WaterFund
Financing the Water Sector

Water Sector Trust Fund

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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 567

11TH – 15TH MAY 2026

WATERFUND SIGNS OPERATING CONTRACTS WITH COMMERCIAL BANKS TO ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE WATER SECTOR BLENDED FINANCING UNDER K-WASH PROGRAM

With its commitment of partnerships in addressing Kenya's water and sanitation financing gap, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), brought together key representatives from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, the World Bank, Water Services Regulatory Board, Murang'a County Government, Murang'a West Water and Sanitation Company Limited, Murang'a Water and Sanitation Company and many Commercial Banks for signing of the Kenya, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (K-WASH) Program, blending Operating Contracts between WaterFund and various Commercial Banks under the K-WASH Program.

K-WASH Program, financed by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank at a total cost of USD 458 Million, has a development objective of increasing sustainable access to improved water and sanitation services, eliminate open defecation, and improve the financial performance of Water Services Providers in selected Counties, including refugee-hosting Counties. The Program aims to close the gap in water and sanitation services between rural and urban areas. It also seeks to support the Government's objective under National Water & Sanitation Investment Plan (NAWASIP) 2022-2030, to accelerate the achievement of universal access to safe water supply and improved sanitation services in Kenya by 2030.

Mr. Willis Ombai, Chief Executive Officer, WaterFund, led the contract signing ceremony and congratulated the participating Commercial Banks for partnering with WaterFund in advancing sustainable blended financing for Kenya's water and sanitation sector. He noted that the collaboration reflects growing confidence by the financial sector in water and sanitation investments, while reinforcing collective efforts towards improving access to safe water and sanitation services across the country.

The signing of the operating contracts centered on K-WASH Program for Results (PforR) component, under Result Area 3 that focuses on improving operational and financial performance of Water Service Providers (WSPs) in participating Counties, by leveraging USD 8 Million from Private and Commercial Financing. The PforR approach emphasizes on results-based development financing, by ensuring that funds are released only upon the successful achievement and verification of pre-agreed results, known as Disbursement-Linked Indicators (DLIs). This event focused on Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) 8, that focuses on the amount of funding leveraged by WSPs from private capital/commercial funding sources.

The signing of these contracts demonstrates WaterFund's strategic commitment to strengthening sustainable financing for water sector development in Kenya.



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, giving his keynote speech during the contract signing ceremony



Mr. Bernard Kirui, Deputy Coordinator, K-WASH Program, ,MoWSI, giving his key remarks on the Program during the contract signing ceremony



Mr. Isaac Kega, General Manager, Programmes, WaterFund, making his remarks during the event



Left: Participants actively listening during the event

Right: Participants posing for a group photo after the event



WATERFUND MEETINGS:

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Urban Water Catalyst Initiative (UWCI), Mr. Mark Peters, alongside Mr. Daniel Nordmann, Advisor to GIZ and KfW, Mr. Myrko Webers, Country Manager for VEI - Dutch Water Operators, Kenya, and Mr. Robert Gakubia, former CEO of Water Services Regulatory Board, and current Director at Blackburn Associates Limited, visited the Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), and held discussions with the CEO of WaterFund, Mr. Willis Ombai, on potential collaboration opportunities within Kenya's water sector.

The discussions focused on sustainable financing approaches for water utilities, with particular emphasis on strengthening utility performance and enhancing long-term financial resilience. With Nakuru Water and Sanitation Services Company (NAWASSCO), already implementing the UWCI Programme through VEI - Dutch Water Operators, Kenya, under the WaterWorX (WWX) Programme. The meeting marked an important step towards exploring strategic partnerships that can support the sustainable growth and transformation of Kenya's water sector.

The Urban Water Catalyst Initiative (UWCI), is a global Programme that supports urban water and sanitation utilities, in improving operational and financial performance, while mobilizing sustainable financing for climate-resilient and inclusive water services.



Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, chairing the meeting



Mr. Willis Ombai (left), CEO, WaterFund, and Mr. Mark Peters (right), CEO, UWCI, exchanging remarks during the meeting



Participants posing for a group photo after the meeting

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