

The Malawi National Focal Group (NFG) on Groundwater

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES

SUCCESS FACTORS FOR MALAWI NFG

- Mapping of institutions in 2020 which outlined various institutions with a range of interests.
 - 12 members were selected to be in the steering committee
 - Choice of chair, co-chair and secretariat
 - Willing to work and support financially
- Development of TORs (customized for Malawi)
- Training in 2020 and 2023 by SADC GMI and OneWorld on establishing and sustaining NFG
- Involvement of NFG in SADC GMI Subgrant projects- eg development of concept notes and proposals (First & 2nd Phases), project monitoring.
- Dialogue-
 - Organised a policy dialogue conference on Groundwater in 2021. (Over 70 attended, + online participants). This was on Accountability. Involved even local level
 - other meetings- mostly virtual ones
- Awareness creation- The NFG has been introduced at various forums eg World Water Day Conference in Malawi and other water platforms

CHALLENGES FACED

- Financial Resources - Eg to hold regular physical meetings. Some organisations may want to be part of an activity but resources may not be there.
 - Virtual meetings- however, these are poorly attended.
 - We are exploring resource mobilisation from other sources eg from banks to hold physical meetings/conferences
 - Physical meetings provide better networking opportunities
 - Planned NSD: 25 to 26 September 2024 with SADC GMI
 - We plan to bring in more private sector members
- There is varied participation by different members of the steering committee. Some don't show much interest. Yet some stakeholders that are not in the committee show interest about the group
 - Now we are enlarging the focus by bringing in more members.
 - Eg Plans to include some local councils' representatives, and where possible, in future to consider local leaders