

# Increasing access to safe and reliable water supplies, appropriate sanitation and hygiene practices in Matinyani and Kitui East Sub counties of Kitui County



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**Donor:** Amref Health Africa Italia




**Introduction:** Since 1998 to date, Amref Health Africa in Kenya has supported and facilitated communities in the larger Kitui County to develop sustainable water and sanitation facilities alongside community capacity building for operation, maintenance and hygiene promotion. The project covered Central, Nzambani, Kitui West, Matinyani and Kitui East Sub Counties targeting population of **364,900 people**. The interventions are implemented with focus on community participation and involvement. The communities participate in all the stages of project implementation including decision making to determine what is best for them in terms of affordability and acceptability. They also contribute through their own labour and locally available materials.

The overall objective of community contribution is to promote ownership of the projects, which promotes sustainability. The project uses existing community structures namely Civil Society Organisations, Water Management Committees (WMCs), School Management Committees (SMCs), School Health Clubs, ToTs and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) as drivers in project implementation in order to maximize full community involvement, participation, ownership and sustainability of water, sanitation and hygiene services.

So far a total of **218,940 (60%)** people out of the target population of **364,900** have been reached with safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene education activities.

**Project Goal:** To increase access to sustainable safe water, basic sanitation and improved hygiene practices to improve maternal new-born and child health outcomes in Matinyani and Kitui East Sub Counties of Kitui County.

## Specific Objectives:

				
Increase <b>access to safe and adequate water</b> from <b>34%</b> to <b>54%</b>	Increase <b>access to appropriate sanitation</b> from <b>60%</b> to <b>75%</b>	Improve <b>hygiene practices</b> to over <b>80%</b> among communities and schools	Increase <b>access to basic reproductive and child health services</b> from <b>44%</b> to <b>65%</b> to mothers and children under 5 years	Promote practices that encourage <b>environmental conservation and food security</b>

**Main Partners:** The project is closely working with relevant government ministries, CSOs and NGOs: Ministry of Health (MoH); Provincial Administration; Farm Africa; Ministry of Water and Irrigation; Ministry of Education; Community – WMCs, CHVs and CSOs.

**Project Activities:**

1. Community mobilization and sensitization meetings
2. Carry out hydro geological surveys to map new water points
3. Development of water facilities e.g wells, boreholes, sub surface dams, rain water harvesting etc
4. Sanitation and Hygiene promotion initiatives
5. Renovation of health facilities to provide basic MNCH services
6. Construction of classrooms to provide safe and clean learning environment for children
7. Training of Community own Resource persons e.g WMCs, Artisans, Teachers and pupils as peer educators
8. Food security and environmental conservation measures.

**Achievements to date:**

1. Development of water facilities
  - **1,300** conventional wells
  - **90** Giant Wells
  - **30** Boreholes developed
  - **20** Sub surface dam developed
  - **175** Km water pipeline extensions done
  - **75** Rain water harvesting tanks
2. Sanitation and hygiene promotion
  - **53** standard classrooms
  - **210** VIP latrines in schools and households
  - **260** Refuse pits, Dish racks & HWFs installed in schools and at HH levels.
  - **20** Ecosan toilets
3. Community capacity building.
  - **10** Rural Health Facilities Renovated
  - **50** CHVs trained
  - **180** teachers/education officers trained on PHASE
  - **50%** of the target communities use water for economic and environmental conservation activities. This includes vegetable growing, brick making etc
  - Walking distance to primary water source reduced from 10km to 2km
  - Water user fees (Kshs 2/- to 3/-) per 20 litre container. This is a positive indicator towards sustainability, because free water is no longer sustainable
  - Reduced school absenteeism, retention and improved educational performance
  - **80** ToTs trained
  - **1,200** WMCs trained on WASH/MNCH

**Future Plans:**

1. Integrate WASH, MNCH, and Nutrition for improved Livelihoods
2. Document, share experiences and lessons learnt with all stakeholder

