WASH PER Experience: The Case of Malawi



Overview of the WASH PER process

Goal: Generate evidence and analysis on the efficiency, effectiveness, equity and sustainability of WASH expenditures, as guided by relevant WASH strategies and sector plans.

Coordination structure: Task force composed of MoF, WASH line ministries, and development partners

Methodology: Inception meetings, budget and WASH documents review, collection of data using questionnaires, interviews with key informants, district level field work and all-stakeholder validation.

Use of PER findings

- Informing the development of a (Climate Resilient) WASH Sector Financing Strategy and Malawi roadmap towards SDG 6 (informed by a sector financing study).
- Main reference for the SWA (Sanitation and Water for All) Finance Ministers' Meetings (FMMs) in 2020
- Feeding into a WASH Sector Joint Review, planned for September 2021
- Findings and recommendations from the PER were imbedded in WASH Budget Briefs (2019/20 and 2020/21) and used to engage Parliamentarians, MoF, Sector Ministries and stakeholders.
- The PER was also followed by a post-exercise Capacity Building of the Taskforce Members on Public Expenditure Analysis

Lessons learned from the PER

- The involvement of Government (MoF and sector experts) throughout the process is crucial to help ensure ownership, improve accuracy of and access to data, supporting dissemination and implementation efforts
- Building capacity of Government staff in PERs is crucial to ensure sustainability in public expenditure monitoring
- The PER helped in identifying key PFM issues affecting the effectiveness of WASH spending – e.g., limited use of IFMIS as a management information tool, especially at district level, leading to lost opportunities for effective expenditure management.