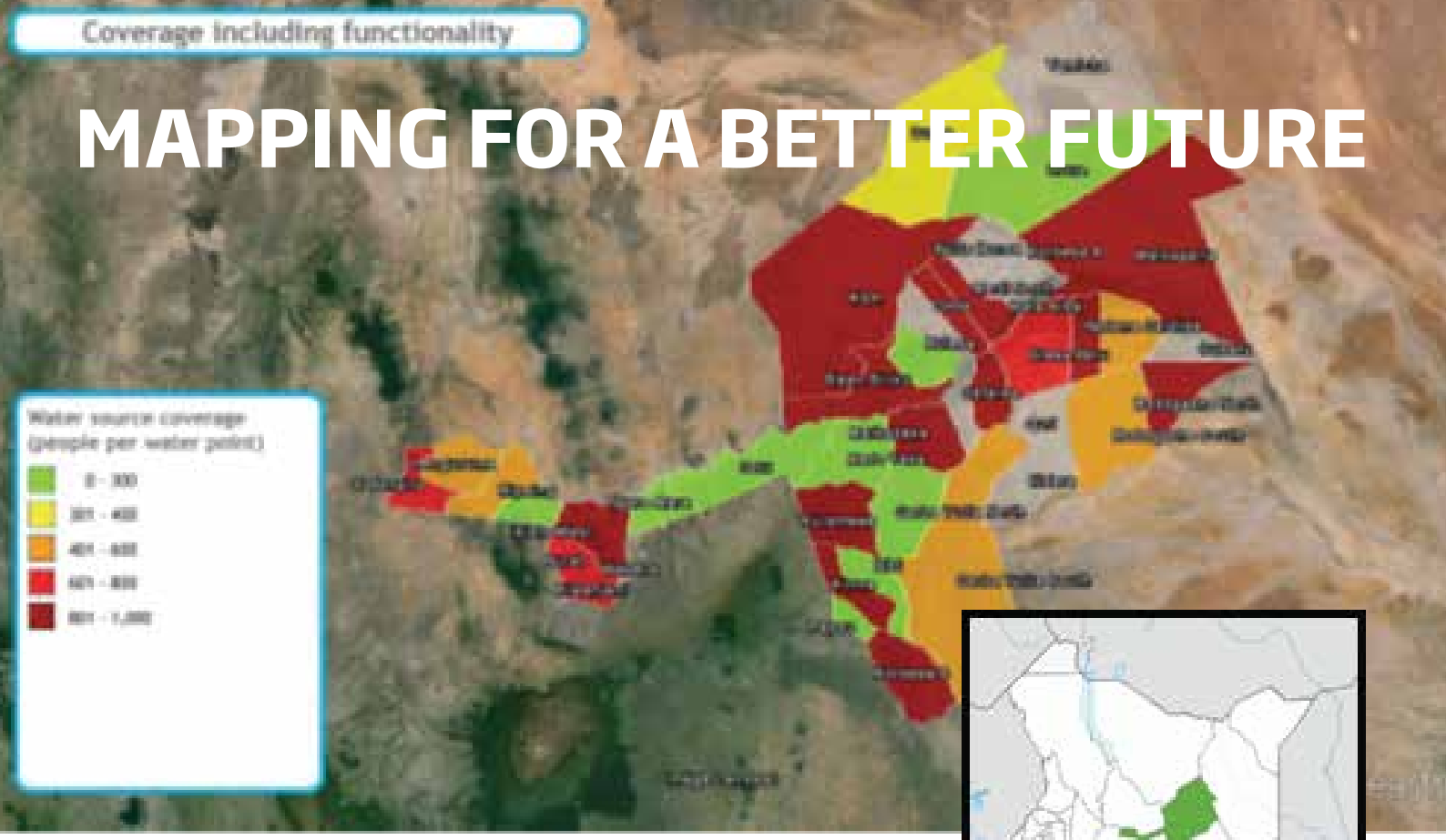
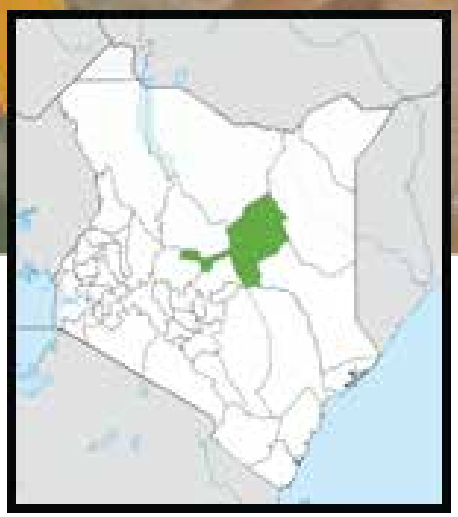
MAPPING FOR A BETTER FUTURE





ISIOLO COUNTY - Overview

- Population: **143,211 (2009 Census)**
- No. of water points: **229 (71% improved/29% unimproved) + 38 piped schemes**
- Water coverage level (rural): **48% (WPM study) / 37% (Census)**
- Functionality of water points: **61% (fully functional and in use)**
- Key cause of non-functionality: **technical breakdown (32%)**
- Date of Study: **November 2013**

Mapping supported by: MEWNR, WASREB, NWSB, TWAWEZA, SNV Netherlands, ERMIS AFRICA and WRMA

The Power of water point mapping data!

Water Point Mapping (WPM) is a process for monitoring the distribution and status of water points in rural and urban areas, and can be used to improve accountability and inform local level planning of investments to improve water supply coverage.

Info collected: location (GPS coordinates & photograph), source type, extraction system, (hand pump) type, energy source, operational status, water point (WP) ownership/maintenance/management, payment for water, cost recovery levels, and service level data pertaining to the availability, quality, distance from source and reliability of the supply.

MAPPING
Provides information on water point:
- Access
- Functionality
- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Equity
- Usage

USE
Use of the data supports:
- Informed decision-making
- Evidence-based planning
- Prioritised investments
- Coordinated interventions
- Targeted advocacy

BENEFITS
- Improved accountability
- Improved sector performance
- Increased sustainability of services

WPM data is therefore incredibly powerful and useful for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) for you to use to inform and improve your own interventions, to more accurately target and prioritise your investments, and to influence other sector actors through evidence-based advocacy messages.

KEY FINDINGS - So what does the data tell us?

EQUITY

The study found that huge disparities exist in terms of water coverage especially between different sub-locations within Isiolo County (see map). Data showed that some sub-locations (most in Sericho and Merti divisions) had no improved water source at all, while other sub-locations had as many as 20 sources (mostly in Isiolo Central), clearly highlighting the need for local authorities and implementers to address this inequitable distribution by prioritising the most underserved areas.

SUSTAINABILITY

Results showed that only 61% of improved water points were fully functional and in use. The main causes for non-functionality were technical breakdowns (32%) and dry or low yield (22%) with boreholes the most common type of point source but with a functionality rate of just 55%. Most significant factors influencing functionality were existence of payment system and a responsible entity for maintenance. This shows the need for targeted rehabilitation work and strengthened O&M systems to increase water point sustainability.

GOVERNANCE

Understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the governance structures in place is key to optimising water sources. The survey established that the majority of the WPs were either owned by the community (52%) or by institutions (21%). Routine maintenance of WPs was most commonly carried out by community technicians (27%) and the local private sector (22%), while the management of WPs was mostly in the hands of CBOs (41%) or individual entrepreneurs (25%).

FINANCING

The survey revealed the lack of clear operations and maintenance (O&M) cost recovery mechanisms in the county which hampers the sustainability of water projects. Clear O&M cost recovery systems were in place for just 15% of the WPs while 51% had none at all, and 58% provided water for free. Research shows that when a community contributes towards O&M there is a higher chance of a project being sustainable and therefore a need for interventions to embrace the concept of prudent financial management.

SERVICE LEVEL

Service level, as measured by water quality, quantity, and fetching time, was variable across the WPs mapped. Only 59% of functional WPs provided sufficient water for households and only 46% were also sufficient for livestock needs. E.coli tests (water quality) showed that 73% of the WPs were verified as safe, but 21% were deemed unsafe. Finally, for 62% of WPs fetching time (return trip including waiting time) took less than an hour while for 24% it took more than an hour.

Take Action! Way Forward and Recommendations

Planning and Prioritised Investments: Use findings in consultation with the local authorities to identify the gaps/areas with low coverage of quality water services and prioritise investing in underserved areas, identifying areas requiring new infrastructure and those requiring rehabilitation works.

Budget allocations: Support the Water Board and County Government to use WPM data to develop budgets and allocate funds targeted to where they are most needed and provide rural poor communities with access to affordable water services

Coordination: Use findings to harmonize development plans with other stakeholders within the county to avoid duplication and inequity in water and sanitation services
Financial sustainability: Devise strategies for cost effective service delivery with a clear payment structure that considers the ability to pay of poor and marginalized citizens while ensuring sufficient funds are generated for O&M

Capacity Building: Support county offices in strengthening water users associations in managing and maintaining water points by providing trainings and refresher courses
Knowledge Management: Actively participate in data collection and timely submission of reports to assist county offices to develop and maintain a database on water and sanitation for regular updating of water point mapping studies

Technical sustainability: Identify supply chain options to provide communities with accessible and affordable hardware (e.g.: pump spare parts), and contribute to alternative market-driven O&M models built on the complementary strengths of government institutions, result-oriented private sector organizations, committed NGOs and the end-users themselves.

Find out more!
To view the full WPM report and data visit: **INSERT Link to report**
We would love to hear from you so don't hesitate to contact us with any follow-up questions or further suggestions at:
INSERT contact details (Org, email, telephone number....)
Other useful information?