

SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 498

6TH – 10TH JANUARY 2025

FROM OPEN DEFECTION TO SUSTAINABLE SANITATION: THE MAGARINI SUCCESS STORY

Magarini Sub-County has long faced challenges in accessing proper sanitation, with many residents relying on open defecation or shared latrines. This practice exposed communities to waterborne diseases and environmental degradation. To tackle these issues, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) through Malindi Water and Sewerage Company Limited (MAWASCO); launched an initiative in March 2024 under WaterFund's Upscaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor (UBSUP) programme. Targeting low-income urban areas, the project aimed to construct 200 household toilets in Gongoni, Sabaki, and Mambui, with a focus on reducing open defecation, improving hygiene and promoting sustainable sanitation practices.

The project combined various strategies to ensure success. Community mobilization efforts, led by local leaders and health promoters, raised awareness and encouraged participation. Social marketing campaigns and technical training sessions equipped artisans and health officers with skills to construct and maintain low-cost toilets. To make the project accessible, financial support through micro-grants and low-interest loans was provided. Health education initiatives further reinforced the importance of proper hygiene and sanitation, fostering behavioral change among residents.

By September 2024, the project achieved its target of 200 household toilets, significantly reducing open defecation and improving public health. The initiative not only provided safer sanitation but also empowered the community economically and socially. Local artisans gained valuable skills and sustainable livelihoods, while residents benefited from improved dignity and healthier living conditions. Beyond its immediate success, the project stands as a blueprint for tackling sanitation challenges through community collaboration, innovative approaches and long-term impact, inspiring similar efforts across Kenya.



Left picture: Ms Joyce Kache (left), Sanitation Officer, MAWASCO and Ms. Priscilla Oluoch (right), Sanitation Manager, MAWASCO



Right picture: Mr. Thomas Rimba, Social Animator, MAWASCO



Residents of Magarini Sub-County receiving their cheques

FIELD ACTIVITIES: MONITORING EXERCISES

Field activities including monitoring and inspection of the WaterFund's projects continued across the week.

- WaterFund staff conducted monitoring of projects in Marsabit County funded under the Sustainable Management and Access to Water and Sanitation in the ASALs (SWASAP) Programme. The primary aim of the monitoring exercise was to evaluate the quality of ongoing works and identify any challenges faced by the Water Service Provider (WSP) in the execution of the projects. The projects visited include Konon Gos water pan and construction of VIP latrines at Konon Gos ECDE and Helmer Girls School in North Horr.



Left: completed Konon Gos water pan in Marsabit County

Right: Inspection of Konon Gos Pre Primary School VIP latrine in Marsabit County



BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #262– WATERFUND PARTICIPATED IN KENYA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (NDC) UPDATE WORKSHOP

The WaterFund's Situation Report No. 262 (SITREP #262) covered the period **11th to 15th May, 2020**. Among the highlights was that the Ministry of Water & Sanitation and Irrigation, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the National Treasury is in the process of updating Kenya's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In accordance with the Climate Change Act (2016), and the Paris Accord, the NDC must be renewed every 5 years. Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) took part in the virtual workshop that targeted organizations that influence and support climate resilience.



For this issue and all previous SITREPs, please visit: <https://waterfund.go.ke/sitreps>