

**CHALLENGES AFFECTING IMPLEMENTATION OF
EDUCATION PLANS AND PROGRAMS WITHIN THE
DECENTRALIZATION FRAMEWORK**

DES & CEOs

PRESENTED AT JOINT SECTOR REVIEW

5-6 NOV, 2024

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Problem Statement
- Methodology
- Findings
 - Challenges
 - Mitigation measures used
 - Proposed Strategies to ensure Smooth Implementation of Plans & Programmes at Council level
- Conclusion

INTRODUCTION

- Local Government Act 1998 and National Decentralisation Policy 1998 (revised in 2024) mandate local councils to mobilise resources for education service delivery (kindergarten, primary and distance education centres)
- MoEST Devolution Guidelines 2008 separate roles of Ministry of Education and those of local councils

INTRODUCTION

- MoE is responsible for policy formulation, policy enforcement, inspectorate, establishment of standards, training, curriculum development and international representation.
- Local Councils are responsible for actual delivery of education services by primary schools and ODL centres.
- Key to achieving this service delivery is the proper management of all related resources and processes. (Human, material, financial, data...)

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- The just released Malawi Education Statistics Report 2023/24 shows that some of the indicators for Basic Education which is run by District and City Councils have not improved
- Comparatively 2022/23 indicator results were better than 2023/24 results.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

ACADEMIC YR	PUPIL QUALIFIED TEACHER RATIO	PUPIL PERMANENT CLASSROOM RATIO	DROPOUT RATE	SURVIVAL RATE TO STD 8	REPETITION RATE
2022/23	64	103	4.0	48	26
2023/24	65	105	4.3	45	26

Source: Malawi Education Statistics Report 2023/24

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Data in the table above shows that there are some issues affecting delivery of basic education services in the councils.

METHODOLOGY

- Random sampling was used to collect data
- 3 regions were sampled
- 13 councils were sampled
- 3 categories of education managers were engaged
 - 3 Principal Education Officers
 - 5 Chief Education Officers
 - 5 Directors of Education and Sports

METHODOLOGY

Three questions were asked

- What are the most common challenges that are negatively affecting education service delivery at your Council?
- What are some of the mitigation measures which have worked for your Council in a bid to overcome some challenges?
- What could be some strategies which Council could adopt to do away with such challenges?

FINDINGS - CHALLENGES

1. Human resource related challenges

- Lack of induction for newly recruited education council staff
- Irregular and limited recruitment and promotions
- Delays in processing discipline issues by both ADC and LASCOM
- Absence of inspectors in most councils
- Contributions towards recruitment processes

FINDINGS - CHALLENGES

2. Financial resources related challenges

- High cost of unplanned activity implementation
- Misalignment between MoE guidance on Education budget and the reality on the ground (Ceilings on lower side)

FINDINGS-CHALLENGES

- Delayed funding
- Long Procurement Processes
- Non-inclusion of education activities on local revenue
- Funding formula for education sector in councils
(SIG)

FINDINGS - CHALLENGES

3. Management related challenges

- Mobility challenges for District Officials, Primary Education Advisors and Inspectors thereby negatively affecting their operations

FINDINGS-CHALLENGES

- External interferences (stakeholders)
- Insufficient office space-
- very old structures in some councils
- Education Partners focusing much on software programs and not hardware eg mobility issues not prioritized

FINDINGS - CHALLENGES

4. Policy related challenges

- Lack of proper guidelines on dealing with critical issues affecting human resource management

There are no standardized policy guidelines on dealing with issues such as teacher transfers outside councils, training and upgrading

MITIGATION MEASURES

1. Cost-sharing e.g recruitment, promotion processes
2. Hiring vehicles to timely implement some activities e.g teacher transfers
3. Use of personal resources for official matters especially in critical situations

PROPOSED STRATEGIES TO ENSURE SMOOTH IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS & PROGRAMMES AT COUNCIL LEVEL

1. Induction of senior officers by the Councils
2. Policy on NGOs choice of interventions to implement in the districts. Some do not address issues in District Development Plan, District Education Plan, Social Economic Plan
3. Limiting implementation of non-planned activities to local revenue

CONCLUSION

- The greatest assignment for both MoE, MoLGUC is to enforce implementation of existing policies and guidelines.
- It is only those policies which are being implemented which can support the system produce better results.

THE END

THANK YOU