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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 550
12TH –16TH JANUARY 2026

WATERFUND STRENGTHENS SOCIAL COHESION BETWEEN HOST AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES THROUGH ITS SWASAP PROGRAMME IN TURKANA COUNTY

The Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), in collaboration with Nation Media Group, conducted a media documentation exercise for the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs Programme (SWASAP) in Turkana County. SWASAP is an integrated programme funded by the Royal Danish Embassy Kenya and implemented across six counties: Garissa, Marsabit, Isiolo, Lamu, Turkana, and Tana River. The programme aims to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation services in targeted ASAL counties.

The documentation exercise focused on the Kakuma and Kalobeyei Water Project (KK-INSPIRE), implemented by Team & Team International Kenya. The exercise effectively highlighted the project's tangible impact at Choro Farm and Bright Star Integrated Secondary School, demonstrating how targeted investments in water infrastructure, renewable energy, and community capacity building can drive meaningful transformation in underserved, arid regions.

Before the project's implementation, both host and refugee communities experienced chronic water scarcity. Students often walked long distances across Kalobeyei and Turkana West in search of water that was saline, unreliable, or entirely unavailable. This significantly affected school attendance, learning outcomes, and overall community livelihoods.

Through the KK-INSPIRE project, host and refugee farmers are now productively utilizing the land to cultivate vegetables and fruit trees for household consumption and income generation through local markets. In the education sector, the establishment of reliable water supply systems and multiple water points within and around the school has greatly improved the learning environment. Students now have consistent access to safe drinking water, allowing them to spend more time in class and actively participate in practical learning initiatives such as school-based farming through the agriculture Club.

As a result, the school has recorded increased student attendance and enrolment, improved retention rates, and greater participation in co-curricular and experiential learning activities. The project has also strengthened social cohesion between host and refugee communities. These outcomes reflect the effectiveness of a well-designed intervention and reinforce WaterFund's strategic commitment to inclusive, community-led, and sustainable development in Kenya's ASAL counties.

To read the impact story, find it on **the Sunday Nation Newspaper of 7th December, 2025** on **page 13.**



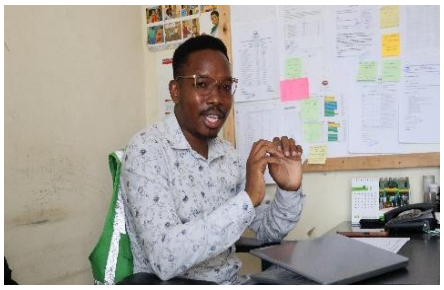
Choro Farm chairman giving a briefing on the impacts of the project



A farmer at Choro Farm harvesting their agricultural produce



An interview session with a refugee farmer at Choro Farm to gather insights on the project's success



Headteacher at Bright Star Integrated Secondary School briefing the documentation team



A sanitation facility at Bright Star Integrated Secondary School before WaterFund's intervention



A Constructed VIP latrine at Bright Star Integrated Secondary School after WaterFund's intervention



An ongoing interview session with the student leader of Agriculture Club at Bright Star Integrated Secondary School

BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #302 - COMMISSIONING OF MOGORE WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT IN ISIOLO COUNTY



The WaterFund's Situation Report No. 302 (SITREP #302) covered the period **1st - 5th March, 2021**. Among the highlights was that, WaterFund together with Mr. Bashir Jillo, County the former Director for Water Isiolo County, as the Chief Guest, commissioned the Mogore Water and Sanitation Project in Isiolo County.

This project was under WaterFund's Green Growth and Employment Programme (GGEP) with financial support from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The project sought to benefit approximately 2,100 people with improved water and sanitation services and will be implemented by Isiolo Water and Sewerage Company Limited.

For this issue and all previous SITREPs, please visit: https://waterfund.go.ke/sitreps