

# Sanitation Activities in Kenya

## The Challenge

The demand for improved sanitation in urban areas of Kenya has been growing steadily. The population living in low income urban areas are the most affected by poor access to basic sanitation. A lot of efforts and resources have been put to improve this situation but the high rate of urbanisation (estimated at 4%) and population growth (2.11%) remains as impediment. About 50% of the urban population do not have access to improved sanitation according to the Ministry of Health. Approximately 14% of Kenyans (6.5 million) do not have access to any kind of toilet and practice open defecation. It is estimated that about 20% of Kenyan schools have no improved toilets.

The national sewer coverage is less than 10% and there are no sewer systems in rural areas. The national onsite sanitation coverage is about 68% with 70% coverage in urban and 66% in rural areas.

The Ministry of Health (MOH) is responsible for establishment and enforcement of national sanitation policy, while the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (MEWNR) is tasked with infrastructure development. The MOH has developed a new national policy for sanitation (2015-2030). The responsibility for school sanitation is with the Ministry of Education. However, the enforcement of standards for school sanitation and hygiene again lies with MOH.

The MEWNR is responsible for providing the policy direction and legal framework for developing sewers, wastewater treatment plants and sludge management systems. County governments are in charge of provision of water services (water supply, sewerage services and onsite sanitation services) under the devolved system of government.

Project name	Water Sector Reform Programme
Project region	Sub-Saharan Africa
Partners	Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (MEWNR)
Duration	January 2014 to December 2016 (current phase)
Budget for sanitation	2,000,000 Euro (BMZ) plus 1 million Euro co-funding from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for <i>Up-scaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor in Kenya (UBSUP)</i> , 2014-2016
Scale	Access for 800,000 people to improved sanitation (aimed with UBSUP for 2016) jointly with financial cooperation (KfW, BMGF); 50,000 people gained access through the earlier Ecosan Promotion Program (EPP) in 2006-2010

Water sector institutions (Water Services Trust Fund and Water Service Providers) are supporting the development of public sanitation and plot level sanitation. The MOH and NGOs are mainly focusing on hygiene behaviour change using Community Led Total Sanitation (CTLS) approaches in rural areas. They have achieved open defecation free villages in some parts of the country. The MOH aims at an open defecation free country by 2017 and has developed a roadmap to achieve this.

## Our Approach

The *Water Sector Reform Programme, Kenya* implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Government aims to achieve a substantial increase in sustainable access (scaling-up) for the urban poor to safe drinking water and basic sanitation through a multi-level approach. Access for about 1.2 million people to quality and price controlled water (fulfilling human rights) and 81,000 to improved sanitation has been achieved by 2015 jointly with financial cooperation of the German Development Bank (KfW) and the European Union. The investments have been mainly channelled through the Kenyan Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) by financing low cost technologies such as water kiosk, yard taps and public toilets, and in the future also plot-level sanitation.



One of the toilets constructed under the UBSUP programme.

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*Emptying an UBSUP  
UDDT toilet in a low  
income area.*

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## Programme Activities

Sanitation activities of the Water Sector Reform Programme include the following measures:

- support to the MEWNR in the further development of the policy and legal framework, in particular alignment to the new constitution of Kenya 2010
- support to the WSTF: Development of a scaling-up concept for public and plot-level sanitation in low-income urban areas
- capacity building for Water Service Providers for scaling-up sanitation including the development of project proposals, providing funds as subsidies, monitoring supervision of construction, sludge management and maintaining a monitoring and evaluation system
- improvement of baseline data for all urban low income areas of Kenya using an online database called Maji Data ([www.majidata.go.ke](http://www.majidata.go.ke)).

## Outcomes

Between 2006 and 2010 GIZ implemented the Ecosan Promotion Project (EPP), which was funded by the European Union, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project aimed at the introduction of Ecosan facilities for 50,000 users in Kenya. The EPP has implemented various types of sanitation infrastructure in mostly rural areas for households, schools and public toilets. Monitoring of the use of these facilities is ongoing and the lessons learnt are integrated in the urban sanitation concepts of the WSTF.

The *Up-scaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor* (UBSUP) is a 5-year programme which began in July 2011 and is financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and KfW. One of the objectives of UBSUP is to provide improved sanitation for 800,000 people in urban low-income areas in Kenya. Another objective is to develop a sanitation up-scaling concept in line with the sector reforms which ensures sustainable use of facilities, sound environmental approaches and is used for the further advancement of the sub-sector.

- Today sanitation has a higher priority in all water sector institutions in Kenya than ever before.
- The three ministries move gradually to a common understanding of roles and responsibilities and the contributions of the different sectors to sanitation.
- The licensed Water Service Providers have an increased interest in scaling-up the coverage with adequate sanitation facilities to urban low income areas partly due to funds being made available through the WSTF.
- Lessons learned are utilised by sector institutions, private sector players and civil society.
- Establishment of WSTF finance schemes for urban sanitation facilities at public and plot level with integration and capacity building of stakeholders from the public and private sectors and from civil society.

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