STAKEHOLDERS' ENGAGEMENT ON GCF PROCESSES AND ACTIVITIES IN MALAWI

Report

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACROYNMS

AE	Accredited Entity
BOT	Build, Own and Transfer
CBFEWS	Community Based Flood Early Warning Systems
CISONECC	Civil Society Network on Climate Change
CF	Cooling Facility
CFM	Climate Fund Managers
CI	Climate Information
CIO	Climate Investor One
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
COP	Conference of Parties
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
DAES	Department of Agriculture and Extension Services
DCCMS	Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services
DoF	Department of Fisheries
DODMA	Department of Disaster Management Affairs
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAD	Environmental Affairs Department
EE	Executing Entity
EPA	Extension Planning Area
EWS	Early Warning Systems
FAA	Funded Activity Agreement
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
FINES	Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Scaling
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Green House Gas
IE	Implementing Entity
MoTI	Ministry of Trade and Industry
MoE	Ministry of Energy
M-CLIMES	Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning Systems
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
NAE	National Accredited Entity
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NASFAM	National Smallholders Farmers Association
NDA	National Designated Authority
ODSS	Operational Decision Support System
O&M	Operation and Management
SMS	Short Message Service
PICSA	Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is one of the most important multilateral instruments for climate financing and focuses its support on least developed countries across the globe including Malawi. The fund was established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an operating entity of the Financial Mechanism to assist developing countries in adaptation and mitigation practices to counter climate change. An agreement to establish the fund was formalized at the climate summit (COP16) in Cancún in 2010. The purpose of the Fund is to promote the paradigm shift towards low emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change, taking into account the needs of those developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

1.2 The GCF-funded Projects in Malawi

According to the GCF dashboard, there are 3 GCF Approved projects for Malawi this far. The first project is the "*Saving Lives and Protecting Agriculture Based Livelihoods in Malawi: Scaling Up of Modernized Climate Information and Early Warning Systems in Malawi (M-CLIMES)"* project**.** This project is being led by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as the Accredited Entity (International) with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) as the main Executing Entity (EE). Other EEs are Government line ministries and other stakeholders that include the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), Department of Water Resources (DWR), Department of Fisheries (DoF), Department of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES), and National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi (NASFAM).

The second project is the *Climate Investor One (CIO) Programme*. The programme is targeting 11 low and lower-middle income countries with sizable energy deficits, which are also heavily reliant on fossil fuels in their energy mix. Malawi is one of the countries that is set to benefit from this project. However, the project has not rolled out yet.

The last one is the *Cooling Facility (CF) Program*. The is a cross-cutting multinational program targeting 10 countries and was approved by the GCF Board in October 2021. It is a 10 years implementation program with a lifespan of 27 years. Among others, the program aims to (a) reduce emissions from buildings, cities, industries and appliances, and (b) increase resilience of infrastructure and built environment. The program is also yet to roll out as it has recently been approved.

1.3 GCF-CSO Readiness Project Phase I

The CARE Germany with support from its partners i.e., German Watch and CARE International, is implementing a project called the Green Climate Fund – Civil Society Organization Readiness (GCF-CSO Readiness) Project in various African Countries including Malawi. The GCF-CSO Readiness Project seek to enhance the existing capacities of African civil society to improve the quality of the GCF project proposals submitted, bringing in on-the-ground expertise and enabling the participatory monitoring of GCF supported projects. In phase I of the project, implementing organizations including CISONECC, implemented a number of activities including; the organization of webinars and workshops, monitoring of GCF funded projects as well as the preparation and dissemination of

GCF related information. The project further promoted networking to strengthen the high-level involvement of civil society stakeholders in key African countries. Moreover, the expansion of civil society engagement was encouraged through an exchange of experience at regional and global levels. The project thus helped embedding GCF-funded activities in a broader societal support for a transformation towards a low-emission and climate-resilient society.

1.4 GCF-CSO Readiness Project Phase II in Malawi

CISONECC with support from CARE Germany, German Watch and CARE International through CARE Malawi is implementing the GCF CSO Readiness Project, Phase II in Malawi. The project is an extension of work done by CISONECC in phase one of the project. Activities for Phase II of the project include developing and printing of GCF related publications, monitoring the implementation of GCF projects in Malawi, convening national level stakeholder meetings and contributing to regional and continental webinars and meeting on GCF. The main goal is to increase CSOs involvement and engagement with Green Climate Fund, strengthening the engagement of civil society actors and organizations in the GCF processes at national, regional and international level and scale-up existing CSOs' capacities as well as to ensure accountability of GCF-funded activities by national authorities through a broader societal mobilization for transformation and better impacts.

1.4.1 Stakeholders' Engagement on GCF Processes and Activities in Malawi

In continuation of stakeholder mobilization and engagements on GCF matters, CISONECC organized a Stakeholders' Engagement on GCF Processes and Activities in Malawi. The engagement accorded national stakeholders the platform to deliberate on GCF matters and share information relating to the GCF and its associated processes and activities in Malawi. The engagement was held in Dowa District on 24th June, 2022.

1.4.1.1 Objectives of the Engagement

The workshop was organized with the following objectives;

a. To re-orient the CSO community and other stakeholders on the GCF processes with particular focus on the Simplified Approval Process (SAP) and the Project Preparatory Facility (PPF)
b. To orient stakeholders on the role of National Designated Authority (NDA) in GCF processes.
c. To share lessons from the monitoring and evaluation of the MCLIMES project activities in Phalombe, Chiradzulo and Zomba districts
d. To provide an update on the Climate Investor One (CIO) and the Cooling Facility (CF) projects implementation plans

1.4.1.2 Expected Outcomes of the Engagement

It was envisaged that after the workshop, the following outcomes will be achieved;

a. Increased stakeholders' understanding of the GCF processes especially relating to the SAP and the PPF
b. Enhanced stakeholders' understanding of how the MCLIMES project is transforming livelihoods and protecting lives in Phalombe, Chiradzulo and Zomba districts
c. Enhanced stakeholders' understanding of the roles of the NDA in GCF processes

d. Enhanced stakeholders' understanding on the plans relating to the implementation of the CIO and the CF projects in Malawi.

1.4.1.3 Target Stakeholders

The stakeholder engagement brought together CSOs, Government Departments (Department of Disaster Management Affairs, Department of Agriculture Extension Services, Department of Water Resources, Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services and Ministry of Finance, economic planning and development, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Energy), the World Bank, the FMO, Media and Academia.

2 WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

2.1 Opening Session

Ruth Likambale, CISONECC Programmes Manager, led the workshop through the objectives. She, however, commenced by stressing the need for participants to observe COVID 19 preventive measures by sanitizing their hands often and ensuring that they have their masks on throughout the workshop period. On the objectives of the workshop, she indicated that the workshop was, on one hand, meant to reorient the stakeholders on the structure and processes of the Green Climate Fund and on the other hand, provide updates on the status of implementation of the approved GCF projects in Malawi. She further shared that the workshop builds on the stakeholder discussions that CISONECC has been conducting in the past as a way of capacitating the stakeholders on GCF processes and to support the tracking of the implementation of its projects in Malawi.

Julius Ng'oma, CISONECC National Coordinator, welcomed all participants to the workshop and thanked all participants especially the government officials for honouring the invitation. He indicated that CISONECC, through the GCF-CSO Readiness project strives to ensure that stakeholders especially the CSOs have a sound understanding of the GCF as a multilateral fund including their various roles to play at various levels. The National Coordinator reminded the stakeholders of their role in tracking the extent to which Malawi is benefitting from the GCF and providing recommendations on how the country can further engage with the fund and maximise national benefits in as far as climate financing is concerned. He further highlighted that the workshop also provides a platform for self-interrogation on how stakeholders are coordinating in delivering their mandates within the GCF framework. He urged the participants to open up and feel free to contribute to the discussions so that the workshop delivers on its objectives. He wished everyone smooth and fruitful deliberations.

2.2 Presentation on GCF Architecture and Processes at International and National Level[1]: Discussion Points

The session was facilitated by Mr Julius Ng'oma, CISONECC National Coordinator. He commenced the presentation by providing a brief overview on the global climate financing landscape with focus on the UNFCCC climate financing mechanisms:

[1] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NSDysbAarHLF-E3Qi_62OnJC4jiZcj9J/view?usp=sharing

2.2.1 General Climate Financing Landscape

There is no one globally agreed definition of climate finance. This is presenting challenges as it is difficult to ascertain what qualifies as climate finance and what does not. The need to have one agreed definition of climate finance, therefore, remains urgent and important. Meanwhile, in 2010, developed countries who are party to the UNFCCC, committed to mobilize $100 Billion a year until 2020. This commitment has not been delivered as per target and the deadline has since been extended to 2025. The main challenge with the pledge was to do with accountability as financing commitments were not well spelt out in terms of amount and timeline. Nevertheless, developed countries i.e., annex one countries of the UNFCCC remain pivotal in delivering the much-needed finance for climate action by developing world and the global south in particular. Currently, parties at the COP26 proposed the need to develop proper terms of reference for the achievement of the next goal on climate finance.

2.2.2 The Green Climate Fund

The presenter further shared that within the UNFCCC, GCF was established - under the Cancún Agreements in 2010 - as a dedicated financing vehicle for developing countries within the global climate architecture, serving the Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The fund is the largest global operating financial mechanism and was set up to meet the adaptation and mitigation needs of the developing world. The fund further promotes paradigm shift through the advancement of a set of investment criteria namely; Impact potential, paradigm shifts potential, sustainable development potential, delivering recipient needs, alignment with country's existing framework and efficiency and effectiveness.

According to the presenter, the GCF only supports projects that fall within mitigation (Energy generation and access, transport sector, forestry and livelihoods) and adaptation (health, food and water sanitation, ecosystem, infrastructure, and livelihoods). GCF resources are split into two equal halves i.e., 50% for mitigation and 50% for adaptation.

2.2.3 GCF Processes and Structures

The National Coordinator highlighted that the GCF is properly structured from the global level to national levels. At global level, the fund has a Board which is comprised of 24 members (12 are from developing countries and 12 from developed countries). Below the board is the Secretariat which is responsible for the day-to-day business of the fund. The secretariat coordinates the funds programs, and is among others, responsible for the review of the project proposals submitted to GCF. At national level, the fund works with the National Designated Entities (NDAs) which are national institutions which act as entry points for GCF. The primary role of the NDAs is to issue no-objection letters (NOLs) to institutions that intend to submit project proposals to the GCF. In Malawi, the Environmental Affairs Department is the NDAs.

Project proposals are submitted to the GCF through Accredited Entities (AEs). Some of the AEs in that submit proposals in Malawi include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

2.2.4 Proposal Development and Approval Process

Mr. Ng'oma further shared that the GCF proposal template has 8 core areas which include; the summary, financing arrangement, project description, rationale for GCF involvement, expected

performance against investment criteria, appraisal summary, risk assessment and management, results and monitoring, and reporting. He added that the applicants for the GCF funding need to be aware that a successful GCF project proposal needs to; demonstrate support from government**,** demonstrate quantified impacts and co-benefits and demonstrate potential to deliver transformational change. The proposal development process starts with developing and submitting a concept note which is either endorsed or sent back to the AE with recommendations. When the concept is endorsed, the AE is requested to develop a full proposal which undergoes scrutiny by the Secretariat and the Independent Technical Advisory Panel (ITAP) before it is submitted to the Board for approval. Depending on the review and assessment processes, the proposal may either be submitted to the Board for approval or sent back to the developer to address the any identified gaps. Once the Board approves the proposal, the Secretariat facilitates the last mile contractual processes including the signing of the Funded Activity Agreement. Once the contractual agreements are done, arrangements for disbursement of funding are initiated.

The presenter further shared that GCF approves project proposals on a rolling basis and as such, interested institutions can submit proposals anytime.

2.3 Presentation on the GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP) [2]: Discussion Points

Kondwani Mubisa, CISONECC Programs Officer, delivered a presentation on the Simplified Approval Process and the Project Preparatory Facility of the GCF. He shared that most countries in the global south find the GCF processes onerous and hence fail to effectively engage with the fund. Cognizant of the situation and heeding to the outcry, the GCF put in place mechanisms that allow for the simplification of its processes and requirements for institutions to access funding. These simplified mechanisms include the Simplified Approval Process and the Project Preparatory Facility.

2.3.1 History of the SAP

The presenter highlighted that the SAP was adopted during the 18th Board meeting in October 2017. In 2022, the 32nd Board meeting further updated the SAP in an effort to further simplify the process. According to the presenter, the simplification aims to among others; simplify the application process, streamline the review process and expedite the post approval processes. For a project to be eligible for the SAP, it must: request GCF financing of up to USD25, must have minimal or no social or environmental risks, must have potential to scale up and must demonstrate high mitigation and adaptation potential. The SAP can fund projects such as; the early warning systems, rain-water harvesting facilities, small-scale renewable energy, small scale water supply and drainage and climate-resilient agriculture.

2.3.2 Proposal Development and Approval Processes for the SAP

The presenter further shared that apart from the AEs, concept notes for the SAP can be submitted to GCF by the NDAs and GCF Focal Points. For the SAP, GCF focuses more on Direct Access Entities (DAEs) than International Accredited Entities (IAEs). Once the concept has been submitted, the Secretariat validates the risk category of the concept and notifies the concept developer of the project eligibility. Once the concept is endorsed, the AE is requested to develop a funding proposal for

[2] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ajRuXGe5ksdmvVzuwY2a--Z9z1jbKr_H/view?usp=sharing

submission to GCF. The secretariat alongside the NDA provides technical support for the finalization of the proposal. He further added that once the proposal has been finalized, it is submitted to the Board for approval during its regular meetings. Immediately after the approval, the Secretariat executes the Funded Activity Agreement (FAA) and expedites the post approval processes that immediately result in disbursement of resources for implementation of the project. Figure below illustrates the 8-step process for the SAP.

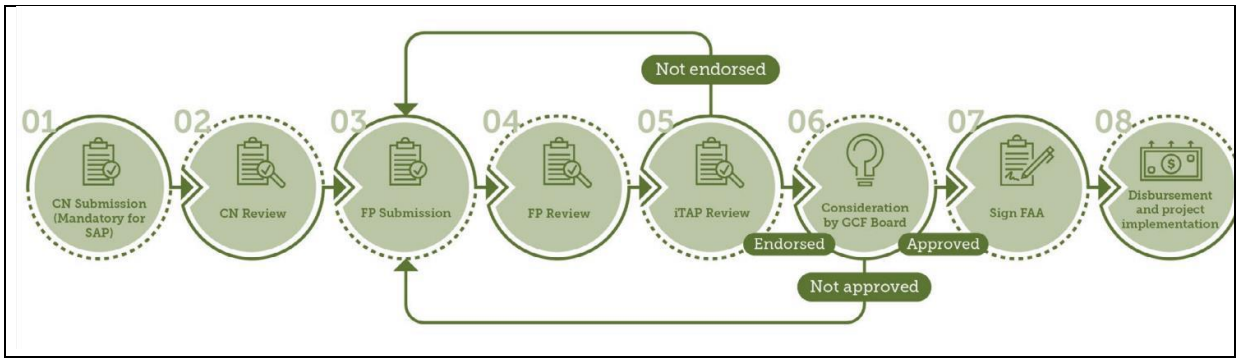


Figure 1: 8-step process for the Simplified Approval Process

2.4 Presentation on the GCF Project Preparatory Facility (PPF)[3]: Discussion Points

Kondwani Mubisa, CISONECC Programs Officer, further delivered a presentation on the Project Preparatory Facility of the GCF. According to him, the GCF realises that most institutions in the developing world lack the necessary capacity to meet the GCF requirements for funding. As a result, GCF put in place the PPF to provide technical and financial support to developing countries for the preparation of projects and programme funding.

Under the PPF, developing countries can access up to USD1.5 million and GCF focuses on supporting the DAEs under this facility. The presenter further highlighted that the PPF is available through two modalities i.e., the PPF Funding or the PPF Service. Under the PPF Funding, the AE is responsible for the utilization of the funding including reporting while under the PPF Service arrangement, GCF utilizes independent consultancy firms who are then responsible for procurements, monitoring and reporting. He further reminded the stakeholders that the PPF can also be considered under the SAP. Countries can request up to USD300 000 for PPF under the SAP.

Further, the presenter shared that the PPF can support activities such as; project design, environmental, social and gender studies, risk assessments, financial advisory services, pre-feasibility and feasibility studies, pre-contract services and identification of programme and project indicators.

2.4.1 Application and Approval Processes for PPF

Mr. Mubisa further unpacked the application and approval process for the PPF. He indicated that the process starts with the development and submission of a concept note, PPF application package and a PPF specific no-objection letter to GCF by AEs. The GCF Secretariat then reviews the concept against the GCF investment criteria. Once the concept note has been reviewed and approved by the Secretariat. The approved application package is further sent to the GCF approving authority which

[3] https://drive.google.com/file/d/11CnghkXEqhHWqML47CFDaaMPN00AMdcB/view?usp=sharing

can then send an approval notification for implementation. The AE can then submit a full funding proposal to GCF within 2 years.

2.5 Key Issues from the Discussions (Plenary)

- **How the GCF mobilize resources:** GCF resources are mobilized by developed countries as their contribution to tackling the climate change crisis that they largely caused
- **How the Government of Malawi can benefit from GCF**: Countries can access up to 3 million USD as readiness funds to building capacity of local stakeholders and support their adaptation planning processes.
- **Private sector engagement with the GCF**: Part of the private sector is aware of the fund but is reluctant to engage with it as they find the GCF processes complex and costly. Moreover, the sector is profit-minded and they find investment in climate change less rewarding and risky. However, it is reported that MyBucks Bank is in the process of getting accreditation as AE. There is need to scale up this awareness and that is where the CSOs and the government through the NDA should come in.
- **Government institutions getting accredited as AEs**: It is possible for government institutions to be accredited with the GCF as AEs. In Malawi, the EAD has been trying to seek accreditation with the fund. However, capacity remains an obstacle.
- **Co-financing requirement under SAP**: GCF emphasizes co-financing to achieve its investment criteria on country ownership. However, reference can be made to the GCF co-financing policy to ascertain whether co-financing is mandatory under the SAP.
- **Why the GCF processes are rigorous and onerous**: Developed countries demand high level of transparency for the resources they are mobilizing. The rigorous process is one way of ensuring that there is a legitimate climate crisis that warrants financing. Developing countries are, therefore, required to develop proposals that advance a clear climate rationale before they can access the funds. Moreover, the GCF would want to support projects that deliver its objectives. This implies that the projects should not present any negative risks to the environment or people. A rigorous process allows for thorough scrutiny for potential environmental and social risks.
- **EAD's accreditation as NDA**: The NDA does not undergo the accreditation process to become an NDA. All NDAs are nominated by the UNFCCC to become NDAs or focal points based on their mandate on climate change issues in the country.
- **Progress on GCF-CSO Readiness Project:** CISONECC has worked on encouraging different stakeholders to either develop and submit proposals to the GCF or by seeking accreditation to become DAEs. Currently, a number of CSOs are in various consortiums that are either developing proposals or have submitted proposals to GCF. These CSOs include Save the Children (SC) and Development Aid from People to People (DAPP). Other organizations like Leadership for Environment and Development – Southern and Eastern Africa (LEAD-SEA), and Malawi Environment Endowment Trust (MEET) are seeking accreditation to become DAEs. CISONECC is still encouraging CSOs to come together in consortiums to develop proposals and seek financing from the fund.

- **Accessibility of the EAD as NDA**: The EAD as an NDA is accessible for stakeholders to seek support on GCF. One of EAD's roles is coordinating the stakeholders on the GCF agenda at country level. The GCF website provides the contact details for the NDA.
- **GCF priority areas for funding**: The GCF has 8 strategic impact areas on which a project can be proposed. The impact areas either aim to reduce emissions or increase resilience. Strategic impact areas for mitigation aim to reduce emissions from; energy generation and access, transport, forest and land use, building cities, industry and appliances. Impact areas for adaptation aim to increase resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services, health, food and water security, livelihoods of people and communities and infrastructure and built environment.

2.6 Presentation on Lessons from MCLIMES Project Implementation in Chiradzulu, Zomba and Phalombe Districts[4]: Discussion Points

Kondwani Mubisa, CISONECC Programs officer, delivered a presentation on lessons from the implementation of GCF funded MCLIMES project based on the monitoring activities conducted in Chiradzulo, Phalombe and Zomba Districts. He started by sharing that monitoring activities were conducted in March 2022 with the objectives of: (i) assessing progress in enhancing capacity of hydro met networks and staff to support generation of climate-related data and forecast extreme weather and climate change, (ii) assess impact of tailor-made warnings and advisory information developed for agriculture and flood risk management, and (iii) assess communities' willingness and capacity to adopt and utilize Early Warning Systems (EWS) and climate information (CI) in preparedness and response to climate related disasters. The monitoring activities utilized Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), survey questionnaires, physical observations, one-on-one interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) to collect data and information.

2.6.1 Learnings from the monitoring activities

The presenter shared that the monitoring activities gathered a number of points for learning. These include:

- The MCLIMES project is providing support to the DWR and DCCMS to generate flood warnings and weather forecasts which are disseminated to targeted farming and fishing communities. The project has supported the procurement and installation of Community Based Flood Early Warning Systems in problem rivers in the three districts. Staff members from DWR and DCCMS were trained in operation and maintenance of the systems
- NASFAM and DAES are adequately capacitated under the project to utilize weather data to generate climate, weather and agriculture messages for dissemination to farmers.
- The communities are capacitated in different areas including on the Community Based Flood Early Warning Systems (CBFEWS) and the Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA)
- There is a general positive perception and trust in early warnings and agriculture advisories among farming communities in Chiradzulu, Phalombe and Zomba. Up to 99% of the

[4] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M86Xi4BMO9iERdYJdJceUuidc-2Foy7O/view?usp=sharing

community members indicated that they trust the information and use the advisories for a number of things including making agriculture decisions, household level planning and sharing with others. In cases where information has not been disseminated by NASFAM and DAES, farmers take individual initiatives to demand for the information. This demonstrates the level of trust the communities have on the information and advisories.

- Community members (69%) reported that since the inception of the project, productivity especially in agriculture has tremendously improved. This is as a result of utilizing the information and advisories shared with them. However, farmers lamented loss and damages from a series of cyclones that hit most parts of the South Eastern districts of Malawi more especially Phalombe and Zomba.
- Farmers are receiving climate information, flood warnings and agriculture advisories through various mediums including SMSs, radios, extension officers, flood warning alarms and community meetings among others. However, there was a general inclination towards receiving information and advisories from extension workers than any of the other mediums
- Women are the most engaged gender group in the project (an average of 60%)
- The implementation of the project has not resulted in any social or environmental challenges. Instead, the project is promoting catchment conservation initiatives.
- Farmers reported that they are only able to give feedback through extension workers from DAES, NASFAM, DWR or DCCMS on their experiences with utilizing the climate information, flood warnings and agriculture advisories

2.6.2 Observed and reported challenges

- Farmers are provided with important information but access to input remains a challenge for most farmers. This has a bearing on how much they can harvest
- Lack of adequate trainings/learning sessions/interface meetings on various aspects of the project intervention areas. For instance, there were reports that farmers were not adequately trained on CBFEWS especially in Zomba
- Farmers reported inconsistent frequency in dissemination of information and advisories. Sometimes farmers have to submit inquires for them to receive information
- Information relating to weather is usually not accurate for specific areas. Farmers wished there were able to receive information that is specific for their areas.
- Challenges in understanding some of the information especially information received through SMS. Farmers need more clear information beyond what an SMS message can carry
- Lack of interest from other farmers in the community is limiting the extent to which farmers can benefit from the project interventions
- Persistent, high magnitude and recurring climate hazards in 2021/2022 rainfall season i.e., cyclones undermined farmers efforts

2.6.3 Key recommendations from the monitoring activities

- The project should consider investing in the promotion of winter cropping to cover farmers who are negatively affected by disasters

- Need to put in place deliberate feedback mechanism for farmers to be able to provide feedback on the use of the advisories (participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning). One way to do it is to intensify direct interface with farmers
- Support farmers with basic needs like improved seed varieties and fertilizers beyond provision of information
- Lead farmers need to be prioritized and adequately equipped to support implementation of the project interventions
- Farmers need to be trained adequately in areas of project interest. This includes conducting refresher trainings
- The project should explore ways of increasing access to advisories by farmers through phone. The SMS platform is not fully utilized in the three districts
- Irrigation intervention should be seriously emphasized within the project
- PICSA approach needs to be out-scaled and be adopted by government as an established approach within the agriculture sector

2.6.4 Key Lessons from the monitoring activities

- Provision of climate and agriculture information should go beyond the project. It is a fundamental requirement for a productive agriculture sector
- Agriculture projects should be well planned and should be informed by climate information
- Provision of climate and agriculture information is critical for anticipation and management of uncertainties
- Extension services is the most effective approach to passing information and advisories to farmers

2.7 Key Issues from the Discussions

- **Complementary effort by other stakeholders**: Red Cross Society worked hand in hand with MCLIMES implementing partners to disseminate information especially during cyclones Idai, Anna and Gombe.
- **Capacity building of hydro-met staff:** The project has recently conducted upgrading trainings for hydro-met staff on geo-based (satellite observations) monitoring. This is a complementary training on the river-based flood monitoring trainings that were already conducted.
- **Maintenance of CBFEWS and EWS equipment:** The DCCMS and DWR reported that the project intends to commence general maintenance of all CBFEWS and EWS equipment this year (2022)
- **Sample size for monitoring:** The small sample size engaged during the exercise was a result of resource constraints i.e., it was not feasible for CISONECC to reach out to a larger number of respondents due to limited resources. The aim was to obtain a snapshot of the situation on the ground in the three districts
- **The role CBFEWS played during cyclones:** Most of the CBFEWS in Phalombe were not commissioned before the cyclones. As such, the systems did not really benefit the communities

in Phalombe like they did in Zomba and Karonga Districts during the same period. The project is working on making all the CBFEWS operational across the country.

2.8 Presentation on Status of Implementation of the Climate Investor One Programme[5]: Discussion Points

Kevin Anderson, Head of Strategic Initiatives for Climate Fund Managers, delivered a presentation on the status of the Climate Investor One Programme in Malawi. He kicked off his presentation by providing a brief overview of the position of the Climate Fund Managers in the Climate Investor One Programme

2.8.1 Overview of the Climate Fund Managers (CFM) and the Climate Investor One (CIO) Fund**.** According to the presenter, Climate Fund Managers (CFM) is 50% owned by the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and 50% of the shares is owned by Sanlam Infraworks. The organization is headquartered in the Hague, Netherlands and has offices across the world. CFM utilizes the Climate Investor One (CIO) Fund to undertake different climate change programmes across the world. The CIO Fund pools resources from different investors including GCF, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU), African Development Bank (AfDB) and FMO to mention but a few. The CIO Fund basically finances renewable energy projects with focus on Solar, Wind and Hydro power in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Mr. Anderson further shared that under the CIO Fund, the Climate Fund Managers have access to Development Fund (which provides development loans), Construction Equity Fund (which provides support with equity finance during construction) and the Climate Credit Fund (which provides senior debt) under a blended financing framework.

2.8.2 Progress of CIO activities in Malawi

According to Kevin, FMO (the AE for the CIO Programme) received a letter of no-objection from EAD (Malawi's NDA). He continued by admitting that despite the CIO Programme being approved by GCF in 2018, CFM (the IE) has made little progress in kicking-off CIO works in Malawi. He associated this the challenge to inability to identify existing project in Malawi that can be financed under the CIO programme. CFM engaged a Canadian Solar Power developer called JCM-Power with an intent to finance the 40MW Salima Solar Project in Malawi. However, JCM had already secured finances for the project and so could not partner with CFM in the project. In the meantime, CFM is turning its attention to the proposed 162MW Nthungwa Mzimba Wind Power project by Crespo, Wind N Solar and Hafnia Wind.

For Malawi, the presenter highlighted that CFM ideally wants to identify projects that can be financed using the CFM's blended financing approach with particular focus on financing the development stages which are usually cost intensive for most developing countries like Malawi. According to the presenter, it is unfortunate that CFM has not identified more projects so far. The figure below provides a simplification of the CFM's blended financing approach.

[5] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aMc50h_pLqqSKrI9SYBX0TSdqM-oWUvU/view?usp=sharing

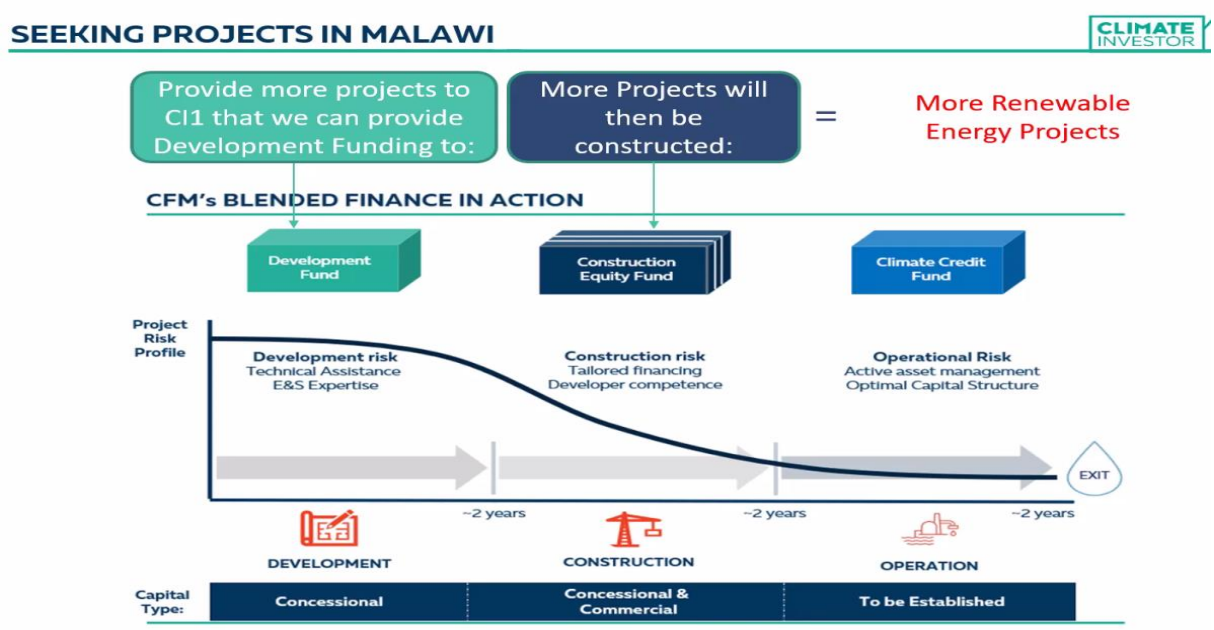


Figure 2: A graphical illustration on how Malawi can access financing for energy projects under the CIO's CFM blended financing approach.

2.8.3 CFM Commitment and Recommendation

Mr. Anderson reiterated that CFM acknowledges lack of progress in securing project opportunities for Malawi despite receiving a letter of no-objection from the NDA. CFM is committed to rolling out energy projects in Malawi and will utilize the stakeholder platform to identify projects and ensure that CIO rolls out its works in Malawi soon. However, CFM encouraged the NDA to play a critical proactive role of linking CFM to potential energy project developers in Malawi to ensure quick and easy entry for CIO programme activities in Malawi. This can be done by organizing the potential project developers for a meeting with CFM.

2.9 Key Issues from the Discussions (Plenary)

- **Whether CFM funds both private and public sector:** The CFM finances both the private and public sector renewable energy projects. Should Government of Malawi have the desire to develop a Build, Own and Transfer (BOT) model, CFM can come in to fund the project provided that there is a clear off-taker agreement in place. CFM is further encouraging the Government of Malawi to share any available feasibility reports so that CFM can consider funding the projects. Should the feasibility reports have gaps, CFM is ready to fund further feasibility work by tapping resources from the development fund to support engineering and environmental studies to mention but a few. CFM can also fund solar roofs project especially for manufacturing hubs to help them reduce their reliance on grid power and also cut their industrial emissions. In summary, CFM works with project developers by financing projects and not develop them.
- **Relationship between FMO and the Government of Malawi (NDA and Ministry of Energy) under the CIO program:** It is important to note that FMO/CFM work under the CIO is on a Program basis and not a project basis. FMO/CFM did not go through the typical

GCF project proposal process to secure funds from GCF. Instead, FMO/CFM identifies countries with energy needs and requests GCF to provide them with finances to address the energy challenges on the condition that the NDAs of those countries submit letters of no objection. In summary, the relationship between FMO and the Government of Malawi is good to the extent that the government through the NDA successfully issued a letter of no objection for the CIO program in Malawi. The challenge has been the identification of the project developers in Malawi so far. CFM will ensure to speed up the process so that Malawi has a CIO financed project being implemented soon.

- **FMO/CFM's engagement plan with local stakeholders**: CFM acknowledges the lack of meaningful progress on the CIO program in Malawi and therefore commits to further engage with the Ministry of Energy in the identification of potential projects for funding under the CIO program. This process can start with the Government of Malawi through the NDA and responsible ministry inviting CFM on a round table to map a way forward.
- **Willingness of CFM to work with local project developers**: CFM has a primary focus on working with local developers of projects under the principle of knowledge transfer. In cases where the capacity of local developers is low, international experts can be brought in to do the work while ensuring that the local experts' capacity is enhanced in the process. So far, no local project developer has reached out to CFM for funding.

2.10 Presentation on status of implementation of the Cooling Facility Programme[6]: Discussion Points

The presentation was delivered by Martina Bosi, Senior Energy Economist under the Energy Sector Measurement Assistant Programme (ESMAP) of the World Bank. She started her presentation by highlighting that the World Bank developed the Cooling Facility (CF) programme on the premise that access to affordable, efficient, clean cooling is both a development and climate challenge.

According to the World Bank, the global community is increasingly becoming hotter and the world's 30 hottest cities are in developing world. It is estimated that 1 billion people globally are at immediate risk due to lack of access to cooling. As such, cooling is becoming a pressing agenda for adaptation and mitigation as it has health and well-being impact, productivity impact, food impact, equity impact and energy and Green House Gas (GHG) impact. The CF programme aims to break the cycle of the prevailing cooling systems which are contributing to the emission of GHGs causing more global warming. The CF was developed to mainstream and scale-up access to sustainable cooling solutions, build resilience and mitigate GHGs. World Bank mobilized $157 million from GCF for the CF to cover 9 countries including Malawi. The target areas for the CF program are space cooling, cool/green surfaces, refrigeration, cold chains and logistics. The CF is cross-sectoral (i.e., tackles cooling in different sectors,) it is cross-cutting (contributes to both mitigation and adaptation) and it is wholistic (combines efficient, clean cooling investments with support to strengthen an enabling environment by supporting policy and regulatory measures and capacity building to mention but a few).

[6] https://drive.google.com/file/d/110e3TUtHakMDjBwzpSXNU7mNLkx5DIcA/view?usp=sharing

2.10.1 Main Goals and Envisaged Impact of the CF

According to the presenter, the CF was developed to; increase access to cooling, mitigate climate impact of meeting projected increasing cooling demand, improve climate change resilience, promote interest and support for innovative means of providing cooling services, support goals of the Kigali Amendment and provide pioneering examples that can be scaled up including in other countries that are facing similar situations and opportunities. The presenter further shared that the CF seeks to mitigate 16.2 $MtCO_{2e}$ and will benefit an estimated 21 million people in the 9 countries. It is further envisaged that the programme will contribute to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including goals number 7 (access to clean energy), 2(end hunger), 3(good health and well-being) and 13 (climate action).

2.10.2 The structure of the CF

Ms. Martina Bosi further shared that the CF has a structure made up of three main components. The first Component of the structure is on policy, regulatory and enabling support. The second component is on financing for cooling investments and the last component is the project management.

2.10.3 CF Programme Implementation Progress

The CF programme in Malawi will be tied to the agriculture sector with focus on refrigeration, mitigation of up to 0.6MtCO2e and will reach out to at least 560 thousand beneficiaries with adaptation interventions in relation to cooling. The CF programme already has the Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework in place. Currently, a stakeholder engagement plan is under development and will be made accessible to the public. The World Bank will also carry out ongoing stakeholder consultations as part of the project design and implementation. In terms of progress, the presenter shared that the CF is now at a point where GCF is facilitating the signing of the Funded Activity Agreement which will then lead into the rolling out of the facility in all target countries including Malawi. The figure below shows where World Bank is with the CF development process.

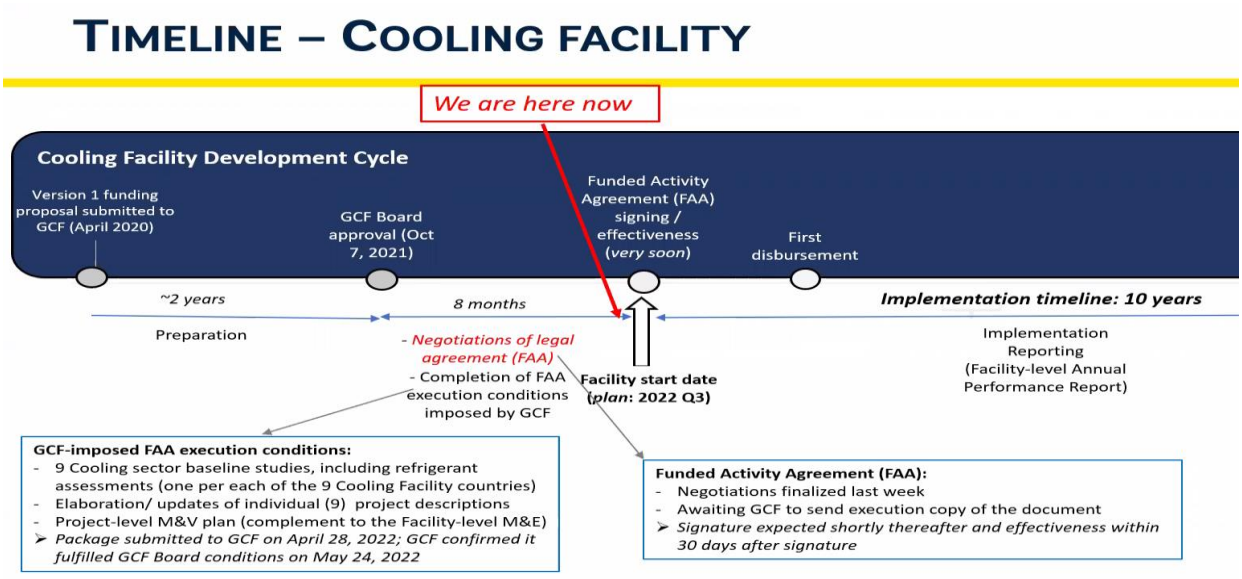


Figure 3: The Cooling Facility Development Process

2.10.4 The CF Programme Implementation Arrangement in Malawi

The GCF funds within the cooling facility will co-finance an existing World Bank project called the Malawi Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Scaling (FINES). The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Trade with support from the Reserve Bank of Malawi. The FINES project aims to increase access to financial services, promote entrepreneurship and capabilities of micro, small and medium enterprises in Malawi. The GCF funds will be processed as additional funds to the FINES project to help strengthen climate change policy framework of the government to promote the use of low-carbon cooling technologies and support cold chains for rural farmers.

Ms. Martina further shared that both government and World Bank have roles to play in the implementation of the program. The Government of Malawi through responsible ministries will be responsible for project preparation, contracting, environmental and social impact mitigation, implementation, reporting and procurement of goods and services. On the other hand, the World Bank will be responsible for due diligence, providing advice and analysis during preparation, capacity assessments, technical assistance, monitoring and ensuring that adequate fiduciary controls of the project are in place.

2.11 Key Issues from the Discussions

- **Progress of the FINES project:** The FINES project is under implementation. The Ministry of Trade is implementing the project with its Project Implementation Unit falling under the Reserve Bank of Malawi. Some Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have already started accessing resources under the project on the basis of soft loans through the commercial banks.
- **Relationship between World Bank and the NDA in Malawi and other partners earmarked by the CF programme:** The NDA in Malawi was engaged and they provided the letter of no objection for the program. However, World Bank will further be engaging the government entities responsible for the CF programme going forward. At this point, the CF programme is still in the development stages and, therefore, the relationships with local stakeholders in Malawi is not as active. World Bank expects much more strengthened relationships with these government agencies when the program rolls out its interventions in Malawi.
- **Challenges faced by the SMEs in FINE project:** Main challenges include; lack of finances for SMEs to procure and install cooling facilities, low awareness on the advantages of cooling facilities especially for the agriculture cooperatives and lack of technical know-how on how to effectively use these facilities. The CF will consider these challenges and many others in the design of the programme.
- **Openness of the CF to other value chains beyond agriculture e.g., fisheries:** The designing of the facility is on-going. As such, nothing conclusive regarding which value chains are going to be considered. As the designing process continues, such considerations will be pondered upon.
- **Focal points for World Bank on CF in Malawi:** Stakeholders should engage the team that is currently coordinating the FINES project in Malawi

2.12 Closing Session

Julius Ng'oma, CISONECC National Coordinator, extended votes of thanks to government institutions (Finance, Trade, Energy, DAES, DODMA and DCCMS) for their participation during the meeting. He further expressed gratitude to all CSOs, the Academia and Media bodies present during the meeting for sparing time to attend the workshop.

In a special way, the National Coordinator thanked the World Bank and Climate Fund Manager (FMO) for accepting to attend and deliver important presentations on the statuses of the CIO and CF programmes in Malawi. He called upon stakeholders to keep engaging and to collectively follow and update each other on developments relating to the GCF activities in Malawi. He assured the participants that CISONECC will keep on engaging the stakeholders but extended an appeal to stakeholders to take the initiative to follow up on GCF issues and act accordingly based on their roles in the processes to ensure that Malawi fully benefits from GCF resources.

He closed by indicating that CISONECC will share all workshop presentations and develop a report that will also be shared with all participants. He wished participants all the best and safe travels to their respective places

3 SUMMARY OF ISSUES, RECOMENDATIONS AND ACTION POINTS

SESSION	KEY ISSUES	MAIN ACTION POINTS	RECOMMENDATIONS
GCF Architecture and processes at international and national level	• Absence of a DAE a concern • Accreditation process very rigorous and prohibitive • NDA not adequately supporting stakeholders through the process	• CSOs can form consortiums, identify an AE and develop a proposal for submission to GCF • CSO can also apply for accreditation to become DAEs • CSOs can engage with the NDAs for guidance and support in engaging with the GCF • NDA should support local institutions through the accreditation process • CSOs can also interact with other CSOs which have engaged with the GCF processes before to share notes	• Interested institutions can engage the secretariat to facilitate formation of consortiums • NDA should invest more in capacitating local institutions to engage with the GCF
GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP)	• Participants noted that it is difficult to access GCF funds under normal processes. The session revealed that the SAP offers an easy and quick opportunity for institutions to access funding from GCF	• Interested institutions must consider exploring the SAP.	• CISONECC and the NDA can support institutions engage with the GCF through the SAP
GCF Project Preparatory Facility (PPF)	• This session noted most institutions are constrained in terms of capacity. As such the GCF, through the PFF, offers an opportunity to institutions to access funds to support development of projects for submission to GCF	• Institutions with financial and technical capacity challenges must explore and seek support from GCF through the PFF to help them prepare projects	• CISONECC and the NDA can guide/support institutions through the PPF processes
Lessons from MCLIMES project implementation in	• Reported cases of vandalism of Early Warning Equipment	• DWR and DCCMS should ensure that there is routine maintenance of the EWS and CBFEWS equipment for	• Government will commission maintenance

Zomba, Chiradzulu and Phalombe districts	• Lack of adequate sensitizations and trainings for communities on EWS • Sample size used for monitoring not representative enough	sustainability of the MCLIMES project interventions • DWR and DCCMS should invest in more community sensitization to curb vandalism and theft of equipment • CISONECC should use a representative sample when conducting the monitoring activities	activities and replace stolen EWS.
Status of implementation of the Climate Investor One Programme	• Climate Fund Managers (CFM) yet to identify fundable energy projects in Malawi	• CFM and Department of Energy should arrange a meeting to map out a way forward on how the CIO programme should roll out in Malawi.	• Government should invite CFM to Malawi as soon as possible.
Status of implementation of the Cooling Facility (CF) Programme	The CF program is yet to roll out as it is still under development. Once developed, it will be implemented under the FINES project	• Ministry of Trade and Industry should engage World Bank and finalize the CF development process for Malawi • Stakeholders can engage World Bank on the CF through the team coordinating the FINES project from the World Bank Country Office in Malawi	• Need for immediate engagements between Ministry of Trade and Industry, World Bank and Ministry of Finance to expedite the process of finalizing the CF programme development in Malawi

4 CHALLENGES

The main challenges encountered in organizing the workshop were information gap and unavailability of some key stakeholders to play facilitation roles during the workshop.

Key government institutions which were earmarked in the CIO and the CF programmes like the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Environmental Affairs Department (the NDA) and Ministry of Energy had limited or no information regarding the status of the CIO and CF programmes in Malawi. This made it difficult in planning the workshop as important information was not available to use for planning purposes.

CISONECC had opted to secure resource persons from FMO and World Bank which are the AEs for the CIO and CF programs respectively. It was quite a challenging undertaking but CISONECC managed to secure resource persons from the two institutions to deliver presentations.

Additionally, CISONECC was unable to secure the presence of the NDA at the meeting to facilitate a session on the GCF processes. The NDA had to excuse itself due to other pressing institutional assignments. As a way out, CISONECC deployed internal resource persons to facilitate the sessions on behalf of the NDA.

5 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

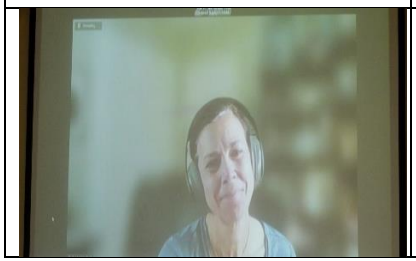
- CISONECC should endeavor to co-plan the next stakeholder engagements meeting on GCF with the NDA
- The NDA need to prioritize the stakeholder engagements to ensure that stakeholders are adequately capacitated on GCF matters for informed engagement
- CISONECC should continue coordinating the discussions for sustained engagement and swift actions
- FMO and World Bank need to dedicate communication persons for GCF matters to ensure easy. timely, more transparent flow of information on GCF programs in Malawi

6 CONCLUSION

The stakeholder workshop was a great success. Stakeholders were oriented/re-orient on the GCF processes with particular focus on the GCF structure, the Simplified Approval Process (SAP) and the Project Preparatory Facility (PPF). Stakeholders were further oriented on the roles of National Designated Authority (NDA) in GCF processes in Malawi. In addition, stakeholders were able to discuss lessons from the monitoring and evaluation of the MCLIMES project activities in Phalombe, Chiradzulo and Zomba districts and provide recommendations on how the MCLIMES project can be more successful in saving lives and transforming the livelihoods of rural farming communities. More importantly, stakeholders were appraised on the status of the Climate Investor One (CIO) and the Cooling Facility (CF) projects which were approved for implementation in Malawi.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Pictures

			
Ruth Likambale, CISONECC programs Manager taking the participants through the objectives and program of the day	Julius Ng'oma, CISONECC National Coordinator delivering a presentation on the GCF processes and structures at international and national level	Kondwani Mubisa, CISONECC Programs Officer delivering presentations on the SAP and PPF	Mr Lee Ngiranzi, Christian Aid Climate Justice Coordinator asking a question during the meeting
			
Mr. Amos Mtonya, Senior Meteorologist from DCCMS contributing to the discussions	Mrs Jacinta Chipendo, Deputy Director Value Addition Department under the Ministry of Trade and Industry making her observations during the meeting	Kevin Anderson, Head of Strategic Initiatives at Climate Fund Managers delivering a presentation on the status of the CIO program via Zoom	Ayam Mayeretsa, Journalist at Malawi Broadcasting Corporation posing a question during one of the plenary sessions
			

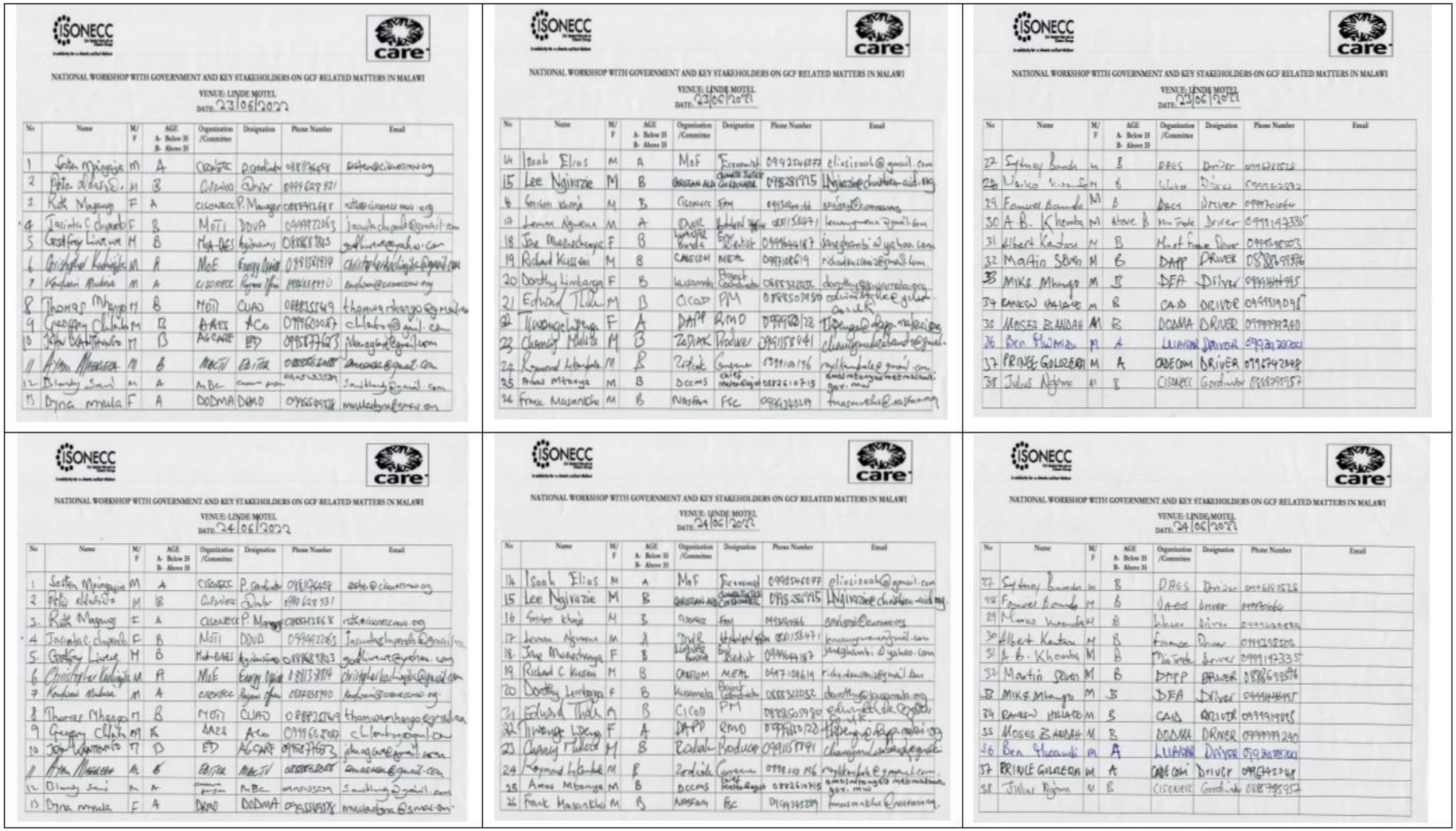
Martina Bosi, Senior Energy Economist World Bank - Washington DC, delivering a presentation on the status of the CF programme.	A cross-section of some of the participants during the workshop	A group photo of stakeholders during the workshop	Mr Christopher Kachinjika, Energy Officer in the Ministry of Energy contributing to the deliberations

7.2 Meeting Program

Time	Agenda Item	Session Objective	Facilitator	How
08:30 - 08:40	Opening Prayer and Introduction	Knowing one another	Ruth Likambale – Programs Manager, CISONECC	Prayer from Volunteer and Self-introductions
08:40 – 08:50	Welcome Remarks	Climate Setting	Julius Ng'oma – CISONECC National Coordinator	Remarks
08:50 – 09:00	Review meeting objectives	Sharing objectives of the workshop	Ruth Likambale – CISONECC Programs Manager	Remarks
09:00 - 09:45	Understanding the Green Climate Fund: 1. Architecture and processes at International and National Level 2. The role of NDA 3. Proposal Development and approval process	Orienting/Re-orienting stakeholders on the GCF as a multilateral Fund	Julius Ng'oma – National Coordinator, CISONECC	PTT
09:45 – 10:30	Understanding the; 1. Simplified Approval Process (SAP) 2. Private Sector Facility (PSF) 3. The Project Preparation Facility (PPF)	Share knowledge relating to the SAP, PSF and the PPF	Kondwani Mubisa – Programme Officer, CISONECC	PPT
10:30 – 11:00	**Health Break**			
11:00 - 12:00	Plenary	Provide room for question comments, additions, and further discussion of the two presentations	Lee Ngirazie, Climate Justice Coordinator – Christian Aid	Feedback from all participants
12:00 - 12:30	How the MCLIMES Project is benefiting Malawians – Lessons from Zomba, Phalombe and Chiradzulu Districts	Share lessons on how GCF-funded projects are impacting on the lives of Malawians and raise stakeholder attention towards the GCF. The session will also serve to validate findings from	Kondwani Mubisa – CISONECC Programs Officer	PPT (Zoom Call)

		monitoring and evaluation work by CISONECC		
12:30 - 13:00	Plenary	Provide room for questions, comments, additions, and further discussion on the presentations	Edward Thole, Programs Manager, CICOD	Feedback from all participants
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**			
14:00 - 14:30	Presentation on the overview of the Climate Investor One (CIO) Project including its implementation plans in Malawi. 1. Objectives of the project and its relevance to Malawi 2. Implementation modalities, progress and plans 3. How local actors are mobilized by the project	To create a shared understanding of the CIO project including how and when the project will commence in Malawi	Kelvin Anderson, Head of Strategic Initiatives, Climate Fund Managers - FMO	PPT (Zoom Call)
14:30 - 15:00	Plenary	Provide room for questions, comments, additions, and further discussion on the presentation	Chimwemwe Sakunda, National Coordinator - CADECOM	Feedback from all participants
15:00 – 15:30	Presentation on the overview of the Cooling Facility (CF) Project including its implementation plans in Malawi. 1. Objectives of the project and its relevance to Malawi 2. Implementation modalities, progress and plans 3. How local actors are mobilized by the project	To create a shared understanding of the CF project including how and when the project will commence in Malawi	Martina Bosi, World Bank	PPT (Zoom Call?)
15:30 – 16:00	Plenary	Provide room for questions, comments, additions, and further discussion on the presentation	John Kanthungo, AG Care	Feedback from all participants
16:00 – 16:15	Closing Session	Highlighting Way forward and closing the meeting	Julius Ng'oma	Remarks
Closing Player and Logistics				

7.3 Attendance List



NATIONAL WORKSHOP WITH GOVERNMENT AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON GCF RELATED MATTERS IN MALAWI

VENUE: LINDE MOTEL
DATE: 23/06/2022

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29	Samuel Banda	M	B	DAES	Driver	0999	
30	A B. Khumbo	M	Above B	Minstry	Driver	0999197335	
31	Albert Kantsa	M	B	Meat Indus	Driver	0995985073	
32	Martin Sowa	M	B	DAPP	DRIVER	0888699576	
33	MIKE Mhango	M	B	DEA	Driver	0999	
34	RAMSEY MILANZI	M	B	CAID	DRIVER	0999199895	
35	MOSES BANDA	M	B	DODMA	DRIVER	0999999240	
36	Ben Mwandi	M	A	LUANAR	Driver	0993	
37	PRINCE GOLOLEDA	M	A	CAEGOM	DRIVER	0996742948	
38	Julius Ngoma	M	B	CISONECC	Coordinator	0888	

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VENUE: LINDE MOTEL
DATE: 24/06/2022

No	Name	M/F	AGE A- Below 35 B- Above 35	Organization /Committee	Designation	Phone Number	Email
27	Sydney Banda	M	B	DAES	Driver	0996281516	
28	Samuel Banda	M	B	DAES	Driver	0999629931	
29	Mavuto Mwanza	M	B	Water	Driver	0999	
30	Albert Kantsa	M	B	Finance	Driver	0995985073	
31	A B. Khumbo	M	B	Ministry	Driver	0999197335	
32	Martin Sowa	M	B	DAPP	DRIVER	0888699576	
33	MIKE Mhango	M	B	DEA	Driver	0999	
34	RAMSEY MILANZI	M	B	CAID	DRIVER	0999199895	
35	MOSES BANDA	M	B	DODMA	DRIVER	0999999240	
36	Ben Mwandi	M	A	LUANAR	Driver	0993	
37	PRINCE GOLOLEDA	M	A	CAEGOM	DRIVER	0996742948	
38	Julius Ngoma	M	B	CISONECC	Coordinator	0888	