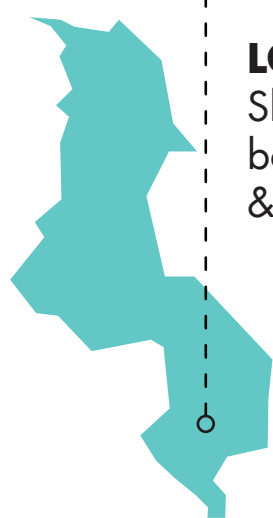


CONSULT US

"We Want to See Our Own Development Priorities Realized"

Mpatamanga Hydropower Project, Malawi



LOCATION:

Shire River,
bordering Blantyre
& Neno districts

FUNDERS:

Government of
Malawi, IFC and
the World Bank

PROJECT PREPARATION IMPLEMENTER:

Department of Energy
(Government of Malawi)

CONSULTANTS - RESETTLEMENT:

Mott Macdonald &
C12 Consultants

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Construction of a 350 megavolts hydroelectric power plant and a regulating dam, environmental and social impact assessment and resettlement action planning.



The Government of Malawi is developing a hydropower project with the technical support from the IFC and a proposed financial support from the World Bank.



The Project involves the construction, operation and maintenance of a hydroelectric power plant and a regulating dam in Malawi 40 km west of Blantyre on the Shire River.



The Government of Malawi (GoM), through the Department of Energy, is the project implementer for the preparation phase. The GoM has contracted Mott Macdonald, which in turn has contracted C12 Consultants to conduct environmental and social impact assessment and resettlement action planning.

BENEFITS According to the Government of Malawi

-  Increase in energy generation capacity in Malawi
-  Increase in employment opportunities for local communities
-  Develop the country's economic growth

NEGATIVE Impacts for Communities

-  Loss of land
-  Loss of housing
-  Displacement of a graveyard
-  Likely increase in STDs and underaged pregnancy cases
-  Loss of livelihood for pastoralists and irrigation farmers

In October 2020, **CHRR**, with the support of **IAP**, facilitated a **community-led research** with the communities affected by the Mpatamanga Hydropower Project - **Chaswanthaka and Chikira villages in Blantyre district and Kambalame in Neno district**. 123 project affected people were surveyed. In March 2021, CHRR conducted meetings in all the three projected affected villages to **validate the findings of the community-led research**.

This is what communities had to say:

0%



None (%) of survey respondents were consulted during the design and planning phase of the project.

“ We learned about the project during the impact assessment study. ”

70%



70% of respondents stated that they lacked sufficient information to provide informed opinions and ideas about the project.

“ Before the coming in of the project plans, floods eroded the bridge and the government brought equipment to construct the bridge but the dam project has stopped the construction. ”

76%



76% of respondents said they did not know who would be implementing the project.

“ I have so many questions about the project and its impact on our community. I ask the government to hold community meetings so that we can discuss these issues together. ”

76%



76% of respondents stated that they did not know where to file a complaint.

“ The government has not held any meeting in my community to give us any information about the project. ”



NEXT STEPS - After participating in the survey process, communities made the following recommendations:

The Government of Malawi should consult them on the project plans so that they can input their own development priorities.

The Department of Energy as the project preparation implementer should share with them project information.

The Department of Energy should facilitate a better resettlement planning process that is transparent and informedly participatory.

IFC and World Bank must ensure that their financial support does not harm the surrounding communities.

This survey was conducted as part of the Early Warning System to ensure local communities and the civil society that support them, have verified information about projects likely to cause human and environmental rights abuses. Learn more: ews.rightsindevelopment.org