Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 492
18TH – 22ND NOVEMBER 2024

WATERFUND MEETINGS

During the week, the following meeting took place as highlighted below.

- Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), chaired a meeting between WaterFund, Kenya Commercial Bank, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and USAID Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Finance 2 (WASH-FIN 2). The main objective of the meeting was to deliberate on collaboration through blended finance mechanisms that leverage private finance in pursuit of universal access to water and sanitation by the year 2030. In attendance were: Mr. David Nyamu, General Manager, Sovereign and Public Sector, leading the KCB Team; Ms. Beverly Mademba, Project Management Specialist, USAID; Ms. Alyssa Boyer, Chief of Party, WASH-FIN; and Ms. Barbara Senkwe, Deputy Chief of Party WASH-FIN.



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund charing the meeting



Representatives from USAID and USAID WASH FIN 2 during the meeting



Representatives from KCB in attendance during the meeting

WATERFUND ACHIEVES SANITATION MILESTONE IN LAMU COUNTY ON WORLD TOILET DAY

On November 19th, globally recognized as World Toilet Day, WaterFund marked a historic achievement in Kiunga village, Lamu County, through its Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives. This transformative effort, carried out in collaboration with the Kiunga Community Conservancy and supported by the County Department of Public Health and Sanitation, saw 11 villages officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). The initiative has been funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) under WaterFund's Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (SWASAP) Programme.

The celebration was led by Hon. Dr. Mbarak Mohamed, the County Executive Committee Member for Health, Sanitation, and Environment in Lamu. In his address, Hon. Dr. Mohamed commended the work done by WaterFund and its partners in improving sanitation in the region, noting the considerable impact the funding had made through various water and sanitation projects. Representing WaterFund, Ms. Violet Mucheni, Principal Programme Officer, Sanitation applauded the Kiunga community members for becoming the first in the area to achieve ODF status. She also commended the hard work of Community Health Volunteers and Public Health Officers who played an instrumental role in educating residents on maintaining proper hygiene practices and ensuring the sustainability of these achievements.

During the celebrations, Kiunga community members expressed heartfelt gratitude for the initiative, which they said had transformed their lives. Ms. Asha, a resident of Kiunga Village, shared how the CLTS initiative had addressed long-standing challenges particularly the widespread practice of open defecation and recurring waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea. These health issues often drained household finances due to medical expenses. "Thanks to this initiative, we now have seen improved health leading to increased productivity and reduced absenteeism at our work places. The environment is cleaner and vulnerable groups, especially women and children, now enjoy greater safety and dignity," said Ms. Asha.

Since its inception, WaterFund has invested over KShs. 443 million in various projects across Lamu County, contributing to improved access to both water and sanitation services.



Hon. Dr. Mbarak Mohamed CECM Health, Sanitation and Environment Lamu County Government



Ms. Violet Mucheni, Principal Programme Officer, Saniattion , WaterFund, making her remarks



WaterFund officers and other stakeholders at the main sign board declaring the 11 villages ODF



A community member narrating the impact of the CLTS initiavive during an interview on Citizen TV



One of the household toilets in Kiunga village, Lamu County



Community members following the poceedings of the ODF celebrations







Issuing of certificates to representatives of the 11 villages declared Open Defecnation Free in Kiunga Village

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