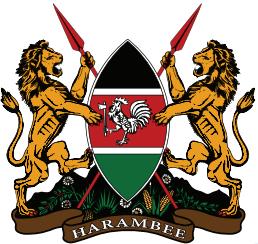




WATER SECTOR TRUST FUND



MINISTRY OF WATER, SANITATION  
AND IRRIGATION

# FINANCING THE UNDERSERVED TARGET COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENYA



WATER SECTOR TRUST FUND

## Rural Investment Programme

### What is the Rural Investment Programme?

The Rural Investment Programme in the Water Fund is mandated to finance water and sanitation projects in the underserved rural communities across Kenya. It is the pioneer funding mechanism at the Water Fund and began financing projects in late 2005.

The key implementers are Rural Water Service Providers (WSPs), Water Users Associations (WUAs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) who are involved in the preparation, planning, implementation and operations of water and sanitation projects. The Programme relies upon outsourced support services from the private sector to offer technical support while the County Governments assure coordination and supervisory roles.

Projects funded through the Rural Investment Programme focus on the poor underserved communities in Kenya who are viewed as financial unviable and unattractive to the traditional commercial based service providers. It focuses on target areas that are water stressed and that lack investment in water and sanitation facilities.

The Rural Investment Programme objectives are as follows:

1. Finance to increase access to improved water and sanitation services in rural underserved areas.
2. Enhance capacities of implementers by providing technical, advisory and capacity development support



### How the Rural Investment Programme works

The Rural Investment Programme (RIP) supports the County Governments towards increasing water and sanitation access in rural underserved area. This has been realized through signing of Memorandums of Understanding and agent contracts.

RIP has two main funding mechanisms: Rural Utilities Programme and Community Project Cycle. Each of the funding mechanisms promotes the definition of roles within the sector for good governance through independent oversight and monitoring of resource utilization. The Water Fund is responsible to ensure that the fiduciary risks are minimized through effective funding and monitoring mechanisms. The Fund has engaged County Resident Monitors and Service Agents-Consultants who assist in providing oversight, monitoring and quality assurance.

### Community Project Cycle(CPC)

The CPC is an approach developed in 2007 to support improved access to water and Sanitation in the poorest locations of Kenya. The CPC was developed as a demand driven process mechanism developed to enhance the capacity of communities to apply for, manage, implement and maintain their own water and sanitation facilities. It relies upon supportive services provided by WaterFund to enhance CBOs capacities in implementation of the water and sanitation projects and Operations and Maintenance of completed projects.

The CPC promotes the delineation of roles within the sector for improved quality control and good governance, through independent over sight and monitoring of resource utilization. The CBOs are encourage to set-up the following implementation committees for WaterFund funded projects;

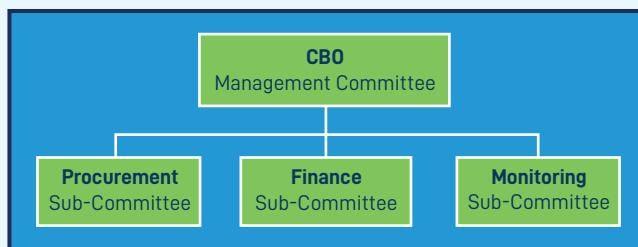


Figure 1: Community Project Cycle Mechanism

The CPC mechanism is currently under review with respect to the County Governments role in targeting and providing water services to its communities. Figure 1.0 describes the adaptations of the CPC mechanism as its transitions to the Rural Utilities mechanism.



### Rural Utilities Project Cycle (RUP)

The Rural Utilities Programme is an improved version of the former Community Project Cycle whose focus is to work with legal entities in the Counties to enhance their capacity to apply for, design, manage, implement and maintain their own water and sanitation facilities in a sustainable manner.

This cycle has been piloted under the Joint 6 Programme (J6P) supported through the Governments of Sweden, Finland and Kenya. This became necessary due to Devolution and the new governance structures in Kenya under the Constitution 2010, in order to align and collaborate with the Counties in its operations. This approach focuses on 6 Counties, namely: Laikipia, Kwale, Migori, Nandi, Narok and Tharaka Nithi with financial support from Government of Finland and Sweden in a joint financing agreement.

The following figure shows the rural investment funding process.



Figure 2: Illustration of the Rural Utilities Programme funding process

### Funding Sources for the Rural Investment Programme

Since the inception of the Rural Programme, funding has been received from Government of Kenya and various Development Partners such as Government of Sweden, Government of Finland, Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), European Union (EU), and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). The Kenyan Government covers operational costs of the Water Fund while the Development Partners funds are directed towards the project implementation activities.



## Target Counties and Locations

The funding under the rural programme targets counties based on two factors;

1. County Selection Criteria has been developed to identify the marginalized counties based on Poverty Index, the level of investment in water and sanitation infrastructure, the access to quality water services and the sanitation coverage levels.
2. Development partner priorities for marginalized counties e.g. funding targeting Arid and Semi Arid Land Counties

The current programme under the Rural Investment Programme targets 22 Counties based on available funding. These counties are as follows;

1. Joint 6 Programme (J6P)- Kwale, Tharaka Nithi, Narok, Migori, Nandi and Laikipia Counties
2. Green Growth Employment Programme (GGEP)- Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu, Marsabit, Isiolo, Mandera and Turkana Counties
3. EU ASAL programme Isiolo, Wajir, Garissa, Tana River, Lamu and Marsabit Counties
4. EU Climate Proofed Infrastructure Programme Baringo, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kitui, Mandera, Samburu, Taita-Taveta and West Pokot.

WaterFund continues to mobilise more funds to ensure that financing is available for more undeserved areas/counties in Kenya.



## Impact of Rural Investment Programme to the Rural Communities

The intervention by the Rural Investment Programme in the underserved and marginalized areas has yielded positive results as highlighted below:

- » Reduced water borne diseases
- » Reduced long trekking distances when fetching water
- » Improved water access to human and livestock
- » Improved institutional sanitation
- » Improved institutional hygiene

## Rural Investment Programme Financing Principles

The Rural Investment Programme's success is based on several factors;

- » Transparent selection of communities/water utilities, targeting the poorest communities in Kenya
- » Gender and social inclusion during planning, implementation and management of water and sanitation projects.
- » Promotion of self-reliance and poverty alleviation to beneficiary communities.
- » Support towards community capacity development in the management and operations of water and sanitation.
- » Participation, good governance and transparency enhancing accountability.
- » County Government engagement and democratic elected management committees as participatory approaches to project implementation.



## Cross-Cutting Issues

HIV/AIDS: In the Rural Investment Programme emphasis is created on sensitization and supporting the affected and infected persons in the community through ensuring they have access to clean water to assist in improving their health status. It is also through sharing of information and linkages to institutions supporting the affected and infected. Training manuals have been produced for the implementers to sensitize and involve affected persons into the planning and siting of water and sanitation interventions. Brochures from the National AIDS Control Council are also circulated to the beneficiaries during project launch and commissioning. The implementers adhere to the National AIDS Policy.

Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI): The Rural Investment Programme is working towards realizing gender equity and social inclusion in its programmes. The integration of equity is a critical component in water and sanitation programmes since it gives value to socio-economic differences and diversity. The Rural Water Investment advocates for 1/3 gender representation at all decision making levels and 1/5 inclusion of Persons with Disability in all sections of project implementation. This is part of the Government Policy to empower the marginalized community.

## Environmental Sustainability

Consideration for climate change effects during planning and designs of projects by promoting adoption of green technologies such as gravity supplies, use of solar and wind power energy for pumping schemes, water storage facilities such as water pans, djabias, berkads, rain water harvesting tanks and metering to improve water use efficiency

## CONTACT US

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