

Sanitation activities in Kenya

The challenge

The urban sanitation crisis in Kenya is growing leaving especially the poor without access to basic sanitation. Only about 50% of the 8 million Kenyans living in low income urban areas have access to improved sanitation (Maji Data: www.majidata.go.ke). Approximately 11% of Kenyans (6 million) do not have access to any kind of toilet and practice open defecation. 20% of Kenyan schools have no toilets.

Average connection rates to sewer systems in urban areas are less than 20%. The treatment efficiency of the 47 wastewater treatment plants in the country is low in terms of organic matter removal (around 20%) and the discharge from these plants is therefore heavily polluting the environment and surface water bodies.

The under-five child mortality rate in Kenya is 85 children out of 1000 live births (www.childmortality.org). Recent research shows that the urban poor population fares far worse than rural people or urban non-poor people on most health indicators which are related to sanitation.

The Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation (MoPHS) is in the lead for sanitation and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) is responsible for infrastructure development. The MoPHS published a national policy for sanitation in 2009. Based on this the MWI has elaborated a sanitation implementation concept for the water sector institutions. The responsibility for school sanitation is with the Ministry of Education.

The MWI is responsible for sewers, wastewater treatment plants and sludge management. It encourages water sector institutions to support the development of public sanitation and plot level sanitation, namely the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) and Water Service Providers. The MoPHS and NGOs are mainly focusing on hygiene behaviour change with their campaigns. They have established some public sanitation projects but have not managed to achieve national outreach yet.

Our approach

The “Water Sector Reform Programme, Kenya” (WSRP) of GIZ aims to achieve a substantial increase in sustainable access (scaling-up) for the urban poor to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, and an improvement of the water resources management through a multi-level approach and integrated water resource management. Access for over 1 million people to quality and price controlled water (fulfilling human rights) has been achieved by 2012 within a 4-year program which has been carried out jointly with financial cooperation (German Development Bank (KfW) and the European Union).

The investments aiming to improve living conditions of the urban poor through basic water and sanitation services have been mainly channeled through the Kenyan WSTF by financing low cost technologies such as water kiosk, yard taps and public toilets, and in the future also plot-level sanitation.

Project name	Water Sector Reform Programme, Kenya
Project region	Sub-Saharan Africa
Partner	Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI)
Duration	Jan. 2011 to Dec. 2013 (current phase)
Budget for sanitation	1,796,000 Euro (regular BMZ program) plus 2 million Euro co-funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for “Up-scaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor in Kenya (UBSUP)”, 2011-2016
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



Left: UDDT use training session (© GIZ / D. Mballo, 2012)

Right: WASH training session in a primary school (© GIZ / D. Mballo, 2012)

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Partner country: Kenya

Programme activities

Sanitation activities of the GIZ program include the following measures:

- Support to the MWI in the further development of the policy and legal framework, in particular alignment to the new constitution.
- 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.
- Establishment of baseline data for all urban low income areas of Kenya in cooperation with Google using an online database called Maji Data (www.majidata.go.ke).

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 namely urine-diverting dry toilets (UDDTs), wastewater treatment with biogas plants and Decentralised Wastewater Treatment Systems (DE-WATS). 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 program which began in July 2011 and is financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and KfW. One of the objectives of UPSUP 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.

Outcomes

- 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. Human rights aspects for access to water and sanitation are also playing a role here in Kenya.
- Lessons learned are utilised by sector institutions, private sector players and NGOs (civil society).
- Sustainable sanitation concepts, including ecosan which focuses on reuse, are introduced to stakeholders and best practices are communicated and multiplied.
- 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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