



# IEC Material for Nakuru County – Sustainable Water & Waste Management

*Improving services, protecting the environment, and empowering communities*

## Quick Snapshot



**Demographics (respondents):** Majority 18–25 yrs (73; 72.3%); 36–50 yrs (20; 19.8%); 51+ (8; 7.9%).



**Gender:** 47% women, 54% men (near parity; sector still male dominated).



**Main water sources:** 90% of county supply from boreholes (40 NAWASCO run); rivers contribute 10%. Household sources: piped 53.47%, boreholes 23.76%, plus rainwater/rivers/dams.



**Cost (20L jerrycan):** 31.5% pay KES 6–10; 27.8% pay KES 1–5 (varies by locality and provider).



**Household water treatment:** 60% do not treat; among those who do: boiling 65%, chlorine 12.5%, filtering 10%, purification tabs 10%.



**Wastewater disposal:** Sewer 29%, septic 27.72%, others use pit latrines/ditches.



**Solid waste:** Private collectors 45.54%, local authority 18.81%, compost 11.88%, recycled 1.98%, others burned/dumped.



**Collection frequency:** 65.35% weekly, 3.96% monthly.



**Community engagement:** 94.04% consider engagement crucial.



### Community Voice:

*"If you want to identify a Nakuru born and bred person, just look at their teeth. They're brown, and that's a firm confirmation due to the fluoride in the water."* - **FGD participant, Naivasha Town**

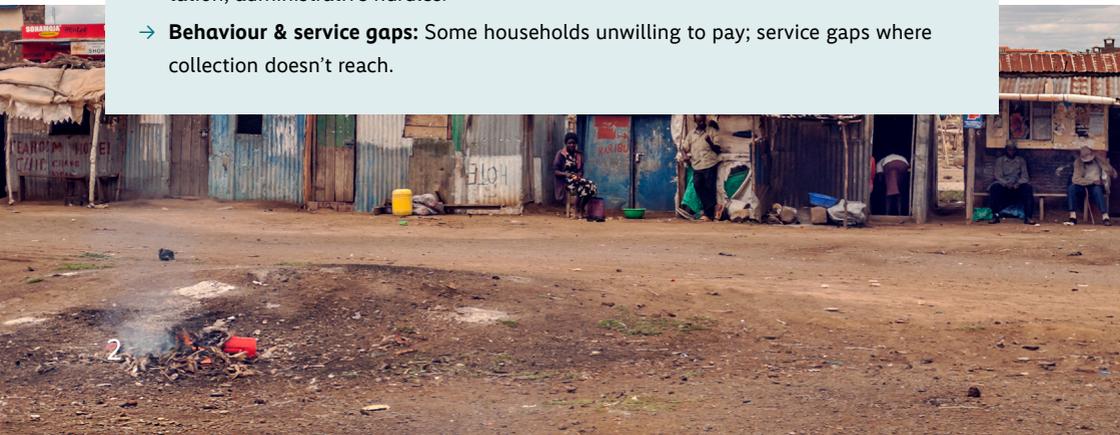
## I) Situational Analysis – Key Statistics, Trends & Context

- Water system & regulation: NAWASCO operates approximately (~) 40 boreholes, supplying ~90% of water; WASREB regulates pricing to protect consumers. High electricity costs strain production and affordability.
- Quality & safety: High fluoride levels and reports of river contamination raise health concerns; yet 60% of households do not treat drinking water.
- Wastewater & solid waste: Mixed systems with low recycling (1.98%). Organized associations operate in urban centres; elsewhere systems are largely informal.
- Institutions & actors: NASWAMA (93 members) with an MoU with the county; Nakuru Waste Reclaimers Gioto SHG; NAWASCO PPP on briquettes; enterprises like Grinncom Investment producing organic fertilizer from market waste.

## II) Challenges and Opportunities

### Key Challenges

- **Water:** Heavy reliance on boreholes; high fluoride; 60% non treatment; leakage/losses; high energy costs.
- **Waste:** Low recycling (1.98%); lack of recovery centres; weak sewer coverage; poor segregation at source; sanitary waste disposal causing blockages and air pollution from burning.
- **Policy & capacity:** SWM Act (2022) not domesticated; limited budgets; weak consultation; administrative hurdles.
- **Behaviour & service gaps:** Some households unwilling to pay; service gaps where collection doesn't reach.



## Opportunities / Best Practices

- **Policy framework:** Nakuru Water & Sanitation Act (2020); County Water & Sewerage Services Strategy; WASREB oversight.
- **Community & private sector:** Organized actors (NASWAMA, Gioto SHG), weekly collection norm (65.35%), youth/women initiatives (briquettes, fertilizer, animal feed).
- **Household practices:** Rainwater harvesting; boiling widely accepted (65% among treaters).

### III) Policy Recommendations

#### Water sector

- Modernize & expand distribution systems to reduce leakages/losses.
- Invest in fluoride treatment technologies and community education on water safety.
- Protect rivers & groundwater via watershed management, afforestation, and pollution control.
- Promote rainwater harvesting and small scale water recycling at household/institutional levels.

#### Waste sector

- Domesticate and enforce the Sustainable Waste Management Act (2022).
- Establish waste recovery & recycling centres across municipalities.
- Enhance landfill management with proper engineering.
- Scale up segregation at source (organic/recyclable/hazardous) and community sensitization.
- Promote PPPs for low cost waste transport and recycling innovations.
- Expand budget allocations for waste infrastructure and services.

#### Community engagement & inclusion

- Institutionalize regular consultations between county and residents; avoid mere rubber stamping.
- Strengthen youth & women groups with training and funding for circular enterprises.
- Organize clean ups, storytelling, and civic education to shift attitudes.
- Ensure affordable access to waste services to reduce self disposal and burning.

## Financing & partnerships

- Increase **PPPs** for clean energy and recycling (e.g., briquettes, composting).
- Support **CSOs** to co implement advocacy and awareness campaigns.
- Mobilize **donor & climate funds** for infrastructure upgrades.



## *Conclusion & Call to Action*

Nakuru County stands at a critical juncture: water and waste challenges are pressing, but strong community structures, active associations, and practical innovations already point the way forward. By domesticating national laws, investing in infrastructure and quality, and engaging youth and women, Nakuru can align rapid urban growth with sustainability and resilience.