Water Sector Trust Fund

Financing the Water Sector

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SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 569

25TH – 29TH MAY 2026

WATERFUND BOARD RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The Governor of Taita Taveta County, H.E. Hon. Andrew Mwadime, met with WaterFund's Board of Trustees (BOTs) during a two-day retreat in Mombasa, led by the Chairman, BOTs, Dr. Erick Rutto. Also present during the meeting was Mr. Willis Ombai, Chief executive Officer, WaterFund, and other members of the senior management. The retreat focused on WaterFund's Human Resources Instruments, the WaterFund internal audit strategy, and key management updates aimed at strengthening organizational performance and service delivery.

Hon. Mwadime reiterated his appreciation of WaterFund as one of the few institutions that have funded water projects in Taita Taveta County. He revealed that even though the County is a water-surplus region, water distribution remains a challenge due to the long distances that the residents go to fetch water, sometimes through wildlife-infested areas. He added that WaterFund has assisted in funding projects that bring water closer to the communities.

He thanked the Board and management for the funded water projects, and requested more water investments to ensure that from the catchments, water flows to serve the residents, wild animals and for commercial use such as ranching and industry. He highlighted that this would further help to reduce human-wildlife conflict in search of the precious resource.

He also called on investors to partner with Taita Taveta County's industries, such as fishing, macadamia, rice, tomatoes and bananas production.

During the retreat, representatives from the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, presented the recently Approved WaterFund Human Resources Instruments by the Public Service Commission, to the Board of Trustees and sought for their endorsement of the roadmap for implementation of the Instruments.

The Internal Audit discussion outlined the recent audits undertaken at the WaterFund's office, and discussed the current key audit matters, noting that in FY2024/2025, WaterFund was recognized by the Public Service Commission in the Values and Principles Compliance Evaluation Report as among the top-performing public institutions (No. 8) with a 71.3% score.

Members of management also presented departmental updates to update the Board on key institutional developments and the status of their respective functions.



H.E. Hon. Andrew Mwadime (2nd Right), Governor, Taita Taveta County, giving his keynote speech during the meeting press briefing



Dr. Erick Rutto, (2nd Right), Chairman, WaterFund's Board of Trustees, giving his key remarks during the meeting



H.E. Hon. Andrew Mwadime (Right), Governor, Taita Taveta County, shaking hands with Mr. Willis Ombai (Left), CEO, WaterFund, during the meeting alongside the Chairman



Left: WaterFund's Board of Trustees and the Management keenly following the proceedings during the meeting.

Right: The delegation posing for a group photo after the meeting



FROM WATER SCARCITY TO HOPE: KIWAYU REVERSE OSMOSIS-WATER DESALINATION PLANT BRINGS NEW LIFE TO COMMUNITIES IN LAMU

For many families in Kiwayu and surrounding areas of Lamu County, access to safe drinking water has long been a daily struggle, with women and children often forced to walk long distances in search of clean water. Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), with financial support from Embassy of Denmark in Kenya and Somalia, and in partnership with the Lamu County Government, officially commissioned the Kiwayu Water Reverse Osmosis (RO) Plant under the Kiunga Water, Sanitation and Conservation Project.

The project was commissioned by Dr. Mohamed Mbarak Bahjaj, Deputy Governor of Lamu County, alongside Ms. Nancy Njenga, a representative of the Royal Danish Embassy, Kenya. Representing WaterFund were Eng. Joseph Ngacha and Ms. Maryan Mohamed, both Members of WaterFund Board of Trustees (BoT), and Mr. Isaac Kega, WaterFund General Manager, Programmes.

Currently, the project is creating impact through: Safe water access benefiting over 825 people, water resource conservation initiatives reaching more than 1,200 people, improved sanitation through Open Defecation Free villages impacting thousands of residents and strengthened community resilience and sustainable resource management.

Speaking during the event, the Deputy Governor acknowledged the continued support by WaterFund through the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs Programme, noting that the initiative is transforming lives across Lamu County. He further highlighted the collaborative investment towards the project valued at Ksh 28.8 million, with WaterFund contributing KSh 26.2 million and the County Government of Lamu providing KSh 2.6 million.

Ms. Nancy Njenga, emphasized on the importance of community ownership and sustainability to ensure the project continues serving future generations. She noted that the project has come at a critical time, as it will significantly reduce the distance travelled to access safe drinking water while improving health outcomes for women, children and the wider community.

Representing Water Sector Trust Fund during the event was Eng. Joseph Ngacha and Maryan Mohammed, Board of Trustee Members. On behalf of WaterFund, Eng. Joseph Ngacha noted that WaterFund has consistently championed equity in resource allocation, prioritizing projects based on objectivity, fairness, need analysis and guided by County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP). The collaborative engagement between WaterFund and County Governments is paramount for the sustainable management of water projects.

Beyond infrastructure, the project represents dignity restored, healthier families, more time for education and livelihoods, and renewed hope for communities in Kenya's ASAL regions.



H.E. Dr. Mohamed Mbarak Bahjaj (2nd Left), Deputy Governor, Lamu County, at the commissioning of Kiwayu RO Plant



H.E. Dr. Mohamed Mbarak Bahjaj, Deputy Governor, Lamu County, giving his keynote speech during the commissioning ceremony



Eng. Joseph Ngacha, (Right), Member, WaterFund's BoT giving his key remarks alongside Ms. Maryan Mohamed (Left)



Ms. Nancy Njenga, Programme Officer, Royal Danish Embassy, addressing the delegation during the commissioning ceremony





Inspection of the Kiwayu Reverse Osmosis-Water Desalination Plant in Lamu County



Left: Mr. Isaac Kega (Right), General Manager, Programmes, WaterFund, addressing the delegation at Ndau Djabia

Right: Delegation posing for a group photo in Lamu









Delegation inspecting Ndau Djabia in Lamu County

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