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A community member draws water from the Ogallo Water User Association water point in Busia County. Photo Credit: WKWP 2022

KENYA

WESTERN KENYA WATER PROJECT

The Western Kenya Water Project is supporting the Government of Kenya and County Governments of Bungoma, Busia, Homabay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, and Siaya to increase sustained access to water services while enabling better management of water resources. The project brings together the different components critical to county-wide sustained service delivery. These components are urban and rural water services, water resources management, and the good governance and financing strategies. The project aims to provide basic drinking water services to over 500,000 Kenyans, improve service quality to over 350,000 Kenyans, and improve water resource management for the benefit of 300,000 Kenyans by the end of five years. It will help mobilize USD \$15 million in new public and private sector funding for the benefit of the sector.

THE APPROACH

The project employs an efficient and collaborative locally led approach that makes the best use of the natural, human, and financial resources available in Kenya across the public and private sectors. To achieve significant change at scale, The project focuses on:

- Facilitating locally designed, developed, and driven solutions that are adaptable, scalable, and affordable to the sector actors and beneficiaries – tailored to each county’s needs.
- Promoting the inclusion of women and youth through participatory processes, capacity-building, partnerships, and creation of leadership and employment opportunities within the sector.
- Integrating financial and private sector solutions, using good governance, and cost operational efficiency and commercial viability. It helps water service providers recover to attract financial and private partners to invest in the water sector.
- Addressing governance holistically across rural and urban water and water resources management at the county level, deliberately integrating civil society and data to achieve the desired decentralization and service goals.

Localization: The project works with multiple stakeholders to create a financially sustainable, transformative, replicable, and locally owned sanitation and menstrual hygiene management marketplace. This approach ensures that the project ultimately forms effective and productive engagement with relevant county government ministries, private sector, and civil society actors.

This effort will be sustained to establish, structure, and facilitate WASH entities to strengthen county-level knowledge sharing partnerships that build local capacity to improve sustainable service delivery, resulting in improved fiscal responsibility through policy and governance reforms and increased budget allocations for WASH. With these frameworks in place, counties will be well placed to achieve self-reliance in the WASH sector, and this falls within the wider localization agenda where the Mission recognizes that local leadership and ownership are essential for fostering sustainable results across its development work.

OUR WORK

Component 1: Urban Water Services

The project in collaboration with the county governments supports urban water service providers in designing and implementing roadmaps for improvement to structure a realistic and iterative sequence of better customer service and increased revenue, leading to new finance needed for infrastructure improvements and expanded coverage.

Component 2: Rural Water Services

The project enables the identification and development of service delivery models appropriate to the rural operating context of each county.

Component 3: Water Resources Management

The project in collaboration with the county governments, and water resource authority, focuses on increased data availability and data systems to address the lack of sector coordination among upstream and downstream actors; insufficient data to frame dialogue, advocacy, and action; gaps in enforcement and lack of incentives; and capacity gaps at all levels of water resources management.

Component 4: Finance and Private Sector Engagement

The project works with private sector players, banks, and microfinance institutions to leverage private financing for community water infrastructure projects and working capital loan facilities for water enterprises—creating demonstration models for growth.

Component 5: Policy and Governance

The project works with county governments and sector stakeholders to strengthen sector governance and improve coordination—both between the national and county levels and between county governments and water service providers. This is crucial for effective devolved sector governance and to the establishment of incentives for private sector engagement and leadership at decentralized levels.

BUDGET: US \$24 million

DURATION: 2022-2027

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, and Siaya counties.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

DAI Global LLC

KEY PARTNERS

Counties, WSPs, Ministry of Health, Water Services Regulatory Board, Water Resource Management, Authority, Water Services Trust fund, and the private sector.

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