WaterFund
Financing the Water Sector

Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

1st Floor, CIC Plaza I, Mara Road, Upper Hill, Nairobi, Kenya
PO Box 49699 Nairobi-00100; Tel: +254 (20) 2720696, 2729017/8
Email: info@waterfund.go.ke; Website: www.waterfund.go.ke

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 552
26TH – 30TH JANUARY 2026

SAFE WATER AND IMPROVED SANITATION TRANSFORM LIVES IN GARISSA COUNTY

In Garissa County, long treks for unsafe water were once a daily struggle. Many households relied on distant and contaminated sources, exposing families, especially women and children, to waterborne diseases and taking precious time away from school and income-generating activities. Today, through WaterFund's Ishaqbini Conservancy Water and Sanitation Project (ICWSP), implemented under the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs Programme (SWASAP) with financial support from DANIDA, communities are accessing safe, reliable water and improved sanitation. From 24th to 28th November 2025, Nation Media documented how integrated, climate-smart solutions are transforming lives in fragile environments.

The ICWSP, now 75% complete, is delivering water and sanitation improvements across key sites including Alijarire and Hubi Villages (Bulawarade Location), Kotile Village (Kotile Location), and Abalatiro Village (Abalatiro Location). Villages have embraced the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach, with latrines and sanitation facilities under construction using locally available materials. Already, 30 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), improving sanitation access for over 5,280 residents.

During the visit, community members shared their experiences and hopes for the project. Residents expressed relief at the prospect of shorter walks to safe water and cleaner homesteads, and many highlighted their anticipation for training and involvement in managing the water systems once operational. This sense of ownership and engagement reflects the project's commitment to building community capacity and ensuring sustainable outcomes. The integrated approach also incorporates climate-smart solutions, helping communities adapt to environmental challenges while improving access to safe water and sanitation.

The results are tangible: fewer water-related illnesses, cleaner environments, and more time for education, work, and family life. By documenting these stories, WaterFund demonstrates the real difference climate-smart water and sanitation solutions are making in Garissa communities, while highlighting the potential for lasting impact across Kenya's ASAL regions.



A beneficiary utilizing the energy saving jiko at her homestead



A community member on her way to fetch water at one of the nearby water kiosks



A view of the installed solar powered pumping system



A 3-door VIP latrine at Kotile Primary School



A community member standing infront of their pour flash toilet



A side view of the the 50,000m³ waterpan

BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #304 - WATERFUND PARTICIPATES IN TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITIES AS PART OF THE WORLD WATER DAY 2021 CELEBRATIONS IN MERU COUNTY



The WaterFund's Situation Report No. 304 (SITREP #304) covered the period **15th to 19th March, 2021**. Among the highlights was that, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) joined the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, and other water sector institutions in activities celebrating World Water Day 2021 in Meru County under the theme *Valuing Water*. Following the Presidential Circular in 2018 on inclusion of tree-planting in CSR activities of public institutions, WaterFund adopted a 2.7-acre piece of land at Kibirichia Boys' Secondary School and donated 2,000 tree seedlings towards its reclamation.

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) students joined WaterFund in planting the tree seedlings at this section. WaterFund will be at the forefront in ensuring regular maintenance of the trees by the school community, which is an essential part of their growth and longevity. This will contribute towards attainment of the National Government's target of 10% forest cover by the year 2022.

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