

K-WASH – Gender and Social Vulnerability Assessment and GAP, Tana River

Technical report
December 2025



GLOBAL
CENTER ON
ADAPTATION

AUTHORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was developed by

Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)

Partnerships :
The World Bank

Consultants :
Groupe Huit, Branded Solution Services

Acknowledgements:



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBO	Community based organization
CIDP	County Integrated Development Plans
CRA	Climate Risk Assessment
CRVA	Climate risk and vulnerability assessment
CWSSIP	County Water and Sanitation Strategic Investment Plan
DLI	Disbursement Linked Indicator
DRM	disaster risk management
ESHS	Environmental, Health and Safety
EWS	Early warning systems
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GAP	Gender action plan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCA	Global Center on Adaptation
GoK	Government of Kenya
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting
HCF	Health Care Facility
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MHM	Menstrual Hygiene Management
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PDO	Program Development Objective
PIU	Project implementation unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
PCRA	Participatory Climate Risk Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual harassment
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
TA	Technical Assistance
UN	United nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASREB	Water Services Regulatory Board
WB	The World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WRMA	Water Resource Management authority
WRUA	Water Resource User Association
WSB	Water Services Boards

WSP Water Service Providers
WSS Water Supply and Sanitation



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project context

This document is developed as part of the K-WASH program led by the Government of Kenya and the World Bank. GCA is providing additional support to the project by bringing in Climate and Gender and social inclusion expertise through the Consultancy services of Groupe Huit.

The K-WASH program will contribute to increase sustainable access to improved water and sanitation services, eliminate open defecation, and improve the financial performance of water services providers in selected counties, including refugee-hosting counties.

Result areas across which these program development objectives (PDO) will be implemented are:

- Results Area 1: Increasing sustainable access to improved water services for households in climate vulnerable rural areas.
- Results Area 2: Increased sustainable access to improved sanitation services and elimination of open defecation in climate-vulnerable rural areas.
- Results Area 3: Improved operational and financial performance of Water Services Providers in participating counties.
- Results Area 4: Improving sector reforms, coordination, and M&E Capacity for integrated water management.
- Results Area 5: Improving integrated WASH services delivery for refugees and host communities.

As part of the GCA assignment, the Consultant has provided Climate Risk Analysis (CRA) for the Counties of Murang'a and Tana River and support to other counties for them to develop their own CRA. This has been done in parallel with ensuring that climate risk assessment outcomes were properly integrated into the Counties Water Supply and Sanitation Investment Plans (CWSSIP) for the latter to be validated by K-WASH task teams and the World Bank. CWSSIPs are guiding and strategic documentation which also enables to meet the first DLI of the K-WASH project.

An adaptation options deliverable has been developed to highlight technical recommendations to ensure K-WASH projects are resilient to the climate risks they'll face, social cross-cutting design considerations are also integrated in this report.

The present document aims at complementing the overall set of documentation related to climate and K-WASH activities to **ensure that the gender and social inclusion dimensions of the projects are duly considered.**

1.2 Background on gender and climate adaptation links

For more than ten years, the link between gender equality and climate change has been gradually incorporated into climate strategies and actions. Advances in knowledge about climate change, particularly the work of the IPCC, have highlighted the links between climate change and gender inequality.

It is now well documented that **the effects of climate change tend to increase pre-existing social inequalities and that gender-differentiated vulnerability to climate change is significant in contexts where people, and particularly women, are highly dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods.** Consequently, in contexts such as sub-Saharan Africa, and particularly in rural areas, women are generally more vulnerable to climate change and the impacts of climate change than men, even when they are exposed in the same way. Based on the work of the IPCC, exposure can be defined as “the presence of people; livelihoods; species or ecosystems; environmental functions, services, and resources; infrastructure; or economic, social, or cultural assets located in places and contexts that could be negatively affected” by climate change; while vulnerability can be considered as “the propensity or predisposition to be negatively affected” and encompasses “a variety of concepts and elements, including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt” (IPCC, 2022). In other words,

everyone in a given area may be exposed to the effects of climate change in the same way, but not everyone will experience them or deal with them in the same way or with the same resources.

In such contexts, **intersectionality** is especially important. Age, marital status, education level, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disabilities, social status, displacement, etc., can intersect with gender and influence women's abilities to adapt to climate change and its effects.

At the same time, women and vulnerable people are also **agents of change** and can play a key role in developing climate change adaptation strategies and/or implementing solutions.

1.3 Objectives of the gender and vulnerable people assessment

The gender and vulnerable people assessment aims to provide a comprehensive **understanding of the social and gender-related inequalities that shape vulnerability—particularly within the WASH sector.**

It will identify key gender issues in Tana River and assess how climate-related risks disproportionately affect women and vulnerable households, and analyze the multidimensional stressors that influence their resilience. The assessment seeks to identify, quantify, and prioritize vulnerabilities, highlight gender gaps linked to climate impacts, and examine local coping mechanisms.

Recognizing that women often face limited access to resources and decision-making while simultaneously carrying significant caregiving responsibilities during crises, **the study will propose targeted actions to reduce inequalities through a dedicated Gender Action Plan for program's implementation in the County.**

Ultimately, the objective is to ensure that women and vulnerable households fully benefit from the K-WASH program and related sub-projects through equitable participation and consultation throughout its preparation, implementation, and management.

2. METHODOLOGY

This document presents the social and gender vulnerabilities associated with the project. It was developed in parallel with the climate risk analysis in which the Gender and social inclusion (GSI) considerations were **mainstreamed** as a cross-cutting lens rather than treated as a separate quantitative exercise. The objective was to understand how climate risks interact with existing social vulnerabilities across **women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and other marginalized groups identified in the PCRA.**

Considering the lack of quantitative data it appeared difficult to compute a full set of quantitative sector indicators, the consultant therefore applied a **qualitative approach**, drawing on existing documentation and field engagement (focus group discussion, interviews on the field):

- **Desk review** of CCAP, PCRA, CIDP, health surveillance records, and other relevant county planning documents such as the CWSSIP.
- **Field missions and stakeholder consultations**, including interviews with water utilities, county officers, community representatives, and focus group discussions.
- **Observation-based assessment** of how climate-related WASH challenges manifest differently across demographic groups.
- **Integration with hotspot analysis findings**, which provided spatial and contextual evidence of differentiated exposure and vulnerability.
- **Consideration for adaptation options report development.**

The analysis was structured on the basis of a gender analysis framework that combines field observations with a grid for interpreting systemic inequalities.

The main areas of vulnerability assessed through this grid are the following :

- Gender roles in the community,
- Institutional and decision making,
- Access and control over WASH resources and facilities,
- Differentiated climate vulnerability.

3. SOCIAL AND GENDER BASELINE

3.1 Legal and Regulatory baseline

3.1.1 International agreements

Kenya has ratified a number of international treaties regarding of vulnerable groups and the eradication of harmful practices, especially those affecting women, children, and other at-risk populations which has considerable impacts considering that the constitution of Kenya establishes that the general rules of international law and all ratified treaties are automatically part of Kenyan law.

Said treaties are:

- the International Labour Organisation’s Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (1999)
- the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- the Maputo Protocol, officially known as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
- the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa
- the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa
- the African Youth Charter

Parallel to these gender and vulnerable peoples’ related treaties Kenya has ratified climate commitments such as the **Paris Agreements** for which it submitted its **Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)** which includes gender mainstreaming and gender-responsiveness.

3.1.2 National regulations

At the National level, Kenya has a host of laws and policies that embed issues of gender governance and with a specific focus on gender issues in water management in the country.

The government of Kenya is committed to advancing women’s economic empowerment through a progressive legal and policy framework including the **National Policy on Women’s Economic Empowerment from June 2024**, and the **Women Economic Empowerment Strategy 2020-2025**

The Sessional Paper No. 2 of 2019 on National Policy on Gender and Development recognizes issues of access to natural resources including land and water and makes provisions that:

- Women need to be represented in decision making processes over the environment and natural resources, involve women in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies;
- Enhance capacity of women on effects of deforestation;
- Reduce gender disparity in access to natural resources;
- Provide affordable clean water to reduce health risks; and
- Provide gender-disaggregated data on the impacts of environmental and natural resources’ degradation and climate change.

Kenya’s vision 2030 is the country’s long-term development blueprint, launched in 2008 based on a collective aspiration for a better society by the year 2030. Vision 2030 sought to mainstream gender equity in all aspects of society. Gender equity was to be addressed by making fundamental changes in four key areas:

- Opportunity,
- Empowerment,
- Capabilities and
- Vulnerabilities.



The vision acknowledged that : women are disadvantaged in accessing labour markets and productive resources. They are also underrepresented in social and political leadership. The capabilities of women have also not been developed to their fullest potential due to limited access to capital, education, training and health care. The vision for gender, youth and the vulnerable is to achieve equity in power and resource distribution, improved livelihoods for all vulnerable groups by increasing the participation of women in all economic, social and political decision-making processes, and improving the access of all disadvantaged groups to business opportunities, health and education services, housing and justice. Gender disparities are to be tackled through a number of strategies, including: providing financial support for women to raise their incomes and reduce the gap in estimated earned income between men and women; increasing the number of women in parliament; and giving priority to female employees in the public sector in order to attain at least 30 per cent representation in recruitment, promotion and appointment of women at all decision-making levels.

The Kenya National Adaptation Plan: 2015-2030 is another provision for addressing gender equity on issues of climate change adaptation. Among others, it makes a provision for strengthening adaptive capacity for vulnerable populations where women and other vulnerable children are directly addressed. The plan also commits towards gender equity in populations living in ASAL areas as well as ensuring access to, and control of resources like capital and land to enable them to cope with climate shocks, through provisions of diverse social protection measures.

The Community Land Act in Kenya of 2016; which embeds equality among gender in terms of compensation for compulsory acquired land and equal right to land for both men and women.

3.1.3 Tana River climate and gender commitments

Climate commitments of the county are formalized under the **Tana River County Climate Change Act, 2021** or the **Disaster Risk management Act 2020**. Social commitments of their end can be found in documents such as the **Tana River County Persons with Disabilities Act, 2019** or transversal to other planning documentation such as **the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) 2023-2027**; this document duly integrated gender mainstreaming and targeted actions regarding GBV reduction, climate resilience and other fields of action, the main highlight could be the objective formulated in the CIDP to develop a Gender Development Policy (supported by a county gender research and documentation centre, gender focal points, joint health and gender committee).

Regarding the WASH sector the CIDP includes the following measures in relation with gender and social aspects (amongst broader WASH commitments):

- “Ensuring access and availability of water in public toilets, markets, public offices, Reducing the distance covered by women and girls to access water” as part of its strategy to harness cross-sector synergies or mitigate adverse cross-sector impacts, considering this comes between Social Protection and Public Health sectors.
- To mitigate Teenage pregnancies, drug and substance, abuse, high crime rate, unsafe abortion:
 - ▶ “Establishment of rehabilitation centres.”
 - ▶ “Establishment of counselling centres”
 - ▶ “Sensitization on reproductive health and menstrual hygiene”
- Enhanced latrines coverage in schools

The intersection of climate and gender or social commitments of the county are especially delineated in the **CCAP** which highlights some actions directly oriented towards gender and vulnerable groups in its Action Plan for Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Land Management:

- Promote participation of youth, women, and indigenous communities in ecosystem conservation
- Engaging vulnerable groups (including youth, women and indigenous communities) in habitat restoration.
- Engaging vulnerable groups (including youth, women and indigenous communities) in ecotourism activities.
- Develop and implement standards and regulations, including social and environmental safeguards, for Sustainable forestry management.

Such integration of social and gender aspects remain highly theoretical and may lack clear objectives and operability.

3.2 Institutional baseline

3.2.1 At national scale

The State Department for Gender Affairs' (SDGA) strategic priorities was established in November 2015 within the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs to promote gender mainstreaming in national development processes and to champion the socioeconomic empowerment of women. The functions of SDGA are:

- Gender policy management,
- Special programmes for women's empowerment,
- Gender mainstreaming in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs),
- Community mobilization,
- Domestication of international treaties/conventions on gender, and
- Policy and programmes on gender violence.

3.2.2 At county scale

The Sessional Paper No.2 of 2019 on National Policy on Gender and Development, stipulates the roles, responsibilities and function of the county in respect to promoting gender equality. These functions include:

- Role of County Assemblies:
 - ▶ Enact relevant laws to promote gender equality and non-discrimination principles.
 - ▶ Enhance compliance to the 'not more than 2/3 gender principle' in all sectors at all levels;
 - ▶ Ensure national and county budgetary processes are gender responsive;
 - ▶ Undertake investigations and report on non-compliance to the equality and non-discrimination principles; and
 - ▶ Ensure compliance to equality and non-discrimination principles in approving development projects.
- Role of County Governments:
 - ▶ Integrate national standards and gender indicators in County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs);
 - ▶ Formulate and ensure implementation of county specific gender policies; develop and implement County Gender Action Plans;
 - ▶ Ensure allocation of adequate resources for implementation of gender equality and women's empowerment programs;
 - ▶ Ensure gender responsive budgeting is adopted in the budget cycle;
 - ▶ Identify and implement programmes targeting gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - ▶ Collect, collate and disseminate county gender data;
 - ▶ Report on policy implementation and county gender activities.
- Role of County Departments:
 - ▶ Develop, review and implement sector specific policies to integrate gender in their budget processes, plans and programmes;
 - ▶ Coordinate implementation of the policy components in their respective counties;
 - ▶ Enforce compliance with the National Gender Equality guidelines and standards;
 - ▶ Mainstream gender in training curricula at all levels and institute gender sector specific capacity building programmes.

More precisely the **Education, Youth, Gender and Social Services** department of Tana River has a core mandate to:

- Coordinate mainstreaming of gender issues
- Promote the rights of women and women empowerment
- Lead in campaigns to reduce Gender Based Violence (GBV) and the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Support social development
- Coordinate social protection programmes

3.3 Kenya Socio-economic profile

3.3.1 Demographics and economy

Kenya's current population is of **52.6 million people (2019)** and an **annual population growth rate at 2.3%**, it is this expending as shown in the pyramid's profile. The current fertility rate is at 3.2 live birth per woman and life expectancy at 63.8 years (66.1 for females and 61.6 for males).

Currently, 31.3 % of the population of Kenya is urban (estimated 17,645,362 people in 2024), **this is projected to increase to 33% and 46% of the population by 2030 and 2050, respectively**. Main cities are Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Ruiru, Eldoret, Kisumu, Kikuyu, Ngong, Mavoko, Thika.

Kenya, while considered a lower middle-income country, has an emerging market and is the largest economy in East Africa. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018 was US\$95.5 billion and the economic annual growth rate 5.4% (2019). Kenya had continued to implement significant economic and structural reforms, which have helped to sustain economic growth and political gains over the past decade. Key challenges continue to be seen in the country's inequality and poverty levels, which has increased the country's economic vulnerability to shocks.

Kenya plans to be a newly industrialized nation by 2030. The major industries driving the Kenyan economy include **financial services, agriculture, real estate, manufacturing, logistics, tourism, retail and energy**.

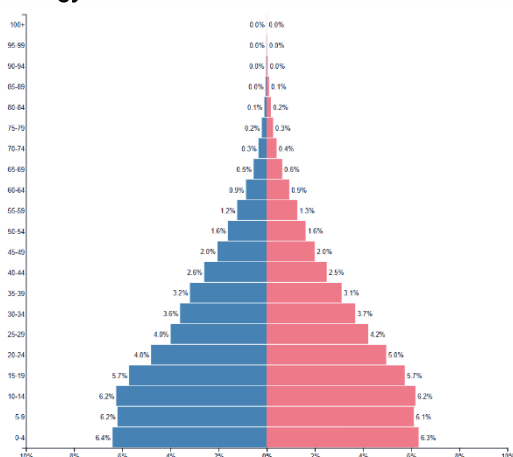


Figure 2: Kenya, pyramid of ages

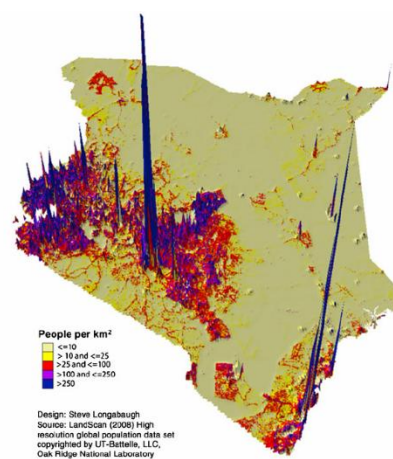


Figure 1: Kenyan population density map (2008)

3.3.2 Gender equality baseline

Kenya is a country where gender inequalities are deeply entrenched, despite a progressive legal and policy framework in favor of equality. **Social norms and gender stereotypes are a major barrier to the empowerment of women and girls, often viewing them as inferior to men and confining them to traditional reproductive and care roles.**

These inequalities manifest themselves in a variety of areas, including access to education, employment, economic resources, and political participation. Women are overrepresented among the poor, and in a multidimensional way. **Poverty, age, disability, HIV status and geographical location (rural/urban) exacerbate gender inequalities.**

In terms of socio-economic aspects, **the majority of women work in the informal sector**, where their contribution to the national economy is often underestimated and unrecognized. Women face significant barriers to accessing employment and business opportunities. **Responsibilities related to unpaid domestic work limit their ability to participate in income-generating activities.** Women make up the majority of the agricultural workforce, especially in small-scale farming, they are often paid less than men for the same work. Access to resources (land, credit, inputs) and training is often limited for women farmers.

Vulnerable employment among women has remained nearly the same since 1991

Workers in vulnerable employment are the least likely to have formal work arrangements, social protection, and safety nets to guard against economic shocks; thus they are more likely to fall into poverty. Vulnerable employment among women is 73.6% and among men is 56.4% in Kenya for 2023. The rate of vulnerable employment is lower for men and women in Kenya compared to the average rate in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Vulnerable employment, by sex (% of total employment) (modeled ILO estimate)

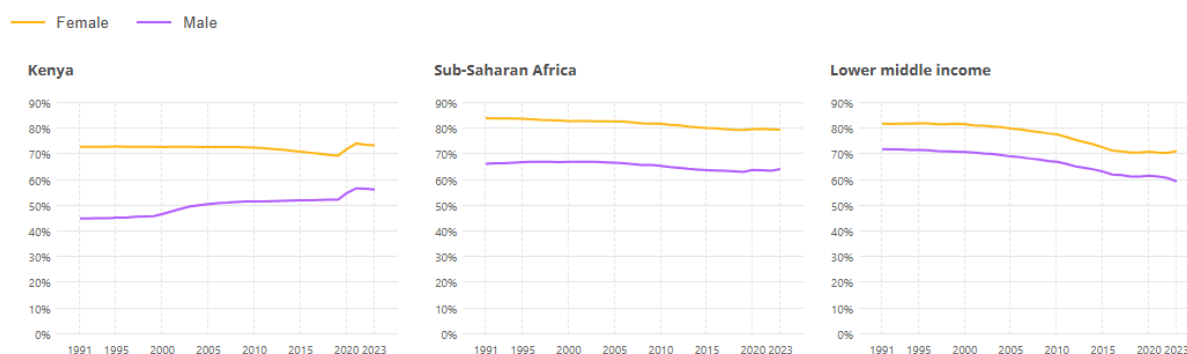


Figure 3: Vulnerable or informal employment data in Kenya (disaggregated by sex)

Source: World bank gender data portal

Regarding **decision making and political leadership** women are less represented than men in politics, however, there has been progress in the number of elected women since 2013. Findings from a study¹ has also shows that while the patriarchal structures remain the political field they are not the main obstacle to women’s participation anymore, the blockages have become more complex and involve, for instance the fact that **the cost of politics is on the increase and is higher for women**, but also the fact that “owners” of political parties hold the key to effective participation of women and the 2022 electoral competition reveals increased sexual harassment of women candidates as well as the use of vulgar and demeaning language against them which is meant to prevent them from participating or disillusion them altogether so that they withdraw from races. This new practice is widespread and threatens to delegitimize and belittle gains made in improving the number of women in political positions through nomination lists.

¹ Political Economy Analysis on Women Political Participation in Kenya.pdf

Women Elected under the 2010 Constitution - 2013 to 2022

	2022	2017	2013
Governor	7	3	0
Senator	3	3	0
MNA	29	23	16
MCA	115	96	82
Deputy Governor	8	7	9
WMNA	47	47	47

Various sources

Figure 4: Women elected under the 2010 constitution - 2013 to 2022

Source: Political Economy Analysis on Women Political Participation in Kenya.pdf

23.3% of seats in national parliament were held by women in 2024 in Kenya

Women in parliaments are the percentage of parliamentary seats in a single or lower chamber held by women. The proportion of seats held by women in Kenya has increased since 2010. The current rate is similar to the average rate in lower middle income economies.

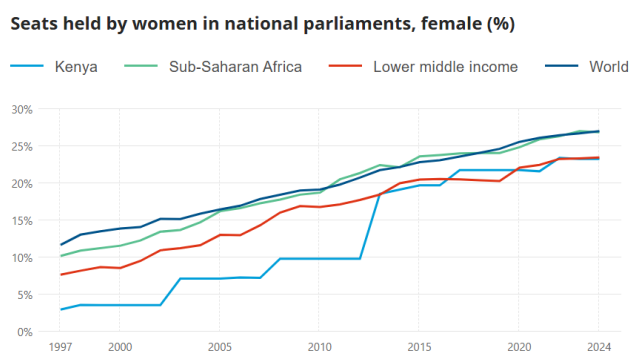


Figure 5: seats held by women in Kenyan and regional parliaments

Source: World Bank Gender Data Portal

Women also experience **unequal access to resources and decision-making processes over the resources**, with limited mobility in rural areas. **Access to and control over environmental resources as well as land ownership is gender-biased**. Men are the main actors in managing renewable and non-renewable natural resources such as forests, wildlife, minerals and natural gas. This has significant implications for the Gross Domestic Product and the livelihoods of Kenyans dependent on the environment and natural resources.

Such observation on decision making is also similar for households' decisions as presented in the figure below.

66.2% of women participated in making major decisions in the household in 2022

Women participating in making major decisions is the percentage of currently married women ages 15-49 who say that they alone or jointly have the final say in (i) making major household purchases, (ii) decisions about own healthcare, and (iii) visits to family, relatives, friends.

Percentage of women ages 15-49 participating in decisions about:

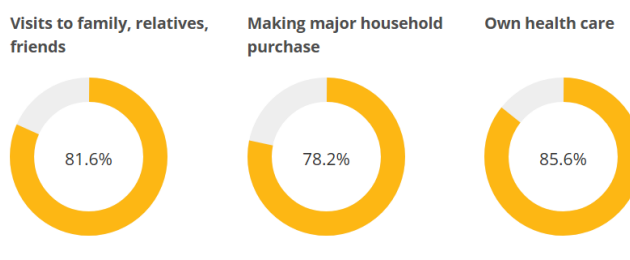


Figure 6: Women in decision making (household level in Kenya)

Source: World Bank Gender Data Portal

Health is an area of significant gender inequality. In terms of sexual and reproductive health, women face major challenges, with high maternal mortality rates despite improvement (from 1 375 in 2000 to 149 in 2023)². Access to quality reproductive health services is limited, with regional disparities. Legal abortion remains a contentious issue, and the criminalization of abortion remains in place despite constitutionally permissible circumstances. Teenage pregnancies are a major problem, with high rates and negative consequences on girls' education and health, in 2023 56 of every 1 000 girls aged 15-19 gave birth. Women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection due to power inequalities and gender norms. HIV prevalence is higher among women than men. Finally, women are more affected by communicable diseases such as tuberculosis. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities is limited, which affects women more.

Although there has been progress in girls' access to education, disparities persist at all levels. Gender stereotypes and social norms continue to limit girls' full participation in education and training. Teenage pregnancies are a major factor in girls' dropouts. In Kenya, approximately 5,714,459 people are illiterate of which 2,285,968 are male and 3,428,491 are female. There are inequalities in access to vocational and technical training, with an under-representation of women in science and technology fields.

In WASH sector multiple inequalities can also be highlighted. Access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities is limited, **particularly in rural areas and slums.** Women and girls are often responsible for collecting water, which can be time-consuming and put them at risk to their safety. The lack of adequate sanitation facilities in schools affects girls' enrolment³. Gender inequalities exacerbate the impact of water and sanitation crises on women and girls.

Finally, regarding disaster risk management (DRM) it has been shown that disasters disproportionately impact women and girls due to their socio-economic vulnerability.

Women play a critical role in disaster preparedness and response, as first responders and caregivers to young children, the sick and the injured; they secure fuel, water and fodder and organize family meals. However, women are overlooked in decision-making and policy development at organizational levels. Thus, this excludes them from disaster risk governance processes, further contributing to unequal outcomes between men and women.

Engendered roles among women and girls and low literacy limit their capacity to prepare, respond, mitigate and recover from disasters. In Kenya, approximately 5,714,459 people are illiterate; of which, 2,285,968 are male and 3,428,491 are female. Consequently, this reduces their access to early warning information and access to information and communication technology on risks, thus further increasing their vulnerabilities. Also, this reduces their opportunity to report and share information on early warning that they have access to and is vital in prevention. A higher literacy level is advantageous among men and boys as it enables them to access early warning information and use ICT to access information.

Climate change impacts the livelihoods of girls and women as they tend to have livelihoods and small businesses liable to disasters; this affects their resilience and capacity to recover due to gender inequality of risks. **On the contrary, boys and men access better jobs with higher remuneration packages compared to girls and women. As a result, they can recover faster from disasters compared to girls and women—this further increase gender inequality between men and women in DRR.** Women and girls are also affected by climate change due to their primary responsibility of fetching water, firewood and farming. Among men and boys, climate change triggers out-migration, especially in arid and semi-arid areas (ASAL), thus leaving women with a lot of responsibilities at home. Equally, over 80

² The World Bank Group Gender data portal.

³ "Despite the provision of Free Basic Education, many girls continue to miss out on education due to absenteeism that is related to reproductive health issues as they are forced to stay away from school when they are not facilitated to manage their menstruation. Studies have shown that girls from poor families miss 20% of school days in a year due to lack of sanitary towels.

Data from the Ministry of Education indicates that a girl that is absent from school for four days in 28 days (month) loses 13 learning days, equivalent to two weeks of learning in every school term. In an academic year (nine months) a girl loses 39 learning days equivalent to six weeks of learning time. A girl in primary school between grades 6 and 8 (three years) loses 18 learning weeks out of 108 weeks. Within the four years of high school a girl can lose 156 learning days equivalent to almost 24 weeks out of 144 weeks of learning." (Ministry of Gender, Culture, the Arts and Heritage, 2024)

percent of Kenyans rely on wood biomass for their energy requirements, particularly women and girls, due to their roles in cooking; this exposes them to health risks resulting from the gas emitted from the firewood. Also, in cases where they have to move further away in search of firewood and water, women and girls are at risk of being exposed to GBV.

Regarding humanitarian assistance, women and girls have more needs due to their higher vulnerabilities. However, priority in humanitarian response is generally given to shelter, water and food aid which are of necessity to both boys and girls and men and women. This is done at the expense of women and girls' need for safe spaces, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and clinical management of rape and sexual abuses, thus contributing to gender inequalities among men and women.

3.3.3 Vulnerable groups equality baseline

3.3.3.1 Elderly, children and sick⁴

Older people in Kenya often face violations of their social, cultural, political and economic rights. The erosion of traditional systems of protection, the commercialization of care and support, individualism, unsustainable urbanization, poverty and pandemics all contribute to their vulnerability. They can also be victims of abuse, often by trusted individuals such as family members or friends. **In urban areas, the elderly often lack traditional family support** and are limited in their ability to earn a living. It was also reported that **inability to squat could hinders elders' access to sanitation, more generally toilets access can be considered a challenge due to fees, accessibility** (closed at night, far away, etc.).

Children are a particularly vulnerable group, especially heads of household, orphans, street children and children from poor families. These children can face stigmatization, precarious living conditions, food insecurity, difficulties in accessing basic services and exploitation. Children with disabilities or from families with disabilities face additional challenges in terms of access to education and other opportunities. In the WASH sector children's vulnerability is also related to the importance of adequate water and nutrition for healthy growth and development.

3.3.3.2 People with disability and or sickness

Disabled people in Kenya are often victims of multiple discrimination and health problems. Their physical limitations can make it difficult for them to participate in economic activities. Urban infrastructures are often not adapted to their needs (lack of footpaths, accessible toilets, etc.), hindering their mobility and well-being. People with hearing impairments may be excluded from health services due to a lack of sign language interpreters. As with the elderly, toilet accessibility can also lead to health and safety risks, as well as a negative impact on dignity.

Similarly, people with chronic illnesses can also be considered vulnerable, especially if their health limits their ability to work and support themselves.

⁴ (Kenya News Agency, 2023)

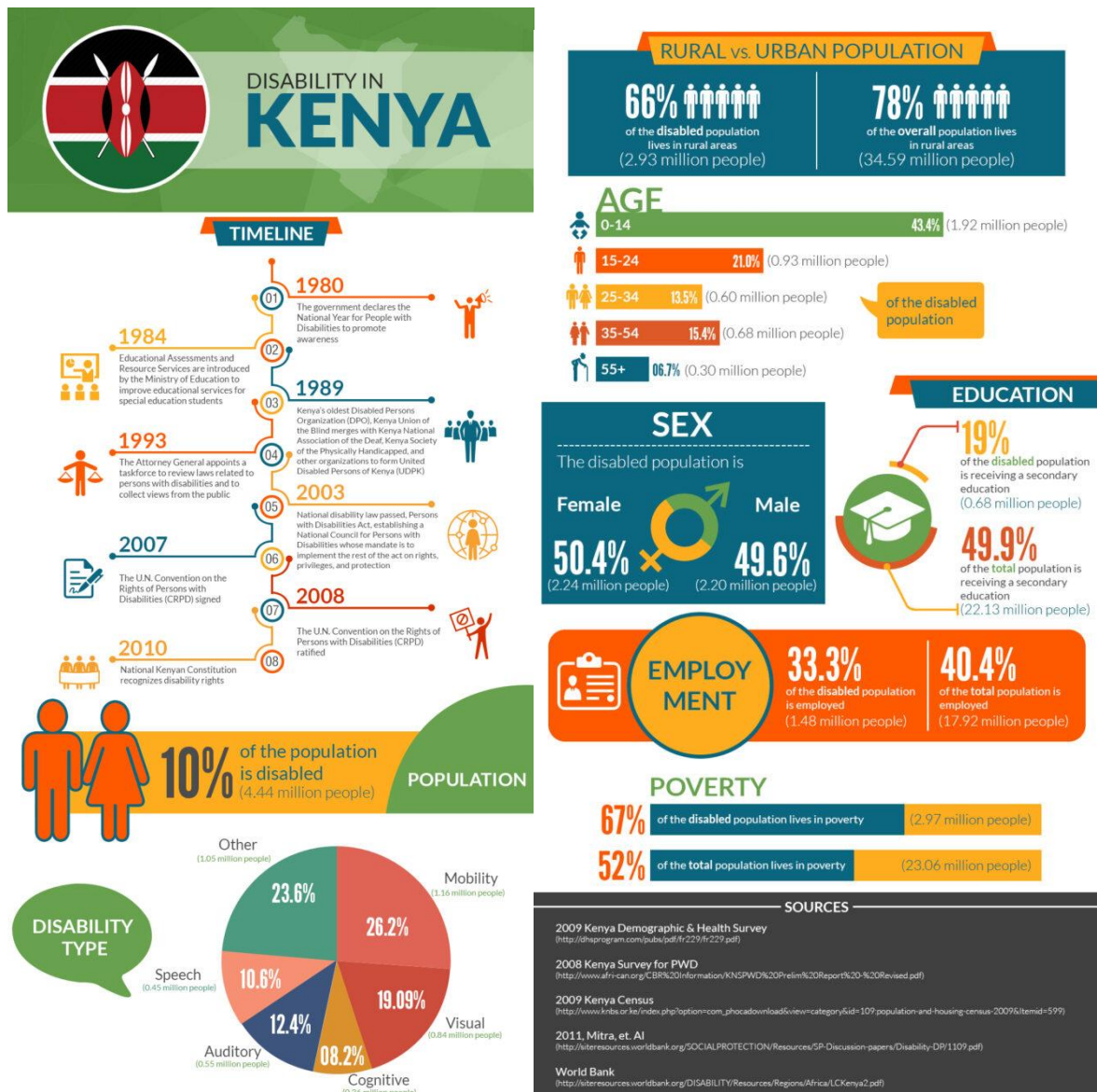


Figure 7: Infographic on disability in Kenya

3.3.3.2.1 Refugees⁵

The Kenya refugee situation is impacted by political developments and the humanitarian situation in the region, mainly in the two main refugee producing countries (i.e. Somalia and South Sudan). In Somalia, despite the moderate gains made in the past three years, the humanitarian situation in 2020 is expected to remain fragile, with over some 24.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, the situations in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia are responsible for refugee outflows.

The majority of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya are from Somalia (54%), followed by South Sudanese (24.5%), Congolese (8.9%) and Ethiopians (5.8%). Persons of concern from other nationalities including Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, Rwanda, and others make up 6.7% of the total population (501,049 as at the end of October 2020).

Almost half of the refugees in Kenya reside in Dadaab (44%), 40% in Kakuma and 16% in urban areas (mainly Nairobi), alongside 18,500 stateless persons. Currently, Kenya continues to be among the top

⁵ (UNHCR, 2024)

refugee hosting countries in Africa. UNHCR will also continue its advocacy on behalf of stateless persons

It is internationally recognized that “**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons are able to safely realize their basic rights, obligations and satisfy their needs**” as stated by UNHCR under the impact area “Realizing rights in safe environments”, and that Refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons have equitable access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities as stated under the impact area “Clean water, sanitation and hygiene”.

Access to clean water remains a significant challenge in the Kenyan refugee camps, which rely on underground water that is affected by climate change, poor rainfall, and old water reticulation systems. Efforts to improve water system efficiency and to enhance rainwater harvesting by constructing water pans and dams are being prioritized. UNHCR will work with the municipal authorities and respective water boards during the transitional phase, which will set out the modalities for the eventual handover of the system to the local authorities for them to oversee service delivery in this sector.

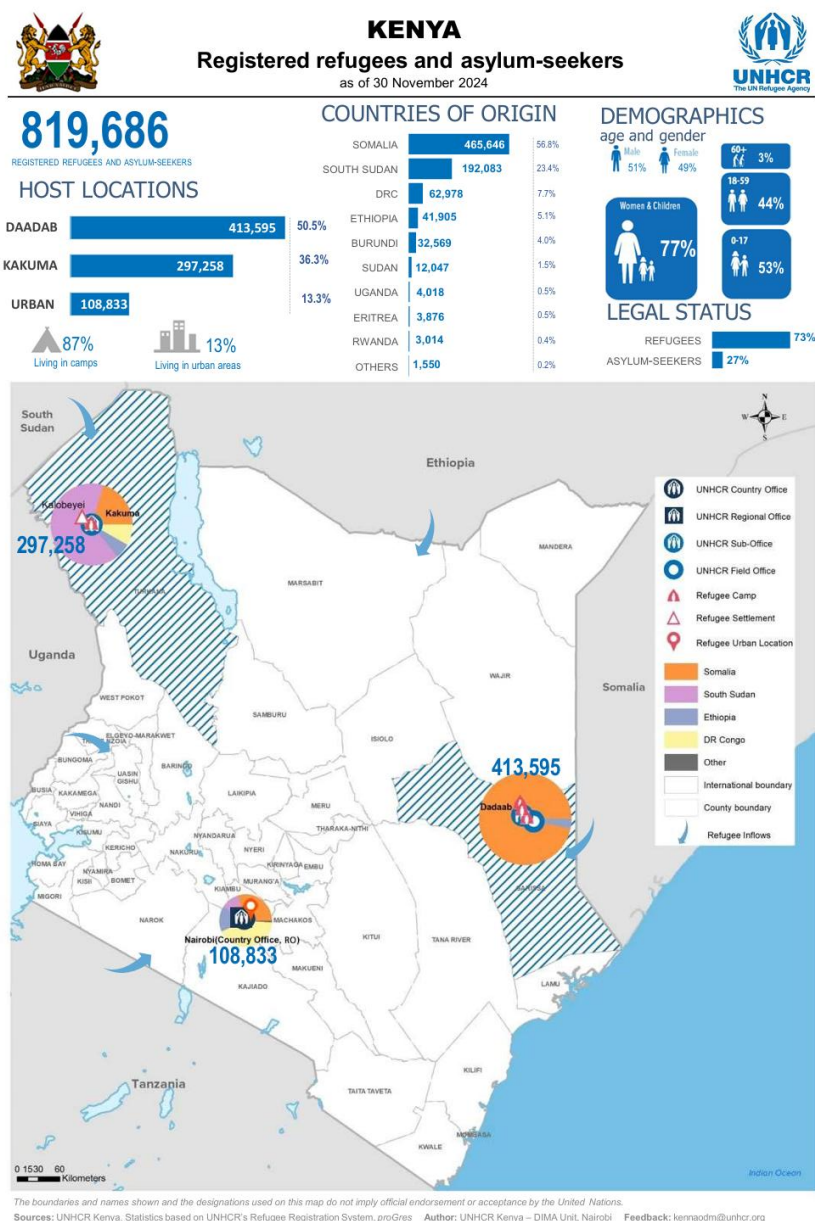


Figure 8: Kenya registered refugees and asylum seekers infographic

Source: UNHCR

3.3.3.2.2 Ethnic groups

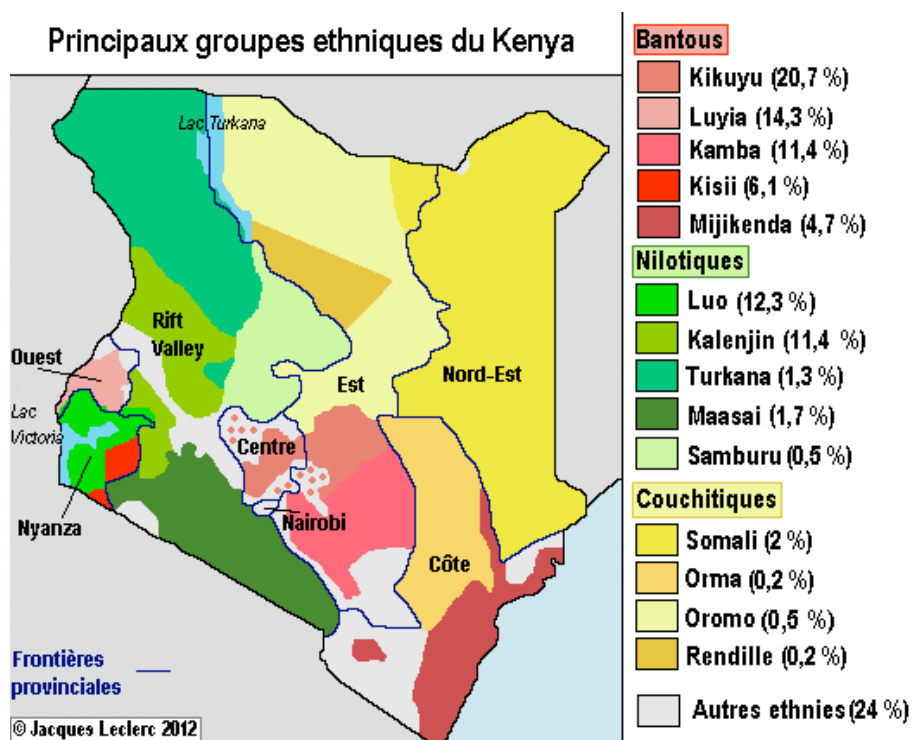


Figure 9: Main ethnic groups and their localization in Kenya

Kenya is a country of great ethnic, linguistic, cultural and religious diversity. Kenya's population is divided into **three main language groups** – **Bantu** (*bantous on the figure above*), **Nilo-Saharan** (*nilotiques on the figure above*), and **Afro-Asiatic** (*couchitiques on the figure above*). Bantu speakers make up the largest group and live mainly in southern Kenya, including the Kikuyu, Kamba, Meru, and Nyika peoples of the central highlands. The Nilo-Saharan speakers like the Kalenjin, Luo, Maasai, Samburu, and Turkana inhabit western and central parts of the country and engage in pastoralism. The smallest group, the Afro-Asiatic speakers, live in arid northern regions as semi-nomadic pastoralists such as the Somali and Oromo

Ethnic/national minorities, such as the Nubians and Somalis, are not recognized as such by the Kenyan government and have problems accessing citizenship documents. In recent years political conflict on ethnic lines has increased dramatically, exacerbated by the combination of divisive politicians and economic decline. Nevertheless, ethnic categorizations are complex and sometimes overlapping. Such linguistic minorities as the Terik, Sengwer and Suba are challenged by the near-extinction of their languages. **Agriculturalists and pastoralists often have competing claims to land, and nomadic pastoralists are in ceaseless conflict with the authorities, most of whom come from farming tribes.** Although the relationship has generally been one of tolerance, divisions between Christians and Muslims are of growing significance.

No ethnic grouping is numerically dominant, and while a few groups have had opportunities at political power with its associated economic benefits, the Kikuyu, who make up 22 per cent of the population, have tended to dominate politics in the post-independence era. Some groups have never held political power. Competition for power and exclusion from it on an ethnic basis has been a major source of tension in Kenya. Particularly vulnerable minorities include Muslims and nomadic pastoralists such as Somalis and Maasai.

Hunter-gatherer communities, including the Ogiek, Sengwer and Yaaku peoples, have long faced marginalization and exclusion, including dispossession of land and forced evictions. Other groups include Aweer (Dahalo), a traditional hunter-gatherer community, numbering about 3,500 and living in the Lamu district of eastern Kenya, where they face insecurity, the threat of famine and loss of livelihood as a result of the government's ban in the name of conservation. Most men have left the region in search of work.

3.4 Tana River County socio-economic profile

3.4.1 Background

Tana River County is one of the six Counties in the Coast Region. The county has a total area of 39,190.6 Km². It borders Kitui County to the West, Garissa County to the North East, Isiolo County to the North, Lamu County to the South East and Kilifi County to the South. The county lies between latitudes 0.00'53" and 2.00'41" South and longitudes 38.025'43" and 40.015' East. The county has a coastal strip of 76 Km.

The major physical feature in Tana River County is an undulating plain that is interrupted in a few places by low hills at Bilbil around Madogo and Bura divisions. The land in Tana river generally slopes south eastwards with an altitude that ranges between 20m to 200m above sea level at the top of the Bilbil hills. The River Tana traverses the county from Tharaka County in the North to the Indian Ocean in the South passing through Tana Delta and covering a stretch of approximately 500km. The most striking topographical feature is the River Tana that traverses the county from the Aberdares in the North to the Indian Ocean in the South covering a stretch of approximately 500km. Besides the River Tana, there are several seasonal rivers in the county popularly known as lagas, which flow in a west-east direction from Kitui and Makueni Counties draining into River Tana and eventually into the Indian Ocean. The river beds support livestock as well as wildlife during the dry season since they have high ability to retain water. River beds are most appropriate sites for shallow wells, sub-surface dams as well as earth.

There are only two areas categorized as urban centres (HOLA and Madogo) with a total projected population of 36,285 persons. The settlement patterns are random but are concentrated close to the river.

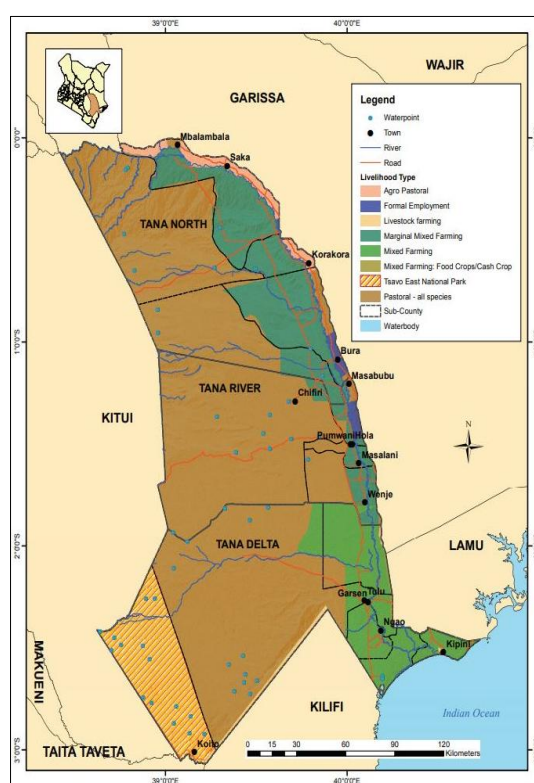


Figure 10: Map of Tana River County.

Source: CIDP, 2023-2027

3.4.2 Demography

The projected population of Tana River County was 315,943 in 2019 (KNBS) comprising of 158,550 population of females, 157,391 males and 2 intersexes. This was expected to increase to **391,199** by

2027, reflecting about 15 per cent increase. The county has an inter census population growth rate of 2.78 per cent slightly lower than the national average of 2.9 per cent. The **ratio of male to female is 99:100** and the pattern is projected to remain the same over the plan period.

Apart from Tana Delta sub-county, the other sub-counties did not have inter-sex persons. **The most populous sub-county in Tana River County is the Tana Delta with a population of 116,757** followed by Tana North sub-county with 110,640 while Tana-River sub-county has a population of 88,456. The male population for Tana Delta and Tana North Sub-counties was higher than the female population while the female population in Tana-River sub-county was higher than that of male.

The dominant ethnic groups are the Pokomo, many of whom are farmers, and the Orma and Wardey, who are predominantly pastoralists who keep cattle, sheep, goats and camels. Waata and Boni are culturally hunters and gatherers. Other communities that live in the county are Wailwana and Malakote and Bajuni. The county is also a home of other ethnic groups including Borana, Luo, Kamba, Taita, Giriama, Kisii, Kikuyu, and Somali.

3.4.3 Social and Gender considerations

The available data reveals strong and persistent gender disparities across key socio-economic sectors.

In **education**⁶, primary school enrolment and completion as well as enrolment in secondary school are nearly gender-balanced, however secondary school completion rates show an important gap with only 12.8% of girls completing the education level against 20.4% of boys as shown in the below table:

Table 1: Education enrolment and completion rates in Tana River County

	Female	Male	Total
Pre-primary education enrolment rate (NER) (4-5 years)	43.3%	43.6%	43.5%
Primary education NER (6-13 years)	67.1%	67.3%	67.2%
Primary education completion rate (16-18 years)	14.5%	14.3%	14.4%
Secondary education NER (14-17 years)	63%	64.3%	63.7%
Secondary education completion rate (20-22 years)	12.8%	20.4%	16.4%

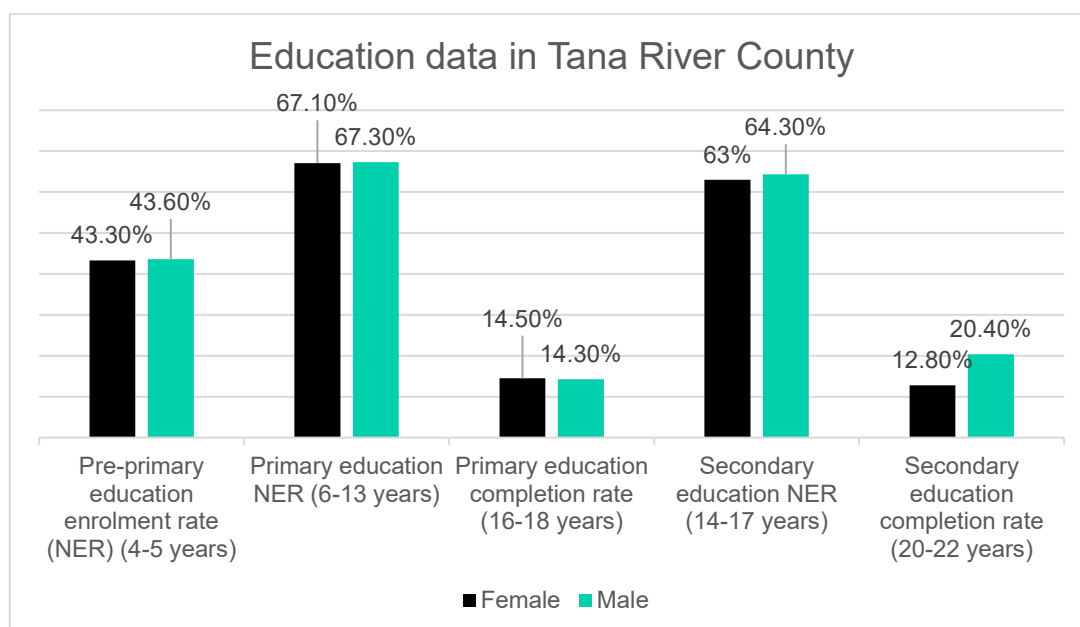


Figure 11: Education data in Tana River County

⁶ 2019 Kenya population and housing census published in 2022 – Analytical report on education and training Volume XVII

Available quantitative data on **labour** in Tana River County is limited and largely not disaggregated by sex or vulnerability status. Neither county-level statistics nor national datasets from the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) adequately capture gendered dimensions of labour, unpaid work, or the specific situation of vulnerable groups. As a result, this analysis relies primarily on qualitative evidence gathered through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and consultations with local representatives.

Agriculture, including crop production, livestock keeping, and pastoralism, constitutes the main livelihood activity in the county. While both women and men are actively engaged in agricultural production, **gendered roles and responsibilities remain pronounced. Women tend to have less control over productive resources and income, while bearing a disproportionate share of unpaid domestic labour. In particular, women and girls are primarily responsible for water collection, fuelwood gathering, and household care, often at the expense of education, skills development, and income-generating activities.** These burdens are exacerbated during periods of drought and flooding, when basic resources become scarcer and travel distances increase.

It can also be underlined that women work in the service-sector (representing 58.4% of the sector) which reflects an economy where women increasingly participate in low-wage informal services (e.g., hair salons, eateries, food vending).

Women play a critical role in household food security and local food systems, including the production of indigenous crops and staple cereals. Despite this contribution, women and youth remain among the most vulnerable groups and exhibit lower adoption rates of climate adaptation strategies, largely due to limited access to information, extension services, finance, and decision-making spaces.

Decision-making power and ownership of productive assets in Tana River County are predominantly held by men. Men generally have greater access to, control over, and ownership of livestock, land-related resources, and financial assets. Women are more commonly responsible for small ruminants and poultry, which are often considered lower-value assets. The roles performed by men are typically assigned higher social and economic value.

Although female-headed households demonstrate slightly higher levels of control over household assets compared to women in male-headed households structural constraints persist, including **limited financial resources, restricted ownership and inheritance rights, and entrenched cultural norms.** Although land tenure in many areas is communal (depending on ethnic groups), women may still face limitations in access to and use of land and natural resources. Customary practices that prevent women from inheriting assets further increase their vulnerability, particularly in the context of climate shocks.

Harmful cultural norms and practices continue to pose significant barriers to gender equality and inclusive participation. Consultations under this assignment but also for the BIMA project or during the PCRA revealed that some women experience discomfort in expressing their views openly, even within women-only focus group discussions. These social constraints limit women's effective participation in community decision-making processes related to development planning, resource management, and climate adaptation.

Low literacy levels and limited access to education and skills training further restrict participation, especially for women and girls. Extension services and technical training opportunities—such as those related to livestock health, vaccination, parasite control, and water management—remain insufficient and are less accessible to women, constraining their adaptive capacity.

Beyond gender, climate change impacts disproportionately affect other vulnerable groups, including the elderly, children, and persons with disabilities (PWDs). These groups face heightened risks due to mobility constraints, dependency, and limited access to social protection services. Children are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition, and school dropout rates increase during climate stress periods, with boys often leaving school to search for pasture and water for livestock.

The increasing scarcity of natural resources, particularly water and pasture, has **intensified conflicts** between farmers and pastoralists, as well as human–wildlife conflicts. These disputes result in loss of life and livestock, displacement of households, destruction of assets, and disruption of economic activities. **Such conflicts further undermine social cohesion and disproportionately affect women,**

children, and other vulnerable groups, who often bear the indirect consequences of insecurity and displacement.

Tana River County is among the counties with high reported cases of gender-based violence (GBV), including intimate partner violence, sexual violence against women and children, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage. Climate-related shocks, particularly droughts and floods, have exacerbated these risks, especially in the case of displacements. Evidence indicates that some households resort to child marriage as a coping mechanism during periods of severe economic distress.

Access to GBV response services remains limited. The county has only one GBV recovery centre located in Hola, posing significant access challenges for survivors living in remote areas such as Garsen and other rural settlements. Survivors seeking support at local health facilities often face issues related to confidentiality, stigma, and fear of community exposure, which discourages reporting and access to care.

Despite these challenges, several grassroots and non-governmental organisations are actively addressing GBV and promoting girls' education and protection. Initiatives such as the Pastoralist Girls Initiative and the Delta Girls Initiative are working on mentorship, community sensitisation, and livelihood support, with backing from partners including Oxfam and the Australian Aid. These efforts highlight existing opportunities for strengthening referral systems, prevention mechanisms, and survivor support infrastructure.

At an institutional level the CIDP identifies persistent development challenges related to women's empowerment, youth unemployment, access to credit, and social protection for vulnerable groups. These challenges are driven by retrogressive cultural practices, inadequate policy implementation, limited funding, insufficient data on vulnerable populations, and weak institutional capacity. However, opportunities exist through affirmative action programmes, gender technical working groups, cash transfer schemes for older persons, national legal frameworks, and the presence of willing development partners.

Overall, **social and gender inequalities in Tana River County intersect with climate vulnerability, reinforcing existing disparities.** Addressing these issues in the WASH sector requires gender-responsive and socially inclusive approaches that recognise unpaid labour, strengthen women's access to resources and decision-making, protect vulnerable groups, and integrate GBV prevention and response into climate adaptation and development interventions.

4. GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE K-WASH PROGRAM

This section is built on the CWSSIPs data which itself builds on County statistics including the ones developed through the PCRAs.

4.1 Main findings regarding gender and climate in the WASH sector in Tana River

4.1.1 WASH Social norms in Tana River

When studying WASH sector it is relevant to question the social norms that surround the topic as these norms often reinforce gender inequalities, limit access to essential services, and heighten health risks for women, girls, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

Globally across the county **women and girls are primarily responsible for managing household water, hygiene (especially hygiene of children), and sanitation. And awareness of the health and economic benefits of WASH services also remains low, contributing to limited demand.**

4.1.1.1 Water supply

Gendered expectations strongly influence how water-related responsibilities are distributed. Women manage water points at community level. **Water collection is widely regarded as women's domestic work, resulting in women and girls spending an estimated three to five hours per day fetching water and walking long distances** (the Orma and Wardei are especially reported to walk long distances). This time burden corresponds to a lost time for education or income generating activities as well as exposing them to fatigue and insecurity.



Figure 12: Adaptation of carrying water over long distances (Wolestokocha, Tana River County)

Source: Fieldwork, August 2025

The **insecurity** takes the form of gender-based violence (GBV) with reported cases of sexual assaults and early pregnancies (for instance in Mkomani village⁷) but also of human-wildlife conflicts with attacks of crocodiles (Mkomani village) or hippopotamus when fetching water. The community has constructed ladder-like steps at designated water collection points along the River Tana. These steps facilitate safer and easier water access while improving visibility, allowing residents to spot crocodiles before approaching the river, thereby reducing the risk of attacks.

4.1.1.2 Sanitation

Open defecation remains prevalent in many rural and pastoralist communities due **to longstanding cultural norms and a lack of awareness on the health impacts of poor sanitation**. Indeed, among pastoralist populations such as the Orma and Wardei, sanitation infrastructure is often viewed as unnecessary, with traditional practices taking precedence. There is also a persistent misconception that latrines attract disease or contaminate homesteads, which hampers uptake. This not only leads to exposure to pathogens but also to insecurity as cases of snakebites were reported during OD.

Social norms in some areas (Minjila, Wolestokocha for instance) also require separate toilets for men and women.

Fear surrounding the unsustainability of sanitation infrastructure (latrines collapse) discourages investments from households in areas exposed to flooding or with high water tables.

School-aged girls and women suffer disproportionately due to the lack of private, gender-segregated sanitation, resulting in absenteeism and elevated vulnerability to gender-based violence. There is also a stigma surrounding menstruation which hinders women's ability to manage their periods with dignity and safety.

⁷ Hotspot analysis in Mkomani village – discussions with communities

In some areas such as Minjila following awareness raising on OD new practices are adopted including sharing toilets between families and constructing reinforced, elevated pit latrines or ones with the pit positioned separately from superstructure to avoid collapse.

4.1.2 Acces and control over water resources

The social norms mentioned above are also caused by, and result from **inequalities in the control and use of water resources or WASH infrastructure**. Beyond the cultural aspect, these elements are presented below.

4.1.2.1 Water supply

4.1.2.1.1 Access and use

Gender and social status are key determinants of water access and use in Tana River County. A 2024 survey conducted by the County Water Department in partnership with local NGOs indicates that **women and girls are the primary water collectors in over 86% of rural households**, spending an average of **3 to 5 hours per day** fetching water during the dry season. This time burden significantly constrains educational participation and economic opportunities. In contrast, households in urban and peri-urban areas with piped supply spend less than one hour per day on water collection.

The **physical strain** of carrying heavy water containers exposes women and girls to musculoskeletal injuries and heightens security risks (**GBV**), particularly in remote or insecure areas. Water scarcity and prolonged queues at communal boreholes contribute to household stress, domestic disputes, and increased incidences of gender-based violence.

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) and elderly individuals face compounded barriers due to the absence of inclusive water infrastructure. Public water points rarely incorporate accessibility features such as ramps, hand-operated pumps, or household connections, reinforcing exclusion and dependency. Elderly persons are similarly disadvantaged where water sources are distant or located on rough terrain.

Pastoralist communities, particularly the Orma and Wardei, depend largely on seasonal water pans and riverine corridors. Due to historical marginalisation and limited infrastructure investment in remote areas, per capita water consumption in these communities remains below the national rural average of 20 litres per person per day (lpcd), dropping to 9–12 lpcd during dry seasons. By comparison, semi-urban settlements such as Hola and Garsen achieve 30–45 lpcd through piped or kiosk-based systems, although supply remains intermittent.

Population Group	Average Distance to Source (km)	Daily Time Spent (hrs)	Access to Safe Water (%)	Key Barriers
Women and Girls (Rural)	3-5	3-5	35%	Long distance, time burden
Women (Urban)	0.5-1	<1	65%	Cost, reliability
Persons with Disabilities	>2	Varies	20%	Inaccessibility of facilities
Elderly (Rural)	>2	2-3	25%	Mobility, support dependency

Figure 13: Social and gender disparities in water access

Source: CWSSIP

Household Category	% with Access to Improved Water	Key Barriers
High-income (urban)	65%	Affordability, service interruptions
Low-income (urban)	40%	Cost, informal settlement tenure
Low-income (rural)	28%	Distance, unavailability, seasonal access
Women-headed households	30%	Limited resources, exclusion from planning
Households with PWDs	22%	Inaccessibility of infrastructure

Figure 14: Water access disaggregated by income and gender

Source: CWSSIP

Socioeconomic status further influences access to water services. Low-income households often lack the financial capacity to pay for connection fees, service charges, or water storage facilities, while the top income quintile can and can thus consume more than 60 lpcd. (about 4 times low-income households' consumption). During dry periods, many low income households depend on communal taps, shallow wells, or private water vendors charging up to KES 20 per 20-litre jerrican, rendering water unaffordable. High poverty levels also limit the ability of households to invest in rainwater harvesting infrastructure, as reported in villages such as Mkomani.

Household surveys conducted under the UNDP-supported Collective Intelligence Programme reveal that fewer than 30% of low-income rural households have access to improved water sources, compared to over 60% among higher-income urban households. Women-headed households, particularly in rural areas, report lower access levels due to financial constraints, limited decision-making power, and competing domestic responsibilities. In urban settings, water pricing structures can further exclude the poorest residents, especially those living in informal settlements.

Social marginalisation compounds these challenges. Widows, PWDs, elderly headed households, minority clans and populations living in informal or remote settlements consistently report lower service coverage and poorer water quality. In some cases, social exclusion intersects with land tenure and resource-based conflicts, further restricting access. Current county water programmes tend to prioritise physical infrastructure development, with limited attention to gender mainstreaming, social targeting, or the underlying socio-cultural dynamics that drive inequitable access.

Institutional water demand, particularly in schools and health facilities, is constrained by inadequate infrastructure and inconsistent supply. Many public institutions lack dedicated water points and rely on rainwater harvesting, seasonal rivers, student labor or costly water trucking. A 2024 survey found that only 36% of schools have access to improved water sources.

Seasonal variability further exacerbates institutional water stress, with demand peaking during drought periods. This leads to competition between domestic, institutional, and productive uses, increasing pressure on shallow aquifers and surface water sources and, in some cases, triggering conflicts between user groups.

Sector/Group	Estimated Use (m ³ /day)	Consumption (lpcd)	Access Characteristics
Rural Women & Girls	~6,200	10–18	High collection burden, low per capita use
Urban Households	~4,400	35–60	Better access, household storage available
Pastoralist Communities	~3,800	9–15	Seasonal use, highly vulnerable
High-Income Households	~2,000	60–90	Private storage, connections, lower burden
Low-Income Households	~2,800	15–25	Vendor-dependent, high per-unit cost
Livestock Sector	~5,100	N/A	Mainly surface water and pans
Institutional (Schools/Health)	~1,800	5–20	Highly variable, dependent on rainwater & tankers

Figure 15: Sectoral water consumption patterns and social disaggregation (2024)

Source: CWSSIP

4.1.2.1.2 Control

Despite the key role of **women** in fetching and managing water points at community level, they are often **underrepresented in formal decision-making processes** within Water Users Associations and village committees. This gender gap undermines the effectiveness of WASH interventions and perpetuates inequality and has implications for the appropriateness, sustainability, and equity of water services.

Community implication in water control or management can be overseen by the chief in collaboration with some CBOs as done in Odole, sometimes there is no community implication as no community level committees have been implemented to support water management (like in Madogo for example).

Counter examples are found in some communities with almost gender parity, for example in Mkomani the established Water Management Committee comprises 15 members out of which seven are women and eight are men out which 6 are youths and 2 old men The committee is responsible for the following functions:

- Water Rationing especially during drought seasons for community water supply infrastructure
- Guard the infrastructure against Vandalism
- Collecting funds for maintenance and setting water tariffs. When operational, the committee prices 3 jerricans (20 liters each) at KES 5, whereas private water vendors sell a single jerrican at KES 20

It can be underlined that **pastoralists are mostly out of decision making** as they do not really organize themselves in community based water resource management lowering their control over water supply and sanitation.

4.1.2.2 Sanitation

4.1.2.2.1 Access and use

Gender disparities in access to sanitation services are evident across Tana River County, with women and girls disproportionately affected by inadequate facilities.

At household level, the absence of improved and gender-segregated latrines undermines privacy, safety, and dignity, particularly in flood-prone areas and informal settlements. These constraints expose women and girls to heightened safety risks, especially at night and during periods of displacement.

Affordability is a main barrier in accessing sanitation, especially **women-headed households or PWDs** which often face lower and less stable income levels, are less likely to invest in improved sanitation facilities. Persons with disabilities (PWDs) face additional barriers, as very few sanitation facilities in the county are designed to be inclusive or accessible, limiting independent and safe use.

Indicator	Urban Areas (%)	Rural Areas (%)	County Average (%)
Access to sewerage sanitation	12	<1	3
Access to improved pit latrines	43	28	32
Open defecation	8	39	29
Informal settlements without sanitation access	19	-	19
Sanitation access in climate-induced informal settlements	7	14	10
Women-headed households with improved sanitation	36	21	25
Schools with separate sanitation for girls	45	32	38

Figure 16: Sanitation access indicators in Tana River County

Source: CWSSIP

Public and shared sanitation services in Tana River County remain largely inadequate in both coverage and quality, particularly in :

- Informal settlements, which results in widespread open defecation and elevated public health risks further increasing displaced people’s vulnerability. Where facilities do exist, they are often poorly constructed, lack adequate privacy, especially for women, and are not adapted to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- Market centres (especially during peak trading periods),

- Schools, where more rely on basic pit latrines that fail to meet minimum standards for privacy, safety, and gender segregation. The lack of appropriate toilet facilities in schools and public areas disproportionately affects girls, particularly during menstruation, contributing to absenteeism and increased dropout rates.
- Health care facilities, poor sanitation infrastructure undermines infection prevention and control, especially in maternity wards and outpatient departments. Basic amenities such as functional latrines, washrooms, and waste disposal units are frequently inadequate or entirely absent, particularly in remote locations. These deficiencies negatively affect both the quality of health services and overall public health outcomes.
- And other high-traffic public spaces.

There is a gap between rural and urban areas' access to sanitation as existing public sanitation infrastructure is heavily concentrated in urban centres such as Hola and Garsen, leaving rural areas and smaller trading centres significantly underserved although the community is often more vulnerable.

Location	No. of Existing Facilities	Required Facilities	Gender Segregated	Inclusive (PWD Access)	O&M Status
Hola Town Market	4	10	Partial	No	Poor
Garsen Market	3	8	No	No	Very Poor
Kipini Settlement	2	6	No	No	Poor
Bura Market	2	5	Partial	No	Fair
Climate Migrant Camps	1	5	No	No	Critical

Figure 17: Summary of public and shared sanitation facility gaps in key location of Tana River county

Source: CWSSIP

4.1.2.2.2 Control

The control over sanitation is similar to the one on water supply, with low representation of women, PWDs and pastoralists in decision making. In some areas there are no committees in place leaving Tawasco managing the topic alone, as opposed to regulations which underline the need for community involvement.

While non-governmental organisations and community-based groups have initiated efforts to mainstream gender in sanitation interventions—such as training women as sanitation champions—these initiatives remain fragmented. Stronger institutional frameworks are required to systematically integrate gender-responsive sanitation planning, implementation, and budgeting at county level.

4.1.2.3 Hygiene

As mentioned, therebefore a 2024 survey found that only 36% of schools have access to improved water sources. It can be noted that and among these, just 19% have functional handwashing stations with soap. Similarly, only 42% of health care facilities have consistent access to safe water, undermining hygiene standards and the quality of service delivery.

MHM is a main topic related to hygiene as it remain a challenge, particularly in rural and marginalised areas. Limited access to affordable and hygienic menstrual products disproportionately affects school-aged girls and women from low-income households. Many schools lack private, gender-segregated, and adequately maintained sanitation facilities, constraining girls' ability to manage menstruation safely and with dignity and contributing to absenteeism and, in some cases, school dropout. Persistent stigma surrounding menstruation further limits open dialogue and community awareness, while MHM initiatives remain sporadic and underfunded.

Facility Type	% with Functional Handwashing Stations	% with MHM Facilities	% with Inclusive WASH Infrastructure	Climate Resilience (Y/N)
Public Primary Schools	48%	29%	16%	N
Public Secondary Schools	54%	37%	21%	N
Health Centers	67%	N/A	23%	N

Figure 18: Summary of hygiene infrastructure

Source: CWSSIP

4.1.3 Differentiated vulnerability to climate hazards

As in many contexts, climate change in Tana River County is intensifying pre-existing gender and social inequalities, particularly in relation to water and sanitation (WASH) services and climate-sensitive livelihoods. While floods and droughts affect all social groups, their impacts are experienced differently due to entrenched gender roles, unequal access to resources, and disparities in decision-making power.

During disasters and emergencies, social norms often restrict women's mobility, making evacuation and access to relief more difficult. For example, women's clothing may limit physical movement compared to men's, and their caregiving roles frequently require them to assist children, the elderly, or persons with disabilities, resulting in slower evacuation. These factors increase women's exposure to risk during extreme events.

Extreme weather events regularly damage water infrastructure, contaminate water sources, displace communities, and disrupt essential services. In such situations, women and children are particularly vulnerable. Women are expected to maintain domestic routines—fetching water, preparing food, and caring for children—even when water sources are distant, unsafe, or inaccessible. Flooding frequently contaminates shallow wells, increasing the disease burden across communities, with women and children most affected due to their reliance on unsafe water sources.

Climate impacts vary significantly depending on dominant livelihood systems:

- **Pastoralist communities** (such as in Wolestokocha, Bura) face high vulnerability due to livestock mortality, strong reliance on milk for household nutrition, widespread open defecation, and limited access to health facilities, all of which increase the risk of disease outbreaks during climate shocks. In Bura, men are primarily responsible for livestock care, including watering and feeding animals, which directly supports household food security. During prolonged droughts, many men are compelled to migrate in search of pasture and water, often to the Tana River Delta, leaving women and children with increased domestic and livelihood pressures. In some cases, prolonged absence leads to family disintegration, including men marrying a second wife and abandoning earlier households. Similar male migration patterns have been observed in Wolestokocha and Madogo.
- **Small-scale farming communities** (such as in Mkomani, Odole) experience both positive and negative effects from River Tana flooding. While floods can provide water for farming, they frequently destroy crops, and erratic rainfall combined with unpredictable flooding undermines agricultural productivity. In Odole, small-scale farming is mainly undertaken by women, who also engage in crop production (e.g. maize, melons), livestock rearing for milk, and participation in women's self-help groups (chamas or merry-go-rounds). These livelihoods are severely disrupted by flooding. During droughts, women organize themselves into groups to practice subsistence farming along riverbanks, pumping water from the river as a coping strategy.
- **Fishing communities** (such as in Odole, Mkomani) are also highly climate-sensitive. In Odole, men largely depend on fishing to support their households, but flooding makes fishing more dangerous and less productive, as floodwaters wash away fish and saltwater intrusion kills freshwater species. In Mkomani, men are predominantly engaged in fishing along the river and report that drought periods are often more favourable for their trade, as fishing activity and

business tend to increase. During flood periods in some areas such as Mkomani, women also collect fish from floodwaters around their homes as a supplementary livelihood activity.

Climate shocks also disrupt education. Prolonged drought contributes to high school dropout rates, particularly among girls, due to early marriages, teenage pregnancies, and lack of adequate water for menstrual hygiene management, which undermines girls' confidence and self-esteem. In addition, many schools are located in flood-prone areas and become inaccessible during flood periods, reducing access to education for both girls and boys.

The division of social and economic roles creates distinct gendered vulnerabilities during climate impacts:

- **Women** face increased exposure to physical and security risks when fetching water, reduced time for income-generating activities, and additional household responsibilities during periods of male outmigration.
- **Men** experience livelihood insecurity linked to livestock survival and income from pastoralism or fishing, often forcing migration and contributing to weakened household cohesion.

A specific consideration in relation to climate change is the increase in internally displaced people's number. Temporary camps which consist of shelters with branches and tarps were developed following major flooding events (notably between July and September 2023) in the county. These camps show limited to no infrastructure and are supplied water through trucks delivery. In some areas they have become seasonal shelters with communities returning to their villages when possible and taking shelters during seasonal floods, the shelters being located in upper lands little agriculture is possible forcing ones involved in cropping activities to walk longer distances (such time burden impacts women even more as it adds to the domestic chores and water fetching tasks).

In these informal settlements a lack sufficient sanitation facilities is observed leading to open defecation and safety issues and unreliable water supply further compromises hygiene, rendering many facilities unhygienic and contributing to environmental pollution, this leads to long walking distances to fetch water.

The lack of privacy offered by the shelter also increases gender based violence incidence, as reported in Magogo village.

In odole and even Tana River as a broader scale There is a strong will to relocate / displace people living in temporary camps (created after massive flooding) or flood prone areas to higher grounds further from river, in said "cluster villages" however some inhabitants are reluctant to move far from their farmlands and land to which they are attached to, others consider the idea but the plan is not sufficiently clear. Some of the cluster villages are already equipped with boreholes and served by electricity/roads.



Figure 19: Photography of a temporary camp in Tana River

4.1.4 Climate governance and social and gender inclusion

The report has already highlighted **significant governance and decision-making gaps within the WASH sector especially**. It is equally important to examine the key governance gaps in climate-related decision-making, as these directly reinforce the vulnerabilities described above. Limited decision-making power and restricted access to assets further weaken the ability of women and marginalized groups to adapt to climate impacts. These gaps undermine the effectiveness of climate adaptation strategies and perpetuate patterns of exclusion. The most critical gaps include:

- Under representation of pastoralists communities in decision making, with low creation on community water management units in pastoral areas
- Tawasco only have 1 women in top management out of 4 staff, and she is in HR.
- Women's participation in climate-related governance processes in Tana River County for the PCRA institutional process for instance it was averaging **25%** across institutional workshops⁸ (higher in community consultations). This level of representation **falls below the constitutional two-thirds gender principle**, suggesting structural barriers to women's meaningful participation in climate governance. Participation was even lower in report drafting as 0 women were involved in drafting the report, which

Given the documented **gender-differentiated climate and WASH vulnerabilities**, the under-representation of women and vulnerable communities in technical and decision-shaping processes risks limiting the responsiveness and inclusiveness of climate policies and investments.

On a positive note The county has support from multiple NGOs (UNFPA, IOM, Kenya RedCross Society, FilmAid Kenya, the International Rescue Committee, Peace Winds Japan- Kenya, and the Collaborative Centre for Gender and Development (CCGD)) in rapid response to climate change and for resilience building. Such NGOs are trained with gender sensitive project implementation and can thus support gender sensitive project implementation and design

4.1.5 Current climate resilience strategies

A review of the Tana River County Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) indicates that **social and gender inclusion is partially acknowledged**, with a limited number of activities explicitly targeting women, youth, and other vulnerable groups. However, these measures remain **fragmented and marginal in budgetary terms** relative to overall CCAP investments. Most importantly they are presented as principles rather than actionable and operational actions. The key items are presented below, mainly for water and sanitation but also for the other main objectives of the CCAP.

On the **water security, and blue economy thematic area** which is of particular linked to WASH only a small subset of actions explicitly targets women and vulnerable groups.

- Engagement of vulnerable groups (including women, youth, and indigenous communities) in habitat restoration and water harvesting (10M)
- Extension of water pipelines to improve access to safe and adequate water for marginalized groups in selected wards (40M)

Despite their relevance, these measures represent only KES 50 million (KES 40 million for water and blue economy actions and KES 10 million for agriculture-related inclusion) out of a total CCAP allocation of KES 498 million for this sector. This means that **less than 10% of sectoral funding explicitly addresses social and gender inclusion**, highlighting a significant imbalance between stated inclusion objectives and financial prioritization.

Regarding **health, sanitation, and human settlements sector**, a budget of KES 444 million is allocated. Despite strong evidence that women and girls are disproportionately affected by climate-related health risks, sanitation challenges, and inadequate housing, **no actions under this objective explicitly target**

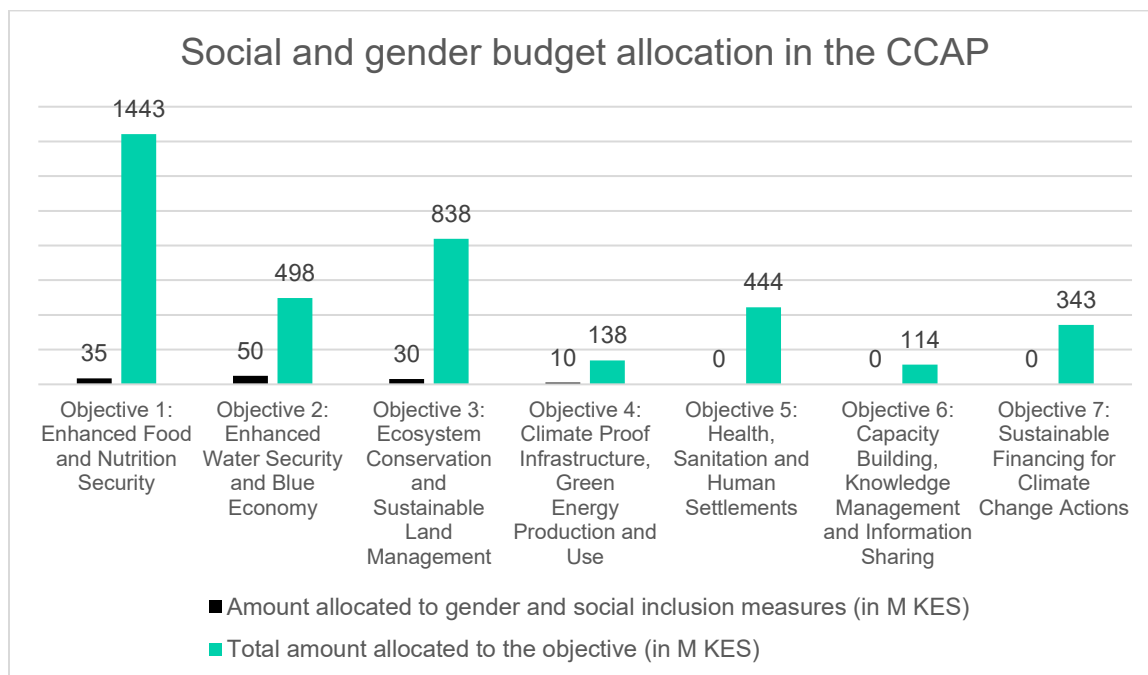
⁸ PCRA annexes, attendance lists

women or vulnerable groups. This represents a critical gap, particularly given the documented gendered impacts related to WASH, disease burden, and caregiving responsibilities.

An important gap is also identified in **Capacity building** to which the CCAP allocates KES 114 million however, almost no activities explicitly target women or vulnerable groups. The only partially relevant measure in terms of social and gender inclusion is:

- Enhancement of indigenous knowledge systems through documentation and capitalization of best practices.

While this action (KES 5 million) recognizes indigenous knowledge, it focuses primarily on knowledge extraction and replication, rather than directly strengthening the adaptive capacity or livelihoods of the communities who hold this knowledge.



Apart from those identified gaps several limits to the effectiveness of social and gender inclusion can be underlined:

- **Lack of sex-disaggregated data:** There are no explicit provisions for collecting or using data disaggregated by sex, age, or vulnerability status.
- **Absence of gender-disaggregated beneficiary targets:** Most indicators measure numbers of “people” or “vulnerable groups” engaged, without ensuring balanced benefits for women and men.
- **Limited attention to structural barriers faced by women,** particularly women farmers and female-headed households, including:
 - ▶ Lack of indications on how to improve women’s representation in decision making positions,
 - ▶ Lack of targeted measures to **ease women’s access to credit,**
 - ▶ Insufficient recognition of women’s lower asset ownership and higher exposure to climate and livelihood risks.

4.2 Gender considerations in each of the program's thematic areas - *Guiding questions and recommendations*

4.2.1 Improving Social and Gender Climate Resilience

Social and Gender Climate resilience

Key questions

Context

Do men and women differ in their access to productive resources and services?

What practices, representations, and constraints (material, economic or cultural) can disadvantage women during a natural disaster?

What are women's expectations and needs in terms of green and culturally appropriate resources for development?

What is the level of women's participation in decision-making at the community, local, regional, and national levels?

What differentiates men and women in terms of access to, control over, and ownership of resources (such as land, livestock, property, and income opportunities)?

Which local actors (NGOs, associations, cooperatives, religious groups, etc.) are working to strengthen women's resilience to the effects of climate change?

What differentiates men and women in terms of access to development resources such as credit, information, training, and labor-saving technologies?

At project level

Did the analysis of the project's impacts distinguish between the impacts experienced by men and those experienced by women as well as by marginalized groups?

Does impact monitoring allow for the documentation of the situation of women in relation to that of men as well as for the one of marginalized groups?

Do impact mitigation measures take into account differences between social groups and between women and men in the various categories of affected populations?

Does the project include a component for strengthening women's capacities? Marginalized groups' capacities?

Does the project as defined respond to the specific needs of women and local cultural and social constraints?

Have the proposed technical solutions been discussed with women or marginalized groups? Do they take into account their needs and expectations?

Identified social and gender-specific vulnerabilities

Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to the social norms and the gendered division of labor within households and the community, and their specific needs are not taken into account.

As primary water fetchers and domestic water users women are more vulnerable to droughts.

Women's caregiving roles further increase these vulnerabilities with an important unpaid care work burden.

Women being overrepresented in informal employment makes them highly sensitive.

Women have limited access to support mechanisms related to their increased climate vulnerability in agriculture. Although highly vulnerable, women are the guarantors of food security and water supply for households and communities.



Good practices and Recommendations

Raise awareness among local authorities about gender issues to ensure that gender bias is taken into account in climate resilience projects.



Support women in implementing climate-smart and responsible agricultural practices adapted to climate change (drip irrigation, drought-resistant crops etc.) to reduce their vulnerability and place them as actors of change.

Promote formalization of women's employment.



Promote the construction of food crop storage infrastructure to absorb crop losses due to climatic hazards and secure food supplies for households.

Tools

- ✓ Gender-specific indicators
- ✓ Consultations: Group discussions, Questionnaires, Interviews with key stakeholders, etc.
- ✓ The climate-care nexus working paper (UN Women)
- ✓ The Gender Equality and Climate Policy Scorecard: Advancing Accountability in Nationally Determined Contributions (country scale but can serve as a model to be downscaled at county level)
- ✓ The Sendai Framework for DRR

4.2.2 Improving Social and Gender Inclusion in Water Resource Management

Water Resource Management

Background

A gendered approach to the water crisis recognizes the hugely important role women play in their communities as the main collectors, protectors and managers of water. It demands their equal representation in leadership and decision-making and calls for engaging with women and their communities to incorporate their perspectives, including on the “rights of Nature” approach, as part of ecologically responsible and climate-smart water governance.

Key questions

Context

How are the communities organized for water distribution and use?

Do men and women differ in their access to productive resources and services? (What are the specific barriers faced?)

What is the level of participation of women in the decision-making process concerning water projects?

What are the differences between men and women in terms of water needs and use?

How does the lack of water infrastructure affect men and women differently in terms of health and economic activities?

How do seasonal changes and climate variability affect access to and use of water for men and women in the community?

How can we better balance the current roles and responsibilities for maintaining water supply systems?

How can conflicts in water allocation, between agricultural and domestic uses, be resolved?

Project design

Does the project, as defined, respond to the specific needs of women and local cultural and social constraints?

Have the proposed technical solutions been discussed with the women? Do they take into account women's needs and expectations?

Does the implementation of the project involve expropriation or restrictions on access to spaces used by local populations, men and women?

Can the project create employment opportunities for women?

Does project monitoring make it possible to document the situation of women as distinct from that of men?

Project impacts

Did the analysis of the project's impacts distinguish between the impacts suffered by men and those suffered by women?

Do impact mitigation measures take into account the differences between women and men in the different categories of affected populations?

Identified social and gender-specific vulnerabilities

Access to safe drinking water is crucial for health, hygiene, and overall well-being, but many communities face significant challenges in ensuring a reliable water supply.	As primary water fetchers and domestic water users women already have a high time burden related to water, this adding to the burden of unpaid care work.	The impacts of climate change tend to increase the workload associated with water collection for women and girls.	Women play a key role in water collection, transport, use, and management, yet they are rarely involved in decision-making in the sector.
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Good practices and recommendations

Extend water supply coverage to reduce women's water fetching burden. Ensure that water points are strategically located near women's homes and workplaces. Balance the considerations of water use between agricultural and domestic uses.	Involve women in community consultations on the location, type, and maintenance of water infrastructure. Include women in decision-making and water infrastructure management: village water consultations, create a women's water cooperative to give women a platform to make their voices heard. Train women to help run and maintain water supply.	Consider intersectional gaps, for instance that fact that rural women are even more vulnerable than ones in urban areas regarding water resource management.
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Tools

- ✓ Access and Control matrix
- ✓ Consultations: Focus Group Discussions, Key informant interviews...
- ✓ Daily activity clock (refer to PCRA)
- ✓ Decision making pile sorting
- ✓ Data disaggregated by sex
- ✓ Gender-specific indicators (see *Appendix 4: guidelines for indicator definition*)
- ✓ Maps of water resources from gender perspectives



4.2.3 Improving Social and Gender Inclusion in WASH Practices

Management Excellence in WASH operations

Background

Women have primary roles in the collection, transport, use, and management of water and the promotion of sanitary practices, and yet are hardly involved in decision making in the sector.

Women and men differ in their roles, needs, and perceptions regarding WSS; failure to consider these differences can cause poor performance or even suspension of projects.

At the household level, the understanding of gender perceptions is important for introducing alternative sanitation systems.

Key questions

Context Level

Do men and women differ in their access to productive resources and services?

What is the participation of women in water and sanitation sectors?

What are the practices, representations and material and cultural constraints of men and women, boys and girls, in terms of water, sanitation and hygiene?

Is it common for men and women to use the same latrines?

What are the preferred methods of men and women, boys and girls for hygiene awareness?

What are the expectations and willingness of men and women to pay in terms of water and sanitation in the different social categories?

Who pays or will pay for access to water and sanitation between spouses?

Project Level

Does the project as defined respond to the specific needs of women and local cultural and social constraints?

Did the analysis of the project's impacts (benefits and negative impacts) distinguish between the impacts suffered by men and those suffered by women, did it fully integrate other vulnerable groups (PWDs, people affected by illness, elders) ?

Have the proposed technical solutions been discussed with the women and marginalized groups ? Do they take into account their needs and expectations?

Do the proposed technical inclusion ensure **accessibility, affordability and safety** for all ?

Does project monitoring make it possible to document the situation of marginalized groups and the one of women as distinct from that of men?

Can the project create employment opportunities for women?

Did the analysis of the project's impacts distinguish between the impacts suffered by men and those suffered by women and those suffered by marginalized groups ?

Do impact mitigation measures take into account the differences between marginalized groups and women and men in the different categories of affected populations?

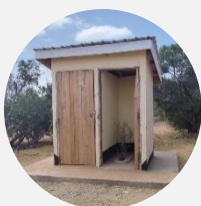


Identified social and gender-specific vulnerabilities

<p>Access to safe drinking water is crucial for health, hygiene, and overall well-being, but many communities face significant challenges in ensuring a reliable water supply.</p>	<p>As primary water fetchers and domestic water users women already have a high time burden related to water, this adding to the burden of unpaid care work.</p>	<p>Women have limited access to proper sanitation, with even lower access among female headed households.</p>	<p>Latrines are not adapted for persons with disabilities, creating dependency and dignity issues.</p>
<p>Women play a key role in water collection, transport, use, and management, yet they are rarely involved in decision-making in the sector.</p>	<p>The impacts of climate change tend to increase the workload associated with water collection for women and girls.</p>	<p>Women face heightened safety risks (GBV, human-wildlife conflict) when practicing open defecation, using shared latrines, or walking long distances for water.</p>	<p>Taboos and inadequate sanitation facilities cause girls to miss school.</p>
			<p>Higher prevalence of HIV and UTIs among women reflects gaps in health access and sanitation conditions.</p>

Good practices and recommendations

<p>Good practices on water resource management also benefit WASH topics (reducing water fetching task burden and enhancing women's adaptation agency).</p>	<p>Consider social norms (separate latrines for men and women or not, stigmas surrounding diseases transmission etc.)</p>	<p>Involve women and vulnerable groups in community consultations on the location, type, and maintenance of WASH infrastructure. Especially on latrines siting.</p>
<p>Associate development of WASH infrastructures with awareness raising campaign to alleviate taboos and stigma as well as ensure proper use and maintenance.</p>	<p>Implement safe and accessible designs according to Kenyan and international guidelines (ramps, lights).</p>	<p>Include women in decision-making and WASH infrastructure management: village water consultations.</p>
<p>Train women to help run and maintain WASH infrastructures (WTP, WWTP, kiosks, networks, latrines).</p>	<p>Ensure menstrual health management through awareness raising campaigns and bins/water points around latrines for disposal of menstrual hygiene products.</p>	
	<p>Provide free menstrual hygiene products for girls in schools and subsidize these for all women (particularly female headed households)</p>	



Tools and literature:

- ✓ Access and Control matrix
- ✓ Daily activity clock (PCRA)
- ✓ Decision making pile sorting
- ✓ Data disaggregated by sex
- ✓ Gender-specific indicators (see Appendix 4: guidelines for indicator definition)

Consultations: Focus Group Discussions, Key informant interviews...

4.3 Social and gender considerations in K-WASH program

4.3.1 Gender consideration as E&S safeguards

4.3.1.1 Approach

As a programme partly financed by an international financial institution (the World Bank Group), the K-WASH programme is required to comply with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The ESF provides the overarching safeguards for environmental and social risk management, including the identification and mitigation of risks that may disproportionately affect women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.

This safeguard dimension is essential, as it ensures that potential negative impacts are anticipated, minimised, and addressed through a gender and social inclusion lens. However, the ESF's primary focus is on **avoiding harm**. It does not, in itself, drive the programme toward proactively shaping interventions that promote inclusive adaptation or reduce structural gender inequalities. In other words, **while the ESF ensures that gender-related risks are mitigated, it does not automatically position gender equality as a core objective of the programme's design.**

4.3.1.2 Identification of Potential risks of program and subprojects from a gender perspective

General potential risks that could be borne by the program and its subprojects from a gender perspective are cited below, the list does not intend to be exhaustive but provides a preliminary identification of potential impacts that can be referred to when conducting the sub-project level impact assessments and gender analyses:

- Health and safety risks, gender-based violence (GBV):
 - ▶ During the construction phase, the influx of external workers and a predominantly male wage base on worksites can induce social tensions, increase the risk of gender-based and sexual violence as well as increase the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. *Mitigation measures examples: ensure Contractors include code of conduct in their workers contracts, raise awareness on STDs, provide a Grievance redress Mechanism which specifically targets GBV.*
 - ▶ During the implementation of projects, practices may **expose women and men differently to dangerous and pathogenic fluids**, thereby increasing the risk of water-related health problems and illnesses. *Mitigation measures examples: Protective equipment should be provided and should fit all (sizes are inclusive, consider breasts not to create discomfort, consider longer hair to fit under helmets, etc.)*
- Access to resources
 - ▶ Changes in **access, control and power over the water resource** may be altered as a result of project implementation, particularly if ownership or operation of water and sanitation infrastructure is gendered. *Mitigation measures examples: Use Access and Control matrix in Impact assessment of the project.*
 - ▶ Similarly, issues of accessibility to water and sanitation services are associated with their **affordability**. If the issue of budgets is not managed from a gender perspective, there is a risk of reinforcing gender gaps. *Mitigation measures examples: Ensure data is sex-disaggregated when conducting household surveys, realize focus group discussions with men and women to see if affordability to pay varies, assess sources of income for men and women as well as control over their own income.*
- Limited access to program benefits
 - ▶ If the benefits of the sub-projects are not thought out with a gender perspective, then they risk being part of design standards that are biased because until now they have been mostly designed with the vision of a homogeneous population. Because these design standards are

- biased, they impact in gender-differentiated ways and can then exclude and reinforce inequalities that already exist. *Mitigation measures examples: Designs should be reviewed by gender-experts, Designs should rely on outputs of consultations which should have been gender disaggregated and therefore consider both women and men opinions.*
- ▶ Subprojects are expected to enable for **job opportunities**. Such opportunities can create or widen a gap by **perpetuating gendered job allocation**. This has an impact on opportunities for capacity building, training, on levels of income and on the identification of girls and boys with certain trades in the project area. *Mitigation measures examples: Ensure capacity building programs are reviewed by gender experts, provide capacity building for both men and women (adapted to needs and wills), ensure job offers are gender inclusive.*
 - Increased unpaid workload for women
 - ▶ During construction, if the project has health impacts (dust and air emissions, noise, etc.) or restricts access to certain infrastructure, it is likely that this will represent an additional workload for women who are responsible for caring for sick people, providing support to people with reduced mobility or who themselves make more different journeys during the day because of certain gender roles. *Mitigation measures examples: Health impacts should be mitigated through water sprinklers, use of well-maintained equipment, when traffic management plans are developed, they should be reviewed with a gender perspective.*
 - ▶ After construction, it is possible that if the water and sanitation infrastructure have not been designed with a gender perspective, they will increase the workload for women. For instance, if better quality water is available but the water-fountains are far away women are likely to spend more time fetching water considering it is seen as their responsibility. *Mitigation measures examples: conduct specific consultation with women to discuss designs and ensure designs are reviewed with a gender perspective.*
 - Loss of livelihoods
 - ▶ Since women are usually more active in informal sectors, their activities and sources of income are sometimes excluded from the analyses. Not including the informal sector and a gender perspective to impact assessment can lead to loss of livelihoods. *Mitigation measures examples: Livelihood Restoration Plans should provide details on compensation measures for informal land users, a specific attention should be given to restitution of land areas and land titles for women as the gap between women landowners and men landowners is already expected to be important, the gap should not be widen.*
 - Increased vulnerability due to resettlement
 - ▶ If the program involves involuntary displacement of population and economic activities, this can make women even more vulnerable, as they have, on average, fewer formal business registered and may then not be eligible for the same compensation.
 - ▶ On the other hand, with regard to economic displacement, the impacts can be differentiated according to gender, with women evolving more significantly in informal sectors and therefore they may not be compensated equally.
 - ▶ *Mitigation measures examples: Resettlement action plans and Livelihood Restoration Plans should provide details on compensation measures for informal land users, and informal economic activities.*
 - **Impact on self-esteem, reputation and dignity.** A lack of understanding of local perception, uses and customs through gender lenses can result in projects reinforcing gender-specific marginalization factors, lowering dignity and self-esteem. For instance, if opportunities for women are given mainly for septic tank emptying jobs, there is a risk of associating women with dirty, unhygienic work, and of associating women with a health risk, which **would** make them feel like pariah/outcast, leading to a loss of self-confidence and dignity. *Mitigation measures examples: WSS gender diagnosis regarding local context should be performed, GAPs of subprojects should ensure cascading impacts of proposed actions are assessed.*

4.3.2 Considering gender for the program to contribute to gap closure in Tana River

Beyond risk mitigation, the K-WASH programme and its sub-projects have significant potential to **enhance the resilience and well-being of women and marginalised groups**, particularly given that climate-smart WASH interventions intersect with multiple pre-existing inequalities. As demonstrated in earlier sections, women and vulnerable populations face disproportionate barriers in accessing and controlling water and sanitation resources, and climate change further amplifies these disparities.

Therefore, in addition to addressing the risks associated with sub-projects, the programme can intentionally aim to **close gender gaps** and move toward becoming gender-responsive—or even gender-transformative. The levels of gender integration are illustrated in the figure below. Considering the current legal and regulatory framework governing the programme, it is recognised that K-WASH should, at a minimum, be **gender-sensitive**, and ideally evolve toward a **gender-transformative** approach.

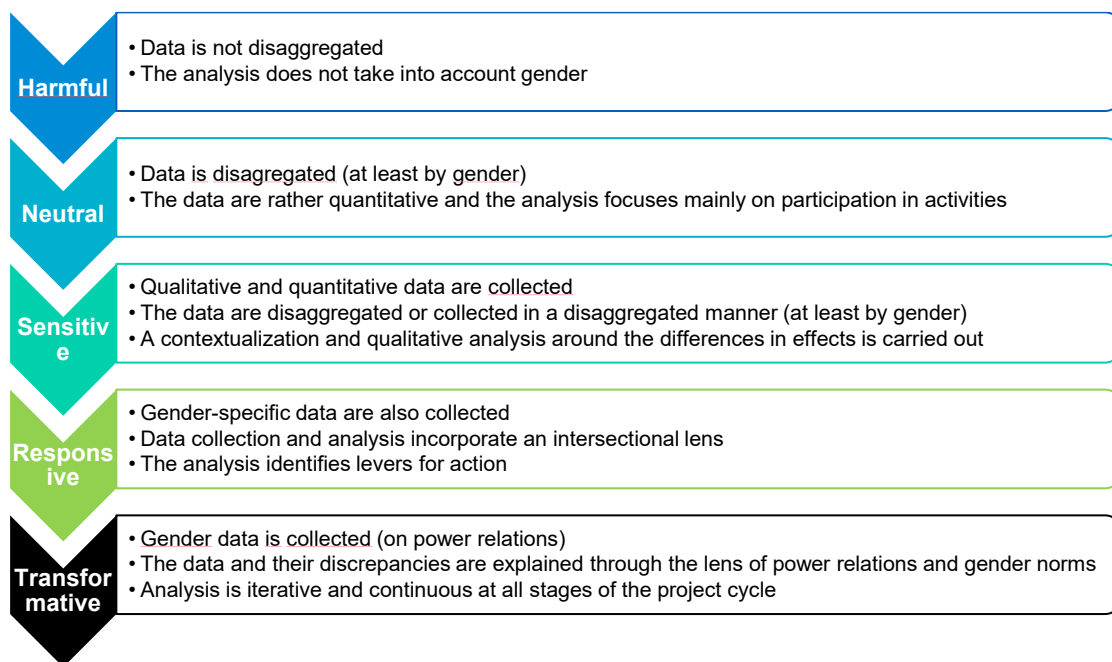


Figure 20: Gender approach levels

To do so a reminder of the key needs, areas for intervention and recommended actions are developed below.

4.3.2.1 Identification of needs

Based on the different consultations (interviews, focus groups) and the literature review that enabled baseline assessment the main social and gender concerns that arise were the following, they have been associated with the related needs identified:

Topic	Observation (Tana River County)	Climate link	Needs (for Gender Action Plan – WASH)
Sanitation – latrines	Many households, particularly in pastoralist and flood-prone areas, lack access to improved sanitation; female-headed households are also especially vulnerable. Open defecation is a deeply ingrained social norm. Social norms also require separate toilets for men and women.	Flooding damages latrines and leads to collapse or overflow further hindering access to sanitation	Ensure equitable access to improved latrines through targeted support for female headed households (subsidies, prioritisation in infrastructure rollout). Integrate universal design standards in all sanitation facilities and separated toilets for men/women; prioritise accessible, flood/landslide resilient latrine construction. Raise awareness on OD risks and benefits of improved sanitation
Sanitation – latrines (accessibility)	Latrines are not adapted for persons with disabilities, creating dependency and dignity issues.	Floods further hinder accessibility and damage infrastructure.	Integrate universal design standards in all sanitation facilities; prioritise accessible, flood/landslide-resilient latrine construction.
WASH – safety and dignity	Women face heightened safety risks (GBV, human-wildlife conflict) when practicing open defecation, using shared latrines, or walking long distances for water.	Climate change increases water scarcity, leading to longer distances to water points and heightened exposure to GBV and safety risks, sanitation facilities may not be adapted in temporary camps either also increasing OD, GBV and safety risks.	Develop safe-access WASH strategies: closer water points, well-lit and gender-segregated latrines, GBV-sensitive site planning, and community protection mechanisms.
Sanitation – menstruation	Taboos and inadequate MHM facilities in schools contribute to absenteeism and dropouts among girls during droughts and floods.	Reduced school attendance lowers girls' education levels, limiting their long-term adaptive capacity.	Improve menstrual hygiene management (MHM) facilities in schools; provide MHM education; ensure availability of private, functional toilets and disposal systems.
Water fetching burden	Women and girls are primarily responsible for water collection, with increased time and physical burden during droughts and floods.	Drought increases distances to water points; floods damage infrastructure.	Reduce women's time burden by expanding nearby, flood-resilient water points and reliable piped water systems.

Topic	Observation (Tana River County)	Climate link	Needs (for Gender Action Plan – WASH)
Water quality and health	Use of contaminated water increases disease burden, disproportionately affecting women and children.	Floods and droughts intensify sanitation- and water-related health risks. Floods increase contamination; droughts reduce hygiene practices.	Strengthen water quality protection, household water treatment, and hygiene promotion in climate-affected areas. Integrate gender-responsive health considerations into WASH programming, including disease prevention and response measures.
Hygiene practices	Hygiene practices are compromised during droughts, increasing disease transmission. Water fetchers bath at the water point to save water used in the households, this can enhance safety risks (human/wildlife)	Climate extremes intensify disease outbreaks.	Implement targeted hygiene behaviour change campaigns adapted to drought and flood conditions, (outreach to all).
WASH governance	Women’s participation in WASH and climate-related decision-making remains low, especially in technical and planning processes.	Low decision making hinders adaptation capacity	Strengthen women’s representation in WASH and climate governance bodies through minimum participation thresholds and inclusive consultation processes. Active positions and leadership should also be enhanced.
WASH funding priorities	Only a small share of CCAP funding explicitly targets women and vulnerable groups, and even less targets specific social and gender WASH commitments despite high vulnerability.	Underfunding of inclusive and resilient WASH exacerbates climate impacts on women and children.	Establish dedicated budget lines and minimum funding thresholds for gender-responsive and inclusive WASH interventions. Introduce systematic sex- and vulnerability-disaggregated indicators for WASH planning, monitoring, and reporting.

4.3.2.2 Social and gender actions highlighted for the program

4.3.3 Planning

The following planning actions emerge from the identified gender and climate vulnerabilities:

- **Ensure equitable access to improved sanitation** by prioritising female-headed households in sanitation infrastructure rollout and subsidy schemes.
- **Integrate safety considerations into WASH planning**, including the siting of water points and latrines to reduce GBV risks and exposure to human–wildlife conflict. (This is also to be considered at design stage)

- **Strengthen menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in schools** by planning for private, functional toilets and appropriate disposal systems. (This is also to be considered at design stage)
- **Embed gender-responsive health considerations** in WASH planning to address women's higher vulnerability to UTIs, HIV-related sanitation needs, and climate-induced disease outbreaks.
- **Apply universal design standards** to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities and resilience to floods (some measures are detailed below in the design section).
- **Expand climate-resilient water supply systems** to reduce women's time burden and exposure to unsafe water sources.
- **Promote equitable water allocation** between agricultural and domestic uses by integrating women's needs and roles into water-resource planning.
- **Promote climate-smart agricultural activities to manage irrigation**, for instance drip irrigation can benefit all and can be used to empower women as actors of change.
- **Rebalance resilience funding** to include social equity measures and ensure dedicated budget lines for gender-responsive WASH interventions.
- **Increase women's representation in WASH and climate governance bodies** by establishing minimum participation quotas and integrating gender criteria into committee selection processes.
- **Plan for women's economic empowerment** by integrating livelihood support, job creations and measures that reduce unpaid care burdens into WASH programming.

4.3.4 Capacity building

The following capacity-building actions are required to support inclusive and gender-responsive implementation:

- **Strengthen women's leadership skills** to enable meaningful participation in WASH and climate-related decision-making bodies.
- **Train WASH and climate governance institutions** on gender-responsive planning, budgeting, and monitoring.
- **Support women farmers' access to climate-smart water technologies**, including training on irrigation systems and water-use efficiency.
- **Develop targeted sanitation behaviour-change campaigns**, particularly addressing adherence to improved sanitation rather the OD.
- **Build community capacity on GBV risk mitigation** linked to WASH access, including safe-access protocols and community protection mechanisms.
- **Train school staff and community workers** on menstrual hygiene management, stigma reduction, and inclusive sanitation practices for girls and PWDs.
- **Strengthen technical capacity for universal design** among local artisans, contractors, and WASH service providers.
- **Provide training for women and youth** on climate-resilient livelihoods and WASH-related economic opportunities.
- **Enhance institutional capacity** to integrate gender and disability assessments into all resilience and WASH projects.

4.3.5 Design

In addition to good global practices related to design including the practices aimed at climate-proofing the different WASH facilities, it is essential to consider cross-cutting social measures. These aspects will be further developed in the Gender and Vulnerable People Assessment Report and the related Gender Action Plan. However, the main considerations to keep in mind include the following:

- Physical Accessibility
 - ▶ Proximity and distance from users
 - ▶ Safe and convenient access routes
 - ▶ Inclusive design features (ramps, handrails, door widths, tactile paving, etc.)
 - ▶ Adequate lighting and signage for all users
 - The use of the Compendium of accessible WASH technologies, Hazel Jones and Jane Wilbur (2014) is most useful to consider accessibility design features in small infrastructures – [clickable link](#)
- Affordability
 - ▶ Services and facilities should remain accessible to low-income users
 - ▶ Transparent and fair fee structures, if applicable
- Safety and Security
 - ▶ Well-lit and monitored areas, particularly for women and children
 - ▶ Clear evacuation routes and accessible emergency exits
 - ▶ Measures to prevent harassment or violence
- Dignity and Comfort
 - ▶ Cleanliness and regular maintenance
 - ▶ Privacy in use of facilities (e.g., separate and lockable spaces)
 - ▶ Respectful and non-discriminatory service delivery
- Consideration of Diverse Needs
 - ▶ Menstrual hygiene management and adequate disposal facilities
 - ▶ Facilities suitable for children (e.g., lower sinks, child-friendly toilets, safe play areas)
 - ▶ Accessibility for older persons and persons with disabilities (e.g., seating areas, non-slip surfaces)
 - ▶ Space for caregivers accompanying dependents
- Community Participation and Awareness
 - ▶ Engagement of local communities, including women, youth, and marginalized groups, in planning and feedback processes
 - ▶ Awareness and training programs to promote inclusive and respectful use of facilities

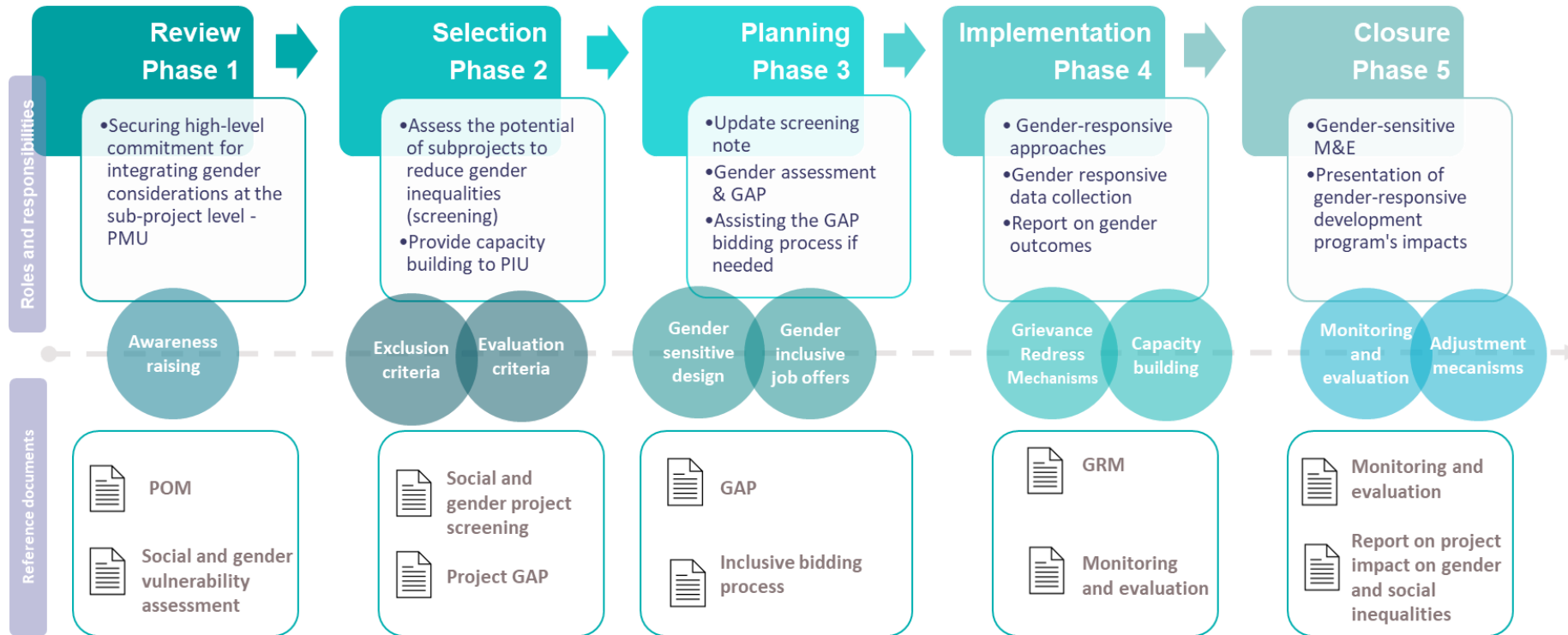
4.4 Operational gender mainstreaming guidelines

Gender mainstreaming should occur at both the programme and sub-project levels. The K-WASH task team should develop and provide the necessary tools to help project holders integrate gender analysis from a cross-cutting perspective. Some of these tools can be drawn directly from this report, such as the “Guiding Questions and Recommendations” sheets.

All sub-projects supported by the K-WASH Programme should incorporate gender analysis from the very beginning of the project cycle and embed it throughout the preparation, maturation, and implementation phases. Gender considerations should not be treated as elements that can be added later or as optional components.

Given the nature of the programme’s sub-projects—often small-scale infrastructure such as latrines—there is significant flexibility to integrate social and gender considerations early on, allowing for rapid improvements and visible quick wins.

Project cycle and steps for gender integration



1

Projects review

Actions for PMU

Proposed investment should undergo an environmental and social analysis that takes into account the impact on women and vulnerable groups.

- Gender-sensitive approach and gender-specific data collection
- Environmental and social analysis of projects incorporates gender indicators
- E&S analysis enables gender-sensitive categorization

Key questions and actions for counties

- Who are the target groups?
 - Whose interests are being promoted or goals pursued?
 - Does the project have gender-differentiated influence (positive or negative)? How is this influence gender-differentiated?
 - How will social and economic diversity among the target population be incorporated within approaches to project planning and design?
- ✓ A mandatory initial socioeconomic and gender assessment, to proactively build in a gender-sensitive approach to project planning design and implementation arrangements

Tools and strategies



Strategy

The program launch is an opportunity to raise awareness. Counties must be able to show their intention to mainstream gender.



Resources

Counties have a PIU including a GBV specialist and a social risks management specialist. It is considered these specialist should screen investments proposals with a social and gender promotion lens



Communication material

Leaflet on Gender Mainstreaming in the WASH sector (Based on *guiding questions and recommendations sheets* above)



Program related documentation

POM, Gender and social vulnerability assessment, Social and gender project screening checklist

2

SELECTION

Actions for PIU

Project prioritization takes into account gender-specific needs and the analysis of risks and impacts on vulnerable populations. Each project proposal is evaluated based on gender indicators.

Each project is reviewed to identify key gender issues and potential risks and benefits associated with the project.

Assess the potential of projects to reduce gender inequalities

Local consultations were held with women to ensure that their specific needs were prioritized

Key questions and actions for cities

- Are there gender risks and negative impacts that could be associated with the project?
- Are there actions identified to advance gender equality?
- What gender-specific characteristics and differences are important in the Project context and sector?

Tools and strategies



Strategy

Sub-projects selected should show an intention to mainstream gender in their projects even if it has not been designed or implemented yet.



Resources

Gender expert having knowledge in WASH can be engaged from time-to-time basis, to support PIU teams.



Rapid social and gender review

Rapid analysis of each project should be context specific consider climate vulnerability, gender risks and beyond to facilitate the adoption of transformative measures



Program related documentation

POM, county-wide KWASH social and gender vulnerability analysis, Social and gender project screening checklist

3

PLANIFICATION

The selected projects will receive assistance from technical experts to improve the proposed project (design quality, impact on climate resilience, sustainability, policy reform, etc.) during the preparation of detailed studies and the drafting of all deliverables, including procurement documents.

Actions for PIU





Ensuring findings (gaps) from the rapid social and gender review/screening are integrated in project implementation considerations

Root social and gender considerations as mainstreamed principles

Key questions and actions for cities

- How can strategies be developed for the project that promote and achieve gender justice and equity?
- What can be done towards greater social inclusion?
- ✓ Training on gender for WASH county staff.
- ✓ Include gender considerations in procurement processes.

Tools and strategies

			
<p>Strategy</p> <p>Add value and sustainability to the sub-projects by mainstreaming gender and reflecting this in the design and resources allocated to the sub-projects</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Gender expert having knowledge in WASH can be engaged from time-to-time basis, to support PIU teams.</p>	<p>Ideas of measures</p> <p>Have job descriptions that clearly identify the possibility of women and men applying for positions. Have quotas⁹ for teams' composition, training attendance. Require adequate representation of communities among surveyors/facilitators of consultations. Gender-responsive design highlighting privacy, safety, dignity and hygiene.</p>	<p>Program related documentation</p> <p>POM, county-wide KWASH social and gender vulnerability analysis.</p>

⁹ Gender segregation might be relevant; however, it should be used wisely not to reinforced marginalization

4

IMPLEMENTATION

The projects will be implemented under the overall supervision of the PIU. The project teams should receive technical assistance throughout the implementation of the project and training to raise awareness and address gender inequalities.

Actions for PMU

Trainings provided to project teams and other stakeholders include gender mainstreaming aspects or target it specifically.

Key questions and actions for cities

- How can the project assess its impact on the overall well-being of women by using gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation indicators?
- ✓ Worksites and constructed infrastructure are gender-responsive and inclusive
- ✓ Benefits from the project do not exclude women
- ✓ Webinars on gender and participatory approaches for selected city officers
- ✓ Social and Gender project screening checklist
- ✓ A Gender Action Plan (where needed), Gender equitable stakeholder consultations, Gender-responsive approaches, Gender sensitive data collection, Report on gender outcomes

Tools and strategies



Strategy

Add value and sustainability to the sub-projects by mainstreaming gender and reflecting this in the design and resources allocated to the sub-projects



Resources

Gender expert having knowledge in WASH can be engaged from time-to-time basis, to support PIU teams.



Ideas of measures

Job offers in project management are inclusive

The design takes gender into account, emphasizing the specific needs of women



Program related documentation

POM, county-wide KWASH social and gender vulnerability analysis, M&E framework, Social and Gender project screening checklist.

5

CLOSURE

Implemented projects will be evaluated (end-term evaluation). Selected projects will be promoted through knowledge-capitalization activities such as webinars, workshops, twinning programs, study trips, policy dialogues, and other experience-sharing events.

Actions for PMU

- Program and sub-projects evaluation regarding gender indicators
- Presentation of gender-responsive program's impacts.

Key questions and action for cities

- How can strategies be developed for the project that promote and achieve gender justice and equity?
- ✓ Archiving and transfer of all project documentation
- ✓ Defining next steps for project monitoring and supervision during the operation period
- ✓ Report on gender outcomes

Tools and strategies



Strategy

Evaluate the program's performance regarding gender, and to analyse it as a lesson for future projects.

One challenge is to ensure that the infrastructure built and its benefits remain equally accessible and controllable regardless of gender.



Feedback

Overall feedback from the project regarding gender mainstreaming approach as well as incidents or successes should be gathered and properly formatted for easy use in other projects.



Evaluation

Ensure specific gender targets were achieved, if not report on why. Also report on success.



Program related documentation

POM, county-wide KWASH social and gender vulnerability analysis, Social and Gender project screening checklist, M&E framework.

5. ACTION PLAN

5.1 Action plan for K-WASH program implementation in Tana River

As previously outlined, K-WASH is a broad programme composed of multiple WASH-related sub-projects. Regarding gender and social aspects the overall objective is twofold:

To ensure that no new social or gender inequalities are created or exacerbated during programme implementation, and

To actively contribute to reducing existing gender and social gaps in Tana River County.

Achieving these objectives requires actionable measures at two complementary levels:

- **At the K-WASH programme implementation level (county scale):** This involves integrating gender considerations into programme governance, planning, budgeting, monitoring, and institutional processes.
- **At the sub-project or investment level:** Each proposed intervention under K-WASH (e.g., water points, latrines, small infrastructure) must integrate gender analysis and inclusive design features tailored to its specific context.

Given the large number of sub-projects and their varying stages of development, this report focuses on **programme-level actions**. The consultant does not provide detailed gender actions for each individual investment, as these will need to be adapted case by case.

The next table therefore presents the **Gender Action Plan for K-WASH implementation in Tana River County**, outlining the strategic actions required at programme level.

The GAP is fully aligned with the CWSSIP and enhances its proposed actions through the addition of **precise indicators, timelines, and responsibilities**, while also incorporating **complementary measures** to support coherent program implementation.

Activities	Description and rationale	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities
Train all PIU on gender mainstreaming	Strengthen institutional capacity on gender integration	All PIU trained	By Mar 2026	PIU
Specific training on gender, climate & WASH for GBV and social specialists	Climate-resilient inclusive WASH MOOC	Training completed by both – training certificates	By Jun 2026	PIU
Integrate social & gender screening for all K-WASH projects	Ensure early identification of risks and opportunities for inequalities reduction	Screening tool applied to 100% of projects (<i>guiding questions and recommendations presented above in the report</i>)	Continuous	PIU GBV & social specialists
In-depth gender & social vulnerability analysis + GAP for projects above XXX KES	Provide targeted and context-specific transformative measures	GAP developed for all qualifying projects	At project feasibility / design stage	PIU GBV & social specialists
Data collection	Ensure that all indicators from the CWSSIP are collected in a sex disaggregated way	Presentation of sex-disaggregated data in monitoring reports	Continuous	PIU
Reserve seats for women/PWDs in inclusive WASH committees	Promote inclusive decision-making	Number of seats reserved	Continuous	Community leaders / Youth Affairs, Culture & Social Services Department of Tana River County
Apply the two-thirds gender rule to water committee	Gender-balanced governance	Numbers of seats reserved per gender	Continuous	Community leaders / Youth Affairs, Culture & Social Services Department of Tana River County
Develop a women-to-women mentorship program	Pair younger women politicians/practitioners and experienced WASH politicians/practitioners /leaders to overcome intra-women tensions and	Number of mentorship pairs established; satisfaction feedback from mentees	2027-2029	PIU GBV & social specialists / community leaders support from : Youth Affairs, Culture & Social

Activities	Description and rationale	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities
	limited support for emerging female candidates			Services Department of Tana River County
Include GBV specifics into WSPs GRM	Ensure GBV grievances are addressed by a person trained on the topic ensuring no-harm and a survivor based approach	Development of a specific procedure and training of one person In the WSP staff	2028	PIU / WSPs
Inclusive staff optimization and training	Inclusive job offers (for both technical and administrative positions) and training programs' promotion	Gender disaggregated data on employments and students		PIU / WSPs / Traiuning institutes
CLIMATE RESILIENCE				
Ensure climate funding reviewed with gender-sensitive budgeting lens	Improve equity in climate finance	The PIU makes a formal request for a Gender-responsive-budgeting (GRB) study to completed	By 2027	Department of Finance and economic planning / Youth Affairs, Culture & Social Services Department of Tana River County / Department of water, irrigation, environment and natural resources
GLOBAL WASH MEASURES				
Anti-stigma WASH awareness campaign	Reduce stigma on HIV, menstruation, sanitation	1 public meeting per sub-county + 1 meeting per school	2026	PIU / community leaders
	Behavior Change and Capacity Building - Hygiene promotion, MHHM	500 personnel from schools and healthcare facilities trained	2028	PIU / School and healthcare facilities leaders

Activities	Description and rationale	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities
	education, sanitation committee training			
Siting of infrastructure considering GBV risk	Improve safety	Consultations with women & girls	At design stage	PIU / contractor
WATER SUPPLY				
Engage men in water-fetching via media campaigns	Reduce women's time burden.	Number of trainings completed (target one training in each sub county during the first year and reminder 2 years later) The evolution of daily clock activities and share between water fetching time burdens between male/female	First training in 2026	PIU / Youth Affairs, Culture & Social Services Department of Tana River County
Train women as water technicians	Increase women's technical roles	Number of women trained and economic/job opportunities resulting from the training	2027	PIU
Sliding-scale tariffs for poor households	Improve affordability	Tariff structure adopted	2026	PIU / water utilities
SANITATION				
Mandate disability-friendly infrastructure	Improve accessibility	All new PFS are PWD inclusive / accessible	2030	PIU / Department of water, irrigation, environment and natural resources
Targeted subsidies for female-headed/PWD households for menstrual hygiene products	Female headed households and PWDs are considered most vulnerable and face increased economic barriers.	Subsidies delivered	Annual	PIU / Department of finance and economic planning

Activities	Description and rationale	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities
MHM-friendly toilets in schools/markets	(Markets) Safe & inclusive sanitation is necessary in key public areas	Number and %age of facilities upgraded. (target: 100%) And number of new facilities integrating the requirement (target: 100%)	2027 Continuous	PIU
	(schools and healthcare facilities) Building menstrual hygiene rooms, incinerators, product supply chains	150 schools and 50 HCFs equipped	2028	PIU
For each latrines implementation screen the need or not to create separated facilities for men and women	Prioritize high-needs beneficiaries (PWDs, female headed households, women and girls) or double sanitation provision when cultural norms cannot be shifted safely Conduct awareness campaigns when cultural norms can shift safely	Note on screening results justifying the final choice is to be integrated into project documentation (100% of projects to integrate this note)	Continuous	PIU
Adopt Kenya Universal Design Guidelines and international best practice	Inclusive infrastructure	All new latrines accessible	Continuous	PIU/ Contractor
Train male leaders on sanitation & women's health	Engage men as allies (Can be combined with water fetching training)	Trainings completed	One training in each sub county in 2026	PIU GBV & social specialists
Strengthen school-based menstruation education	Break taboos	Number of programs implemented and results (shifts in students MHM perception assessed to qualitative questions)	Annual	PIU / schools

Activities	Description and rationale	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities
Install lights/locks in shared toilets	Improve safety	All shared toilets upgraded	2026–2027	Contractor / PIU
HYGIENE				
Free soap/sanitary pads for HIV-affected households	Subsidize hygiene	Distribution records	Annual	PIU / health facilities
Free soap & sanitary pads in schools	Reduce absenteeism	Supplies delivered	Annual	PIU / schools

5.2 Tools for K-WASH projects implementation

5.2.1 Social and Gender project Screening Checklist

This list can be considered a living document throughout the project and serve as a **tool for collecting/group relevant data on the gender and social aspects of the project**, while the main structure should remain concise and allow for comparison between projects. It can be supplemented with other relevant information (in annex or as part of a side note).

Social and Gender project Screening Checklist
Project name/Title
Project main components
Location (coordinates)
Person filling this screening checklist (<i>name and position</i>)
Peer review for this screening checklist (<i>name and position</i>)
Is the main objective of the project focused on gender issues?
Is the main objective of the project focused on social inclusion?
Has the project been examined using the questions presented in the "guiding questions and recommendations sheets" ¹⁰ ?
Were consultations with men/women/PWD in focus group discussions undertaken ?
Did these analysis/consultation lead to any changes in the planning/design of the project?
If no, why ?
If yes, list the changes:
Can this project serve as a pilot project to be replicated in terms of good social and gender practices?
Are there any specific lessons learnt from this project in terms of social and gender issues?

¹⁰ These documents can be attached to the checklist.

5.2.2 GAP example for K-WASH projects

Activities	Indicators and targets	Timeline	Responsibilities	Costs
<p>Impact statement: Summary of the difference the subproject will make over time. The Impact statement should also states the long term gender, social, economic, environmental impacts to which the subproject will contribute.</p> <p>Outcome statement: The outcome statement should be specific and measurable. An outcome statement describes specific changes in knowledge, attitude, skills, and behaviours that will occur due to actions undertaken by the subproject.</p>				
<p>Output statement 1: Highlights what the subproject intends to achieve in the short term due to its activities.</p>				
Activity 1.1				
Activity 1.2				
...				
<p>Output statement 2: Highlights what the subproject intends to achieve in the short term due to its activities.</p>				
Activity 2.1				
...				

5.3 Resources

Regarding the financial objectives and resources required for implementing the Gender Equality Action Plan, the following commitments are proposed:

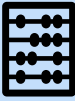



- PIU GBV and social specialists will receive training to strengthen their skills and their capacity to support project implementation.
- The PIU will identify external experts who can provide support when needed and mobilize this expertise periodically.
- A GAP oversight committee will be established at the start of sub-project implementation to ensure adequate monitoring of GAP execution and coordination with all project activities.
- Annual sub-project action plans will be financed through the sub-project budgets. Gender expertise will be mobilized when required by the sub-project GAP; when not required, enhanced monitoring will be expected from the PIU.

5.4 Monitoring and reporting

At sub-project level detailed targets should be defined in the GAP, and should be associated with relevant monitoring indicators, following the guidelines and principles displayed in the table below.

The different GAPs indicators evolution should be reported as an annex of the M&E reporting made by the counties to K-WASH task team / the World Bank.

Table 2: guidelines for indicator definition

Effective indicator	Indicator	Definition	Examples
Good monitoring indicators should be SMART: Specific Measurable Achievable Relevant Time bound	 Quantitative	Expressed in numerical measurements. They are commonly used to measure inputs and outputs and can be collected through structured data collection methods.	Number of women and men participating in diagnostic bodies, local public administration or in executive positions related to WASH projects. Increase in women's participation in community assembly meetings and in the project activities. Percentage of women beneficiaries of livelihood development activities...
	 Qualitative	Expressed in subjective perceptions and attitudes. They are more commonly used for evaluating the effectiveness or efficiency of processes.	More targeted actions to increase women's contribution to decision making or the opening of new opportunities for women in nontraditional skill areas. Development of gender awareness and skills among policymaking, management, and implementation staff. New skills, knowledge, resources, opportunities, or services for women.
	 Results	They measure the consequences of interventions	All projects design and implementation are focused on gender-sensitive measures. Adequate female representation on steering committees.
	 Impact	They measure the results implied by the work or intervention. They determine whether a program has had the desired effects and whether any unanticipated effects have occurred.	Reduction of the incidence of gastrointestinal diseases in a community through a WSS project. Reduction of women's workload.