

## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: KENYA



## THE FACTS

- » 57% of households in areas where World Vision operates in Kenya have access to an improved water source within a 30-minute roundtrip walk.
- » 46% of households in areas where World Vision operates in Kenya have basic sanitation, and only 8% have handwashing stations with soap and water.
- » Progress needs to accelerate to reach SDG 6 and the government's goal of providing clean water and improved sanitation for all by 2030.

— University of North Carolina  
World Vision 14-Country  
Evaluation Final Report (2020)

## About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, along with country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, as well as regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members—95% of whom work in their own countries—work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

## Global WASH Program

Over the past 35 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. With more than 1,200 technical WASH staff members guiding our work in 55 countries, World Vision has emerged a leader in its global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Over the last five years alone, we have reached an estimated 20 million people with clean water and hygiene promotion, as well as 12.5 million people with improved sanitation.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our global WASH business plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact in priority countries, including Kenya, with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

### World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging a \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

## WASH in Kenya

World Vision's work in Kenya started in 1974, providing hope and assistance to children and communities. Since then, World Vision Kenya has engaged in WASH activities in a variety of settings—households, communities, schools, healthcare facilities, remote rural settings, urban areas, emergencies, and in fragile contexts.

Today, World Vision Kenya (WVK) operates in 23 of 47 counties, in partnership with decentralized government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, and communities. WVK's multisectoral strategy focuses on catalytic interventions in the sectors of WASH, health, and nutrition, food security and economic resilience, and primary education. This strategy is realized through an annual national budget of \$73 million from local revenue, public and private grants, gift-in-kind donations, and child sponsorship.

World Vision's community-based approach and 47-year presence in the country give us the longevity and experience to take quality, sustainable WASH interventions to scale. The ultimate goal of World Vision's work is improved child well-being, which can only be achieved through sustainable, equitable access to and management of clean water, dignified sanitation, and appropriate hygiene behaviors. World Vision is committed to reaching the SDGs and has created a new five-year WASH strategy to ensure significant progress toward universal coverage of water, sanitation, and hygiene in Kenya.

The footprint of WVK's WASH Program includes 20 sub-counties with a total of 46 wards that have been prioritized for significant WASH investment over the coming years. The Kenya WASH Program

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is staffed by 40 experts in water supply engineering, sanitation, behavior change, hydrogeology, and monitoring and evaluation. The country-wide reach of our WASH program is supported by a budget of more than \$8 million annually. WVK is managing WASH-related grants funded by USAID, Department for International Development, the government of Germany, the European Union (EU), the U.N. Refugee Agency, and various World Vision support offices. WVK follows strict World Vision/USAID/EU design, monitoring, and evaluation quality standards, and the organization has had 95% audit compliance for the last three years. The map at right provides an overview of World Vision's geographic footprint for WASH in Kenya.

development partners to work toward achieving the ambitious targets for universal and equitable access to WASH services for all by 2030. In line with this, World Vision has prioritized 20 sub-counties in Kenya for significant WASH investment over the coming years, with a plan to reach more than 1 million people with basic drinking water services by 2025.

### Program Approaches

The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities; summarize capacities and achievements over the past five years; and present highlights of our upcoming plans in Kenya.

#### Our four prioritized intervention areas consist of:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

Behavior-change practices and the themes of disability inclusion and gender transformation are integrated across all intervention areas as outlined in the global guidance of World Vision's WASH Core Project Model.

The WVK WASH Program prides itself on integrated, innovative, and inclusive WASH programming, within a backdrop of long-term (10-15 year) multisector community programming in target communities.

#### Five-year targets (2021-2025) of the Kenya WASH

##### Program include providing:

- Safer, more accessible drinking water to 1,008,359 people
- Improved sanitation facilities to 967,118 individuals
- Access to hygiene facilities for 1,008,362 people

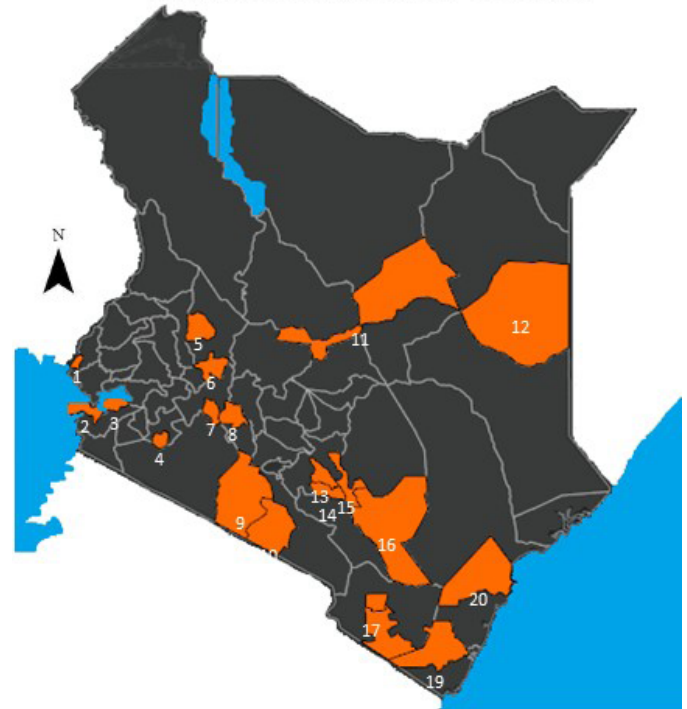
### Water Supply and Quality

Since the inception of World Vision's WASH programming in Kenya, bringing life-changing clean water to the marginalized and vulnerable has been central to our mission and organizational identity. This distinctive, unwavering focus has guided WVK as we reached nearly 1.9 million people with improved WASH interventions from 2011 through 2019. World Vision embraces a holistic approach to helping communities advance up the SDG drinking water ladder, supporting targeted investments in new infrastructure while strengthening the systems that sustain water supply and ensure quality.

#### Facilitate Universal Coverage

With the introduction of the SDGs, WVK has taken collaborative and bold steps with the government of Kenya and other

Kenya Sub-Counties with World Vision WASH Programs



- |                  |                     |                 |
|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Funyula       | 8. Gilgil           | 15. Kitui Rural |
| 2. Suba          | 9. Kajiado West     | 16. Kitui South |
| 3. Karachuonyo   | 10. Kajiado Central | 17. Wundanyi    |
| 4. Chepalungu    | 11. Isiolo North    | 18. Mwatate     |
| 5. Baringo North | 12. Wajir South     | 19. Kinango     |
| 6. Mogotio       | 13. Mwala           | 20. Magarini    |
| 7. Njoro         | 14. Mbooni          |                 |

#### Prioritize piped-water systems

World Vision operates in all of Kenya's various climates. Therefore, different water technologies need to be used in various areas to provide water access that lasts. In arid climates, mechanized water systems are used most often with additional water reservoirs and sand dams constructed where appropriate. In semi-arid areas, spring and river catchment systems are more common. Except in special circumstances, WVK has moved away from drilling boreholes equipped with single point-of-use hand pumps. Rather, water systems are constructed and mechanized using solar power to bring water as close to households as possible and to allow for multiple uses of water such as kitchen gardens or water troughs for livestock. Over the past five years (2016-2020), WVK installed more than 6,100 taps from water supply systems in communities.

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### *Develop Sustainable Management Practices*

Given sector-wide challenges with the long-term functionality of rural and small-town water supply services, WVK has doubled-down on strengthening management systems. Over the past five years, WVK helped form and train more than 500 WASH committees and trained 1,657 people in repair and maintenance of WASH infrastructure. In WVK's 2020 program evaluation, the rate of water points functioning at the time of visit was higher than average at 81%, which speaks to significant sustainability efforts the WVK team has made to strengthen community management of water systems.

Regardless of the water system technology used, WVK begins each project by engaging the county government for commitment and co-funding. For example, in Mutomo County, WVK and the county agreed to finance a large water pipeline that has had full government buy-in. To date, the government has contributed more money to the construction of the system than WVK, has set aside budget for ongoing operation and maintenance costs, and is now interested in exploring additional water pipeline construction with World Vision. World Vision does not stop with the construction of large systems like that in Mutomo. Instead, we then focus on building the capacity of government systems to operate and maintain water facilities long-term. The government then appoints a water service provider to operate and manage the system. WVK continues to follow up to ensure proper management and operation, but as a stakeholder, not as a financier.

To ensure sustainability, WVK equips service providers and water committees through trainings and links them with spare parts suppliers and with national and county government authorities for future support.

A key aspect of long-term sustainability of water systems is the funding available for operation and maintenance. While World Vision advocates for county governments to set aside funding for large repairs, tariff collection is the main source of funding for smaller repairs. In most areas, the tariff cost is approximately USD 5 cents per 20-liter jerrycan, which is collected by the water service provider. Households with private connections have water meters and pay for water based on the quantity used according to the water meter.

### *Employ innovative sustainability approaches*

World Vision recognizes the critical importance of cost-recovery for operation and maintenance of water systems. Two approaches used include water kiosks and insurance policies. WVK is installing more water kiosks and automated water dispensers that require pre-payment to increase cost-recovery and sustainability. Overall, prepaid meters have a better cost recovery than the pay-as-you-fetch approach. They also improve the availability of water since community members can draw water at any time without having to wait for a caretaker to open a water point for business. Between 2015-2020, the rate of water points where tariffs were effectively regulated, collected, and properly managed increased to 46.1%, partly based on prepaid water fee-collection systems.

To build water system resiliency and reduce the financial burden on communities, WVK is empowering communities to sustain water systems by linking water committees to insurance firms that help

shield rural communities from hardships caused by the sudden failure of mechanized water projects. This innovation aims to help strengthen water system governance, reduce downtime, and shield communities from water shortages that cause families to use unsafe water.

Insurance policies cover high-cost components of piped-water systems, including solar panels, pumps, and water tanks. The policies pay for claims related to fire, theft, equipment breakdown or malfunction, and violence or terrorism. When components of the water system break down, the insurer moves in quickly to finance repairs or replacement of malfunctioning components. This helps avoid water shortages that cause families to resort to using unsafe sources and helps prevent women and children from walking long distances to access alternative water sources.

### KEY PROGRAM RESULTS

According to an internal WASH impact evaluation conducted in 2019, WVK's WASH program contributed to the following:

- A 15% increase in households using water from an improved source
- A 20% increase in households with access to an improved and safe sanitation facility
- A 75% increase in parents or caregivers practicing appropriate handwashing behaviors

### *Improve water quality outcomes*

WVK helps the government provide drinking water that meets World Health Organization and Kenya government's water quality standards. The WVK WASH Program conducts timely routine water quality monitoring and analysis. Every new water system is tested and analyzed before it is handed over to the community. WVK also builds the capacity of water service providers to perform water quality tests at the source and within households to ensure long-term water quality.

### **Sanitation and Hygiene**

World Vision embraces a multipronged approach to improving sanitation and hygiene services, simultaneously working to bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies; identify and fill supply gaps; and engender behavior change through people-centered approaches.

WVK supports the government initiative of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) to enable community members to improve their sanitation and hygiene. This approach has been successful in Kenya, as 682 villages were declared Open Defecation Free and 760,094 people gained access to basic household sanitation over five years (2016-2020). In addition to CLTS, WVK trains artisans in latrine construction and supports WASH businesses to improve household sanitation.

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### *Encourage innovative financing for sanitation improvements*

The design of WASH projects includes water-user association members being involved in Village Savings and Loan Associations where members contribute money and then can take out a loan to fund sanitation and hygiene infrastructure if they don't have enough funds to buy products outright. WVK also connects people who require latrines with local microfinance institutions that can lend them money to build improved sanitation facilities.

In addition, WVK trains artisans to create sanitation businesses. For example, WVK trained a group of artisans in the Katito area to make concrete latrine slabs, pit linings, and superstructures, which supports local entrepreneurship and increases latrine affordability for households working to improve their sanitation. The group consists of 12 members, 10 of whom are women. To date, the group has constructed more than 100 latrines.

WVK also trained 1,260 faith leaders on sanitation and hygiene messages to share with their congregations and communities over the last five years (2016-2020). These trained leaders were instrumental in improving latrine coverage and handwashing rates in communities. Faith leaders are uniquely trusted and thus are important influencers when it comes to changing behaviors and attitudes that have a significant impact on community health.

### SOCIAL INCLUSION IN WASH

WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities provided through WVK are designed to enable equitable access for people with disabilities. Sanitation facilities are adapted to the needs of those living with disabilities by ensuring construction of ramps to the latrine door, wider door openings, and handrails on the walls and toilet seats.

In addition, people with disabilities are encouraged to be involved in WASH activities from project design through construction and eventual use. For example, in the Osiligi area, women with disabilities have been incorporated into Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) groups, which empower mothers with improved livelihood options as a means of enhancing access to WASH and health services. Under the BabyWASH project, there are 10 VSLA groups that include people living with disabilities. Through such forums, women with disabilities have an equal voice when it comes to key decision-making at group and community levels. More importantly, they are empowered to make critical decisions regarding resource allocation priorities.

### *Provide WASH in schools*

Over the next five years, WVK plans to support the government in the provision of basic sanitation services in 474 schools as well as hygiene behavior change programming and supplies in 1,185 schools, along with appropriate management systems. WVK

promotes hygiene in schools by establishing school WASH clubs and training students to lead peer-to-peer educational activities such as hygiene and sanitation campaigns. School WASH clubs play an essential role in sustaining school water points, latrines, and handwashing facilities. Children who participate in WASH clubs are empowered as leaders and effective change agents within their schools, families, and communities. WVK also ensures that WASH clubs include girls and empowers them in WASH decision-making. WVK is currently working with the Ministry of Health and other partners on a menstrual hygiene management handbook for schools.



Students at Kavoo Primary School use their new ventilated improved pit latrine, equipped for menstrual hygiene management, along with facilities for handwashing.

### Governance and Financing

Improved WASH governance and financing—including re-engineering community-based management approaches, strengthening regulatory oversight, and implementing innovative financing approaches—are critical enablers for achieving progress under SDG 6 and ensuring long-term sustainability of our work. Embracing a systems-based approach to build sustainable and resilient WASH solutions is linked to the capacities of local stakeholders, with county and national governments as critical components of that system.

Governments, the private sector, nonprofits, and civil society all need to leverage additional financing for WASH, recognizing that no single WASH actor has the resources to independently achieve the SDGs.

Important elements of WVK's approach in WASH governance and financing are as follows:

#### *Engage at the national level*

World Vision has prioritized engagement and advocacy with the national government as a critical component of our broader WASH strategy. WVK staff helped draft the national Kenya Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Policy and Strategy 2015-2030, which is key to our planning toward achieving universal coverage. The Ministry of Health at the national level also has established technical working groups to address issues surrounding sanitation and hygiene. These working groups have membership

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across both the private and public sectors, and each group is led by a different organization. WVK convened the hygiene promotion technical working group and is a member of the sanitation promotion and school WASH technical working groups. These groups play major roles in influencing policy on sanitation and hygiene. For example, the hygiene promotion technical working group helped develop the national menstrual hygiene management policy and strategy, which will be launched as the pandemic conditions permit.

### GENDER INTEGRATION IN WASH

To address gender inequalities, World Vision's WASH program ensures the engagement of women, girls, men, and boys in the design, location, and management of facilities so no person or group of people are excluded from enjoying their rights. One example of this is BabyWASH—a World Vision initiative that integrates WASH in healthcare facilities with maternal, newborn, and child health; nutrition; and early childhood development interventions to achieve greater impact for mothers and children to improve health outcomes and avert death in the first 1,000 days of life. The BabyWASH project in the Osiligi area has transformed the lives of women by paying special attention to the health needs of women before, during, and after delivery.

The BabyWASH project introduced a set of inclusive WASH interventions focused on health facility improvements. These included the expansion and improvement of prenatal, delivery, and post-natal services within the facility; providing access to safe water at the health facility; and construction of gender-segregated sanitation facilities as well as handwashing facilities in key service areas. This initiative helped ensure safe delivery and post-natal care at the local health facility—a situation that has attracted more mothers to use its services. One of the facilities in Osiligi reported 19 average monthly deliveries in 2020, up from zero in 2018. As a result, home deliveries were common and were linked to high maternal complications and death related to unskilled deliveries.

### Strengthen private-sector involvement

WVK also encourages private-sector involvement to support sustainability. For example, through the Grundfos Lifelink pre-pay platform, community water committees secured sufficient revenue to fund operation and management costs of water supply systems. WVK also worked with the private sector under USAID/Switzerland Development Cooperation funding through the Kenya RAPID (Resilient Arid Lands Partnership for Integrated Development) program to develop an online water management service platform. This facilitated water resource mapping, planning, and management, which will be replicated in counties outside of

the target area. Additionally, World Vision has been working with microfinance institutions to link loan products to WASH behavior-change programming. So far, purchase of household water tanks has been very popular. Across two wards in the span of four months, 84 WASH loans have been disbursed with a total value of 2 million Kenyan shillings (USD \$19,500).



A clinician at Meto health facility attends to an infant in the newly refurbished child wellness clinic. WVK provided water supply and sanitation facilities, as well as hygiene behavior change programming for staff. More than 75% of local mothers reported improved access to quality maternal and newborn health services since the Meto health facility was renovated.

### Partner with county governments

WVK has invested heavily in supporting county governments by contributing to water policies and regulations in Wajir and Makueni counties, and co-financing water systems in Kitui and West Pokot. For example, WVK partnered with the Kitui County government to secure an additional \$2.3 million for the Mutomo Water Project.

### Mobilize communities to advocate for change

WVK uses our hallmark Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) local advocacy model to inform and empower communities to advocate for improved WASH services with public officials. WVK employs this approach in most operating areas, enabling citizens to demand the right to safe water and hold local governments accountable.

The model begins by making communities aware of the roles and responsibilities of local government in WASH service provision and then communities evaluate the performance of local government against key service delivery indicators. Communities then engage public leaders and highlight areas of weak performance.

WVK has influenced budget planning through the formation of CVA groups that advocate with county governments for improved service delivery at all levels, beginning at the ward level. In the Wema program area, World Vision helped establish an umbrella WASH committee with representation from all community water projects in the area, which is registered as an association and has a central office for easy access by community members.

Issues that cannot be solved at the individual WASH committee level are referred to the umbrella committee. This has worked well for community water project sustainability—at no time has there been a

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leadership gap in any water project in the program area. This umbrella organization led the way for the development of an insurance policy for community water projects between Britam (a private insurance company in Kenya) and the Wema community. Further, when World Vision transitioned out of Wema area program it was a priority to strengthen the umbrella WASH committee in September 2020, and community advocacy efforts supported the handover of projects to the county government for management in partnership with the umbrella WASH committee. The county committed to manage and sustain the projects developed by WVK in partnership with the Wema community.

### Water Security and Resilience

World Vision's approach to water security requires looking at the broader integrity of ecosystems and groundwater recharge. Demand for water in arid and semi-arid regions is escalated by the fact that residents of these areas are mainly pastoralists with cattle that also require water. This high need for water, coupled with low rainfall and frequent drought makes it a challenge to keep up with demand. Therefore, WVK works to improve groundwater recharge through environmental protection of the aquifer, particularly through watershed management and integrated water resource management.

#### *Strengthen resilience to climate change*

The program focuses on climate-proof infrastructure construction in arid and semi-arid land areas and works with the National Drought Management Authority to support programs that are meant to reduce drought emergencies. The program also implements projects aimed at building the resilience of communities prone to being affected by climate change. WVK is committed to:

- Training communities on efficient use/conservation of water
- Establishing tree nurseries and conducting training on Farmer Managed Natural Resources technologies
- Using solar pumping technologies and harnessing sanitation systems for biogas
- Advocating for policies on environmental conservation

Prolonged drought resulting from unsustainable practices such as overgrazing also affects pastoralist households with loss of livelihoods (such as death of livestock) and decreased resilience—the net effect being poor nutrition for mothers and children and less resources to sustain sanitation and hygiene practices. In Osiligi, the BabyWASH project (which has a component of environmental conservation) is mitigating this by consistently encouraging conservation efforts among 80 households within the communities. The project has provided technical support as well as equipment to help in this area. For example, WVK worked with community members to install shade nets for crop production and promoted environmental management practices for 200 households in

Turkana West, aimed at raising community awareness on climate change and water resource management.

### Partnerships for Effective WASH

Over the years, WVK has built strong partnerships at the local, national, and global levels to develop joint efforts that address the WASH challenges in Kenya and foster sustainability for WASH investments. World Vision helps build capacity of government agencies and community-based organizations to improve their ability to implement, monitor, and sustain WASH interventions within their jurisdictions.

At the local level, WVK partners with community-based organizations in the WASH sector in our program areas to ensure improved WASH in communities. As a result of its national-level engagement, WVK has cultivated strong relationships with the ministries of Water and Irrigation, Sanitation, Health, and Education, which provide overall oversight, coordination, and direction to all WASH implementing partners in Kenya. WVK works with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in project design, joint monitoring visits, and capacity building, and provides support for training WASH committees on water governance.

In addition, World Vision has strong collaborative relationships with international NGOs operating in Kenya, such as Catholic Relief Services, CARE, and Food for the Hungry. WVK also collaborates with international academic institutions such as the University of North Carolina in the U.S and Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. These partnerships have led to innovations and continued research in various programming areas within the WASH sector. For example, WVK works with the University of North Carolina to periodically evaluate and assess our WASH program in Kenya for decision-making and program improvements.

