

## **Kenya**

### ***The Challenge:***

The water and sanitation sector in Kenya is facing enormous challenges. The sector is currently undergoing reforms to implement the Water Act 2002 to achieve the MDGs. Nationally, access to safe water is currently estimated at 57%, while access to basic sanitation is at 81%. This translates into 13 million Kenyans without access to water and 5.7 million people without access to basic sanitation. The realistic achievement of the MDGs in the field of Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) requires a strong financial, technical and conceptual support through:

- An enhanced sector-wide and programmatic approaches and integration of these to ensure greater impact on reducing poverty
- Promotion of poverty-oriented economic growth, among others through enhanced community-based and private sector participation
- Mobilization of additional financial resources for investment in the sector.

### ***The Opportunities:***

To help steer the reforms and guide the implementation of the Water Act 2002, the Ministry has established and is in the process of operationalising autonomous waterservice institutions as well as a semi-autonomous Water Services Trust Fund. The new Ministry has signaled its intention to follow through on the reform process, including exploring options for private sector participation in the major cities and seeking to respond to the new expectations in the country. This creates a good opportunity for scaling up service provision and attaining the MDGs. A transfer plan launched in July 2005 provides for a transition period of 2 years in order to fully shift new functions, duties and responsibilities from the MWI to the new institutions and meet the transfer deadline 30 June 2006. Presently, almost all the new institutions are in place and are at different levels of operationalization.

### ***WSP-AF's Role:***

WSP-AF played a key role during the Kenya Water and Sanitation Sector Review 2000, and has been closely involved in the development of the new Water Act 2002, the WSS strategy, and the WRM strategy. In discussion with MWI, WSP-AF's roles are expected to be: i) support to the coordination and WSS MDG planning processors, to facilitate support for the reform process; ii) ongoing support to the implementation of sector reforms and support to the MWI, water boards and service providers; iii) development of delivery mechanisms for WSS in informal settlements and preparation of investment programs; and iv) process for the development and implementation of national environmental sanitation and hygiene programs.

### ***WSP-AF's Comparative Advantage:***

WSP-AF has a strong track record in the sector and good working relationships with leading agencies in Kenya. WSP-AF is regarded as an honest broker by the MWI and other stakeholders, and is therefore expected to lead sector coordination activities among government, donors, and other sector actors. This comparative advantage derives from:

1. A strong regional presence

2. Experience in similar reform projects in other countries, such as guiding sector reform in Zambia and the development of sanitation policies in Burkina Faso, etc.
3. WSP-AF success in developing delivery mechanisms for WSS services to urban poor under WUP
4. An in-country presence and good understanding of the WSS issues in the country.

***WSP-AF's Strategic Activity Selection:*** WSP-AF's work in Kenya will focus on four projects namely:

- Kenya WSS MDG Road Map
- Support to WSS Sector Reform Processes
- Development of a strategy for WSS service provision in Informal Settlements
- Support to the implementation of the national environmental sanitation and hygiene policy through national sanitation marketing and hygiene promotion.