

## SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) # 568

### 18<sup>TH</sup> – 22<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

#### **WATERFUND ENGAGES IN THE WORLD BANK'S IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT MISSION TO STRENGTHEN HOAGW4R PROGRAMME DELIVERY**

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2026, The World Bank conducted a consultative mission to review the progress of the Horn of Africa Groundwater for Resilience (HoAGW4R) Programme. The week-long engagement brought together representatives from the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MoWSI), implementing agencies and Sub-Project Implementation Units from the targeted Counties. The mission aimed to assess projects progress, identify areas for improvement, and ensure that the Programme remains aligned with its objectives.

The HoAGW4R Programme is a World Bank-funded project at a total cost of USD 135 million, running from 2022-2028. The Programme aims to enhance sustainable access and the management of groundwater in the Horn of Africa borderlands, with approximately 700,000 people expected to benefit upon its successful implementation. This milestone project is being implemented in Turkana, Wajir, Garissa, Marsabit and Isiolo Counties.

During the deliberations, notable milestones in the Programme were presented including the development of the Programmes' website which is still ongoing. Once completed, the website will provide access to information for the Implementing Partners, Development Partners as well as Kenyans at large. Further to that, participants also discussed on strengthening grievance redress mechanism reporting. The World Bank team noted significant improvements since last year's midterm review, and encouraged all stakeholders to maintain the same level of commitment to achieve the project's desired results.

Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), led the WaterFund team during the event. As one of the focal institutions implementing the project, WaterFund is overseeing Sub-component 1.B: which focuses on rehabilitating groundwater-based rural water supply schemes, and strengthening the drought-response borehole network across the five beneficiary counties. He noted that the initiative advances water and sanitation solutions for marginalized and underserved communities, reaffirming WaterFund's commitment to improving access to clean and safe water for communities across Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASALs).



*Mr. Julius Korir, CBS, Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation, MoWSI, present during an entry meeting with the World Bank team*



*Representatives from The World Bank briefing the Principal Secretary on the progress of the Programme*



*Photo captured during the meeting with the Principal Secretary, State Department for Water and Sanitation, MoWSI chairing the meeting*



*Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, taking part in the discussions*



*Mr. Isaac Kega, General Manager, Programmes, WaterFund, keenly following deliberations*



*Eng. Rose Nyikuri (right), Manager, Water Resources and Climate Change, WaterFund, following deliberations during the mission*



*WaterFund Staff present during the mission*

## **WATERFUND STRENGTHENS ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE CONTRACT REVIEW FOR FY 2025/2026**

Water Sector Trust Fund (WaterFund), through its Planning and Quality Management Division, hosted Ms. Grace Kimitei, Director Planning, State Department of Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation (MoWSI). The meeting was held to review WaterFund's mid-year performance in the implementation of its FY 2025/2026 Performance Contract. The Performance Contract is a vital Government tool in enhancing accountability, transparency, and efficient service delivery across public institutions.

During the review, Ms. Grace Kimitei commended WaterFund for its efforts in ensuring conformity with the Performance Contract guidelines. She emphasized on the importance of the mid-year review in assessing progress and identifying areas for improvement. The Director further urged compliance with the Electronic Government Procurement (EGP) System and the strengthening of internal capacity. She concluded by highlighting key recommendations to enhance service delivery, including accelerating project completion, improving asset management reporting, strengthening EGP System training, enhancing gender and disability mainstreaming, and collaboration with the Monitoring and Evaluation team from the MoWSI.

Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, chaired the meeting and emphasized on WaterFund's commitment to accountability and service delivery, noting its alignment with the Fourth Medium Term Plan (MTP IV), the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the African Water Agenda. He expressed confidence in attaining an "Excellent" rating despite fiscal constraints, citing WaterFund's "Very Good" rating performance in the previous evaluation, as it is currently strengthening internal mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Performance Contract. He concluded by appreciating the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, for its continued support towards the Fund's mandate.



*Mr. Willis Ombai, CEO, WaterFund, giving his key remarks during the PC review meeting*



*Ms. Grace Kimitei, Director Planning, State Department of Water and Sanitation, MoWSI*



*MoWSI and WaterFund staff actively listening and participating in the meeting*

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