

AU-AIP AFRICA WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

13 - 15 August 2025
Cape Town, South Africa



AU AIP WATER INVESTMENT SUMMIT: PROJECT SHOWCASE

PROGRAMME/ PROJECT OVERVIEW	
Project name	Construction of 60-Megawatt Independent Solar Power Plant for Blantyre Water Board
Location (Country, Region, Coordinates)	Malawi (Walkers Ferry, Nguludi, and Chileka)
Involved countries (if regional)	N/A
Sub-Sector (Water Supply, Sanitation, Irrigation, Flood Management..)	Water Supply and Sanitation and Energy
Project description (Goals and expected outcomes)	Blantyre aims to strengthen water reliability and climate resilience by building a 60MW solar plant, reducing costs, improving financial sustainability, and expanding access through key infrastructure works like panel installation and distribution lines.
Technological details/ innovation	The concerted solar power to have a BESS stabilizer.
Governance improvements / innovation	PIU established with clear roles. SCADA for monitoring.
IMPLEMENTATION & KEY PLAYERS	
Lead institution	Ministry of Water and Sanitation
Implementing agent(s)	Blantyre Water Board
Sponsors / Investors / Contractors / Advisors	Sponsors: Looking for financing Advisors: Malawi Government
PROJECT TIMELINE & DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Year of preparation, estimated start & end dates	Preparation (2021–2023); Construction: March 2026 – March 2028 (24 months).
Current development stage	Detailed Project Report completed.
PROJECT RATIONALE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE	
Alignment with national/regional plans, SDGs, Agenda 2063	Aligned to Malawi 2063 through support towards industrialization
Contribution to NDC's and alignment with NAPs / Adaptation and Mitigation measures	Contributes to NDCs by promoting renewables, reducing emissions and to NAP by enhancing water system resilience, service reliability, and institutional capacity.
Paradigm shift potential (scalability, replicability, policy or behaviour change)	Paradigm Shift Scalable and replicable model for utilities; supports clean energy.
FINANCIAL & INVESTMENT DETAILS	
Total project cost, currency	Project Cost Estimated at USD 72 million.

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Funding already raised (amount & sources)	None
Proposed revenue model	Internal power use and sales to the national grid
Financial metrics (IRR, Payback Period, DSCR, NPV) available? Y/N, date	IRR: 12–15%; Payback: ~4.8 years; NPV: USD 115M; DSCR: 2.65.
Economic performance (Benefit-Cost Ratio) Y/N, date	BCR: 1.83 – each USD 1 yields USD 1.83 in benefits.
INVESTMENT ASK & WAY FORWARD	
Remaining investment required: project component & type (Loan/Equity/Grant/Guarantee/insurance)	USD 72 million required. Financing recommended via concessional loan, grant, or blended structure.
Opportunity for bundling with other projects (Y/N, date)	Yes with the power supplier
Next steps	Develop delivery model and procurement strategy.
TARGET GROUPS & SOCIAL IMPACT	
<u>Direct beneficiary</u> population per project component	1.4M people to gain safer water access; ~3,000 to benefit from jobs during construction. BWB's financial health will improve via reduced energy costs.
Social & gender impact assessment (Y/N, date)	Yes-March 2024
Job creation estimate / local economic benefit assessment (Y/N, date)	Jobs for ~3,000 people with focus on youth and women.
SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	
Environmental compliance & climate assessment (Y/N, date)	To be done
Environmental impact assessment (Y/N, date)	No land acquisition or resettlement is anticipated as sites are owned by Blantyre Water Board with no settlements.
ESG performance (Y/N, date)	Structured to support environmental and good governance
Safeguards & community engagement (Y/N, date)	Citizen engagement ongoing since 2020. All key stakeholders consulted.
RISK MANAGEMENT	
Main risks & mitigation measures (Political, Legal, etc)	Lack of Financing is the main risk and is being mitigated by a blended financing model including PPP
Constraints or bottlenecks to finance	Not yet secured a financier.
CONTACT INFORMATION	
AIP Secretariat	info@aipwater.org