

SVTP e-bulletin

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Welcome to the first edition of the Shire Valley Transformation Programme e-bulletin



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This e-bulletin provides some highlights on the progress made by the Shire Valley Transformation Programme since the commencement of the implementation phase in October, 2018 to March, 2019.

It is exciting to see the Government of Malawi's longtime dream of having a large-scale irrigation scheme in the Shire Valley becoming a reality. The implementation of the SVTP has brought hope that there will be great improvement in the agriculture sector as crops will be grown throughout the year. The Programme will also have a

positive impact on fisheries and wildlife through the component supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

I would like to acknowledge all implementing Government Ministries and Departments led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development through the Department of Irrigation Services, the Project Steering Committee and the Project Technical Committee for guidance in different aspects of the Programme, Chikwawa and Nsanje District Councils, and the media for coverage and publicity of stories from the Project. I would also like to thank in a special way, traditional leaders and community members in the impact area for the support and zeal shown towards the Project. The Task Team Leader and the entire World Bank team for their continued support on the Project deserves special acknowledgement.

I am hopeful that you will find this newsletter informative.

We look forward to giving you regular updates through this e-bulletin!

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WORLD BANK GROUP



PMT Hosts the World Bank Support Mission

The Programme hosted the World Bank Support Mission from 26th October to 2nd November 2018. The mission involved a number of meetings and field visits that took place in October, 2018. However, the final meetings took place in November 2018. Speaking during the Mission, Task Team Leader for the SVTP, Joop Stoutjesdijk acknowledged the good progress the Project has made since the loan became effective in March, 2018.



The Task Team Lead speaking during the mission

Some key activities achieved include; the establishment of the SVTP Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) at various levels in the Shire Valley, drafting of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) for the Main Canal, institution of the PMT, completion of designs for the intake and 51 kms of Main Canal (MC), and signing of the contract between government and IFC for advisory services.

The mission visited the intake site at Kapichira Dam and the Elephant Marsh. The

team also had a meeting with different stakeholders in Chikwawa District including council officials and chiefs from the project affected areas led by Paramount Chief Dr. Lundu.



Paramount Chief Lundu sharing ideas during a stakeholder meeting

Further, on 10th January, 2019 the Programme had a kick-off meeting with the Transaction Advisor (TA), IFC. The TA will be responsible for identifying and developing modus operandi of the infrastructure manager and negotiate with farmers who will be the users of the water. The TA made thorough consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD), Department of Irrigation (DOI), PMT, PPPC, Illovo, farmers and other stakeholders.

The Programme also hosted the World Bank Interim Support Mission from 19th to 22nd February, 2019 in readiness for the main Support Mission in April, 2019. The World Bank has contributed \$160 million towards the first phase of the Shire Valley Transformation Programme.

SVTP engages the Media

The PMT held a one-day media workshop which was conducted at Nchalo to train 12 media houses from Blantyre, Chikwawa and Nsanje respectively on the major components and activities of the SVTP-1. The training covered irrigation services provision, land tenure, governance and consolidation, agriculture commercialization and value chain development, financial management, procurement and social and environmental safeguard matters. Thirteen (13) journalists (4 females, 9 males) participated in the workshop.

SVTP Programme Management Team (PMT) Instituted

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development instituted a 10-member Programme Management Team (PMT) for the implementation phase of the Shire Valley Transformation Programme in October, 2018. The team comprises of specialists in financial management, agriculture commercialization and development, procurement, community development, communications, and administration. The Ministry also provided irrigation engineers to support the Programme in the area of infrastructure development. These engineers work with a range of consultants engaged by the Programme. Two assistant accountants were also attached to the Programme to support the finance department. The Programme is currently in the process of procuring services of an irrigation Engineer, Natural Resources Management Coordinator, and Environmental and Social Safeguard Specialists.



PMT interacting with farmers at Kasinthula

PMT as part of familiarization visited the Kasinthula Cane Growers Trust, Phata and KAMA Cooperatives to appreciate how the three cooperative models work, the challenges faced and the benefits accruing from the investments. The cooperatives are eager to access the water from the irrigation system that is being developed through the SVTP as this will lead to increased efficiencies through reduction in water pumping costs. Smallholder farmers in the SVTP impact area will have a choice of adopting any of these models.

SVTP Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) Committees established

The SVTP established and trained GRM Committees at District, Traditional Authority and Group Village levels. There are a total of 15 GRM Committees at GVH level, five at Traditional Authority level and one at District level (a total of 172 members from all committees of which 61 are females, 111 males). The aim of the Grievance Redress Mechanism is to respond to, clarify and settle or redress any individual grievances, complaints, queries or clarification of complainants/citizens, stakeholders quickly, fairly and, as much as possible, in a manner that is acceptable to all parties. The Programme has been receiving grievances from the communities in the impact area which are being documented and addressed accordingly.



Area Committee GRM Committee Training in session



Community sensitization on the GRM

SVTP hosts Parliamentary Committees, \$50 million ADB financing approved

The SVTP on 12th November, 2018 hosted the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development at Chikwawa District Chambers. The aim of the meeting was to provide progress on the Project since the loan became effective on 21st March, 2018. Speaking during the meeting, Chairperson of the Committee Honorable Dr. Joseph Chidanti Malunga MP, emphasized the importance of ensuring that all activities pertaining to the project are fast tracked to avoid delays in project implementation.



PMT briefing Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development



PMT briefing Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Finance

Paramount Chief Dr. Lundu expressed gratitude over the fulfilment of Government's promise of constructing a huge irrigation scheme in the Shire Valley. "As much as we want the project fast tracked, the project must pay special attention to quality of the infrastructure as this is a huge project with a huge investment. We are committing ourselves to monitoring this development so that there is no substandard work. We want this great investment to last many years to come," Paramount Dr. Lundu said. The Programme also hosted the

Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Finance on 15th December, 2018 at Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel. Parliament has recently approved \$50 million financing towards the SVTP from the African Development Bank (broken down as follows; UAC 20 million from the African Development Fund, \$15 Million from OFID, UAC 4.5 Million from the Nigerian Trust Fund).

SVTP hosts MOLHUD



PMT briefing MOLHUD Staff at the site of the Intake

The PMT organized a familiarisation tour to the project area to give the Principal Secretary, Directors and staff in the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MOLHUD) an opportunity to appreciate the design aspects of the SVTP and to provide a panoramic view of the landscape. This was considered essential as the Ministry is taking a critical role in land tenure and governance in the SVTP-1.

The tour was followed by a one-day workshop where a work plan and budget for activities in line with the land governance and tenure component was developed. PMT also facilitated meetings of the MoLHUD to finalize subsidiary legislations. Further, PMT facilitated the Ministry to conduct adjudication exercises for the demarcation and certification of Traditional Land Management Areas (TLMAs) in the SVTP-1 area. The exercise was completed in T/As Lundu, Ndakwera, Katunga, Kasisi and Maseya.

Pictorial Highlights from the SVTP:

Stakeholder engagement continues to be the main focus of the Shire Valley Transformation Programme. Here are some pictorial highlights from our engagement;



Participants of the Stakeholder Awareness on Agriculture development and commercialization



PMT and IFC visit to the Intake Site at Kapichira Dam



PMT Meeting with KAMA Cooperative



PAPs at Mandilade discussing SVTP GRM



Members of the Press interviewing the PC



Media Workshop in Session

Contact Us

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