Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN WATERFUND AND BARINGO COUNTY TO ENHANCE WATER AND SANITATION ACCESS

On 29th August 2023, H.E. Benjamin Cheboi, Governor Baringo County paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Willis Ombai, the CEO of the Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund). The primary agenda of this visit was to provide an update on the ongoing Phase I and II of the Ol-Arabal Water Project. Baringo County is among the eight counties implementing the Ending Drought Emergencies – Climate Proofed Infrastructure (EDE-CPIRA) programme which has been funded by the European Union.

During the meeting, the discussions also delved into potential opportunities for collaborative partnerships aimed at enhancing water and sanitation access within the County. H.E. Benjamin Cheboi, applauded WaterFund, through its various donors, for investing approximately KSh. 249.1 Million over the years in water and sanitation initiatives within Baringo County. Speaking during the meeting Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund, expressed his gratitude towards the Governor's commitment in executing their mandate and expressed enthusiasm for further progress in achieving their shared objective.



Mr. Willis Ombai (left), CEO WaterFund with H.E. Benjamin Cheboi, EBS EGH (right), Governor Baringo County



From Left: H.E. Benjamin Cheboi EBS EGH, Mr. Willis Ombai and Mr. Richard Tamar CEC Water, Irrigation & Environment, Baringo County



Mr. Isaac Kega, General Manager Programmes and Investments, keenly following the proceedings of the courtesy visit

REVOLUTIONIZING WATER AND SANITATION FINANCING THROUGH AN INNOVATIVE LOAN FACILITY PROGRAMME

Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund, spearheaded a fundamental meeting with a delegation from the World Bank. The main agenda of this meeting was to unveil an upcoming Loan Facility Programme, a pioneering initiative set to revolutionize financing in the sector. The Loan Facility Programme, currently in development, aims to bolster funding for water and sanitation endeavors by offering low-interest financing through a blended finance model.

During the meeting, WaterFund provided an in-depth presentation on the program's intricate details. This included the facility's size and model for its innovative blended approach, the tangible advantages it will bring to the sector, and the pivotal role development partners can play in enhancing financial support for water and sanitation sector in Kenya.

The Loan Facility Programme is built on the success of existing WaterFund's programmes such as: Results Based Financing, Output Based Aid (OBA), which have been funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through the World Bank; and lastly the

Aid on Delivery (AoD) Programme funded by the German Development Bank (KfW), which has witnessed project implementation by at least nine participating Water Companies.



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund giving the opening remarks at the meeting



Mr. Pieter Waalewijn, Global Lead Water in Agriculture, World Bank keenly following the proceedings of the meeting



Mr. Joel Kolker (left), Program Manager, Water Security and Sanitation and Mr. Victor Vazquez (right), Senior Water Specialist, from World Bank

WATERFUND MEETINGS

During the week meeting took place as below:

- Mr. Willis Ombai, WaterFund CEO, held a meeting with the Embassy of Finland which was led by the Deputy Ambassador Mr. Otto Kivinen; to discuss the current status and progress of a proposed program slated for funding through Finland's Public Investment Financing (PIF) Facility. This collaborative initiative will be executed in partnership with Kauko International, a consortium comprising various Finnish private sector firms.
- WaterFund held a meeting with the elected Members of the County Assembly (MCA) of Kericho County, Hon. Hillary Kibet, Cheplanget Ward and Hon. Anitah Mibey, Chemosot Ward. The meeting focused on the progress of ongoing WaterFund funded water projects in the County in addition to exploring possible areas of collaboration and opportunities.



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund giving the opening remarks at the meeting between WaterFund and Finland



From Left: Mr. Otto Kivinen, Deputy Ambassador, Mr. Matts Weurlander Counsellor and Ms. Maryama Hussein, all from Embassy of Finland



WaterFund and Finland representatives pose for a group picture after the meeting



Mr. Edwin Korir, General Manager, Internal Audit, WaterFund, chairing the meeting with Kericho MCAs



Ms. Rose Nyikuri (Left), Manager, Water Resources and Climate Change and Hon. Anitah Mibey (right), MCA Chemosot Ward, interact during WaterFund's meeting with the MCA'S



Hon. Hillary Kibet (left), MCA Cheplanget Ward and Mr. Peter Koech (right), Manager, Water & Sanitation Services, WaterFund, during the meeting