

NACRO MALAWI LAUNCHES NEW WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) PROJECTS IN MCHINJI AND PHALOMBE DISTRICTS

New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO) Malawi has recently launched two new WASH projects in Mchinji and Phalombe districts in the country. The two projects were first presented to the sectoral heads of Government departments (District Water Development Office, District Environmental Health Office, District Education Manager's Office, and the District Community Development Office), as well as the District Coordination Team (DCT) in each of the two districts. Each of the two interface meetings culminated in the final District Executive Committee (DEC) meetings, whose participants included heads of Civil Society Organizations and Government departments, who finally approved the two projects.



A cross-section of some of the participants who attended the DEC meeting in Phalombe late last year

In Phalombe district, the project will be implemented in Traditional Authority (TA) Kaduya for a period of almost two years, from July 2022 to April 2024. The project is funded jointly by Nak-karitativ of Germany and the German Government through the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, with a total budget of Mwk340 million (317,000 Euros). The primary target group include the 1,000 households in the water points areas, 2,500 school learners, WASH committee members and traditional leaders.

In Mchinji district, the project will be implemented in Traditional Authority Mduwa for a period of two and a half years, from December 2022 to June 2025, funded by NAK-karitativ to a tune of Mwk325 million (325,000 Euros). A total of 400 households, translating to a population of about 2,000 people in the water points areas, and at least 2,500 learners, will benefit from the project.



Vitumbiko Nkhata, NACRO Malawi Project Officer, presents the new Mchinji WASH Extension Project to the DEC members in Mchinji

The two projects are aimed at increasing access to safe water and sanitation coverage through basic sanitation infrastructure and hygiene promotion in the areas. The projects will focus on provision of access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, economic empowerment of communities through the promotion of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs), capacity building of committees to effectively manage the WASH facilities, and Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Prior to this, NACRO Malawi implemented a similar project in Mchinji district from May 2019 to April 2022, whose benefits included the improved health of the targeted communities, increased productivity levels in the area, increased household income, and improved education for children due to increased household incomes and good health. In his opening remarks, during the DEC meeting in Mchinji, the Director Planning and Development (DPD) for the district, who chaired the meeting, thanked NACRO for its commitment to improving people's lives in the district, and pledged continued support of the upscaling project in order for it to reach its intended goal and objectives.



A cross-section of some of the invited guests who attended the hand-over ceremony of the previous WASH Project in Mchinji mid last year