Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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WATERFUND PARTICIPATES IN THE KAKAMEGA INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT CONFERENCE 2024: ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) participated in the Kakamega International Investment Conference (KAIICO2024) held at Masinde Muliro University in Kakamega County. Themed 'Opening up Counties as the New Frontiers for Investment and Development', the conference was inaugurated by H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya.

The objective of the conference was to facilitate knowledge-sharing, best practices, and experiences for investment in sustainable projects aimed at wealth creation and livelihood improvement. It brought together both foreign and local investment networks, investors, venture capitalists, corporations, and development partners. In his keynote speech the President outlined the National Government's initiatives to stimulate investment in Kakamega County, with a focus on revitalizing the county's road infrastructure. H.E. Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County, in his opening remarks, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, emphasizing his administration's strategies to market Kakamega for investment in line with his six-point agenda. Adding to that he also showcased the array of investment opportunities available in the county.

WaterFund, led by Mr. Isaac Kega, General Manager Programmes, delivered a presentation on behalf of Mr. Willis Ombai CEO, highlighting the innovative financing models tailored to the needs of rural communities and peri-urban areas. This was during a side event of the conference organised by Kakamega County Water and Sanitation Company (KACWASCO) themed "Unlocking Investment Opportunities for Sustainable Water Infrastructure in Rural African Municipalities. Mr. Isaac Kega further emphasized WaterFund's mandate to assist in financing water, sanitation and water resources management projects focusing on initiatives such as: public-private partnerships; community-based financing; and blended finance approaches. He underscored the importance of these approaches in bridging the funding gap and improving access to water and sanitation services in underserved areas.



H.E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, CGH, President of the Republic of Kenya, giving his keynote speech



H.E. Fernandes Barasa, Governor Kakamega County, giving his welcoming remarks at the conference



Mr. Isaac Kega General Manager Programmes, WaterFund, presenting at one of the side events of the conference

WATERFUND SPEARHEADS SUSTAINABLE WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT IN TURKANA COUNTY

WaterFund with financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) is implementing the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs Programme (SWASAP) in Turkana County. This programme targets host and refugee communities across Kakuma, Kalobeyei, Loima, Turkana Central, and Turkana West Sub Counties.

With a total budget of KSh. 169 Million, including a county co-financing contribution of KSh. 15.7 Million, WaterFund is in the process of implementing the Kakuma and Kalobeyei Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation in Support of Livelihood Program (KK INSPIRE). KK INSPIRE aims to address the pressing water and sanitation needs in the Kakuma and Kalobeyei Refugee Camp. One notable WaterFund success story in the same area, stemming from previous funding under the WLP Programme, is the adoption of dryland conservation agriculture skills and shade net technology in Choro farm, offering alternative livelihood approaches amidst challenging conditions.

To further strengthen these efforts and combat the recurrent drought challenges affecting farming activities, the SWASAP Programme is set to implement crucial infrastructure, including boreholes, as exemplified by the KK-INSPIRE project; managed by the Team and Team International as an implementing partner. The KK INSPIRE project is poised to benefit 2000 households and 500 farmers, with an implementation period spanning 18 months.

In view of the above, WaterFund led by our CEO, Mr. Willis Ombai, accompanied by a delegation from the Royal Danish Embassy, led by H.E. Amb. Stephan Schønemann, visited the project. The main aim of the visit was to monitor the integration of services and inclusive refugee programs within the Kakuma refugee camp. The visit highlighted WaterFund's pivotal role of partnerships and collaborative efforts in realizing sustainable solutions to water and sanitation challenges. The SWASAP Programme stands as a demonstration of WaterFund's unwavering commitment to ensuring access to clean water and improved sanitation, thereby enhancing livelihoods and fostering resilience in communities across Turkana County.



Delegation during the courtesy call to the Deputy Commissioners Office in Turkana West Sub-County



Mr. Willis Ombai (3rd right) giving his opening remarks at the KK-INSPIRE Project Site



H.E. Amb. Stephan Schønemann (right), and Trine Grønborg (centre) Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Danish Embassy inspecting the project site



Delegation inspects the constructed store house at Choro farm



Inspection of ongoing borehole drilling works at the project site



Delegation inspects the constructed VIP Latrine toilets at Choro Farm



Inspection of ongoing agricultural activities at Choro Farm



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