

# Water and Sanitation

## German Development Cooperation in Kenya

### Challenges and Opportunities

A water scarce country, Kenya has over the last 10 years made tremendous progress in water and sanitation through initiating far-reaching water sector reforms, and by creating a modern framework for water and sanitation services and water resources management. The country has also recognised the human right to water and sanitation in its Constitution, improved the professionalism of institutions such as the regulator for water and sanitation services, expanded water coverage in various parts of the country and encouraged citizen empowerment through the formation of local water user groups.

However, about 20 million Kenyans still do not have access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation. High population growth and increasing urbanisation place additional pressure on service provision and scarce water resources. The poor and most vulnerable are worst affected, often resorting to informal vendors or other unreliable water sources of questionable quality, spending huge amounts of time and money just trying to meet basic needs. This scenario is leading to appalling living conditions and widespread water-related diseases like diarrhoea. Sanitation remains a major challenge with only 15% sewerage coverage in the whole country, while basic sanitation services and professional

IMPACT BY NUMBERS	
Years operating in the sector	More than 50 years
Number of counties covered	13
Number of additional people impacted since 2001	2.3 million people have received adequate access to water 290,000 people have received access to basic sanitation

sludge management are in their infancy, posing pollution risk to the already fragile water resources.

The enactment of the Water Act 2016 – which defines the role of the national and county governments in the provision of water and sanitation services – provides new challenges and opportunities for the sector. To realise the Government’s goal of providing all Kenyans with access to water and sanitation by 2030, significant financial and institutional efforts are required.

### Our Approach

GDC provides the Kenyan government with technical and financial support, through the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* and KfW respectively. At the national level, GDC supports the establishment of modern policies. On the county level, GDC finances medium to large-scale infrastructure combined with utility capacity development in selected towns. Working at both levels presents a unique opportunity for national policies and guidelines, such as water quality standards, to be implemented directly on site.

In line with the Kenya Government’s priorities, GDC focuses on three areas: policy and regulation, improvement of urban water and sanitation services, and water resources management. The German partners work directly with Kenyan institutions and civil society, in close coordination with the mandates of other development partners such as the European Union and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Since 2001, 2.3 million additional people have received adequate access to water and 290,000 additional people have received access to basic sanitation with the support of German Development Cooperation.

*A water kiosk and public sanitation block built with Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) funds, supported by German Development Cooperation. Photos: WSTF*

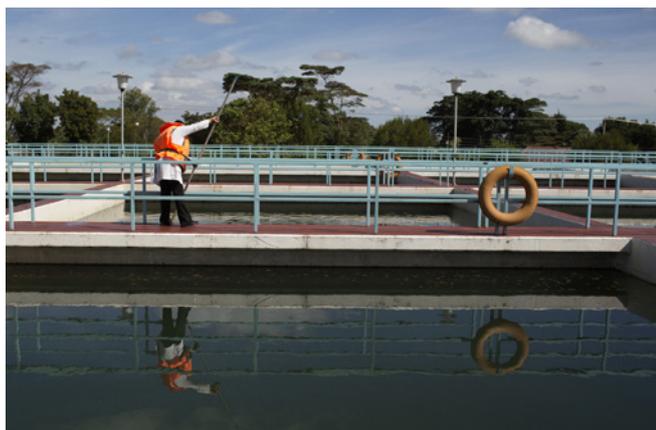




The WSTF gives grants for pro-poor investments in water and sanitation and monitors the progress at each stage

GDC's success over the past 50 years is a result of long-term engagement, with a strong emphasis on the sustainability of national policies and projects. The accomplishments also stem from achievements at the utility level in the form of improved access to water and sanitation for Kenyans. An additional contributing factor is GDC's ability to strategically combine loans for large-scale infrastructure projects with grants for specific pro-poor investments and capacity development of key sector institutions.

As a result, Germany has been instrumental in past and current reforms in Kenya's water and sanitation sector.



Infrastructure support for Kamakwa Water Treatment Works in Nyeri County, Central Kenya. Photo: KfW / Siegfried Modola

## Our Impact

- **Implemented pro-poor policies in national strategies and standards** at the regulator level to fulfil the human right to access water and sanitation. GDC assisted in drafting a modern water bill and policy to meet the new requirements of the decentralised government structure.
- **Established the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF)** as the key Kenyan institution to finance and implement pro-poor investments in low-income areas. Around 1.7 million people

in urban informal settlements have so far received access to water supply through the WSTF.

- **Improved water supply and sanitation** for more than 470,000 people in six towns supported by GDC. Germany supported the three best utilities in the country (out of 65) as recognised by the regulator's benchmarking report.
- **Incorporated integrated water resource management and introduced water pricing** for water abstraction into national concepts. As a result, more than 400 water resource user associations have been established, with more on the way.
- **An increasing number of partnerships with the private sector** on securing water resources for domestic use and the country's economic development.

## Success in the Field

Phelister Mumbua, 41, heads a household of six in Mavoko, a town in Machakos County located southeast of Nairobi. Phelister's home does not have a direct water connection, compelling her to rely on informal vendors for the five 20-litre jerry cans her household needs each day.



Phelister at the new water kiosk near her home. Photo: GIZ

At a cost of about KES 20 per jerry can, Phelister was spending around KES 3,000 (approximately USD 30) per month on water. Theft of water containers was common. Fights and quarrels plagued water collection points. Some days, the water was green-coloured and had an awful taste.

In 2013, through the GDC-supported WSTF, Mavoko Water and Sewerage Company, the local water utility, built a kiosk close to Phelister's home co-managed with the local community. As the price for water is now regulated, today Phelister pays only KES 3 per jerry can – an 85% reduction in expenses. She re-directs the savings towards paying her children's school fees. The kiosk has reliable opening hours and water quality is controlled, reducing the incidence of diarrhoea. The utility has also benefited from GDC's investment: it has increased its revenue stream through additional water sales and reduced the number of illegal connections to the water network.

## FUNDS FOR THE WATER AND SANITATION SECTOR

Commitments 2010–2013	EUR 74.6 million
Commitments 2014–2016	EUR 73.1 million
Planned disbursements 2017–2019	EUR 125.0 million

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