



# Water, Environment and Sanitation (WES) Kenya

## Country Setting

- Over half of Kenyans, including 9 million children, live below the poverty line.
- Kenya was ranked 148 out of 177 countries on the Human Development Index in 2004.
- Malaria is the most serious public health problem, and kills 26,000 children in Kenya every year.
- By 2001, 1.5 million Kenyans had died of AIDS, leaving over 1 million orphans.
- There is a serious effort to implement free primary education, attracting 1.3 million new pupils.

## Basic Indicators

|                                      |        |
|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Total population (1000s)             | 31,987 |
| Under-five mortality rate (per 1000) | 123    |
| Total adult literacy rate (%)        | 82     |

## Water and Sanitation Coverage

|              | Water (%) | Sanitation (%) |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| Urban        | 89        | 56             |
| Rural        | 46        | 43             |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>62</b> | <b>48</b>      |

## WES Sector Setting

- Frequent droughts, floods and outbreaks of WES-related diseases are major hazards. Cholera is endemic in Kenya, especially in the Lake and Coastal regions.
- Poor hygiene and sanitation practices coupled with poverty have a serious impact on child care and education, especially of girls. The ratio of latrines to pupils is in some cases as high as 1:400.
- In urban areas water supply systems have been managed for years by town and city councils that have used the profits made by water for other areas, leaving the infrastructure in a state of decay.
- Several bilateral partners are working with government to raise the quality of urban water services so they are attractive investments for private sector takeovers. This has left few international partners aside from UNICEF with long-term experience supporting improvements in rural water and sanitation.
- There is good collaboration and coordination among the major stakeholders responding to emergencies.

## UNICEF WES Programme

### Main Components

The focus is on marginalized communities and schools in 12 districts and urban slum areas:

- WES in Schools aims to prepare girls to go to and stay in school. It also promotes life-skills education and the establishment of a protective school and community.
- Access to Water covers communities and health centre facilities in support of the IMCI, PMTCT and safe motherhood initiatives.
- Hygiene and Environmental Sanitation focuses on improved hygiene and sanitation practices in homes, playgrounds and Early Childhood Education centres.

### Programme Highlights and Achievements

- UNICEF co-chairs emergency initiatives jointly with government.
- UNICEF supported a national survey of WES in schools in 2003.
- WES in Schools focuses on development of capacities of duty bearers to establish safe child-friendly schools.
- Access to Water will partner with communities and disseminate provisions of new Water Act.
- Hygiene and Environmental Sanitation will work to develop capacities of duty bearers to eliminate environmental risks faced by children.