Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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WATER RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM TO STRENGTHEN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) remains committed to advancing sustainable water resource management in Kenya. A key milestone in this endeavour is the implementation of the Water Resources Information System (WRIS), an advanced decision-support platform aimed at improving water resource management and ensuring informed, data-driven decision-making

Currently being piloted in Turkana and Isiolo counties, WRIS is a collaborative effort between the Water Resources Authority (WRA) and local authorities, complementing the Ground Water Information Management System (GWIMS). Together, these systems offer a robust framework to strengthen water governance and address resource management challenges in Kenya's water-scarce regions.

WRIS integrates critical data and tools to enable stakeholders to access, analyse, and utilize water resource information efficiently. At its core is the Knowledge App, a digital repository hosting over 250 essential documents and datasets. These resources include national and county development plans, policies, technical studies, GIS data, and earth observation datasets. This wealth of information serves as a foundation for planning, monitoring, and managing water-related projects, furthering WaterFund's mission of ensuring equitable access to water resources across Kenya.

Addressing challenges such as data accessibility, the sharing of maps and datasets, metadata design, accuracy, and timely updates remains crucial to ensuring the system's success. WaterFund recognizes these barriers and is actively working towards solutions that will enhance WRIS's functionality and effectiveness.

Speaking at a recent workshop on the system, Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO of WaterFund, reiterated the organization's dedication to tackling these challenges through collaboration with stakeholders. He emphasized the importance of partnerships, such as with the United Nations Environment Programme-Danish Hydraulic Institute (UNEP-DHI), in realizing the full potential of WRIS. These partnerships are essential in expanding the Knowledge Hub under the envisioned Research and Innovation Information Management System (RIIMS). "Through collaborative efforts, we can improve data ownership and management while attracting the necessary funding to enhance the Water Resources Information System," said Mr. Ombai. "This aligns with WaterFund's strategic focus on building innovative solutions to ensure sustainable water resource management in Kenya."



Mr. Willis Ombai CEO WaterFund making his remarks during the WRIS workshop

BOOSTING THE CREDITWORTHNESS OF WATER SERVICE PROVIDERS

In a bid to enhance the creditworthiness of Water Service Providers, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) together with other key stakeholders held a two-day forum at the English Point Marina Mombasa. This workshop sought to identify practical solutions for improving operational performance, reducing energy costs and increasing revenue generation for Water Service Providers (WSP)s.

This workshop brought together Kenya Water Institute (KEWI), Gatsby Africa (GA), Creditworthiness and Viability Fund (CVF) experts and Water Service Providers. The workshops objectives included developing preliminary investment requirements through Identifying key infrastructure and operational investments needed to improve WSP performance, conduct financial flow analysis by evaluating the financial dynamics of the WSPs to identify gaps and opportunities for optimizing revenue and managing costs.

Additionally, the workshop created a platform for WSPs to prepare an Investment Plan by Creating a roadmap for implementing priorities and resource allocation to guide Programme interventions. The tools learnt will be of great importance to the sector in terms of sourcing funding from various financiers.

WaterFund's participation in this workshop underscores its utmost dedication in supporting WSPs and strengthening their financial stability. This workshop will help WSPs to secure funding in establishing water and sanitation projects all over the country.



Left: Photo capturing ongoing discussions during the workshop

Right: Participants posing for a group photo at English Point Marina



BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #263– FIELD ACTIVITIES: MONITORING EXERCISES

The WaterFund's Situation Report No. 263 (SITREP #263) covered the period **18th to 22nd May, 2020**. Among the highlights was that Field activities including monitoring and inspection of the WaterFund's projects continued across the week. WaterFund was pleased to note that project-implementing agencies were putting in place measures to protect their staff and members of the public from Covid-19 infections.

- Inspection of ongoing construction of a VIP pit latrine at Olopikidongo'e Girl's School in Narok County under WaterFund's Joint Six Programme (J6P).
- Monitoring of Homa Bay Household sanitation facilities implemented by Homabay County Water and Sanitation Company Limited (HOMAWASCO). The project was being implemented under WaterFund's the Upscaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor (UBSUP) Programme and will benefit 300 households. During the inspection, staff on the ground were provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in response to World Health Organization (WHO) Covid-19 prevention guidelines.
- WaterFund Inspected the Sake Gamata Project Site in Mandera County under the Green Growth Employment Programme (GGEP). During the site inspection meeting, the community members maintained the recommended social distancing guidelines in response to COVID-19 World Health Organization (WHO) prevention guidelines.
- Monitoring of Mwatate water project implemented by Tavevo Water and Sewerage Company Limited, under WaterFund's Urban Project Concept (UPC) Programme. The project was funded by German Development Bank (KfW)

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