WaterFund
Financing the Water Sector

Water Sector Trust Fund

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FROM SCARCITY TO DIGNITY: THE TRANSFORMATIONAL WATER STORY OF BISSAN BILIQO

In Bissan Biliqo, water is no longer a daily struggle, it is a right being realized. It is freeing women and children from long exhausting journeys, creating new opportunities for education, income generation, and a better quality of life. The Bissan Biliqo Water and Sanitation Project reflects a strong partnership approach, with the Water Sector Trust Fund through DANIDA contributing KSh. 61 million, the Isiolo County Government contributing KSh. 6.4 million and World Vision contributing KSh. 1.8 million. This demonstrates a shared commitment to improving water access and livelihoods in the region.

The project was officially commissioned in a ceremony marking a key milestone in expanding access to safe water and improved sanitation services in Isiolo County. The commissioning was led by Mr. Guracha Kikuyu, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Water, representing the Governor of Isiolo County, alongside Hon. Marselino Arbelle, Member, WaterFund Board of Trustees (BoTs).

In his keynote speech, Mr. Guracha described the project as a clear demonstration of the County's commitment to transforming lives through reliable water access. He emphasized that water is not a luxury, but a basic human need and a critical driver of development. Hon. Marselino Arbelle, Member, WaterFund BoTs, noted that the Bissan Biliqo Water Project is a significant investment unlocking opportunities and improving livelihoods in Isiolo County. He further underscored sustainability as a key priority, highlighting the importance of strong community ownership through Water User Committees, sound financial management and tariff systems, preventive maintenance, adherence to operational standards and continued oversight by both the County Government and WaterFund.

Speaking on behalf of the CEO WaterFund, Mr. Paul Atwa, Manager HR, commended the strong multi-stakeholder partnership behind the project, noting that it reflects a shared commitment to improving access to water and sanitation in Isiolo County. He emphasized that the investment will significantly transform community livelihoods through improved health, time saving and economic empowerment opportunities. He further urged the community to take ownership of the project, protect it, and ensure its sustainability for future generations.

The commissioning highlighted the transformative impact of the project, which has significantly improved access to essential services. Over 3,000 people now have reliable access to safe water, easing the burden of long distances previously travelled in search of water. The project has also strengthened Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services in schools and health facilities, contributing to improved public health and reduced incidence of waterborne diseases.

Notably, 45 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), reflecting sustained community engagement and positive behaviour change. The installation of sustainable infrastructure including a solar-powered water system and an expanded distribution network, is ensuring long-term water security. In addition, the 50,000m³ water pan is enhancing climate resilience and supporting sustainable water management.

Beyond improved access to water, the project is driving broader socio-economic transformation. Women's groups are engaging in income-generating activities such as soap-making, while

increased water availability has supported agriculture and boosted tree planting initiatives, contributing to environmental restoration and sustainability.



Mr. Guracha Kikuyu (left), CECM Water Isiolo County and Hon. Marselino Arbelle (right) Member BoT, WaterFund unveiling the plaque during the commissioning



Mr. Guracha Kikuyu (left), CECM Water, Isiolo County, giving his keynote speech on behalf of the Governor Isiolo County



Hon. Marselino Arbelle, Member BoT, WaterFund addressing the guests



Area MCA making his remarks during the commissioning



Mr. Paul Atwa, Manger, HR, WaterFund, making his remarks on behalf of the CEO WaterFund



Mr. Kevin Mwache, WASH Advisor, World Vision, during the commissioning



Mr. Abdullahi Sora, MD, Isiolo Water and Sanitation Company making his speech



Mr. Nicodemus Onunga (center) Programme Technical Coordinator, WaterFund



George Muthoka (right), Quality Assurance Monitor, WaterFund



One of the beneficiaries fetching water from her homestead demonstrating the impact of Bissan Biliqo Water Project in Isiolo County





The delegation testing the water at the homestead

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