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Malawi's Charcoal Reality

- Most (97%) Malawians use biomass energy (firewood or charcoal) for basic household needs (IHS, 2011),
- Charcoal use more than quadrupled between 1998 and 2011 (IHS surveys).
- Alternative cooking fuels are underdeveloped - only 2.8% (including electricity, IHS 2014)
- Charcoal contributes significantly to GDP:
 - US\$57 million (firewood US\$117.2) in 2007 (Kambewa et al. 2007)
 - Supports livelihoods of more than 100,000 Malawians
- More than 90% of charcoal is consumed in the major cities of the country
- Charcoal 'ban' (despite being legal under certain conditions) has not reduced deforestation

Call for Action

- There is need to regulate and promote sustainable charcoal production in the short-medium term
- Benefits are multiple: energy, socio-economic and environmental
- Hence, a holistic, multi-sectoral Malawi National Charcoal Strategy (MNCS)
- Reduce overdependence on fuelwood for cooking
 - energy objective , to reduce dependence on solid biomass fuels (mainly firewood and charcoal) [new energy policy]

MNCS Process and Progress

- **June 2015:** Internal Forestry Department (DoF) meeting and commitment to address charcoal/energy problem
- **September 2015:** DoF convened the [National Charcoal Forum](#) bringing together 150 diverse stakeholders
- **October 2015:** [Directors of the Departments of Forestry and of Energy Affairs committed to work together](#), with other government ministries/ departments, to develop a National Charcoal Strategy that addresses the charcoal-energy problem from both the supply-side (forestry) and the demand-side (energy); and requested support from the PERFORM project.
- **November 2015:** The Malawi national Charcoal Strategy Task Force, was formed and representatives appointed, terms of reference and a workplan developed
- **December – February 2016:** Various MNCS development activities were implemented including initial material for different sections of the MNCS.
- **March 2016:** Regional consultations and awareness visits

Multi-sectoral MNSC Task Force

- To ensure a holistic, government-wide approach, heads of relevant government departments set up a task force comprised of:
 - Department of Forestry (convening department)
 - Department of Energy
 - Department of Mines
 - Department of Environmental Affairs
 - Department of Economic Planning and Development (Ministry of Finance)
 - Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development
 - Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining

Goal of the MNCS

Provide a framework for the Government of Malawi to address the linked problems of increased deforestation and growing demand for household cooking fuel, with defined and prioritized short-term, medium-term and long term

- **Focus:** finding multiple effective, innovative but realistic solutions that are sustainable for Malawian
- Approach: Holistic. A multi-sectoral MNCS Task Force is developing the strategy.
 - On government request, USAID PERFORM project mobilized a consultant to support the Task Force to develop the MNCS, and funds the process

Six Pillars of the MNCS

- 1. Enforcement:** Enhance enforcement of laws and regulations to limit illegal charcoal production, transportation and marketing.
- 2. Regulation:** regulate the production and marketing of charcoal to support development of legal and sustainable charcoal that is produced more efficiently.
- 3. Production:** Enhance the production of planted wood and rehabilitation of existing indigenous forests

4. **Fuel-efficient cookstove technologies:** Promote widespread adoption of fuel-efficient cookstove technologies to reduce charcoal/wood use
 - Also promote cookstoves efficiency standards
 - Enhance adoption and use rates for charcoal (and firewood) cookstoves
 5. **Alternative household cooking fuels:** Government must identify and promote the adoption of viable, cost-effective household cooking fuel alternatives
 - LPG is promising, after electricity and its many challenges
 6. **Livelihoods:** recognize the role that “livelihoods/income generation” play in charcoal production, and promote alternative livelihoods for charcoal producers.
- Also communication strategy and crosscutting issues

Looking ahead

- **February 2016:** A summary of options to regulate the production and marketing of charcoal.
- **February – March 2016:** A summary of possible alternative livelihood options
- **February – June 2016:** Conduct subnational stakeholder consultations
- **April 15, 2016:** Review of first draft National Charcoal Strategy
- **May 16, 2015:** Review of the second draft National Charcoal Strategy
- **March – July 2016:** Consultations with key Government decision makers
- **July 08, 2016:** Final National Charcoal Strategy submitted for approval and adoption.

Thank you!

Zikomo!

Other intermediate products, January 2016:

- A review of relevant data sources from Malawi
- A review of relevant experience and lessons from across sub-Saharan Africa
- A review and summary of the legal and policy framework related to charcoal
- A summary of possible household cooking fuel alternatives to charcoal, and
- A summary of consultations to date
- Identification of key stakeholder/decision-makers who could influence (positively or negatively) adoption of the National Charcoal Strategy