# Water Sector Trust Fund

*Financing the Water Sector*

1st Floor, CIC Plaza I, Mara Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya
PO Box 49699 Nairobi-00100; Tel: +254 (20) 2720696, 2729017/8
Email: info@waterfund.go.ke; Website: www.waterfund.go.ke


# SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 454
## 26TH FEBRUARY– 1ST MARCH 2024

### ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE MOMENTUM: SETTING THE STAGE FOR THE WATER AND SANITATION INVESTORS CONFERENCE (WASIC) THROUGH A PRE-CONFERENCE BREAKFAST MEETING

The Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation (MWSI), in collaboration with the Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) and the Council of Governors, will host the Water and Sanitation Investors Conference (WASIC) from March 6th to 8th, 2024, at the KICC in Nairobi. With the theme "*Accelerating Investments for Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation for All,*" the conference aims to attract investors to the sector, particularly focusing on Public Private Partnerships and Blended mechanisms to leverage private and commercial finance. Prior to WASIC, Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund, held a breakfast meeting with stakeholders to prepare for the event. During this meeting, Mr. Willis Ombai outlined WASIC's objectives, including showcasing investment opportunities, promoting innovative financing models, fostering partnerships for universal access to water and sanitation by 2030, and highlighting technologies and practices enhancing sector efficiency and sustainability.

During the meeting, Hon. Julius Korir, Principal Secretary of MWSI, underscored the importance of collaborative action in addressing water challenges. He emphasized WASIC's role in nurturing partnerships and innovation to achieve universal access to water supply and sanitation services by 2030, aligning with Kenya's Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Considering challenges such as rapid urbanization and climate change, Hon. Julius Korir called for innovative solutions and strategic investments to tackle these issues. At the Pre-Conference Breakfast Meeting, H.E. Governor Wilber Otichillo, Chair of Environment and Climate Change at the Council of Governors, reiterated the crucial need for clean water and sanitation access for all Kenyans. He highlighted challenges such as water scarcity and contamination, emphasizing the necessity for innovative solutions and collaborative efforts across sectors. Governor Wilber Otichillo advocated for increased investments in water infrastructure, technology adoption, and sustainable water management practices to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6. He emphasized the pivotal role of partnerships, community engagement, and capacity building in driving positive change towards universal access to clean water and proper sanitation in Kenya.

In conclusion, Hon. Zachariah Njeru, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation, stressed the urgency of accelerating investments in the sector to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation by 2030. He highlighted the adoption of the National Water and Sanitation Investment and Financing Plan (NAWASIP) and called for innovative financing models like PPPs and blended financing to address the financing gap. Hon. Zachariah Njeru acknowledged the crucial role of stakeholders, development partners, and sponsors in organizing the Water and Sanitation Investors Conference (WASIC) and invited all participants to join the conference to foster productive partnerships for the benefit of all Kenyans.



*H.E. Governor Wilber Otichillo, Chair of Environment and Climate Change at the Council of Governors giving his speech*




*Hon. Zachariah Njeru, Cabinet Secretary, MWSI, giving his remarks at the meeting*




*Hon. Julius Korir, Principal Secretary of MWSI delivering his speech to the participants*




*Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund delivering his speech during the pre-conference meeting*



*Mr. Andrew Mbithi, Mr. Lucas Chepkitony and Eng. Joseph Ngacha, Members of WaterFund Board of Trustees(BOT)during the meeting*



*WaterFund staff members keenly following the meeting*







*Participants keenly following the proceedings of the pre-conference breakfast meeting*

## STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR WATER AND SANITATION INVESTORS CONFERENCE

Hon. Zachariah Njeru, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation (MWSI) The Ministry of Water, Sanitation, and Irrigation recently convened a crucial meeting to deliberate on the forthcoming Water and Sanitation Investors Conference (WASIC) With a focus on addressing pressing issues and fostering collaboration within the sector. During the deliberations, various challenges facing the water, sanitation, and irrigation sectors were discussed, including water scarcity, inadequate sanitation facilities, and sustainable irrigation practices.

Additionally, discussions centered on the objectives and agenda of the upcoming conference, with a unanimous commitment to working collaboratively towards its success. Strategies for maximizing participation and engagement were also discussed, including interactive workshops and networking sessions.



*Hon. Zachariah Njeru, Cabinet Secretary, MWSI (middle)chairing the meeting*

*Participants keenly following up the proceedings of the meeting*



**For this issue and all previous SITREPs, please visit: https://waterfund.go.ke/sitreps**