

Kenyan national and county governments use new research to pinpoint corruption risks and paths for more accountability in WASH public financial management

To improve and fulfil the human rights to water and sanitation enshrined in the Kenyan constitution, urgent action is required to ensure available financing is used *efficiently* and effectively, and to build the necessary environment to increase financing.

The new research report, [*Pipes, Policy, and Public Money*](#), points to some of the integrity issues that are keeping the sector back and outlines the way forward for Kenyan water sector stakeholders to make good on their promises. Published by KEWASNET and WIN, in partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Water and Sanitation and the Council of Governors, the report considers in detail to what extent the sector's rules, institutions, and processes for decision-making on the allocation and management of resources are transparent, accountable, participatory, followed, and contain safeguards to prevent and sanction corruption.

The report and original research will be presented at [Stockholm World Water Week 2019 at the session: Monitoring Public Financial Flows & Influencing Pro-poor Budgets](#), Tuesday, August 27, at 16:00 (Room L11).

The report is already rallying sector stakeholders to improve coordination and integrity. At the official launch of the report in Nairobi on July 31, Joseph W. Irungu, CBS, Principal Secretary of the Ministry for Water and Sanitation said clearly that **"business as usual is not good enough to live to our ambitions"**, adding "the recommendations of the report are a call to all of us in this room to do our part in fixing the leaks".

Referring to the need to improve transparency in the management of water service providers and their relationship with county governments, a key issue outlined in the report, Eng. Festus Ng'eno, Chairman, CECs Caucus on Water, Forestry & Mining Committee, Council of Governors, has highlighted the need for quick action by pointing out: **"As counties, we have to put the water service providers at the heart of our efforts and steer them through the board of directors. We just have to follow due process."**

The report includes much needed practical recommendations for accountability and improved financial management for WASH. "Budget tracking is a useful exercise to find the 'leaks' in a system and make better use of available resources. But it's a notoriously difficult exercise in WASH" says Lotte Feuerstein, WIN programme manager and co-author of the report. "This report finally looks under the hood and explains *why*. This is the first time we get such insight at that level: on the relationship between governments and water service providers, their mandates, how they manage public participation, and even their IT systems. These all have weaknesses that leave the door open to corruption."

It is a critical time for action in Kenya. The recent arrest for corruption of acting Finance Minister Henry Rotich shows that corruption is a significant concern in Kenya. Following the adoption of the Constitution in 2010 and of the 2016 Water Act, there is also still much debate as to how responsibilities and resources for WASH sector management will be divided between the national and county level. "The situation between different levels of government in Kenya is actually quite tense in the water sector", explains Simon Shivaji, CEO of KEWASNET. He adds, "This report has successfully brought stakeholders together to outline paths for action from all involved, while still staying critical, realistic, and fair. It was a challenging balancing act but this type of collaboration and work on accountability is crucial for the sector to move forward".

The full report is available for download at:

<https://www.waterintegritynetwork.net/2019/08/21/pipes-policy-and-public-money/>

Ms Lotte Feuerstein, WIN Programme Manager and co-author of the report is present at Stockholm World Water Week and available for comment.

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