



About Watershed

Watershed empowering citizens programme is a strategic partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IRC, Simavi, Wetlands International and Akvo.

Watershed aims at delivering improvements in the governance and management of water, sanitation and hygiene services as well as of the water resources on which they draw.

Watershed is implemented in Kenya, Uganda, Mali, Ghana, Bangladesh and India.

The long-term objective of Watershed is improved governance for WASH and IWRM so that all citizens, including the most marginalised, can benefit from sustainable services.

The immediate goal is to enhance citizens' ability to obtain information so that civil society organisations (CSOs) can advocate for change based on reliable, accurate data.

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FACILITATING INCLUSIVE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER WRM & WASH FORUMS FOR IMPROVED WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

Executive Summary

Over the years, there have been many efforts to provide mechanisms for water and related sector coordination, to monitor project implementation, enhance synergy and complementarity, and enhance inclusive decision making among WASH stakeholders in Kajiado County. These efforts have borne some fruit, albeit the county continues to grapple with coordination challenges that include duplication of interventions, and lack of sustainable WASH interventions.

Improvement of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, and appropriate health-seeking behaviour are necessary for achieving sustained control, elimination, or eradication of many neglected tropical diseases, as well as water security. The objective of this briefing paper is to inform the key sector actors; policy/decision makers at county and national level, and WASH/WRM stakeholders, on the importance of multi-stakeholder forums for WASH/ Water Resources Management (WRM) to achieve sustainable WASH services provision.

The multi-stakeholder forums approach by UNICEF in Kajiado County and in Ethiopia by the Watershed Programme in Kenya have been used to give more details of the experiences, challenges and lessons learned.

Key Facts and Background

Over 783 million people in the world are still without access to improved water and sanitation services, and even more are without access to consistent safe drinking water (World Bank, 2013). To address the water challenges, Kenya has been working on water sector reforms since 2002 focusing on improved citizen participation and inclusivity. The implementation of these sector reforms continues to receive impetus for development at both national and international levels. These include Kenya's Vision 2030, the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010, and the Human Rights Declaration on Water and Sanitation that seeks to give equal rights to access to water and sanitation for all.

Despite progress made by the water sector reforms, improved WASH services remain a challenge in Kenya, and implementation of the roles has not taken root in many parts of the country (Kariuki, 2010). Severe water scarcity, rising water demands for energy, agriculture and industry, effects of climate change coupled with weak governance and coordination challenges threaten the progress toward sustainable development, and the country's Vision 2030 goals on water and sanitation.

A sustainable supply of good quality drinking water highly depends on proper management of the water sources. Similarly, if WASH services provision is not sustainably managed, it will have a huge negative impact on the water resources. It is therefore important to note that there is interdependence between WASH services, and WRM. In a bid to promote WASH/WRM stakeholder coordination, different regions have considered establishing WASH/WRM multi-stakeholder forums.

For example, UNICEF and USAID supported a project to strengthen the Water Sector Working Group (WSWG) Secretariat. It was started in July 2015 to establish a

well-functioning platform for the water sector consisting of the WASH and WRM subgroups that contribute to the sustainable development and management of the water resources in the country.

The WRM sub-sector in Ethiopia has been able to bring together the three Ministries concerned: Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity (MoWIE); Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Resources (MALR); and Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), and key development partners (DPs), academia and civil society organisations (CSOs). This is similar to the WASH/WRM multi-stakeholder forums in Kenya's Kajiado County in that the WASH/WRM integration has not been realised.

Through the support of Watershed - empowering citizens programme in Kenya, the Kajiado county government established WASH/WRM multi-stakeholder forums. These efforts also aimed at providing mechanisms for water and related sector coordination, and effective monitoring of projects within the county.

The objectives of the multi-stakeholder forums in Kajiado are:

1. To promote the involvement of communities at the grassroots level in decision making on WASH and WRM.
2. To create a structured process for inclusive direct participation of all stakeholders in Kajiado in policy decisions, planning and budget formulation and implementation regarding WASH and WRM.
3. To promote good governance, integrity and accountability among WASH and WRM stakeholders in Kajiado County.

Watershed Contribution

Watershed partners established the forums in a participatory manner following lobby suite discussions with the county government key executive officers in the department of water and public health. It also involved stakeholder consultative discussions, dialogues and validation at ward, sub-county, and county level. The membership to the forum at different levels was democratically agreed upon in a series of stakeholder forums led by the County Executive Member (CECM) for water, and the chief officer.

The key stakeholders involved in the forums at all levels included community members, community water service providers, community water users associations, water resources users associations (WRUA), the county government department of water, environment and natural resources, private sector representatives, civil society organisations that focus on WASH and WRM interventions in the sector, and the key state agencies at the county level; Water Resources Authority (WRA), National Environment Authority (NEMA), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and Kenya Forest Service (KFS).

The Kajiado County Multi-Stakeholder Forums Structure

The structure of the forums cascades from the lowest level of governance in the county hierarchy translating into 5 sub-county forums and 25 wards. The issues and concerns from the sub-county level are then discussed by key stakeholders at the county level forum during bi-annual meetings. The county and sub-county forums act as a coordination and knowledge management unit and facilitate joint planning for WASH/WRM activities as well as providing a platform for community/county dialogue sessions.

At the top is the Summit that acts as an advisory body to the governor on matters around water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as leading resource mobilisation and chairing the multi-stakeholder forums.

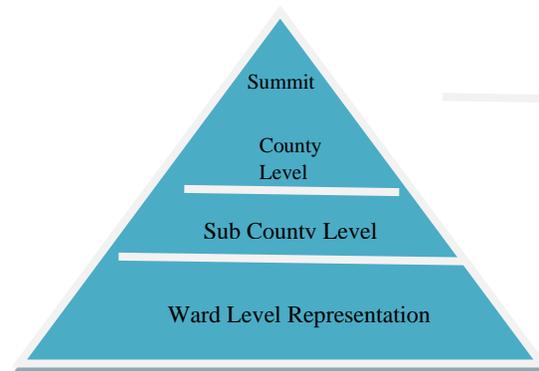


Figure 1.0: The Summit structure Kajiado County WASH/WRM Forum Structure

Kajiado County WASH/WRM Forum's Achievements

- Enhanced coordination among the WASH/WRM forums and interventions.
- The WASH/WRM forums have been used as platforms for information sharing and learning by the community representatives and the WASH partners

The Summit representatives have been identified as budget champions that collectively lobby and advocate for budget allocations in the county budgets. They are drawn from the community citizen groups across the county hence each sub-county has one representative that helps in raising the issues affecting their specific sub-county. For example, the Summit representatives prepared and presented a submission regarding WASH/WRM issues in the county for consideration in the 2020/2021 annual development Plan (ADP).

The WASH/WRM multi-stakeholder forums are based on the IWRM principles that focus on the fact that water has an economic value, water resources management requires a participatory approach, water is finite and essential for life and that women play a very critical role in water resources management.

Conclusion

Multi-stakeholder decision making is accountable, sustainable and above all, effective. When you have better inputs and a more inclusive process, you get better outputs and implementation. For example, in the case of Ethiopia, water multi-stakeholder forums helped in bringing all the key stakeholders together in the knowledge-sharing platforms, improving the coordination of water management. Therefore, it is noted that developing climate-resilient sustainable WASH services under the umbrella of multi-stakeholder WASH/WRM forums helps the actors to look into the bigger water resources management picture, including the protection of water sources, and the overall water governance issues.

To this end, the establishment and capacitation of the WRM/WASH multi-stakeholder forums are significantly contributing to the development of a clear and common agenda for the water resources and WASH services. However, the challenges of ensuring the inclusion of key stakeholders should be addressed and improve the understanding of the importance and roles of each partner.

Recommendations

- The WASH/WRM key actors should maintain accountability, transparency and consider inclusive decision making as well as the participation of all key actors and joint activities.
- Clear roles and responsibilities of all actors in WASH and WRM sub-sectors should be agreed on in their terms of reference and continue building the capacity of the underserved partners to play their roles effectively and take part in decision making.
- Come up with a mechanism for joint planning as well as ensuring continuous review, monitoring and evaluation of the partnership initiatives
- Plan for regular meetings with a clear agenda and apply effective communication to the key stakeholders without excluding any sector.
- There should be clear information mining from each constituency represented, and report-back mechanisms, to ensure that those represented are always in touch with the forum deliberations.

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