

## SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 518

26<sup>TH</sup> – 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025

### **WATERFUND AND WORLD BANK HOLD CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON K-WASH PROGRESS AND ACCESS TO COMMERCIAL FINANCE**

The Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund) convened a consultative meeting with the World Bank as part of the ongoing Kenya Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (K-WASH) mission. The session aimed to assess the progress of the pipeline of bankable projects and evaluate the development of proposals ready for commercial financing.

The engagement brought together key stakeholders from WaterFund and the World Bank to jointly review efforts toward strengthening the financial sustainability of the water and sanitation sector through increased access to private sector financing. In attendance on behalf of WaterFund was the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Willis Ombai, while the World Bank delegation was led by Ms. Aileen Castro, Task Team Leader and Senior Water Specialist, accompanied by Ms. Eden Mati, Consultant and Mr. Johnstone Mainya, 2030 Water Resources Group.

As part of the mission activities, the two institutions also held focused discussions with selected Water Services Providers (WSPs) and several Commercial Banks to gauge the WSPs' readiness and capacity to tap into commercial finance opportunities. These discussions form a critical part of K-WASH's broader agenda to build creditworthy utilities and foster private sector participation in water and sanitation investments.

The K-WASH Programme is a six-year initiative currently being implemented in 19 counties, targeting 33 WSPs. It is designed to enhance sustainable access to improved water and sanitation services, eliminate open defecation, and improve the operational and financial performance of WSPs across the selected counties. WaterFund and the World Bank reiterated their commitment to strengthening partnerships and leveraging blended financing mechanisms to scale up investments in water and sanitation infrastructure, ensuring that underserved populations gain lasting access to quality services.



**Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO WaterFund,**  
charing the World Bank meeting



**Ms. Aileen Castro, Senior Water specialist, Ms. Eden Mati, World Bank Consultant and Mr. Johnstone Mainya, 2030 Water Resources Group**



**WaterFund and World Bank representatives keenly following the presentations.**

## BLAST FROM THE PAST: FEATURED IN SITREP #276– WATERFUND CELEBRATES OPEN DEFECATION FREE (ODF) STATUS FOR 86 VILLAGES IN MIGORI AND THARAKA NITHI COUNTIES

The WaterFund's Situation Report No. 276 (SITREP #276) covered the period **17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020**. Among the highlights was that, Water Sector Trust Fund was financing implementation of Community-led Total Sanitation (CLTS) projects in Kuria East and Suna East sub counties in Migori County, through Nyasare Water and Sanitation Company with technical support from the County Public Health Department.

The projects have been successfully completed and 34 villages have been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) at a total project cost of KSh. 3,546,600 that increased access sanitation to 2,549 households. The Migori and Tharaka Nithi CLTS projects implementation received financial support from Embassy of Finland and Embassy of Sweden.

WaterFund participated in the celebration of this milestone in August 2020 in Nguku B and Amino villages where various community health volunteers (CHVs), county public health officials and the local administration emphasised to the community on the need to maintain their household latrines and toilets to guarantee no open defecation and to promote sanitation and health in the community.

Similarly, in Tharaka Nithi County, 52 villages consisting of 22,676 people were also declared Open Defecation Free (ODF). During the celebrations, WaterFund handed over certificates to the representatives of the villages. In the meetings, World Health Organisation (WHO) and Ministry of Health COVID -19 prevention measures such as social distancing, wearing of masks, handwashing and hand sanitization were observed.



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