Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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WATERFUND LEADS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR AN INCLUSIVE PROJECT FUNDING CRITERIA UNDER THE WATER ACT 2016

Public participation stands as a cornerstone of Kenya's democratic process and constitutional framework. In line with The Water Act 2016, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) Board of Trustees are mandated to formulate and gazette criteria for qualifying for funding. This process must incorporate public participation, ensuring that the views of stakeholders are fully integrated, particularly in addressing considerations of equity.

Mr. Barako Qatamur and Mr. Andrew Mbithi, both members of the WaterFund Board of Trustees, took the lead in driving public participation in the development of the draft project funding criteria. This draft, supported by a team of experts specializing in Legal Affairs, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Public Finance Management (PFM), aims to establish a transparent and equitable framework for funding water services. The goal is to enhance access to water in underserved areas across Kenya.

In response to recommendations from the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation during a pre-publication meeting held in June 2024, WaterFund organized public participation forums in Wajir, Garissa, and Mandera Counties. These forums, a requirement under Article 10 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and the Statutory Instruments Act (No. 23 of 2013), ensured that key stakeholders, including local residents, Faith-Based Organizations, County Government Officials, and Civil Society Organizations, had an opportunity to contribute their perspectives on the draft funding criteria. Through these engagements, WaterFund reaffirms its commitment to inclusivity and transparency, ensuring that the voices of those in marginalized areas are heard in shaping a sustainable future for water access in Kenya.



Mr. Barako Qatamur WaterFund (BoT) Making his remarks during the public participation event



Mr. Andrew Mbithi WaterFund (BoT) making his remarks during the event



Ms. Halima Ali, General Manager, Legal Services & Corporation Secretary making her remarks



Left: Participants posing for a group photo in Garrisa during the public participation.

Right: Participant airing out his views on the draft project funding criteria



30 VILLAGES DECLARED OPEN DEFEACATION FREE THROUGH WATERFUND'S SWASAP PROGRAMME

The Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), through its financing of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) interventions, has helped transform sanitation practices in Ijara Sub-County, Garissa County. In collaboration with the Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy and with technical support from the County Public Health Department, the Conservancy successfully declared 30 villages as Open Defecation Free (ODF). This milestone has increased sanitation access for 5,280 people across three locations: Hara, Kotile, and Korisa.

The celebrations marking this achievement were graced by Ms. Violet Mucheni, representing WaterFund, who commended the local communities for embracing positive change. "This is a remarkable achievement, with Ijara being the first sub-county in Garissa to reach 100% ODF status," she said, highlighting the community's commitment to improving hygiene and sanitation.

This sanitation success is part of a broader effort under the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SWASAP) Programme, implemented by WaterFund. The initiative is being implemented by Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy, and the County Government of Garissa with financial support from Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). Through these collaborations, the programme is making significant strides toward improving public health and ensuring sustainable sanitation solutions in underserved regions.

Community members have noted the impact of these interventions. "We used to have only five toilets, but now we have 105. People no longer go to the bush, and cases of waterborne diseases have significantly reduced in our villages," shared a Community Health Promoter from Hara location. This transformation is a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in improving sanitation and promoting healthier living environments.

WaterFund remains committed to supporting such vital interventions in Kenya's arid regions, contributing to better health outcomes and enhanced quality of life for all.



Ms. Angeline Were (1st left) and Ms. Violet Mucheni (2nd left) WaterFund representatives, among other guests during the celebrations.



Ms. Violet Mucheni Principal Programme Officer, Sanitation making her remarks during the celebrations



Mr. Ahmed Noor, Manager Ishaqbini conservancy making his remarks during the celebrations



Left: Community posing for a Group photo during the celebrations

Right: A community health promoter in Hara Location making her remarks acknowledging the impacts of the project.



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