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WKWP works with rural water enterprises to improve their operations and maintenance to deliver safe drinking water to last-mile communities in western Kenya. Photo Credit: USAID WKWP 2023, Homabay County.

KENYA

WESTERN KENYA WATER PROJECT

The USAID Western Kenya Water Project (WKWP) is supporting the Government of Kenya and the County Governments of Bungoma, Busia, Homabay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, and Siaya to increase sustained access to water services while enabling better management of water resources. The project brings together the different components critical to county-wide sustained service delivery. These components are urban and rural water

services, water resources management, and good governance and financing strategies. The project aims to provide basic drinking water services to over 500,000 Kenyans, improve service quality to over 350,000 Kenyans, and improve water resource management for the benefit of 300,000 Kenyans by the end of five years. It will help mobilize USD \$15 million in new public and private sector funding for the benefit of the sector.

THE APPROACH

The project employs an efficient and collaborative locally-led approach that makes the best use of the natural, human, and financial resources available in Kenya across the public and private sectors. To achieve significant change at scale, The project focuses on:

- Facilitating locally designed, developed, and driven solutions that are adaptable, scalable, and affordable to the sector actors and beneficiaries – tailored to each county’s needs.
- Promoting the inclusion of women and youth through participatory processes, capacity-building, partnerships, and creation of leadership and employment opportunities within the sector.
- Integrating financial and private sector solutions, using good governance, and cost operational efficiency and commercial viability. It helps water service providers recover to attract financial and private partners to invest in the water sector.
- Addressing governance holistically across rural and urban water and water resources management at the county level, deliberately integrating civil society and data to achieve the desired decentralization and service goals.

OUR WORK



Component 1: Urban Water Services

The project in collaboration with the county governments supports urban water service providers in designing and implementing roadmaps for improvement to structure a realistic and iterative sequence of better customer service and increased revenue, leading to new finance needed for infrastructure improvements and expanded coverage.



Component 2: Rural Water Services

The project enables the identification and development of service delivery models appropriate to the rural operating context of each county.



Component 3: Water Resources Management

The project in collaboration with the county governments, and water resource authority, focuses on increased data availability and data systems to address the lack of sector coordination among upstream and downstream actors; insufficient data to frame dialogue, advocacy, and action; gaps in enforcement and lack of incentives; and capacity gaps at all levels of water resources management.



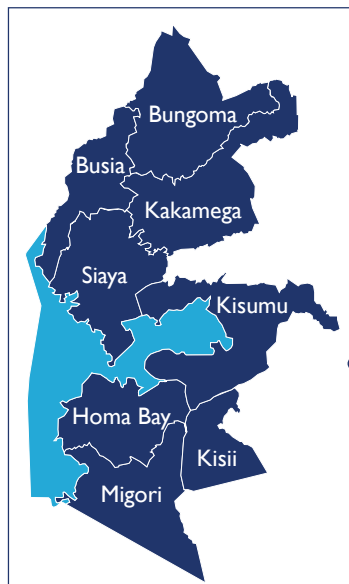
Component 4: Finance and Private Sector Engagement

The project works with private sector players, banks, and microfinance institutions to leverage private financing for community water infrastructure projects and working capital loan facilities for water enterprises—creating demonstration models for growth.



Component 5: Policy and Governance

The project works with county governments and sector stakeholders to strengthen sector governance and improve coordination—both between the national and county levels and between county governments and water service providers. This is crucial for effective devolved sector governance and for the establishment of incentives for private sector engagement and leadership at decentralized levels.



Western Kenya Water Project (WKWP) Counties
Project Offices



BUDGET

US \$24 million

DURATION

2022-2027

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Bungoma, Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kisumu, Migori, and Siaya counties.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

DAI Global LLC

KEY PARTNERS

Counties, WSPs, Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, Water Services Regulatory Board, Water Resource Authority, Water Services Trust Fund, and the private sector.

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YEAR I KEY MILESTONES AT GLANCE



16 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed with County governments and Water Service Providers



8 Joint costing workplans developed on key water priorities to inform co-investments



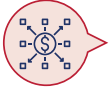
47,362 People access safe basic drinking water in eight counties



5 County Water Assembly and Budget Committees sensitized on water the sector to support enactment of relevant regulations and increase budget allocation



200 Rural water schemes assessed to inform targeted business development support



\$58200 saved in cost share allocation in eight counties



6 Non-Disclosure Agreement signed with private sector partners and financiers to increase investments in Water.



8 Country Integrated Development Plans 2023-2027 developed incorporated key water priorities



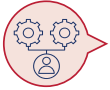
38 Water Projects prioritized for infrastructure development in eight counties



Supported the enactment of the **Migori Water and Sanitation Act 2022** and currently supporting the development of the regulations to operationalize the act.



Provision of Business Development Services Support to **41** Rural Water Enterprises



127 County government staff trained on WASREB Rural Water Management guidelines and Service Delivery Models



Strategic Plan 2023-2027 developed for four water utilities to steer a strategic path for improved performance.



15 Water Resources Users Associations trained on effective Water Resources Management (WRM) practices meaningfully engage in better management of water resources.

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