Better health, higher living standards

For the residents of urban low-income settlements, the UPC interventions have brought better health for children and adults, and improved living standards for households. A 2010 survey that assessed the impact of water kiosks financed by the WSTF’s UPC arm showed overwhelming acceptance by the residents, who reported lower household spending on water, a drop in waterborne diseases, improved household hygiene, improved security when fetching water, and an increase in productive and leisure time thanks to less time spent on water duties.

Our development partners

Since 2008, the UPC has been financed by the European Union together with the German Development Bank (KfW). The German Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) started its cooperation with the WSTF through the Water Sector Reform Programme in 2007, providing technical support for the UPC.

In July 2011 the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) partnered with the WSTF, KfW and GIZ to roll out a five-year Urban Sanitation Programme that aims to provide sustainable sanitation services to an additional 800,000 people in Kenya’s urban low income areas. The programme will specifically target the populations in the “sanitation hotspots” – the informal and formal, unplanned and planned, low-income urban settlements where child mortality is twice the national average.

Up to now the UPC has received financial commitment amounting to 32.8 million Euros from the EU, KfW and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Impact of water kiosks on household expenditure

Impact of water kiosks on children

Figures taken from the Survey on the impact of formalised water kiosks on living conditions in Athi River and Ongata Rongai, published by WSTF, July 2010.

85%
5%
10%
Ongata Rongai
Reduced spending on water
Reduced spending on medication
Reduced spending on water treatment

4%
38%
37%
Athi River
Increased time in school
Increased child cleanliness
No schooling child
Reduced child labour

WATER SERVICES TRUST FUND
Urban Projects Concept
CIC Plaza, First Floor, Masa Road
PO Box 49699 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 020 272 9017 / 018 / 019
020 272 0696
Fax: 020 272 3457
Email: upc@wstf.go.ke
Website: www.wstfkenya.go.ke

Supported by
GIZ

WATER SERVICES TRUST FUND
Urban Projects Concept
CIC Plaza, First Floor, Masa Road
PO Box 49699 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 020 272 9017 / 018 / 019
020 272 0696
Fax: 020 272 3457
Email: upc@wstf.go.ke
Website: www.wstfkenya.go.ke

Supported by
GIZ

Improved lives in low-income areas
What is the Urban Projects Concept?
The Urban Projects Concept (UPC) was developed in 2007 to respond to the specific challenges of urban low-income settlements. UPC works with licensed Water Service Providers (WSPs) to bring formalised services to these un-served and underserved areas in Kenya's cities and towns. By financing projects that incorporate simple, cost-effective and sustainable technologies, UPC will have reached 1.4 million people with affordable safe water and 400,000 people with basic sanitation. The UPC project implementation timeframe:

1. Launch of the Call for Proposals by WSTF
2. Collection of data by the WSP
3. Preparation of proposals by WSPs
4. Evaluation of the proposals by WSTF
5. Awarding of projects by WSTF
6. Project implementation by the WSP
7. Operation of the project by the WSP
8. Evaluation of the project

The UPC project implementation timeline:

- After a proposal is approved for funding, UPC monitors its implementation by the WSP. Each project is supported by a team of UPC monitors who keep track of the project's progress and report back to the WSTF. They also support WSPs in procurement and site selection, ensuring quality of work.
- UPC has so far awarded 120 projects countrywide. Technologies range from water kiosks and yard taps to water meters (pre-paid and post-paid), network extensions and public sanitation facilities. UPC is continuously working on extending the technical options. Activities currently focus on the development of urban and household-level sanitation options. As always with UPC technologies, the focus is on affordable and sustainable solutions.

Impact

Since 2007, around KSh 1.2 billion (16 million Euro) have been invested in UPC. The impact of these investments can be seen in visible outputs such as 125 new kiosks and 262 km of pipeline laid during the first three calls, and also in the less obvious outputs such as capacity building of WSPs, the launch of MajiData® and the introduction of new technologies.

The key elements in UPC’s success:
- Comprehensive approach: financing + supervision + capacity building of local implementers
- Innovative and low-cost water and sanitation solutions
- Transparent procedures and funding criteria
- Competitive allocation of funds through calls
to sector strategies; use of local institutions for implementation (only registered utilities); plus long-term vision
- Measuring impact through baseline surveys and information systems, and performance monitoring of utilities

Impacts and lessons learned

- Improved living conditions and hygiene
- New technologies developed
- Improved housing conditions and hygiene in low-income areas
- Increased access to sustainable safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for a large proportion of the urban poor in Kenya. In addition to its aim to:
  - Better public health
  - Improve urban livelihoods
  - Reduce unaccounted-for water
  - Build capacity at water service provider level

The Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) channels donor funding directly to projects on the ground. The WSTF has contracted for 120 projects, out of a total of 125 projects offered, contributing a total of KSh 471.2 million to the project. The WSTF has collaborated widely with other sector institutions, such as capacity building of WSPs, the launch of MajiData® and the introduction of new technologies.

The UPC objective between January 2009 and December 2013 was to:
- Water for 1.4 million residents
- Sanitation for 400,000 residents

The UPC project implementation timeframe:

- After a proposal is approved for funding, UPC monitors its implementation by the WSP. Each project is supported by a team of UPC monitors who keep track of the project’s progress and report back to the WSTF. They also support WSPs in procurement and site selection, ensuring quality of work.
- UPC has so far awarded 120 projects countrywide. Technologies range from water kiosks and yard taps to water meters (pre-paid and post-paid), network extensions and public sanitation facilities. UPC is continuously working on extending the technical options. Activities currently focus on the development of urban and household-level sanitation options. As always with UPC technologies, the focus is on affordable and sustainable solutions.

Impact

Since 2007, around KSh 1.2 billion (16 million Euro) have been invested in UPC. The impact of these investments can be seen in visible outputs such as 125 new kiosks and 262 km of pipeline laid during the first three calls, and also in the less obvious outputs such as capacity building of WSPs, the launch of MajiData® and the introduction of new technologies.

The key elements in UPC’s success:
- Comprehensive approach: financing + supervision + capacity building of local implementers
- Innovative and low-cost water and sanitation solutions
- Transparent procedures and funding criteria
- Competitive allocation of funds through calls
to sector strategies; use of local institutions for implementation (only registered utilities); plus long-term vision
- Measuring impact through baseline surveys and information systems, and performance monitoring of utilities

Impacts and lessons learned

- Improved living conditions and hygiene
- New technologies developed
- Improved housing conditions and hygiene in low-income areas
- Increased access to sustainable safe drinking water and adequate sanitation for a large proportion of the urban poor in Kenya. In addition to its aim to:
  - Better public health
  - Improve urban livelihoods
  - Reduce unaccounted-for water
  - Build capacity at water service provider level

The Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) channels donor funding directly to projects on the ground. The WSTF has contracted for 120 projects, out of a total of 125 projects offered, contributing a total of KSh 471.2 million to the project. The WSTF has collaborated widely with other sector institutions, such as capacity building of WSPs, the launch of MajiData® and the introduction of new technologies.