



**USAID**  
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## KENYA

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Kenya is classified among the most water scarce countries in the world. This fact, coupled with more frequent cycles of severe weather and depleting natural resources, is making water less available for agricultural and domestic use, especially in the country's arid and semi-arid regions.

Access to safe water and improved sanitation is a challenge in Kenya. Many Kenyans living in rural areas still walk long distances for water, often collecting it from unsafe sources. These conditions have a profound effect on public health, causing undernutrition, illness and disease, particularly in children under the age of five. Women and girls are disproportionately affected, often sacrificing their own education and enrichment to trek long distances in search of water for their families.

## OUR WORK

Working with communities, businesses and county governments, USAID is expanding access to water for human, livestock, environmental and agricultural use and improving sanitation and hygiene. These efforts are reaching households, schools and hospitals—environments at high risk for the transmission of infectious diseases—with education, products and other support to help increase healthy behaviors.

To maximize benefits and reach those in greatest need, water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities are integrated with other programs including agriculture, environment, governance, and maternal and child health.

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY

Under the leadership of county governments, USAID contributes to the development of policies that will increase the availability of water, as well as sanitation and hygiene services. In pursuit of this, USAID is working with the Government of Kenya to explore and map groundwater potential in selected regions.

If discovered and sustainably managed, these untapped reservoirs can contribute to a more reliable supply of water and serve as a critical buffer to drought in the country's driest areas. By providing training and support to water user associations and community members, USAID also helps Kenyans learn how to responsibly use scarce water resources.

To mobilize financial support, USAID is identifying innovative ways for governments and businesses to pay for water and sanitation projects. By helping water utilities improve their operations and management, these businesses will be better able to expand, attract and retain customers, strengthen their creditworthiness and establish a solid financial foundation for increased investment and partnerships.

## IMPROVING SANITATION AND HYGIENE

USAID promotes community-led total sanitation, an approach that helps communities understand the dangers of open defecation and take the lead in abandoning the practice. These efforts also support the construction and renovation of pit latrines.

In addition to better sanitation, USAID encourages healthy behaviors such as handwashing regularly with soap and the use of water treatment products that make water safe to drink within minutes.

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PORTIFOLIO

\$62 Million (KES 6.2 billion)

#### KEY PARTNERS

Government of Kenya

- Busia, Isiolo, Garissa, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kitui, Makueni, Marsabit, Migori, Nairobi, Nyamira, Siaya, Turkana and Wajir county governments
- Ministry of Water and Irrigation
- Ministry of Health
- Water Services Regulatory Board
- Water Resource Management Authority
- Water Services Trust Fund

#### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Acacia Water, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, DAI, Davis and Shirliff, Food for the Hungry, IBM, Millennium Water Alliance, The Coca-Cola Foundation, Tetra Tech, Vitol Foundation, World Vision and the United States Geological Survey, and KCB Foundation.

#### ACHIEVEMENT SNAPSHOTS (2018)

- Provided 472,269 Kenyans with access to basic drinking water services as a result of USG assistance
- Provided 372,000 Kenyans with access to a basic sanitation service as a result of USG assistance.
- Enabled 450 villages to achieve 'open defecation free' status.
- Continued getting support on groundwater mapping program with United States Geological Survey for Turkana and Marsabit Counties.

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