It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the Water Services Trust Fund Newsletter. The establishment of the Trust Fund was an important milestone for Kenya in the endeavour to provide access to water and sanitation services to underserved communities, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

This first edition of our Newsletter contains information on how to access funding from the Fund and some few basic examples on what the Trust Fund is already achieving with communities through the Participatory Community Project Cycle (PCPC).

Needless to mention, the establishment of the Trust Fund has presented us with a framework and opportunity to effectively target the available resources to the neediest areas throughout the country. The task ahead of us might look challenging, however we are confident that with this unique drive by the Government of Kenya, the unwavering support of our development partners and the professional and dedicated approach by our staff and collaboration agencies, we are determined to achieve the objectives for which Fund was established.

Let me conclude by acknowledging the support of our development partners currently contributing to the Fund, namely the Government of Kenya, Sida and Danida. We appeal to other development partners, corporate organizations, philanthropic bodies and individuals to join us in meeting this noble cause.

Dr. Eddah Gachukia, Chairperson, WSTF
Projects to be funded by WSTF must be initiated, implemented and managed by the communities.

The key steps of the PCPC

1. Mobilization by PO
   - A Partner Organization (PO) mobilizes a community to initiate a water and sanitation project, either by strengthening an existing CBO to meet the collective interest of the community or by establishing a new CBO. The Fund works with those CBOs whose constitutions are grounded on basic principles of good governance, transparency, accountability, gender equality and fairness.
   - A PO in such a community is contracted by the Fund to create awareness and build capacity. Such PO can be private organizations, faith-based institutions or other NGOs.
   - The PO is expected to impart skills in leadership, management and community participation to prepare the CBO to manage their projects appropriately upon completion.
   - Once established or strengthened, the CBO submits an application letter for assistance to the WSB.

2. Applying for support
   - A CBO with the assistance of the local WSB get to select a Support Organisation (SO) from a list of SOs drawn by the WSB. The SO is a region or district based organization.
   - Quality Control Advisers, who are local consultants with strong engineering and community development skills are contracted to assist WSB staff ensure that applications comply with the WSTF’s Selection and Funding Criteria.

3. Development of a Preliminary Proposal
   - This step aims to ensure that the project proposed by the CBO is viable before a large amount of time and resources are invested. After this, WSB staff and quality control advisers will carry out a review of the proposal and visit the proposed project site for viability assessment.

4. Appraisal of Project Proposal by the WSB
   - This involves undertaking a series of activities to ensure there is full community ownership and agreement on aspects of the project.
   - In addition, the CBO will be required to explain operation, environmental and management issues on the project. How to address this issues is explained in the WSTF Implementation Guidelines. Once drafted, the CBO will submit the Project Proposal Outline to their WSB.

5. Review of proposal by WSTF
   - The Fund reviews and ranks applications from all WSBs and either approves for funding or recommends improvement.

6. Signing of Funding Agreement between the Fund and the CBO, and transfer of first payment
   - CBOs whose applications are successful sign funding agreements with the WSTF, in the presence of the relevant WSBs.
   - The first payment based on the disbursement schedule listed in the Funding Agreement is then made, with subsequent payments being based on the achievement of agreed implementation performance milestones.
   - The CBOs and WSBs are expected to provide monthly progress reports. It is the duty of the WSB, with assistance from Quality Control Advisors, to monitor and verify that the project is proceeding in accordance with the agreement.
   - The WSTF continuously monitors ongoing projects with the support of monitoring agents.

How to Access Funds from the WSTF

The WSTF is providing support for the development of water and sanitation projects all over Kenya. Below are highlights of two projects being implemented in arid areas in Mbeere and Machakos districts.

Bringing Water Closer to Kanyuambora

The most striking feature to a first time visitor to Kanyuambora Location in Mbeere district is the unfriendly terrain, which can only be navigated by a four wheel drive vehicle, and the lack of general infrastructure for water, energy and telecommunication.

“Constant droughts in the area lead to an acute water shortage and getting water for domestic and livestock use means a six hour trek to the closest water point,” says Mary Muchoki a WSTF officer.

Kanyuambora is a semi arid area in Ichagara Division of Mbeere District in Eastern Province and is under the Tana Water Services Board.

The project that will bring water closer to the over 14,000 residents of Ngauti and Nguuta sub-locations in Kanyuambora location and will also benefit two health centres in the area, over 1,500 primary school children and over 4,500 livestock.

As part of the WSTF funding, a number of projects have been initiated in the area, with the WSTF providing over Ksh.13 million.

“The community has been able to mobilize local resources including cash, labour and materials. Kanyuambora is located in Kivaa sublocation in Kanyuambora, which is a semi-arid area in the Yatta Plateau, a low lying zone where the weather is generally hot and dry. During the dry spells, area residents trek for over four kilometres to scoop water from the sand in dry seasonal river bed.

The initiative is projected to cost over Ksh.28 million with the WSTF contributing almost Ksh. 25 million and the rest coming from the community.

The scheme is a gravity project where water is drawn from Thuci River a few kilometers away. An intake has already been constructed to divert water into the supply from the river.

This water will be directed to three storage tanks, located strategically in the sub-locations, which will serve as distribution points to water kiosks and cattle troughs.

In addition, the project will support the construction of 15 water kiosks, cattle troughs, 11 VIP demonstration latrines in primary schools and support training of the community on how to manage the project. “It is of utmost importance that the community is able to manage the water projects initiated in their area,” adds Ms. Muchoki.

On completion, the management committee will set tariffs to generate revenue to ensure sustainable and aid future plans to expand the project.

Safe Water for Mukiti at Last

Notable success story is the Mukiti Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Machakos district, where area residents are already receiving water after the implementation of the first phase of the three phase water project.

Already, the project is benefiting the community and they are already drawing water from temporary stand pipes at a cost of Ksh.2 per 20 litre jerry can.

“Community members have been very receptive of the project as some of them are now receiving fresh drinking water for the first time in their lives,” says Mr. Francis Musumbi, the Director of Equalitarian Community Development Initiative (CEDI), a local NGO.

The initiative is offering technical support for the implementation of the Mukiti Project. “People in Mukiti are used to sharing water points with their livestock and the water is usually mucky and smells of cow dung.

The project is harnessing water from the Masinga dam to Kitui town water pipeline that passes through the area. The entire project targets to benefit over 9,000 people and 4,000 livestock. It will cost over Ksh.15 million to complete with the WSTF providing over Ksh.13 million.

The community has been able to mobilize local resources including cash, labour and materials. Mukiti is located in Kivaa location in Machakos district in the semi arid region in the Yatta Plateau, a low lying zone where the weather is generally hot and dry. During the dry spells, area residents trek for over four kilometres to scoop water from the sand in dry seasonal river bed.
From the Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the Kiraro Water Project are sincerely thankful for the financial support that we have received from the WSTF. We would like to extend our appreciation to the chairperson of the WSTF, Dr. Eddah Gachukia, the WSTF technical team and to the Hon. Minister for Water and Irrigation.

Yours sincerely,
Cllr. Ephantus Ndereba,
Project Chairman,
Kiraro Social Welfare Self Help Water Project, Meru

Projects Funded By WSTF from January 2004 to December 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Population to be Served</th>
<th>Total Cost of the Projects</th>
<th>WSTF Contribution</th>
<th>Amount Disbursed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Victoria South Water Services Board</td>
<td>183,780</td>
<td>106,780,090</td>
<td>85,572,448</td>
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<td>Lake Victoria North Water Services Board</td>
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<td>Rift Valley Water Services Board</td>
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<td>Northern Water Services Board</td>
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<td>Coast Water Services Board</td>
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<td>78,240,948</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>639,259</strong></td>
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<td><strong>525,693,571</strong></td>
<td><strong>333,978,557</strong></td>
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</table>

**ABOUT WSTF**

The Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) was established through the Water Act 2002 which initiated the Water Sector Reforms. The functions of the WSTF are: to mobilize resources from bilateral and multilateral development partners and to apply the resources to provide water supply and sanitation services in underserved communities.