



Background to the SCEJU Financial Benefit to Third Parties (FSTP) Project Component



Co-funded by
the European Union



Introduction

The Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) are a project component under the EU co-funded project NDICI CSO/2024/453-375 (PC-36593) “**SCEJU: Strengthening Civil Society for a Just and Sustainable Urbanisation**”.

This project action contributes to strengthening the voice and capacity of civil society actors and grassroots organizations representing vulnerable groups to participate and influence key decision-making processes that contribute to a just and sustainable urbanization at the county and national levels as enshrined in Article 42 and 43 of the constitution of Kenya.

The overall objective of the Action is “**To strengthen democracy and inclusive democratic processes in matters of urban quality of life, climate change and biodiversity in Kenya**”. The specific objective seeks to achieve strengthened responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative governance in matters of sustainable water and waste management and climate justice across Makueni, Kisumu, and Nakuru Counties.

The project scope consists of Capacity-building activities enabling youth, women and vulnerable groups to gain skills on sustainable water and waste management, as well as on how to draft proposals and engage with decision-makers. An Alliance of various TG will also be created, to play a meaningful and effective role to consolidate ideas to influence policy processes. Awareness raising activities will target the general public and decisionmakers by facilitating excluded youth and women to provide interactive and simplified information for policy engagements, shape and influence policy dialogues & processes on sustainable water and waste management.

The four outputs expected from the action are;

- OP1:** Strengthened capacity and advocacy skills in sustainable water and waste management of civil society actors, grassroots organizations, women, youth, and communities
- OP2:** Enhanced informed policy dialogue and research dissemination on sustainable water and waste management
- OP3:** Enhanced awareness of youth and women on sustainable water and waste management
- OP4:** Increased opportunities for youth and women-led civil society actors and grassroots organizations to engage in initiatives on sustainable water and waste management in informal settlements in urban areas

Advocacy activities will help to sensitize authorities on recommendations from youth, women, vulnerable groups and other civil society actors on what needs to be done on the topic of sustainable water and waste management. Which leads to policy recommendations activities, that include developing policy papers, recommendations, with the objective to influence processes on sustainable water and waste management & Kenyan international commitment. FSTP activities, with the funding of 6 innovative locally led projects (min. 33.500 €/project) developed by youth, women and vulnerable groups, on sustainable water and waste management, aiming at facilitating pathways for decent employment. The FSTP activities are envisaged under output 4 above.

Jimbo Taka Project: Turning Trash into Treasure in Makueni

The Problem

Wote Municipality in Makueni County generates nearly **18 tonnes of solid waste every day**, much of it non-biodegradable plastics and glass. Yet, there is **no proper system** in place to sort, recycle, or safely dispose of this waste. This leads to pollution, disease, and lost economic opportunities—especially for **women and youth** who are often left out of environmental and economic solutions.

Our Approach

The **Jimbo Taka Project**, led by **Jumuisha Initiative CBO**, aims to empower **200 women and youth** in Wote by training them in waste collection, sorting, and creative recycling. By turning waste like glass and plastic into marketable products, we are tackling environmental pollution **while creating jobs and income** for the community.

What We Will Do

Train women and youth in smart waste management and recycling techniques.

Distribute recycling kits and protective gear for safe waste handling.

Develop a digital tool (Jimbo iTaka App) to connect waste collectors with buyers.

Raise awareness through community events and media on waste policy and climate resilience.

Advocate for improved waste management policies with local government and the public.



Our Partners

We are working hand-in-hand with:

- Makueni County Government (Urban Planning & Youth Departments)
- Makueni Civil Society Network
- Local youth and women groups
- Tech partner iDevelop Hub (Jimbo iTaka App)

Expected Impact

- Cleaner neighborhoods with less plastic and glass
- Healthier communities with fewer waste-related illnesses
- New income sources for women and youth through green jobs
- Stronger local waste systems and policy engagement
- A replicable model for other towns in Kenya



Together, let's **turn waste into wealth** and build a cleaner, greener Makueni for all.

Enhancing Safe Water Access and Sustainable Management for Low-Income Households in Emalii

Project Overview

The project, led by **Emali Dedicated Children's Agency (EDCA)**, aims to improve access to safe, affordable drinking water in Emali town, Makueni County. It targets informal settlements and promotes youth and women empowerment through sustainable water management. Running for 18 months with a budget of KES 4.77 million, it supports SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The Problem

Access to clean water in Emali is limited and costly, forcing families—especially women and youth—to rely on informal, unreliable sources like boreholes and seasonal rivers. These conditions endanger public health and offer few opportunities for decent work. Women and youth are underrepresented in water governance structures, limiting their ability to influence sustainable solutions.

Solutions & Implementation Strategy

Infrastructure and Technology:

- Install a reverse osmosis water treatment plant and an automated water kiosk
- Launch a mobile app for digital payments, usage tracking, and consumer-vendor linkages

Policy Advocacy and Empowerment:

- Advocate for inclusion of women and youth in Water Users Associations (WUAs)
- Hold policy dialogues and support the creation of commercial tree nurseries using recycled water from the treatment process



Our Partners

- **Savanna CBO** – community engagement
- **Makueni Rural Water Board** – regulation
- **Emali Sultan Hamud Municipality** – site and licensing
- **County departments, KEFRI, Maji Milele** – policy, conservation, and automation support



Expected Results & Outputs

- 1 water treatment plant serving 2,000 residents
- Functional mobile monitoring app
- 300+ women and youth trained and integrated in the water economy
- 2 commercial tree nurseries established
- Stronger youth and gender representation in local water governance

Conclusion

This innovative project bridges clean water access with inclusive economic empowerment, digital innovation, and environmental sustainability. By placing women and youth at the heart of the solution, it delivers impact where it's needed most—at the grassroots level.



Nakuru Informal Settlements Water Project (NISWP)

Project Overview

Led by **Flamingo Lakes Conservation Network (FlamingoNet)**, this 24-month initiative aims to enhance access to **clean, affordable water** in Nakuru's informal settlements—Kaptembwa and Rhonda. With a budget of **KES 5.75 million**, the project promotes climate-resilient, inclusive water management, aligned with Nakuru County's development plans and SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation).

The Problem

Nakuru faces a **40,000-liter daily water supply deficit**, worsened by aging infrastructure, illegal connections, and unreliable service. Only 6% of residents in Kaptembwa and Rhonda have household water connections, while the rest rely on costly and unsafe communal sources. This leads to **public health risks, gender-based vulnerabilities**, and educational disruption for children tasked with fetching water.

Proposed Solutions

1. Stakeholder Engagement & Planning

- Multi-stakeholder forums to review the Nakuru City Climate Resilient Water Management Plan
- Develop a Master Plan for water service delivery in low-income areas

2. Infrastructure Improvements

- Rehabilitate and extend water supply lines to underserved areas
- Remove informal “spaghetti” networks and install 10 rainwater storage tanks

3. Smart Water Vending Kiosks

- Construct 2 model water kiosks equipped with automated ATMs and filtration systems (RO, UV)
- Promote hygienic water vending through a “Clean Water” brand and packaging facilities

4. Delegated Management Model

- Enable NAWASSCO to bulk-sell water to Master Operators who manage local distribution
- Ensure service quality, affordability, and leak reduction through performance-based contracts

Target Groups

- **300 women and youth** as direct beneficiaries
- Wider Kaptembwa and Rhonda communities, including vulnerable groups and school children
- Water-related institutions, vendors, and resident associations

Partners & Collaborators

- **NAWASSCO, Nakuru County Government, WRA, NEMA, Egerton University, KPCG, CEDGG, and PACJA**
- Residents' associations and community groups for mobilization and M&E



Expected Results & Impact

- Improved water access and affordability
- Reduced waterborne disease and time burden on women and children
- Increased inclusion of youth and women in decision-making
- Smart and sustainable water systems established

Added Value

By blending technology, policy advocacy, and public-private partnerships, this project fosters community ownership, strengthens urban water governance, and boosts resilience to climate challenges.

Nakuru Sustainable Solid Waste Empowerment Project (NASWEP)

Project Overview

Led by the **Pangani Cleaners Women Group**, the Nakuru Sustainable Solid Waste Empowerment Project (NASWEP) aims to improve solid waste management (SWM) in **Pangani and Lakeview**, two low-income settlements in Nakuru City. With a **KES 4.9 million budget** and a **24-month** timeline, the project empowers **women and youth** to build livelihoods through waste recycling while improving environmental health and governance.

The Problem

Nakuru generates over **250 tons of waste daily**, yet less than half is collected. Poor infrastructure, lack of source segregation, and limited formal SWM services in informal areas like Pangani and Lakeview cause pollution, especially to **Lake Nakuru National Park**—a vital UNESCO World Heritage site. Only **1,114 of 18,429** households in these areas are served by private waste providers, resulting in indiscriminate dumping, health hazards, and social vulnerabilities, especially for women and children.

Project Goals and Solutions

Assessment & Planning

- Conduct a baseline survey to inform an Integrated Solid Waste Management Strategy.
- Engage communities, government, and private players in planning and advocacy.

Smart Waste Tracking

- Deploy IoT-enabled tracking systems and recycling apps to optimize collection and monitor waste flows.
- Establish a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and recycling market models.

Green Enterprise Development

- Promote waste-to-wealth ventures like Black Soldier Fly composting and recycling-based businesses.
- Purchase key equipment: shredders, balers, PPEs and offer hands-on training.

Capacity Building & PPPs

- Train 150+ youth and 500 women in circular economy skills and environmental regulations.
- Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to expand service reach and enforcement.

Target Groups

- **Primary:** Youth, women, and vulnerable groups in Pangani and Lakeview
- **Secondary:** Private waste providers, CSOs, schools, and local authorities
- **Tertiary:** Residents of Nakuru and visitors to Lake Nakuru National Park

Partnerships

- Key stakeholders include **NEMA, County Government of Nakuru, NAWASSCO, KWS, FlamingoNet, FES, PACJA, and CSUDP**—supporting policy, enforcement, technical input, and funding.

Expected Impact

- Waste collection penetration from 6% to near 100% coverage
- Reduction of over **400 tons/month** of waste to dumpsites
- Cleaner environment, reduced disease, and safer wildlife habitats
- Empowered youth and women-led enterprises in the green economy

Added Value

This project blends **technology, policy, and community empowerment** to support Nakuru's transition to a **circular economy**, aligning with climate goals and urban resilience. By turning waste into wealth, NASWEP envisions a **cleaner, greener, more inclusive Nakuru**.



Partnering Towards Equitable WASH Access in Nyalenda

Project Overview

Simba Kogelo Water Development Group is implementing a **30-month project** in **Nyalenda B**, Kisumu City, aiming to improve **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** services for underserved populations. With a budget of **KES 4.58 million**, the initiative promotes inclusive service delivery through infrastructure upgrades, social enterprise, climate adaptation, and enhanced governance—especially for **women, youth, and marginalized communities**.

The Problem

Nyalenda B is a low-income informal settlement where residents face poor access to clean water, inadequate sanitation, and systemic exclusion from decision-making. Dilapidated infrastructure, theft, and high poverty levels discourage investment from service providers. This has left vulnerable populations—especially women and youth—struggling to access basic WASH services, worsening health risks and inequality.

Goals and Solutions

Main Objective: Achieve equitable, efficient, and sustainable water and sanitation management for all, especially the poor.

Key Activities Include:

- Rehabilitation of **3km water pipeline** and construction of **10 new water points**
- Upgrade billing systems for **real-time payment tracking**
- Train and formalize manual pit emptiers
- Construct **4 model kiosks**, **2 VIP latrines**, and **3 grey-water treatment plants**
- Facilitate **table banking** to support WASH-linked social enterprises

Expected Outputs

- Increased access to clean water and safe sanitation
- Functioning social enterprises led by women and youth
- Improved livelihoods, revenue collection, and infrastructure resilience
- Policy influence and stakeholder collaboration on WASH and climate change

Target Groups

- **Primary:** Women, youth, school learners, marginalized groups, manual pit emptiers
- **Secondary:** County government, CSOs, schools, service providers
- **Tertiary:** Broader Kisumu community benefiting from improved WASH outcomes

Partnerships

- **KIWASCO:** Water supply and capacity building
- **County Government of Kisumu:** Licensing, policy support
- **WSUP:** Sanitation capacity building



Project Management & Monitoring

Run by a dedicated team (Coordinator, Officers, Accountant, Technicians), the project will use **quarterly internal reviews** and **annual external evaluations**. Communities will participate in **planning, implementation, and M&E**, ensuring ownership and long-term sustainability.

Added Value

By fusing grassroots action, infrastructure upgrades, and institutional advocacy, the project advances Kisumu's transition to **inclusive, climate-resilient WASH systems**—ensuring that **no one is left behind**.

Data-Driven Empowerment for Youth & Women in Kisumu's Waste Sector

Project Overview

The **CIRCULARSHIFT** project by **Homeless of Kisumu (HOK)** seeks to empower **youth and women waste actors** in Kisumu's informal settlements through technology-driven entrepreneurship and policy advocacy. With a **KES 4.89 million** budget and **12-month** duration, the project introduces the WasteTech Platform and an enhanced **M-taka App** to track waste, facilitate fair trade, and drive evidence-based policy change aligned with Kisumu's Solid Waste Management Plan (KISWAMP).

The Problem

While Kisumu is a leader in sustainable waste management policy, the **contributions of informal waste actors remain under-recognized** due to lack of data and digital inclusion. Youth and women in this sector face barriers to market access, skills, and decision-making platforms. This project seeks to close that gap through digital innovation, training, and pilot business models.

Goals & Solutions

Primary Objective: Improve the business environment for informal waste actors through data and tech.

Specific Objectives:

- Develop a **WasteTech Platform** and enhance the M-taka App for tracking and fair trade.
- Train **50 youth and women** in tech-enabled waste entrepreneurship and policy advocacy.
- Pilot **2 data-driven enterprises**—one youth-led, one women-led—to model sustainable growth.

Key Activities Include:

- Build and deploy the WasteTech Platform and M-taka App
- Deliver tailored training in entrepreneurship, tech use, and advocacy
- Provide mentorship, market linkages, and monitor pilot businesses
- Share insights in community stakeholder sessions to inform policy decisions

Target Groups

- **Primary:** 50 youth and women in informal settlements (tech access, job creation, inclusion)
- **Secondary:** 2 youth/women-led waste enterprises (scaling through data)
- **Tertiary:** 60 households benefitting from improved service and cleaner environments

Partnerships

- **County Government of Kisumu:** policy support and KISWAMP alignment
- **CSOs/CBOs:** community outreach and training
- **Tech Firms & Academia:** platform development and innovation support

Expected Impact

- Operational digital ecosystem for waste actors
- 50 trained participants with new tech and advocacy skills
- 2 successful data-driven micro-enterprises as proof of concept
- Increased visibility, income, and influence of informal waste workers

Project Management & Monitoring

A skilled team led by Benson Abila, with roles in tech, M&E, and finance, will ensure results. Monitoring includes monthly reports, app engagement data, surveys, and community reviews, ensuring adaptability and transparency.

Added Value

CIRCULARSHIFT integrates technology, enterprise, and evidence-based advocacy to create green jobs, foster inclusive policy, and advance climate resilience in urban waste systems. It's not just waste recovery—it's circular empowerment.



Conclusion

The collective impact of these innovative community-led projects in Makueni, Nakuru and Kisumu counties signals a transformative shift in how women and youth are empowered to drive sustainable waste and water management in Kenya's urban informal settlements. Each initiative not only addresses systemic service gaps but deliberately positions youth and women as core actors in delivering climate-resilient solutions, creating green jobs, and anchoring a culture of environmental stewardship. By equipping these groups with the tools, skills, and platforms to lead—from data analytics and app-based waste tracking to decentralized water systems and social enterprises—these projects are unlocking their full potential as agents of change in the circular economy.

Crucially, these efforts are expanding the civic and economic space for marginalized groups to shape public policy and participate meaningfully in governance processes. Through participatory planning, policy advocacy training, and real-time engagement with county institutions, youth and women are moving from being passive beneficiaries to

strategic influencers. This is creating a more inclusive policy ecosystem that responds to lived realities, integrates community insights, and supports scalable innovations in sanitation, recycling, water access, and climate adaptation. The projects demonstrate that grassroots leadership, when backed by technology and institutional partnerships, can drive systemic improvements in both service delivery and accountability.

For Kenya and the broader African continent, these models offer powerful lessons in inclusive urban development. They show that empowering community actors—especially women and youth—with voice, visibility, and viable business opportunities in waste and water sectors not only improves livelihoods but catalyzes broader sustainability and equity outcomes. As Africa grapples with rapid urbanization and rising waste and water challenges, these pioneering interventions offer a blueprint for integrating local knowledge, digital innovation, and participatory governance to build resilient, just, and circular cities.

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