCE REGISTER

A.1. District Council officials

PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

MEETING NAME: Disclosure Meeting - CHIKWAWA DISTRICT COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 25/11/25

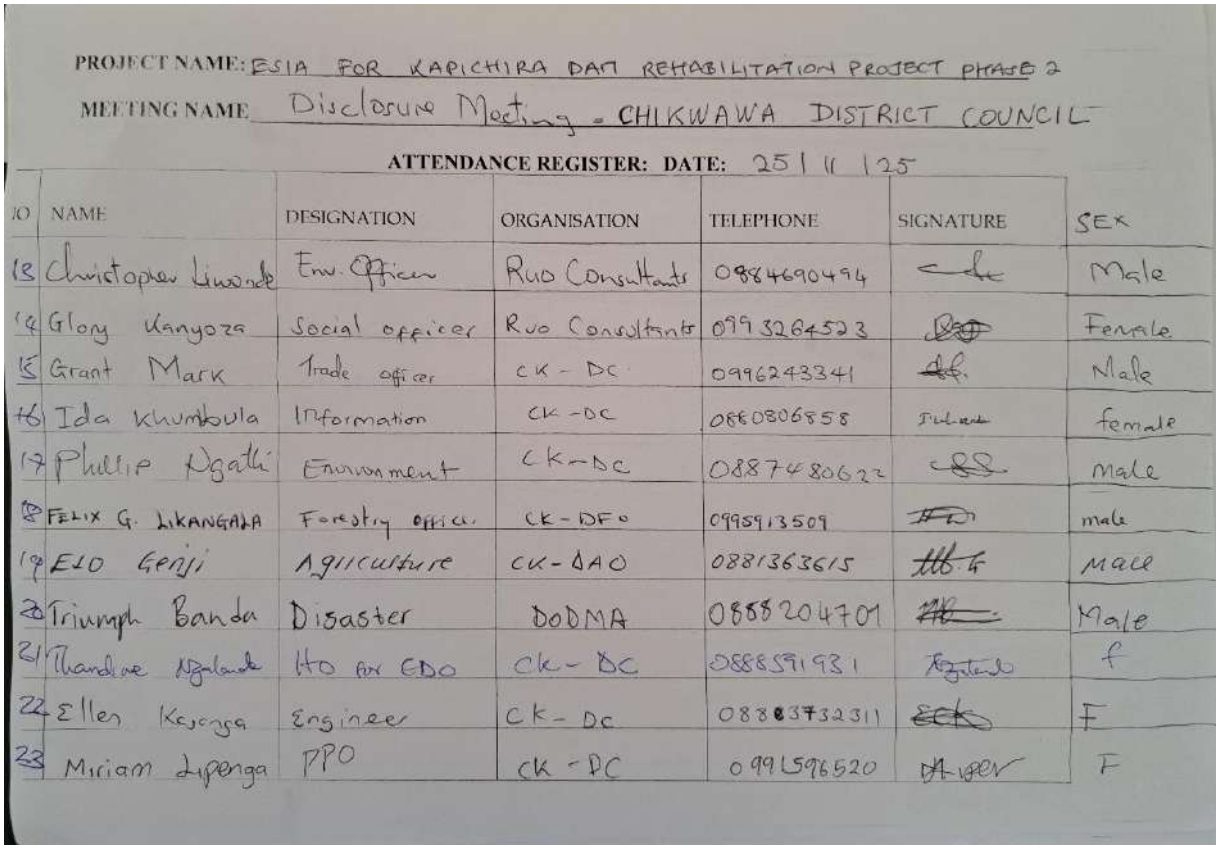
	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE	SEX
1	Lucius Fanuel	CK CSO Representative	CK SCO	0995813840		M
2	Greciam Banda	CK-DC	CK ALO	0886231190		M
3	REster MSUNZA	DWDO	CK. WATER	0882905887		M
4	Gideon Mkhumbuya	DSO	CK-DSO	0882585104		M
5	Stavin Kanyerere	DUF	CK-DUF	0888874444		M
6	LEWIS TUKULA	DETO	CKDITO	0999206298		M
7	Jevious Mafuta	EDO	CK-DC	0992808915		M

PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT PHASE 2

MEETING NAME: Disclosure Meeting

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 25 NOV 2025

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE	SEX
7	LASTON CHINKUDZU	DMAD	NGODZA	0881407455		M
8	Emmanuel Mlenga	EMD	Lands Estates mgmt dept	0995254694		M
9	Noureen Nawarise	LRO	Lands	0896806080		F
10	Elizabeth Khumbanyiwa	DRO	MACOHA	0884704012		F
11	Daniel Nyasiria	SIE	IRRIGATION	0999382458		M
12	Esau Madika	SNSO	S/welfare	0888940178		M



PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT PHASE 2

MEETING NAME: Disclosure Meeting - CHIKWAWA DISTRICT COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 25/11/25

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE	SEX
13	Christopher Limunde	Env. Officer	Ruo Consultants	0884690494		Male
14	Glory Kanyoza	Social officer	Ruo Consultants	0993264523		Female
15	Grant Mark	Trade officer	CK - DC	0996243341		Male
16	Ida Khumbula	Information	CK - DC	0880806858		female
17	Phillip Ngathi	Environment	CK - DC	0887480622		Male
18	FELIX G. LIKANGALA	Forestry offic.	CK - DFO	0995913509		male
19	EDO Genji	Agriculture	CK - DAO	0881363615		Male
20	Triumph Banda	Disaster	DODMA	0888204701		Male
21	Thandiwe Ngalande	HTO for EDO	CK - DC	0888591931		f
22	Ellen Kayoya	Engineer	CK - DC	0883732311		F
23	Miriam Lipenga	PPO	CK - DC	0995796520		F

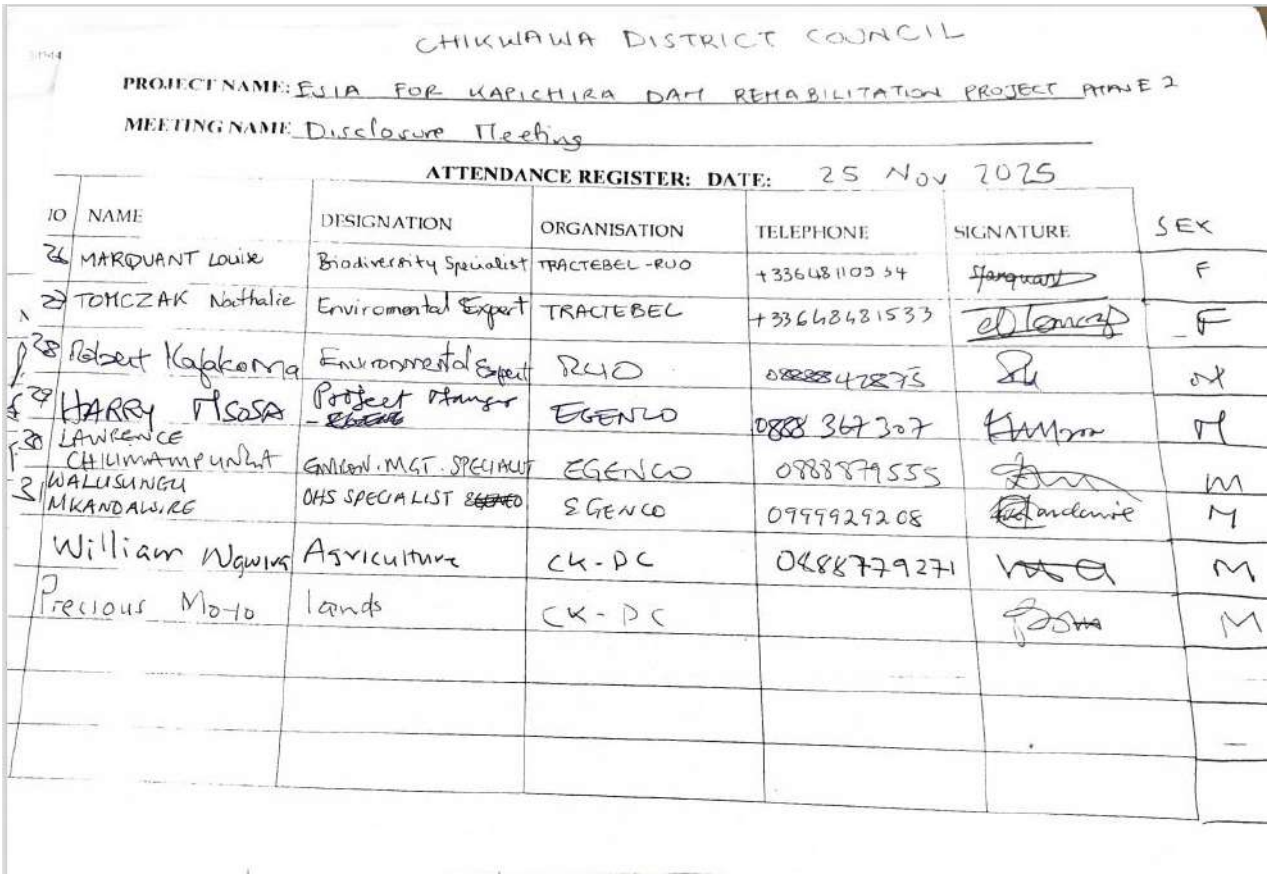
CHIKWAWA DISTRICT COUNCIL

PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

MEETING NAME: Disclosure Meeting - CHIKWAWA DISTRICT COUNCIL

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 25 Nov 2025

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE	SEX
24	Annie Magombo	DFO	Fisheries - CK	0888318585		F
	R Kafakoma	Consultant	RUO			M
25	Penjani Kamanga	Consultant	RUO	0999029290		M
	TOPIWA BANDA	lands	CK - DC	0884696122		F



CHIKWAWA DISTRICT COUNCIL

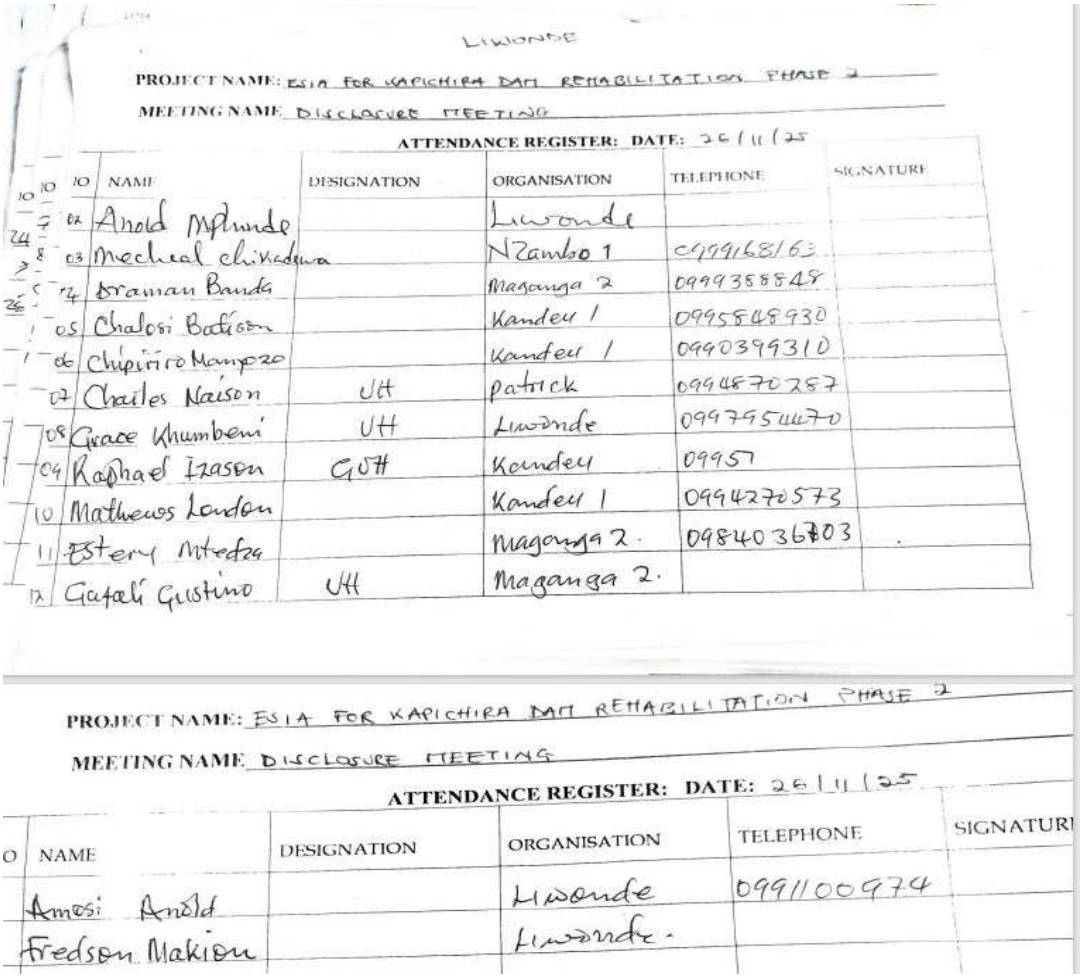
PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PROJECT PHASE 2

MEETING NAME: Disclosure Meeting

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 25 Nov 2025

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE	SEX
26	MARQUANT Louise	Biodiversity Specialist	TRACTEBEL-RUO	+33648110334	Marquant	F
27	TOMCZAK Nathalie	Environmental Expert	TRACTEBEL	+33648481533		F
28	Robert Kafakoma	Environmental Expert	RUO	0888542875		M
29	HARRY MSOSA	Project Manager	EGENCO	0888 367307		M
30	LAWRENCE CHILIMAMPUNGA	ENVIRON. MGT. SPECIALIST	EGENCO	0888879555		M
31	WALUSUNGU MKANDAWIRE	OHS SPECIALIST	EGENCO	099992908		M
	William Ngwira	Agriculture	CK-DC	0888779271		M
	Precious Moto	lands	CK-DC			M

A.2. Village Heads Liwonde, Maganga 2 and GVH Kandeu Leaders



LIWONDE

PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

MEETING NAME DISCLOSURE MEETING

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 26/11/25

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
02	Arnold Mphande		Liwonde		
03	Micheal Chikadewa		Nzambo 1	0991681/63	
04	Draman Banda		Maganga 2	0999388848	
05	Chalosi Bafeson		Kandeu 1	0995648930	
06	Chipiriro Mampazo		Kandeu 1	0990399310	
07	Charles Naison	VH	patrick	0994870257	
08	Grace Khumbeni	VH	Liwonde	0997954470	
09	Raphael Izason	GVH	Kandeu	09957	
10	Matheus London		Kandeu 1	0994270573	
11	Estery Ntedza		Maganga 2.	0984036803	
12	Gafali Gustino	VH	Maganga 2.		

PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

MEETING NAME DISCLOSURE MEETING

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 26/11/25

O	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
	Amosi Arnold		Liwonde	0991100974	
	Fredson Makion		Liwonde.		

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A.3. Village Head Njereza, GVH Nereza and TA Kasisi

NJEREZA VILLAGE

PROJECT NAME: DISCLOSURE MEETING

MEETING NAME ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 27/11/25

NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
Mlauli Jere	T.A. KASISI		0996208419	
CHAROS; KACHIWAYA	TA KASISI		0995672990	
Mary Chikweza	Mfumu Njereza2			M. C.
Gelesan Chabuka	Njereza 4		0999245652	G Chabuka
peter Kavalo	Njereza 3		0990693954	P.K

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A.4. Village Head at Bwalo

BWALO

PROJECT NAME: ~~TOR ESIA~~ FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

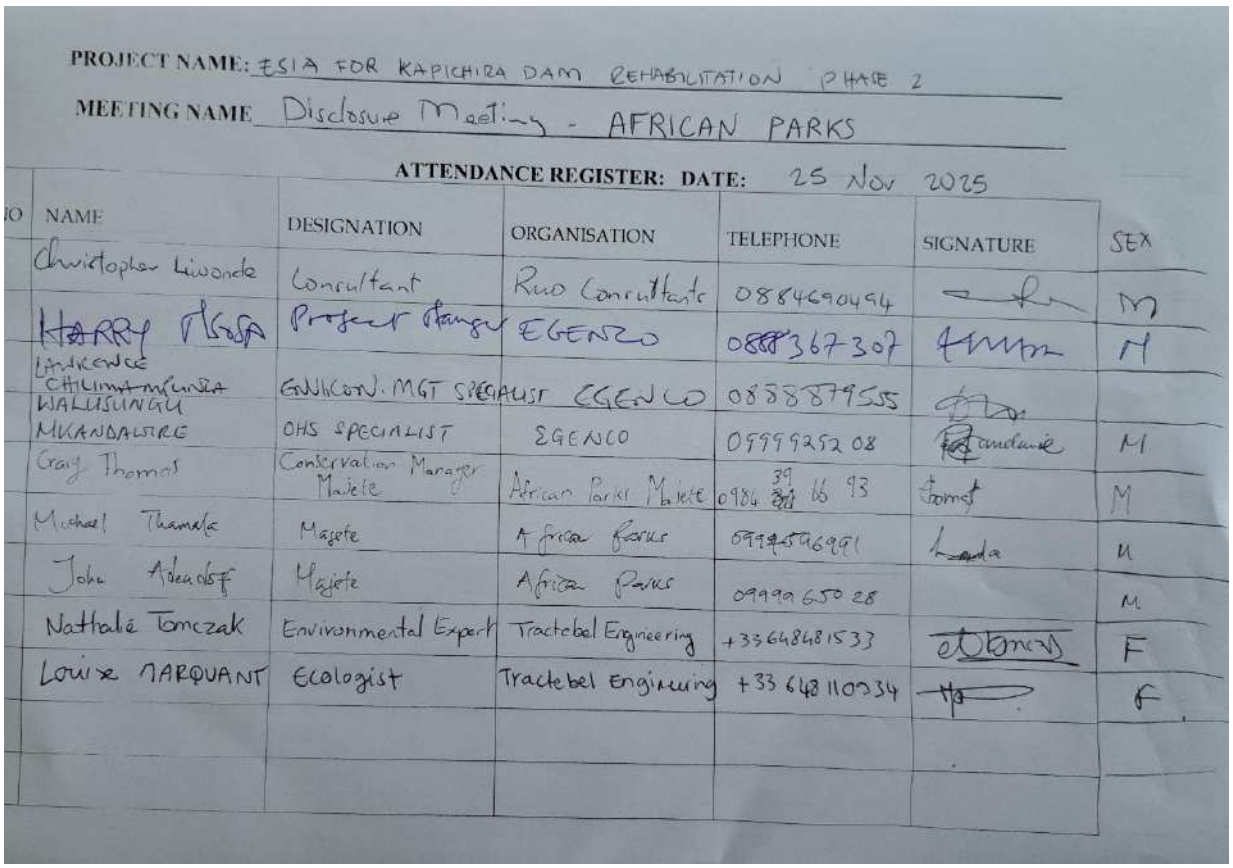
MEETING NAME DISCLOSURE MEETING

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 26 NOVEMBER 2025

NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE
	WILLIAM SOKO	VDC CHAIR	BWALO	0997454967	
	Joseph Chidoma	Chairman	Magangal	0992911845	
	Samuel pichesi	Nduna	Magangal	0999217094	
	PHALOMBE Winiford	NFUMU Magangal	Magangal	0991504027	
	DAVIE Divison	Bwalo Village	Bwalo Village	0997454967	
	Mike Gemu	Magangal	VDC member	0990459684	

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A.5. AFRICAN PARKS



PROJECT NAME: ESIA FOR KAPICHIRA DAM REHABILITATION PHASE 2

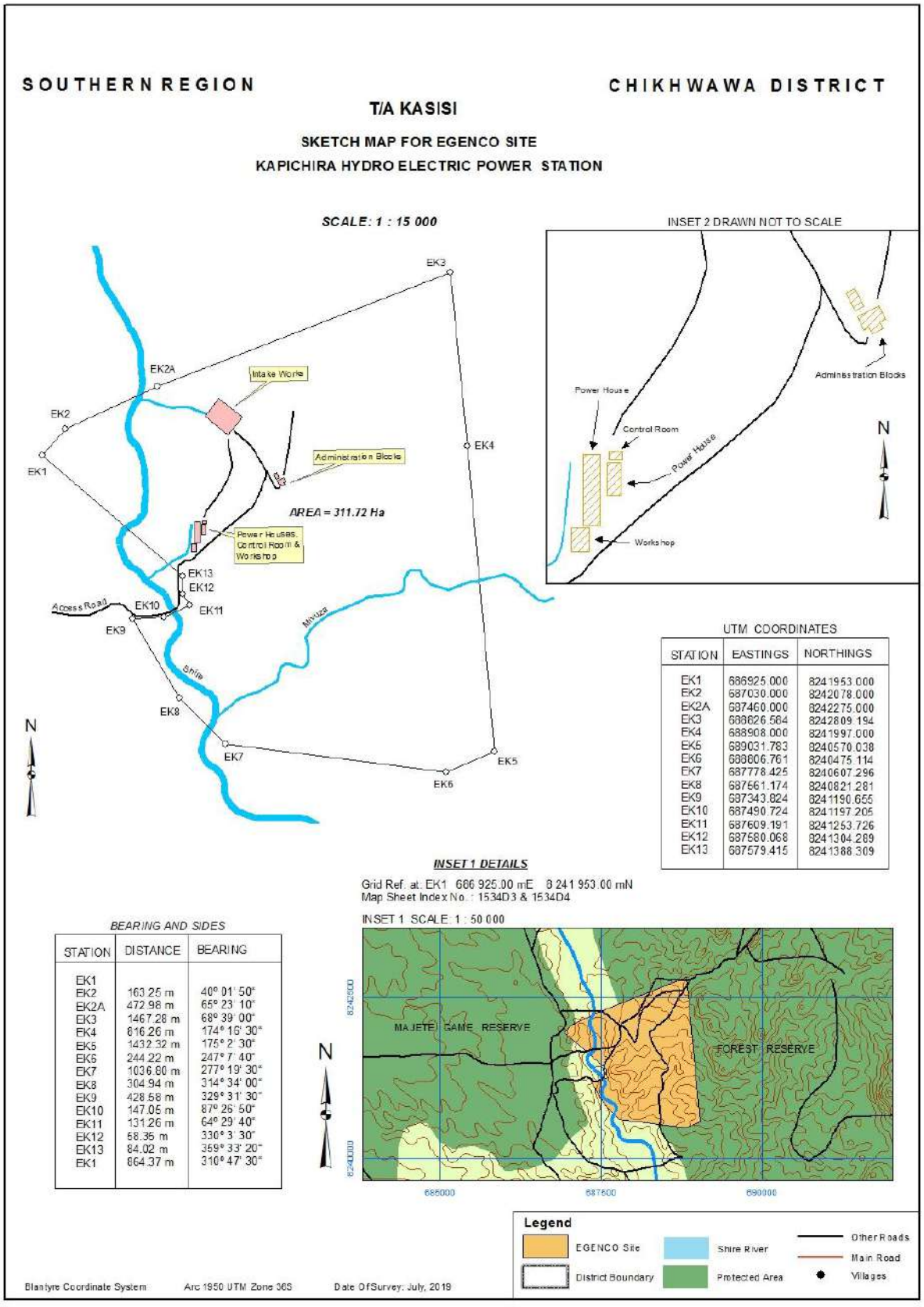
MEETING NAME Disclosure Meeting - AFRICAN PARKS

ATTENDANCE REGISTER: DATE: 25 Nov 2025

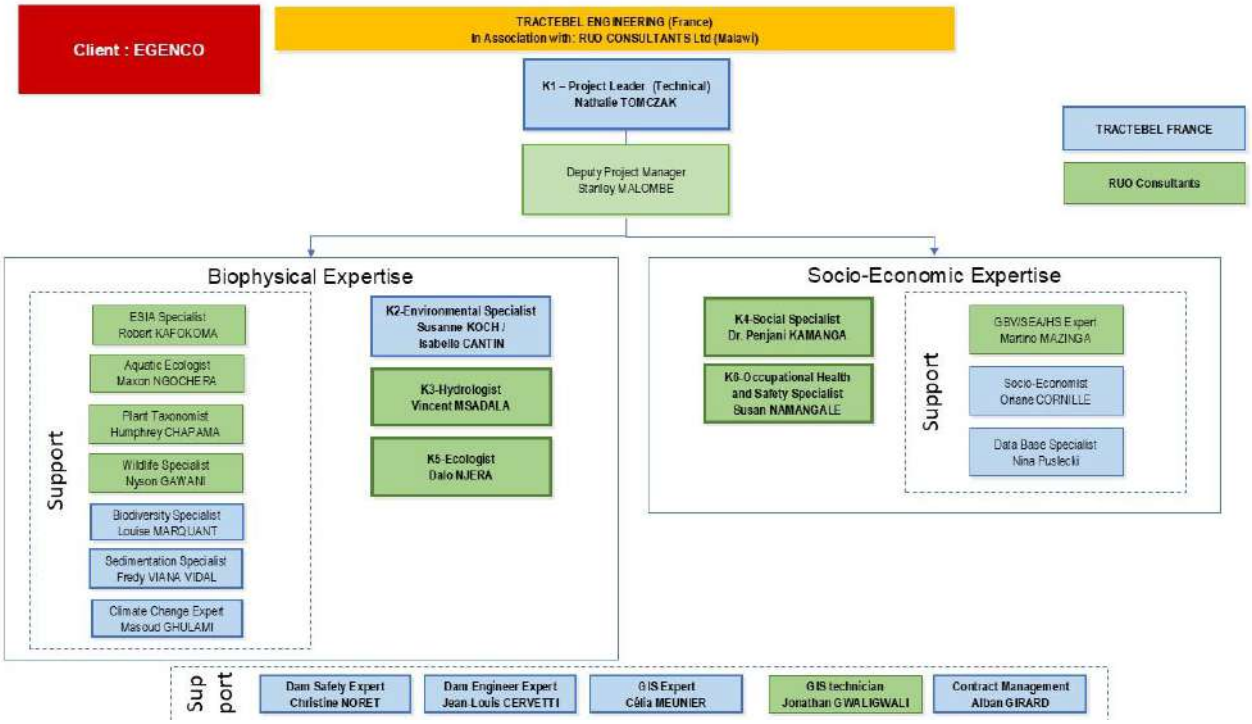
NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE	SIGNATURE	SEX
	Christopher Liwonde	Consultant	Rud Consultants	0884690494		M
	HARRY [illegible]	Project Manager	EGENCO	0888367307		M
	LAWRENCE CHILIMAMUNDA WALUSINGU	ENVIRON. MGT SPECIALIST	EGENCO	0888879555		
	MKANDAWIRE	OHS SPECIALIST	EGENCO	0999925208		M
	Craig Thomas	Conservation Manager Majete	African Parks Majete	0984 39 66 93		M
	Michael Thamala	Majete	African Parks	0994546991		M
	John Adendorff	Majete	African Parks	09990 650 28		M
	Nathalie Tomczak	Environmental Expert	Tractebel Engineering	+33648481533		F
	Louise TARQUANT	Ecologist	Tractebel Engineering	+33 648 110334		F

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APPENDIX N.SKETCH MAP FROM EGENCO



APPENDIX O.ORGANISATION OF THE ESIA CONSULTANT



APPENDIX P.TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (A3) OF THE PROJECT

THIS DRAWING IS PROPERTY OF SP AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED OR RELEASED TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION

X:\KAPICHIRA dam\200 - DETAILED DESIGN\200 = WHOLE PROJECT\01 - GEN\200 GEN D SP 002A General Plan 2.5k, 250509.dwg dab, sp - Roma 09/MAY/2025 17:22:27

MAIN SPILLWAY

BM
E= 687667.92
N= -8241855.34
See note (1)

EMBANKMENT TO BE REALISED

LATERAL CANAL

EXISTING CANAL

EXISTING SIPHON BOX SECTION 7

ACCESS ROAD to PERMANENT WORKS

YARD

EMERGENCY SPILLWAY

PERMANENT INTAKE

EMBANKMENT

TEMPORARY INTAKE EXCAVATION

TEMPORARY INTAKE PIPE TO BE REMOVED

TRAINING DIKE

Reservoir
el.147 m a.s.l.

149.0

138.0

125.0

N

NOTES

(1) – MAP DATUM: ITRF2014
– Projection: UTM 36S
– Elevation: Reference Kapichira Main Spillway (150.00m a.s.l)

(2) – MAVIC DRONE:
Aquisition: July 2023
Flight Elevation: 200m
Image Resolution: 4.8cm/pixel
Restitution: Photogrammetric Technique

0 10 20 30 40 50 100m
scale 1:2500 (A3 size)

beneficiary: ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY (EGENCO) egenco
project: KAPICHIRA Dam Rehabilitation & Strengthening
designer: SP studio pietrangeli consulting engineers
design: DETAILED DESIGN
title: 200 = WHOLE PROJECT
GEN = GENERAL

General Plan 2.5k

section	kind works	type	office	proj. serial n°	rev.	date
200	GEN	DSP	002	A		26 May 2025

issue	day	month	year	drawn	checked	approved
First issue						
A	26	05	2025	DAB	TAT	BRAS

modifications

At the helm of the Energy Transition, Tractebel provides a full range of engineering and consulting services throughout the life cycle of its clients' projects, including design and project management. As one of the world's largest engineering consultancy companies and with more than 150 years of experience, it's our mission to actively shape the world of tomorrow. With about 5,000 experts and offices in 33 countries, we are able to offer our customers multidisciplinary solutions in energy, water and urban.

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