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WEEKLY Newsletter

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KEWI enhances Staff capabilities through Resource Mobilization Training

Participants drawn from all departments in all the 3 KEWI Divisions pose for a group photo with consultants from Resource Mobilization Solutions.

BY DENNIS LEMALI

In today's dynamic nonprofit landscape, the ability to effectively mobilize resources is crucial for organizations striving to achieve their missions. Kenya Water Institute recognizes the importance of building capacity in resource mobilization strategies. The institute conducted a comprehensive weeklong staff training program designed to empower professionals in the art of fundraising and partnership development.

Dr. James Njagu, Director Resource Mobilization Solutions and Prof. Ben Ole Koissaba, were the consultants who combined theoretical insights with practical tools tailored to the unique challenges faced by organizations and engaged the participants where they shared

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KEWI enhances Staff capabilities through Resource Mobilization Training

their insights, experiences, and best practices. Their expertise not only inspired participants but also provided them with actionable strategies that they can readily apply in our day-to-day work.

The key topics covered included: Understanding the Resource Mobilization function, Understanding Donors, Fundraising, developing a resource mobilization strategy, step by step guide of writing a winning proposal, donor engagement and relations among others.

Resource mobilization goes beyond traditional fundraising. It encompasses a strategic approach to identifying, cultivating, and leveraging diverse resources—financial, human, and in-kind—to sustain and expand organizational impact. In an increasingly competitive funding environment, equipped with the right skills and knowledge, organizations can thrive and drive positive change.

The number of Donors, amount of donor funds and grants have in recent years been increasing. Similarly, they have been receiving plenty of recognition across the globe. Most of the donations and grants are directed towards solving trending environmental, socio-cultural, economic and technological courses. Not only has this contributed to organizations expanding and solving critical modern problems, but also attain excellence in executing their mandates. Some of these courses include climate change, the green movement, digitization & technology and integration of artificial intelligence among others.

Dr. James Njagu Director Resource Mobilization Solutions.

The training was delivered through a blend of case studies, role-plays, and peer learning sessions. Participants gained hands-on experience in developing fundraising plans and refining their pitch to potential donors. Moreover, each participant received personalized feedback and support from experienced trainers.

This week's training program not only showcased the institute's commitment to individual and collective growth but also underscored the unwavering support and dedication of the leadership team towards nurturing talent and fostering a culture of learning and development. The active participation and engagement throughout the training sessions served as a powerful reminder of our organization's shared vision and collective determination to excel in an ever-evolving landscape.

Participants departed from the training equipped with a robust toolkit for resource mobilization. They honed their abilities in strategic planning, budgeting, and stakeholder engagement. They left the training with concrete action plans, determined to implement immediate changes within the institute. Their initiatives include designing targeted fundraising initiatives, cultivating donor relationships, and advocating for sustainable financial practices, all aimed at fortifying the institute's long-term viability

The closing remarks and expressions of gratitude from the KEWI Director/CEO Dr. Leiro Letangule, through the Deputy Director Research Consultancy and Technical Services, Mr Nelson Kwamini served as a poignant reminder of the collective effort invested in this endeavor.

KEWI and UNICEF hold Discussions on Areas of Possible Partnership

KEWI and UNICEF hold discussions at KEWI's Boardroom in Nairobi Campus.

BY PIUS KIMANI

Kenya Water Institute (KEWI) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) have held talks on possibilities of working together with the key aim being to strengthen operations and maintenances of water services in Turkana County and also across priority Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL) counties and refugee hosting municipalities.

In a meeting held at KEWI boardroom to lay groundwork for a formal partnership that explored on possible areas of partnership, the UNICEF team led by Mr. Abdi Hassan, a water and sanitation specialist from the UNICEF Kenya Office and that of KEWI led by Mr. Nelson Kwamini, Deputy Director Research, Consultancy and Technical Services, agreed to look deeply into areas of partnership by holding consultative and planning meetings and then coming up with an MOU that will seek to improve the performance of devolved water services delivery within the areas of operations.

Key among areas that the partnership will focus on include tailor-made trainings on operation and maintenance of pump systems for utility and county government technicians, community artisans supporting Small Scale Water Providers (SSWP), certification of community water artisan supporting the SSWP for trades whose certification is available, Non-Revenue Water Management for utilities and SSWP and training of Board of Directors and Core Management Teams (CMT) for utilities and SSWP on governance of water services.

Welcoming the discussion and terming it a possibility, Mr. Kwamini noted that KEWI and UNICEF collaboration agenda was a healthy move that would deeply explore even other areas under the critical KEWI Research arm and mostly under Research and Innovation. This, he said, would help deliver quality services to the host communities which include even the refugee camps.

"KEWI is known for capacity building for the water sector both in Kenya and outside Kenya. We can expand our sphere of collaboration to include support for innovation and incubation for water and sanitation technologies for our students and our utility workers," he added.

Mr. Abdi was equally optimistic of the outcomes of the discussion noting that he was happy KEWI was keen to take up the discussions. He noted that an attempt to engage some other partners did not make notable progress.

The two teams agreed to meet regularly and have a formal agreement signed before end of the month so as to pave way for actualization of the agreement.

RESEARCH

Battling Waterborne Diseases Amidst Flooding

BY DENNIS LEMALI

The effects of recent series of calamities caused by the flooding events experienced in the country over the past few weeks have been devastating. A life-threatening impact is the danger flooding events may expose people to waterborne diseases and the damage to general public health. In such events, public safety is a priority either in terms of rescue missions, relief provision, evacuation operations or public health safety. The risk of contracting waterborne diseases is high and may also requires a lot of effort to combat the problem in both urban and rural areas.

Some prevalent waterborne diseases in Kenya are cholera, infectious gastrointestinal diseases, typhoid and other diarrheal diseases. These diseases have a large potential for spreading which is why fast responses to cases are vital. According to UNICEF, approximately 59% of Kenyans have access to safe drinking water while only a mere 29% can access basic sanitation. Since 2000 to 2020, access to safe drinking water has increased by 12% while access to basic sanitation has fallen by 5%.

Excessive flooding as recently experienced in the country exacerbates water quality issues by playing a significant role in contaminating drinking water sources. Damage to water pipes may let in debris or contaminated water. Drinking water sources may also be contaminated with pollutants and sewage or other chemical pollutants. Microbial contamination is a serious threat to human health. Some known contaminants of concern in drinking water include bacteria like helicobacter pylori, the salmonella family, viruses like hepatitis, rotaviruses and enteroviruses and protozoa like giardia lamblia. The result of such floods is a heightened risk of contamination and spread of waterborne diseases. Waterborne diseases also pose a danger as they have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable members of our society such as children and the elderly.

Effects of the ongoing rains resulting to floods. Photo Courtesy of The Standard.

According to WHO:

Researchers have estimated that each year there are 1.3 to 4.0 million cases of cholera, and 21 000 to 143 000 deaths worldwide due to cholera.

From 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2024, a total of 271 119 cholera cases were reported across 18 countries in the African Region.

During the same period, 4506 deaths were reported from 16 countries

To mitigate the deadly exposure to waterborne diseases, access to clean water, sanitation facilities and health services require immediate preventive measures and response strategies especially during flooding events. Emphasis should also be placed around creating awareness on emergency preparedness early-warning

RESEARCH

KEWI Implements CBET Curriculum in End of Semester Exams

systems and community-based interventions. These interventions may comprise of engaging the local community and empowering and promoting awareness in water quality monitoring and hygiene promotion activities to prevent waterborne diseases.

As Kenya grapples with the aftermath of recent flooding events, the need to address the risk of waterborne diseases and safeguard public health has never been more urgent. This is not easy due to the prevailing environmental factors and inadequate infrastructure.

However, amidst these challenges lies an opportunity for collective action and resilience-building. By prioritizing preventive measures, strengthening public health infrastructure, and empowering communities, we can mitigate the impact of waterborne diseases and enhance our capacity to respond to future flooding events. Collaboration between the community, government, research institutions and non-governmental organizations is also important to implement sustainable solutions. By improving water quality monitoring systems and promoting sanitation education, offering innovative solutions and strengthening the quality of training in water, we have a responsibility and a role to play.

"Know your community's evacuation route and warning signals, and identifying areas prone to flooding or landslides."

Quote of the Week

"Leadership is not only having a vision, but also having the courage, discipline and resources to get you there."

-George Washington.

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Round up of The Week's Events

Resource Mobilization Training Workshop conducted by the Resource Mobilization Solutions held in KEWI Nairobi Campus.

Long - Term Programmes

Diploma in Water Engineering Technology (DWET) Diploma in Wastewater
Diploma in Water, Sanitation Engineering Technology (DWSET)
Diploma in Water Resources Management Technology (DWRTM)
Diploma in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Technology (DIDET)
Diploma in Information Communication Technology (DICT)-KNEC
Diploma in Water Laboratory Technology (DWLT)
Certificate in Wastewater and Sanitation Engineering Technology (CWSET)
Certificate in Water Resources Management Technology (CWRMT)
Certificate in Information Communication Technology (CICT)- KNEC
Certificate in Water Laboratory Technology (CWLT)
Certificate in Water Engineering Technology (CWET)
Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting (PPF)
Water Operators Course (WOC) in:

- Water Supply
- Meter Reading
- Sewerage Operations

Short - Term Programmes

Use of Earth Observation Tools and GIS for Water Resources Management
Entrepreneurship and Financial Management for Water Managers
Operation and Maintenance of Water Supply Networks
Metering and Installation of Water Supply Networks
Leak Detection & Repair techniques
Drilling Operations and Management (DOM)
Operation & Maintenance of Pumping Stations
Pump Selection, Installation and Maintenance
Plumbing, Pipe Fitting and Solar Water Heating
Instrumentation for Water and Wastewater Systems
Water Governance, Management and Technology
Application of GIS for Water Utilities Mapping
Drilling Operations and Management
Water Quality Sampling and Testing
Microbiological Water Quality Assessment
Integrated Water Resources Management
Non-Revenue water
Water Management
Customer Care

Vision

A Technical Centre of Excellence in Training, Research, Innovation and Consultancy in the water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector.

Mission

T o offer Competency-Based Training, Research, Innovation, Consultancy and Outreach Services in the Water, Sanitation and Irrigation Sector for sustainable development.

Core Values

Good Corporate Governance
Professionalism
Customer Focus
Innovativeness
Inclusivity
Patriotism
Integrity

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OTHER SERVICES OFFERED

Water Quality Laboratory Services
Drilling and Test Pumping Services
Ground water Assessment Services
Conferencing Services
Troubleshooting of pumps boreholes and distribution systems
Repair of pumps boreholes and distribution systems

Your feedback is crucial for our improvement

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