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KENYA: HELPING ESTABLISH SELF-SUSTAINING WATER SUPPLIES & COMMUNITIES

Kenya Integrated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Project (KIWASH)

Duration: 2015–2020

Challenge

Although 61 percent of Kenyans have access to improved drinking water supply and 30 percent have access to improved sanitation, access has not kept pace with population growth. The country must overcome considerable challenges in meeting the basic WASH needs of its 48 million people, a population also challenged with food insecurity. To address these shortcomings, USAID launched the Kenya Integrated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (KIWASH) Project in 2015 to target a million Kenyans with increased access to WASH, irrigation, and nutrition services.

Kenya's National Water Master Plan 2030 estimates that approximately \$14 billion in investment in water supply and \$5.4 billion in urban sewerage infrastructure are needed over the next 15 years. KIWASH takes a market-based approach to address the water supply gap in areas where municipal water companies have not fully established infrastructure or delivery systems. The project works with water service providers (WSPs) to improve their ability to take on debt and equity financing.

Opportunity

To help attract more financing for the WASH sector, KIWASH works with commercial banks to mobilize previously unavailable commercial finance to the sector. After training senior credit officers of the Co-operative Bank of Kenya, the bank financed

A young girl washes her hands at a newly installed water tap at her home in Makueni County, Kenya. Photo credit: USAID KIWASH

the sector with a \$62 million loan to Nairobi County Water and Sewerage Company and is considering potential financing of \$71 million to three other WSPs.

To improve water services, KIWASH is also assisting small-scale water enterprises to expand household connections and extend their networks to unserved communities. To date, about 240 officers from various water enterprises have benefited from KIWASH technical assistance, helping more than 50,000 people access basic drinking water.

“KIWASH is one of our key partners, and they've played an important role in developing our strategic plan and business plan that will help improve management of existing water resources and collection of revenue, which will in turn make the company self-sustainable,” said Isaiah Andati, acting managing director at Busia Water and Sewerage Services Company, one of the 119 WASH enterprises that received KIWASH assistance in FY 2016.

KIWASH also works with county governments and private entrepreneurs to expand and improve operations and management of existing community drinking water systems in rural areas. Integrating WASH, nutrition, and agriculture practices is another component of this activity. In FY 2016, KIWASH certified 90 villages as open defecation free, and established 12 farming demonstration sites to showcase low-cost methods for producing nutritious food and irrigation technologies that can significantly increase crop yields and raise incomes.