

# MOMENTUM

Tiyeni



## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: IMPACT IN MALAWI

The U.S. Agency for International Development Malawi MOMENTUM, Tiyeni Activity is a five-year, \$52 million project aiming to scale up and integrate maternal, newborn, and child health, reproductive health, family planning, malaria, and nutrition in seven districts of Malawi: Chikwawa, Dowa, Lilongwe, Machinga, Mangochi, Mulanje, and Zomba. Tiyeni is also integrating water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in its programming.

Tiyeni is partnering with the Ministry of Health to improve IPC/WASH practices in healthcare settings to reduce healthcare-associated infections as well as promoting community-level WASH-related knowledge and practices in the context of Cholera and COVID-19.

The project also prioritizes IPC/WASH as part of its efforts towards improving Quality of Care. The project is supporting District Health Management Teams to conduct targeted assessments and develop action plans to address identified gaps including availability of IPC/WASH guidelines, availability of IPC supplies, availability and functionality of amenities, adherence to standard IPC practices by service providers and support staff, functionality of IPC committees, waste management practices, and monitoring of key IPC/WASH practices.

### Assessments

The assessments evaluated key processes like availability of national policies and guidelines and of hand hygiene facilities and clean sanitary facilities; adherence to guidelines for environmental cleaning, instrument processes, waste management and IPC practices when providing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health and nutrition services.

Tiyeni assessed 115 facilities across its implementation districts and found that twenty-eight facilities lack functional handwashing facilities, 49 facilities lack well-fenced incinerator pits, 35 facilities have printed copies of the national IPC/WASH guidelines and relevant Standard Operating Procedures, and 1.2 facilities have improved water sources.

### WASH Situation

According to a 2020 report, 88.3 percent households in Malawi have access to improved water sources, with 64.5 percent of households using boreholes and 17.8 percent using standpipes as their main source of drinking water.<sup>1</sup>

However, UNICEF reports that access to drinking water is not distributed evenly across the country. Only 77 percent of improved water sources are functional due to factors such as broken boreholes, and far distances to water sources hinder some people's (37 percent) access to safe water, especially in rural areas.<sup>2</sup> This contributes to poor sanitation and hygiene practices.

The health impacts of poor WASH practices strain the country's resources, with over US\$50 million (about 1.1 percent of national gross domestic product) spent annually on treating WASH-related health emergencies.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Statistical Office. (2020, November). *The Fifth Integrated Household Survey (IHS5) 2020 Report*. [http://www.nsomalawi.mw/images/stories/data\\_on\\_line/economics/ihs/IHS5/IHS5\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.nsomalawi.mw/images/stories/data_on_line/economics/ihs/IHS5/IHS5_Final_Report.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF. (n.d.). Malawi—Water, sanitation and hygiene. <https://www.unicef.org/malawi/water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF. (n.d.). Malawi—Water, sanitation and hygiene.

## Year 1 WASH Support Interventions

Following the assessment results, Tiyeni responded with the following interventions to help address the WASH gaps identified in the health facilities and support implementation of preventive solutions:

**Table 1: Tiyeni’s year one WASH key interventions and results to-date**

OBJECTIVE	INTERVENTION/RESULTS
To build capacity of service providers and support staff in IPC/WASH	Trained 1,200 health workers from 233 health facilities in the national IPC/WASH guidelines that were revised in 2020
	Supported district health management teams to conduct coaching and mentoring of service providers and support staff in IPC in all health facilities
Improve IPC/WASH knowledge and practices	Printed and disseminated 29,000 copies of IPC/WASH guidelines and WASH job aides to health workers, support staff, and clients
	Broadcasted 911 slots (1,366.5 minutes) of targeted radio SBC messages promoting key WASH behaviors including handwashing and water chlorination.
Improve availability of IPC/WASH supplies to support IPC/WASH practices	Procured 601 handwashing buckets and 261 three-way mopping bucket and distributed to 233 health facilities across the seven projects districts
	Procured and distributed 1,000 kilograms of chlorine supported disinfection in twenty-one health facilities and Cholera treatment units across the seven districts.
	Procured and distributed 2,500 kilograms of chlorine and support pot-to-pot chlorination of households and water sources in communities affected by Cholera and Cyclone Freddy.