



LILONGWE CITY COUNCIL



**A REPORT ON THE LAUNCH OF URBAN WARD
LEVEL PROFILE HELD AT SUNBIRD CAPITAL HOTEL
IN LILONGWE ON 18TH MAY, 2022.**

COMPILED BY WILSON BANDA

PREFACE

Our cities which are growing rapidly face several challenges, key among them is urban poverty characterized by, among others, poor housing, poor access to water and sanitation as well as unemployment (Lilongwe Urban Profile: Un-Habitat, 2011). The cities also face environmental challenges that in part are heightened by poor urban planning systems and environmental degradation just to mention two.

The Lilongwe Ward-level Urban profile is therefore an important developmental tool that sets out the key challenges faced by the city in areas of governance, Education, Health, Water, Local Economy, Youth Service, Housing and Shelter, Energy, Infrastructure, Utilities, Urban safety, Waste management, Disaster Risk Management and Climate change, Public Transport, Energy and Public Spaces and proposes the feasible solutions to the identified challenges.

Through a consultative process with city stakeholders, the city council has identified the priority actions to be carried out in support of efforts to achieve sustainable urban development and reduce urban poverty in Lilongwe city. The challenge is now to move forward to implement these priority actions that seek to improve the quality of life of all our citizens. I am, however, so optimistic that the central Government, all our development partners, and stakeholders will join hands with the Council to ensure that we all work towards achieving the identified priority actions.

Lilongwe City Council stands steadfast to redouble its efforts and ensure that more resources are allocated towards pro-poor activities in the city. The goal of ensuring sustainable urban development and poverty reduction cannot be achieved by the efforts of the central government and the city councils alone, more importantly, it will need the concerted efforts of all stakeholders involved in the development of Lilongwe including the private sector, civil society, political and community leaders, development partners, and city residents. Together, we can transform Lilongwe into an all times livable city and one that is sustainable and responsive to the needs of its citizens.



Richard Banda
MAYOR FOR LILONGWE CITY

FOREWORD

This report presents what transpired during the launch of the Lilongwe Urban ward level profile launch. I wish to extend my gratitude to all participants and stakeholders for their contributions, patience, and hard work.

A special thank should go to CCJP, Tilitonse Foundation, European Union, OXPHAM, EU, and all for their efforts and full commitment to the preparation and the main event.

Lastly, I would like to gratefully acknowledge all those who participated in the Launch of the Urban Ward Level profile at all levels.



Vito Mulula
THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

TABLE OF CONTENT

Preface.....	2
Foreword.....	3
Acronyms.....	5
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background.....	6
1.2 Participants	6
CHAPTER TWO: THE LAUNCH PROCEEDINGS	
2.1 SPEECHES.....	7
2.2 PRESENTATIONS.....	10
2.3 THE LAUNCHING OF THE PROFILE.....	11
2.3 .1. PRESENTATION OF THE BOOK.....	12
2.3.2. PERFORMANCES.....	12
CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSION.....	14

ACRONYMS

CCODE	Centre for Community Development
CDS	City Development Strategy
CCJP	Catholic commission for Justice and Peace
CPRO	Chief Public Relations Officer
EU	European Union
LCC	Lilongwe City Council
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NSO	National Statistical Office

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Lilongwe, just like any other city in Malawi, is facing rapid urbanization with the growth rate averaging more than 4 percent per annum. It is actually, the fastest growing city in the country.

The city is therefore faced with the need to properly plan for the rapid urban population growth to mitigate the negative impacts that a lack of forward planning for rapid urbanization would bring. At the same time, Lilongwe city is faced with the challenge of providing shelter and basic urban services to its existing population. To respond to these challenges, Lilongwe City Council established the ward fund in the 2021/22 fiscal year. The aim of the fund is to give back to the community thereby alleviating their poverty. However, in order to provide the necessary and appropriate interventions to city dwellers, there was a need first to understand the issues facing the city.

Through a consultative process with city stakeholders and various Governance structures across the city, the Lilongwe City Council developed the Ward-level Urban profile with support from the Tilitonse Foundation through CCJP. The Ward-Level Urban profile provides a good basis for proper coordination of interventions by the council and other actors including community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, donors, etc

It is in line with this, that the Lilongwe City Council in collaboration with stakeholders conducted a Ward-level Urban profile launch on 18th May, 2022 at Sunbird Capital Hotel in Lilongwe.

1.2 Participants

The participants were drawn from various departments and organizations across Lilongwe city. The participants consisted of staff from the Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Economic planning, Lilongwe City Council, community leaders, Councilors, the media fraternity, UN-Habitat, the civil society organizations, INGOs, etc.



Fig.1 Some of the participants at the profile Launch.

CHAPTER TWO: THE LAUNCH PROCEEDINGS

CHAPTER TWO: THE LAUNCH PROCEEDINGS

The meeting was coordinated by Tamara Chafunya, the CPRO for Lilongwe City Council. She requested a volunteer to open the meeting with a word of prayer which was offered by Mr. Vitumbiko Lungu of the City Council. Thereafter several speeches were made by different stakeholders.

2.1 SPEECHES

The first speech was made by the Director of Planning and Economics, Mr. Hilary Kamela, for the Lilongwe City Council. In his speech, representing the Chief Executive Officer, he thanked all participants for attending the launch of the Lilongwe Ward Level Urban Profile being the first of this kind to be launched in Malawi.



Fig 2. Mr. Kamela making his speech

He also said that community participation in all projects was quite difficult but with the help of partners it had been made possible hence helping good governance.

The Director of Planning had informed participants that the Lilongwe City Council established the ward fund in the 2021/22 fiscal year. The fund aimed at giving back to the community thereby alleviating their poverty.

He further highlighted on the background, methodology, and processes of how the Lilongwe Urban Level profile was developed. He also said that ward-level profiles are in line with the decentralization policy as community members were involved from the beginning.

The second speech was done by Mrs. Lingalileni Muhowa, the Country Director of Oxfam. In her speech, she thanked and congratulated Lilongwe City Council for Launching the Lilongwe Urban Ward Level Profile. She also acknowledged the good relationship that exists between Oxfam and Lilongwe City Council in promoting the vision and the mission of Lilongwe City.



Fig 3. The country director of Oxfam making her speech

She further assured LCC that Oxfam would continue in complementing the Lilongwe City Council's efforts by supporting them both technically and financially.

The third speech of the day was done by, Robert White, the Chief Executive Officer of the Tilitonse foundation. He joined Oxfam in congratulating LCC on becoming the first council to launch Ward-level profiles. He said that the milestone

had demonstrated commitment in improving service delivery for the betterment of Lilongwe residents. He continued by saying that promoting transparency and accountability is important in the way that it promotes the spirit of ownership on projects taking place in the areas. He believed that the ward level profiles were part and parcel of promoting the spirit of ownership by the community hence promoting sustainability in all projects. He concluded by saying that his organization is very excited to be associated with the successful development of the profile and urged the council to ensure that the document is translated into desired improved service delivery.

2.2. PRESENTATIONS

The first presentation was done by Mr. Kasamira, the Deputy Director of planning and economics for the Lilongwe City Council. The presentation was on the Lilongwe Urban Level Socioeconomic Profile main document. The presentation focused on the background, methodology, findings and recommendations in the main document.



Fig 3 Mr. Kasamila Making his presentation.

The last presentation was done by Mr. Lungu, the economist for Lilongwe City Council. The presentation had focused on the socioeconomic status of the Chinsapo 2 ward.

2.3. THE LAUNCHING OF THE PROFILE DOCUMENTS

The Guest of Honor, Cllr Rynold Chakakala Chaziya representing the Mayor of Lilongwe City, extended his gratitude to all participants and stakeholders for their contributions, patience, and hard work in coming up with the ward level profile. He particularly thanked CCJP, Tilitonse Foundation, European Union, OXPHAM, EU, and all Ward Governance structures for their efforts and full commitment to the preparation of the Lilongwe Ward Level Urban profile.



Fig 4 Guest of Honor declaring the Lilongwe Urban Ward Level Profile launched

He argued all partners to implement all that is written in the profiles as they contained the voice of the community. With gratitude and excitement, Cllr

Rynold Chakakala Chaziya then declared the Lilongwe Ward Level Urban Profile launched at exactly 12:04.

2.3.1. PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENTS

After finalizing his speech, the guest of honor proceeded with the distribution of copies of the profiles to the selected few stakeholders that were present at the launch.



Fig 5 Tilitonse Foundation representative receiving his copy of the Lilongwe Ward Level Urban Profile.

2.3.2. PERFORMANCE

This auspicious occasion was also graced by a number of dances including Beni, Chimtali, and Manganje. All of these dances were performed by the LCC dancing group.



Fig 6 Shows the Beni Cultural dance at play – as performed by the LCC dance group during the launch

CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSION

The launch was successfully conducted as all activities which were planned were carried out within the specified time.