

## WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE – WASH IN THE ATHI RIVER CATCHMENT PROJECT AREA

### 1.0 Introduction

The **Ministry of Water and Sanitation** (MWS) of Kenya is a member of the project steering committee for the funding proposal titled *“Enhancing community resilience and water security in the Upper Athi River Catchment Area, Kenya.”*

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation develops sanitation services policy and is in charge of sewer and non-sewer sanitation services sub-sector coordination, oversight, technical quality assurance, investments development, sourcing, financing and is the custodian of the sub-sector data and information. The Ministry will provide the desired policy direction and coordination of Water Sanitation and Hygiene - WASH interventions in the project.

Under Kenya’s devolved governance system, County Governments are in charge of development of county public sewer and non-sewer works and the provision of sanitation services as per Schedule 4 of the Constitution. This will further entrench WASH initiatives in the project as county governments are the beneficiaries and key partners in this project. The four beneficiary counties of the project are Kiambu, Nyandarua, Machakos and Nairobi counties.

Kenya’s development blueprint, *vision 2030* is being implemented through 5-year successive Medium Term (MTP) plans and has three key pillars namely Economic, Social and Political. Under the Social pillar, the country seeks to build a just and cohesive society with social equity in a clean and secure environment. The current Medium Term plan -MTP III has factored Capacity building of County Public Health Officers on food, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions.

National and County level interventions in WASH are further guided by the Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Policy (2016-2030) and its Strategic Plan (2016-2020) were developed in 2016. The policy commits the Government of the Republic of Kenya at both National and County levels to pursuing a robust strategy that will not only enable all Kenyans to enjoy their right to highest attainable standards of sanitation but also to a clean and healthy environment as guaranteed by the Constitution of Kenya 2010.

The policy takes full cognizance of the devolution of most sanitation functions and services. To this end, county governments across the country have integrated water and sanitation interventions in their operations and budgets as attested by the County Integrated development plans This is in furtherance to achievement of SDG 6 that seeks to *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.*

### 2.0 County led WASH interventions

All counties targeted under this proposal are implementing Community Lead Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives that seek to ensure all Kenyan communities are Open Defecation free among other Water and sanitation initiatives.

Machakos county government though the preventive and promotive health programme has prioritized environmental/community health services that aim to make the county open defecation free by 2022. Ksh 97.1M has been set aside for this activity in the current County Integrated Development Plan - CIDP. The county has also targeted solid waste management with one of the proposed development strategies being establishment of water and sanitation infrastructure

Kiambu County in their current County Integrated Development Plan -CIDP commits to ensure people have access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene to end open defecation while Nyandarua

County seeks to ensure 75% of the population living in upcoming urban areas are connected to waterborne sanitation

Nairobi County has equally prioritized water and sanitation in the CIDP targeted at improvement of sewerage coverage through infrastructure development and urban solid waste management among other interventions.

Some of the WASH strategies planned for implementation by the targeted counties as reflected in their County Integrated Development Plan - CIDPs are as summarized below:

COUNTY	DEVELOPMENT NEED	PRIORITY	STRATEGY
Kiambu	Improve sewerage system  Increase the number of the public toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To realize universal access to improved sanitation, sewerage, and drainage system</li> <li>To increase access and utilization of sewerage system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote appropriate onsite community sanitation system</li> <li>Enforce the WASH regulation of having toilets in all public facilities such as supermarkets, Banks etc.</li> <li>Scaling up of latrine coverage and extension of sewer line</li> <li>Intensify public health inspections for toilets coverage and hygiene facilities</li> <li>Support the implementation of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) initiatives</li> </ul>
	Improve garbage collection systems and introduce segregation of waste on site  Increase waste collection equipment and trucks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment management and protection (solid waste management)</li> <li>Cleaner environment is a constitutional right)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve garbage collection system</li> <li>Promote recycling of solid waste.</li> <li>Implement solid waste management plan</li> <li>Develop and enforce environmental standards</li> <li>integrate environmental issues in county development planning</li> <li>Construct public toilets.</li> <li>Conducting an environmental sanitation campaign</li> <li>Enforcement and policing of environmental regulations</li> </ul>
Machakos	Inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To upgrade sanitation and drainage systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of water and sanitation infrastructure</li> </ul>
	Poor sanitation in market centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance access to improved sanitation in markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing sanitation facilities in market centers</li> </ul>
Nairobi	Promote environment, water, sanitation and garbage management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>improve access to water and sanitation services, the Sector seeks to:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase availability of clean water and improve sanitation in designated industrial areas</li> <li>increase the number of households connected to water supply; harvest and recycle water; and increase sewer coverage in the city</li> </ul>
	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable management of water and sanitation for all through harvesting and recycling of water; and increasing sewer connectivity coverage</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proper waste disposal</li> <li>Functional sewer systems and timely repair of leakages</li> </ul>

Below are the activities planned and budgeted for implementation as per the respective County Integrated Development Plan- CIDPs:

COUNTY	ACTIVITY	STRATEGY	BUDGET (KSH)
Kiambu	Improve sanitation services	Construct 50 km of sewer infrastructure	76.5M
		Renovate and rehabilitate 100 sanitation blocks	50M
		Construct 34 new sanitation blocks	102M
		Increase latrine coverage by 22,712	42M
Machakos	Improve access to sanitation facilities in market centers	Construct 87 toilets in market centers	80M
Nyandarua	Improve sanitation facilities	255 sanitation facilities constructed in the ECDE centers	75M
	improved personal and environmental hygiene	18 sanitation facilities constructed	5M
	75% of population in small urban areas connected to waterborne sanitation	improved sanitation at Ol'kalou Town, Mairo Inya and Engineer	16000M
	Improve sanitation standards	Hire casuals for improved sanitation and reduction of environmental pollution	10M
		Designing, tendering, actual construction and handing over of 15 VIP toilets, cemetery fencing among others	60.5M
Nairobi	Water & Sanitation management	Increasing the number of households connected by ward based water infrastructure development from 79% to 85%	2125M
		Improving sewerage by overhauling the sewerage system	2000M
		Construct 5 additional sewers in the City	14,784M
		Provide Standard ablution block And Sanitation Facility For The Ward Office	1.9M

### 3.0 Other Ongoing WASH projects

The USAID funded Kenya Integrated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Project (KIWASH) which seeks to improve access to improved water, sanitation, and hygiene covers Nairobi among 8 other counties. The Athi River project will seek to network and build on the achievements under this project in Nairobi County. The project will also work with other local level community based organizations that are engaged in WASH activities in the respective counties.

Additionally, the project will work with partners implementing WASH activities in the targeted counties targeting schools, dispensaries and health centers for public awareness and behavior change, including borrowing lessons and building partnerships with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund - UNICEF sponsored initiatives on hand washing and SATO pans toilet promotion activities in neighboring Kitui County that borders Machakos where the bulk of water assets are to be rehabilitated.

### 4.0 Conclusion

The role of County Governments in Water and sanitation interventions under Kenya's devolved governance structure is well anchored in the constitution, sectoral legislation and in relevant national policies. County governments have embraced this mandate and continue to work with the national government, stakeholders and partners in the implementation of WASH initiatives at County level.

There are adequate interventions on water and sanitation at the county level that will build synergy with the project in the Upper Athi River Catchment. The project sits at the core of the respective county governments that have the legal mandate over water and sanitation issues in the county. This will

ensure that developed water assets are protected from pollution that may arise from lack of water and sanitation interventions in the project areas.

## **REFERENCES**

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