WaterFund
Financing the Water Sector

Water Sector Trust Fund

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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 489
28TH OCTOBER – 1ST NOVEMBER 2024

WATERFUND SUPPORTS TANA RIVER IN MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT TOWARDS OPEN DEFECATION-FREE VILLAGES

Kenya is making significant strides toward its goal of eliminating open defecation by 2030, and WaterFund is at the forefront of this critical journey through its Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs Programme (SWASAP). WaterFund through the SWASAP Programme has financed German Agro Action (WeltHungerHilfe- WHH) as the lead consortium of WHH, Kenya Water for Health Organization (KWAHO), and Tana Water and Sanitation Company to implement integrated projects in Tana River County including Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives. Recently, in Tana River County, 20 villages were declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) under the CLTS initiative, a significant milestone celebrated in Makere and Kadiko villages.

CLTS is a community-driven approach that empowers residents to tackle open defecation by constructing latrines with locally available materials, establishing handwashing stations, and creating waste disposal solutions such as pits, utensil racks, and drying lines for clothes. By promoting these practices, CLTS not only enhances hygiene but also fosters a lasting cultural shift towards better sanitation.

During the ODF celebrations, Ms. Gatie Victor, Tana River County Public Health Officer, commended the community for their dedication to improved hygiene, noting a decline in communicable diseases. She thanked WaterFund for its invaluable support and encouraged residents to continue using latrines to prevent a return to previous practices. Mr. Patrick Alube, CEO of the KWAHO, echoed these sentiments, urging the community to remain committed to sanitation, contributing to a healthier, cleaner environment.

Representing WaterFund, Ms. Violet Mucheni, Principal Programme Officer, called on implementing partners to expedite efforts to ensure the remaining villages achieve ODF status by December. She commended community health promoters for their outstanding work and encouraged them to keep up their impactful efforts. Through initiatives like CLTS, WaterFund is advancing Kenya's mission for open defecation-free communities, ensuring long-term health and dignity for all.



Ms. Violet Mucheni (left) Principal Programme Officer WaterFund and Mr. Patrick Alube (right) CEO KWAHO during the celebrations IN Makere Village



Ms. Gatie Victor County PHO making her remarks in Kadiko Village.



Ms. Sarah Maiyo Director WHH making her remarks in Kadiko Village



Left: Community members in Makere Village receiving the ODF signage

Right: Ms. Eva Nyawira (right) WaterFund Sanitation Officer engaging with Mama Esther Mayungi a beneficiary of the ODF project



IN BRIEF:

- WaterFund participated in a Policy Colloquium on the Safe Water Now Programme, facilitated by Evidence Action. This is a global non-profit organization that utilizes rigorous evidence to rapidly scale exceptionally cost-effective interventions. The policy colloquium discussions focused on: achieving SDG goals on safe water access; the enabling policy challenges on the achievement of the goals; and fostering collaborations between government and non-government partners. This workshop drew attendance from the State Department of the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Ministry of Health, subsidiary Semi-Autonomous Government Agencies, Water, Sanitation and Health Partners, and County representatives.



Ms. Audrey Njeri, Fund Development Officer WaterFund, participating in the policy discussions.



Participants keenly following the discussions



A group photo of the participants in the forum

FIELD ACTIVITIES:

Field activities including monitoring and inspection of WaterFund's projects continued across the past weeks;

- WaterFund embarked on a monitoring exercise in Lamu County to oversee the progress of projects under the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs (SWASAP) Programme. The monitoring team met with the Conservancy Managers for Kiunga and Pate Marine community conservancies to discuss project progress and areas of improvements. Monitoring exercises under SWASAP were also carried out in North Horr and Laisamis water projects in Marsabit County.



Reverse osmosis plant in Elmolo water project in Marsabit County



Laisamis water project in Marsabit County



Meeting between Pate and Kuinga conservancies, to discuss project progress in Lamu County.

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