



IMPACT OF WASH 2024-2026

Streams Of Progress

A compilation of short WASH Success stories from Catholic healthcare facilities in Kenya



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Introduction

Around the world, many health facilities continue to serve communities facing significant social and economic marginalization. Catholic health facilities run by dioceses, congregations, and other Church entities are often at the forefront of reaching these vulnerable populations, particularly in remote and underserved regions. However, many of these facilities still struggle with inadequate WASH infrastructure and essential services.

To help address this global challenge, a group of organizations, in collaboration with the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, is working to strengthen WASH services in Catholic health facilities across 23 countries. This collective effort aims not only to improve conditions within these facilities but also to capture and share effective models and lessons that can inform and benefit the broader Catholic and non-Catholic health care community worldwide.

Unsafe WASH conditions and practices discourage people from seeking care at health facilities. This is unsurprising, given that more than 15% of patients are estimated to develop one or more infections during a hospital stay.

WASH Inception in Kenya

The development of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives in Kenya has its roots in the recognition that access to clean water and safe sanitation is fundamental to public health and social development. Historically, WASH interventions in Kenya emerged in response to recurrent outbreaks of waterborne diseases, high child mortality, and poor sanitation conditions, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas. Early efforts in the 1970s and 1980s were largely focused on providing safe water supply through boreholes, wells, and piped systems, often driven by government programs in partnership with international donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Over time, the WASH sector in Kenya evolved to adopt a more integrated approach that links water supply, sanitation, and hygiene promotion with public health outcomes. The government established key policies and institutional frameworks, including the National Environmental Sanitation and Hygiene Policy, and collaborated with county governments to decentralize WASH services. The inception phase also included the gradual incorporation of WASH in health facilities, schools, and community settings, recognizing that safe water and hygiene practices are critical for infection prevention, improved maternal and child health, and resilience against epidemics.

Today, WASH in Kenya continues to expand, emphasizing not only infrastructure development but also behavioural change, capacity building, and sustainability. The sector's inception laid the foundation for coordinated national programs, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and strategic interventions that aim to ensure equitable access to safe water, improved sanitation, and good hygiene practices across the country.

WASH Success stories

The inception of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program within the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) marked a powerful turning point in the journey to strengthen healthcare delivery across Catholic health facilities in Kenya. With a clear understanding that clean water, safe sanitation, and proper hygiene are the backbone of quality healthcare, KCCB set out to transform facilities by upgrading infrastructure, enhancing hygiene practices, and equipping healthcare workers with essential skills.

Among the 497 facilities under KCCB, 28 trailblazing institutions stepped forward as pioneers, lighting the path for others by demonstrating what is possible when commitment meets opportunity. Their success continues to inspire a wave of change, proving that WASH interventions are not just projects, but catalysts for healthier, more resilient communities.

The stories that follow bring these transformations to life. Written by the facility staff themselves, they reveal the passion, creativity, and unwavering dedication of the teams on the ground, those who witness firsthand the profound impact of WASH every day.

The following health facilities represent the institutions featured in this compilation of WASH success stories under the 2024–2026 programme period. Drawn from different dioceses and counties across Kenya, these facilities reflect the diversity of contexts in which Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene interventions have been implemented. Each facility demonstrates how targeted WASH investments contribute to improved infection prevention and control, strengthened service delivery, enhanced dignity for patients and staff, and increased community trust in Catholic health services.

1. **St. Lazarus Buyangu Mission Health Centre**
Catholic Diocese of Kakamega
2. **Holy Family Health Centre Kipsaraman**
Catholic Diocese of Nakuru
3. **Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre**
Catholic Diocese of Nakuru
4. **Mutito Catholic Health Centre**
Catholic Diocese of Kitui
5. **A.S.N Olomalaika Airritani Health Centre**
Catholic Diocese of Ngong
6. **Our Lady Star of the Sea Huruma Health Centre**
Catholic Diocese of Nakuru
7. **Good Samaritan Catholic Mission Hospital, Tangelbei**
Catholic Diocese of Nakuru
8. **St. Anne's Dispensary, Eshisiru**
Catholic Diocese of Kakamega

St. Lazarus Buyangu Mission Health Centre

“Transforming lives through access to clean water”



Abstract

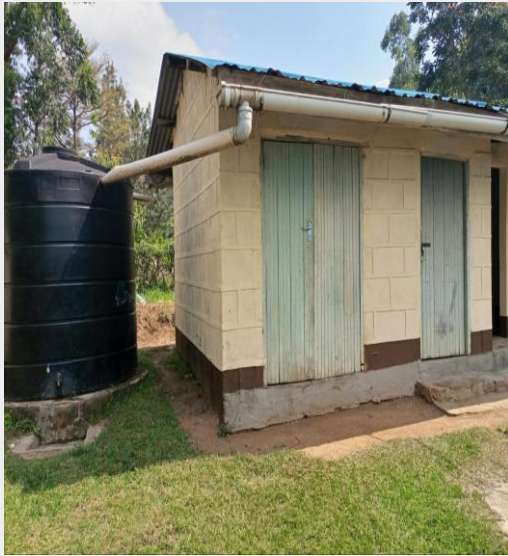
The availability of reliable water at St. Lazarus Buyangu Mission Health Centre has brought a very positive impact not only to the health centre but also to community around. This was supported by the Vatican Wash Programme through KCCB and the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega. This transformative water project has significantly improved hygiene, infection prevention, and overall healthcare outcomes.

Background

Saint Lazarus Buyangu Mission Health Centre is a medical institution owned by the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega under the management of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity. The Health Facility is located in Our Lady of Fatima Buyangu Parish. The facility is currently operating as a level 3B.

The facility used to rely on rain water harvest with storage tanks totalling to 50m³. This amount of water could only last for a very short time when the rains subside.

After discussions by the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega and the Health Facility management (Brothers of Charity), it was decided that a sustainable water source be sought. The team proposed the drilling of a borehole through writing a project proposal to KCCB under the Vatican Wash Program. We are indebted to the Vatican Wash program through KCCB that the borehole was successfully drilled, and now the health centre has clean running water.



Previous water harvesting and storage tank vs current raised water tank supplying safe and clean water to all water points.

During the dry season the facility had to buy water to maintain the hygiene and cleanliness of the facility. This has now cut some costs.



A cleaner drawing water from previous underground storage tanks



A cleaner fetching clean water from the tap

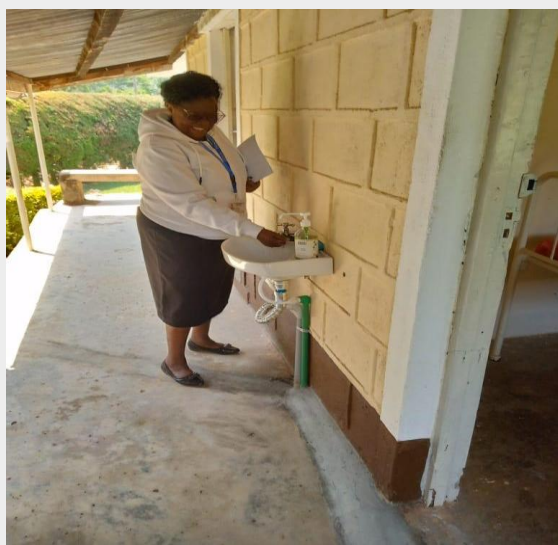
The underground storage tanks had constant leakages and were irreparable thus couldn't hold clean water for long thus leading to inadequacy supply.

Clean water has also helped in routine daily activities in the hospital like Dusting every morning, washing of hospital beddings fully frequently and also clients taking medication “start doses” when applicable.

There is improved healthcare where the facility is better equipped to serve the community and clients that visit the facility by providing clean water for drinking while taking medication and also enabling general monthly scrubbing of the facility.

It has helped the clients to reduce the spread of infectious diseases by hand washing as they enter and leave the facility.

Schools around benefit from the clean water, when their pump is faulty, during dry seasons and also reduced time wasting going to fetch water from far rivers hence enabling them to concentrate on their studies.



Clean running water along the corridors, wards, toilets and other places



Rt. Rev. Joseph Obanyi Sagwe, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega blessing and launching the water project

The WASH program has improved the general health, availability of clean drinking water has reduced waterborne diseases like typhoid, dysentery, and other diarrheal diseases in both adult and children population.



A post natal mother washing hands inside a postnatal ward



A patient washing hands at the entry of the facility



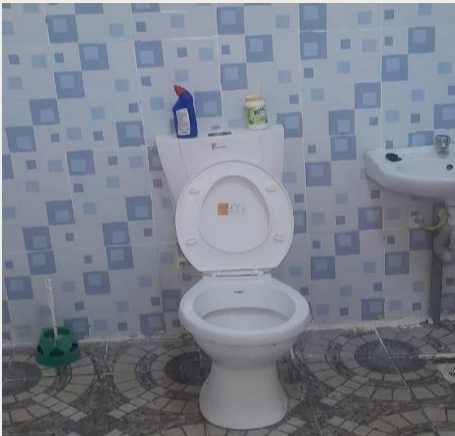
Maize grown under irrigation due to availability of water from the borehole to enhance food security for the facility



Previous waste disposal site



Modern burning chamber for waste disposal



Modern toilet and Bathroom for maternity Clients

Holy Family Health Centre Kipsaraman

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Infection Prevention & Control

Rainwater Harvesting Secures Health and Dignity for Patients

The establishment of a reliable rainwater harvesting system at Holy Family Health Centre Kipsaraman, along with the construction of modern toilets and septic tanks, has been transformative for both the health facility and the surrounding community. With the support of the WASH Initiative Project, the facility now enjoys a stable water supply that has improved hygiene, strengthened sanitation, reduced infections, and lowered operational costs.

Background and Project Journey

Health facilities in rural and hard-to-reach areas frequently struggle with insufficient WASH infrastructure. Before the intervention, Holy Family Health Centre Kipsaraman relied on small storage tanks that could not hold enough water to meet the facility's needs throughout the year and costly water supply that interrupted essential services such as cleaning, sterilization, and sanitation.

To address these challenges, the WASH Initiative supported the installation of large rainwater harvesting tanks, gutters, modern toilets, and septic tanks. The project journey included a needs assessment, planning, and infrastructure installation, resulting in a sustainable water and sanitation system that now supports the facility's daily operations throughout the year.



New toilets at the facility



New septic tanks



New rainwater Tanks

Impact of the Water & Sanitation Project

Before the Project:

1. Water shortages disrupted cleaning of floors, equipment, and patient areas.
2. Toilets were often unusable, creating hygiene risks and discomfort for patients and staff.
3. Lack of proper septic tanks caused waste management challenges.
4. Staff spent valuable time and resources sourcing water from outside vendors.
5. Patients, especially mothers in maternity, lacked reliable water for personal hygiene



Previous small water storage tank



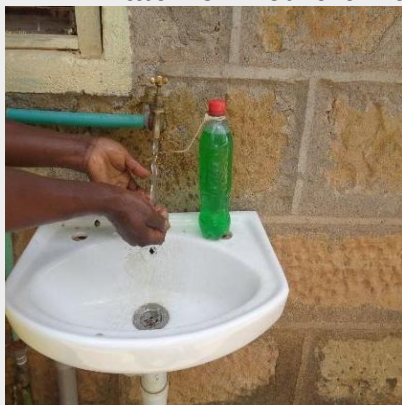
Previous water storage tank



Previous latrines

After the Project:

1. Daily cleaning and disinfection are carried out without interruption.
2. New toilets and septic tanks ensure safe, reliable sanitation for patients, staff, and visitors.
3. Toilets function reliably, maintaining hygiene and dignity across the facility.
4. Handwashing stations are consistently supplied, reducing communicable diseases.
5. Drinking water is available to staff, patients, and visitors.
6. Maternity services are strengthened with clean laundry, sterilized instruments, and water for mothers' needs.



Handwashing in practice



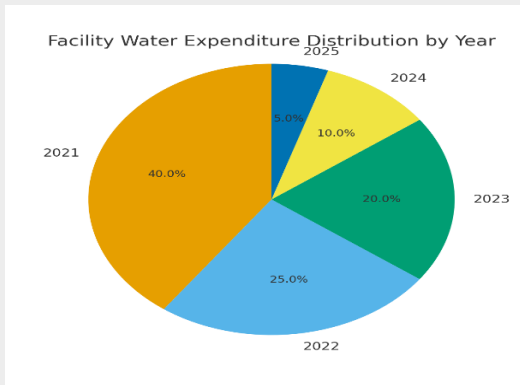
New toilets



Septic tank

Cost Savings

Before the rainwater harvesting system, the facility spent significant amounts on purchasing water from vendors. With the new tanks, toilets, and septic system in place, these expenses have dropped sharply, allowing the facility to redirect funds to staff support, medical supplies, and patient care.



Voices from the Facility

“Now we have enough water for cleaning, sanitation, and hygiene every day. The new toilets and septic system have made the facility cleaner, safer, and more dignified for patients.” – Facility Staff

“During my stay at the maternity ward, I always had water to wash myself and clean my baby’s clothes. The toilets were clean and usable at all times. This gave me dignity and comfort.” – Mother at maternity unit

Ripple Effects Beyond the Facility

- Community Trust – More people seek care at the facility, knowing it is safe, hygienic, and well-maintained.
- Health Outcomes – Reduced infections and better sanitation practices have improved overall patient safety.
- Staff Morale – Workers perform their duties more effectively, without the burden of sourcing water or managing poor sanitation.
- Sustainability – The rainwater and septic systems provide long-term solutions, resilient to seasonal shortages and waste management challenges.



A staff washing hands

Lessons Learned

This project demonstrates that simple WASH improvements such as rainwater harvesting, improved toilets, and septic systems can bring profound change. At Holy Family Health Centre Kipsaraman, the intervention has enhanced infection prevention, strengthened sanitation, reduced costs, and uplifted the dignity of patients and staff alike. It serves as a model for other health facilities facing similar challenges.

Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre



Transforming Lives through Improved Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to clean water, adequate sanitation and proper hygiene (WASH) services is fundamental to delivering safe, quality and dignified healthcare. Effective WASH infrastructure in health facilities ensures infection prevention and control (IPC), safe childbirth, clean environments for patients and protection for health workers.

Background

Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre, a level 3B facility under the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru and Managed by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of St Joseph. It is located in Baringo Central Constituency, Baringo County. Established in 1991, the facility served the local community with both outpatient and inpatient services, including maternal and child health, antenatal and postnatal care, HIV and hepatitis prevention, immunization and community outreach program.

Before the intervention, Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre experienced prolonged water shortages, incomplete sewer systems and inadequate waste disposal mechanisms. These constraints hindered routine hygiene practices, particularly during deliveries and patient care, increasing the risk of infection and spread of preventable waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid and Amoebiasis.

Recognizing the vital link between WASH and quality healthcare, the facility prioritized WASH improvement as a key strategy towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3(Good Health and Wellbeing) and Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

The success of Salawa's WASH transformation is deeply rooted in partnership and support extended by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) - Catholic Health Department of Kenya provided financial and technical assistance under the WASH and health systems strengthening program, enabling the facility to improve access to clean water, construct proper sanitation facilities and establish a functional waste management system.

Through this collaboration, KCCB empowered Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre not only to enhance infrastructure but also to strengthen its capacity for infection prevention, promote safe hygiene behaviours and build community trust in the quality of health services offered. This partnership demonstrates the Catholic Church's commitment to improving health outcomes and ensuring that every person can access healthcare in a clean, safe and dignified environment.

Challenges before the Intervention

Before receiving the wash support, Salawa faced the following Key Challenges:

1. Poor Sanitation Infrastructure
 - Existing burning chamber was too small to handle medical waste
 - Incomplete sewerage systems and poor waste disposal posed infection risks.
2. Water Shortages
 - The facility relied on rainwater collection, which was insufficient.
 - At times water had to be fetched manually due to steep terrain and poor access roads.
3. Financial and structural Constraints
 - Rocky topography increased construction costs.
 - Limited financial capacity delayed upgrades such as the incinerator and water system.

The Intervention

In partnership with the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru and support extended by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) - Catholic Health Department, Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre implemented transformative WASH Projects aimed at improving sanitation, water access and infection prevention.

The intervention includes:

1. Construction of a modern Incinerator (Burning chamber)

To enhance safe disposal of infectious and hazardous wastes.

2. Installation of a water supply system and a concrete water Tower

Piping water from the main borehole, replacing the old pump and a construction of a 10,000 litres capacity storage tower.

3. Rainwater Harvesting and Emergency Storage

Two 5'000-litre tanks with gutters and fittings for additional water security.

4. Construction of inclusive washrooms and Bathrooms

Designed for people living with disability (PLWDs) and maternity clients ensuring dignity and accessibility.



Photo of Inclusive Washrooms and Bathrooms constructed

Achievements and Impact

1. Improved Water Access

- ❖ A new submersible pump was installed in the borehole, and over 500 meters of PVC and HDPE pipes laid from the borehole to the facility.
- ❖ Reliable running water is now available in wards, consultation rooms, maternity units and waiting areas.
- ❖ The new water tower ensures continuous supply even during dry seasons
- ❖ Staffs and patients can now maintain personal hygiene, significantly improving infection prevention and control (IPC)

2. Improved Sanitation and Waste Management

- ❖ The new incinerator has strengthened the facility's infection prevention measures by ensuring timely disposal of medical wastes.
- ❖ Staff safety and morale have improved due to reduced exposure to infectious agents.
- ❖ The facility environment is visibly cleaner and safer for patients and visitors.
- ❖ The facility now has disability friendly toilets

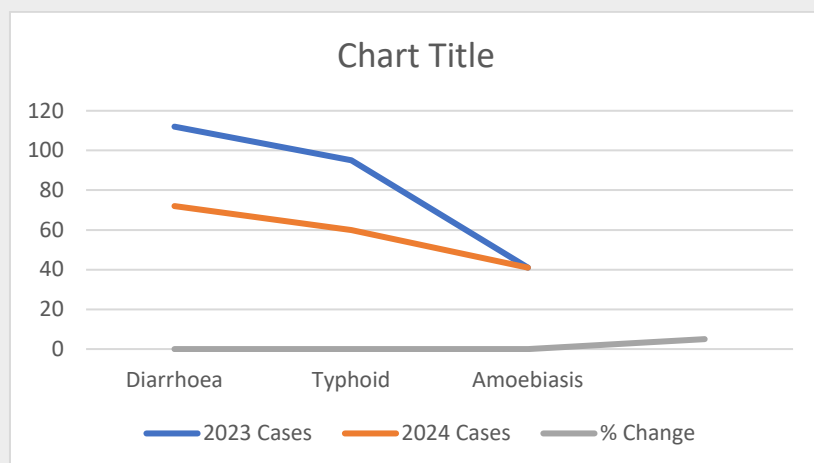


Photo of a staff (Laboratory technician) working in a clean and safe working environment

1. Reduction in waterborne Diseases

- ❖ Analysis for outpatient data for 2023 and 2024 revealed marked health improvements following the wash interventions:

Diseases	2023 Cases	2024 Cases	% Change
Diarrhea	112	72	Reduction 36%
Typhoid	95	60	Reduction 37%



2. Enhance Service Delivery and staff Morale

- ❖ Clean and safe working environments have boosted staff performance and motivation.
- ❖ Maternity clients and PLWDs can now use inclusive washrooms independently and safely.
- ❖ The facility has seen an increased in-service utilization, particularly for maternal health services.

Voices from the Facility

“Before the new washrooms, I struggled to use the toilets. Now I can use them comfortably. I feel respected.” –**Local client living with disability**

“The availability of running water and a proper waste disposal system has improved hygiene in all departments. We now offer services confidently knowing our patients are safe.”

Sr.Priscah Bonareri, Facility in Charge

Sustainability and Next steps

To ensure sustainability of the WASH improvements, Salawa Catholic Mission Health Centre Has put in place the following measures:

- Routine maintenance of the incinerator, water system and storage tanks.
- A Facility WASH committee responsible for monitoring water use hygiene standards.
- Integration of WASH awareness in community outreach and school Health programs.
- Expand the drainage system.

The facility is seeking future partnerships with county health and water departments to strengthen long term sustainability.

Mutito Catholic Health Centre: WASH Project Success Story

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene: Infection Prevention & Control



Transforming Lives Through Access to Clean Water

The availability of reliable water at Mutito Catholic Health Centre has been a game-changer for the hospital and the surrounding community. Supported by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Diocese of Kitui, this transformative water project has significantly improved hygiene, infection prevention, and overall healthcare outcomes.

Background and Project Journey

Health facilities run by dioceses, congregations, and other Catholic entities serve many of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations. Located in remote areas, these facilities often lack adequate WASH infrastructure and services. To address this critical problem, a group of organizations engaged with the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, are collaborating to improve WASH in Catholic health facilities in 23 countries and to share models and learnings with the larger Catholic and non-Catholic health care community. To advance this initiative, CRS requested funding from the Wallace Genetic Foundation and Hilton Fund for Sisters to support health facilities in Kenya. In response to the Dicastery's call, the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) in collaboration with Catholic Diocese of Kitui identified and assessed eight (8) health facilities.

The journey began in 2019 when Sr. Monica Mukui, the Catholic Diocese of Kitui's Health Coordinator, visited Mutito health center and identified the dire need for clean water. Advocacy efforts, including a comprehensive video highlighting the water challenges, laid the groundwork. Despite initial funding difficulties, the project gained momentum in 2020 when technical team conducted a detailed assessment and prepared Bill of Quantities (BOQs), shared with the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB). In 2023, CRS and Sr. Monica revisited the facility for further assessment and training, culminating in a project launch. By May 2024, the project was completed, delivering uninterrupted water supply, transforming the health facility into a clean, safe, and hygienic environment for patients and staff.

Impact of the Water Project

“Before the project, getting water for the health facility's needs was a nightmare. We had to go and collect water from the community boreholes and vendors from long distances (+ 3 kms).

To transport large quantities of water to be stored we used donkeys and tractor with trailer for hire. The work was too physical and arduous to the point that the entire facility team was always mobilised to carry out that work of collecting water” said Sr. Catherine, the Facility Manager at Mutito Level 3B health center.



Previous mode of water delivery to the facility before WASH project by donkey and tractor.



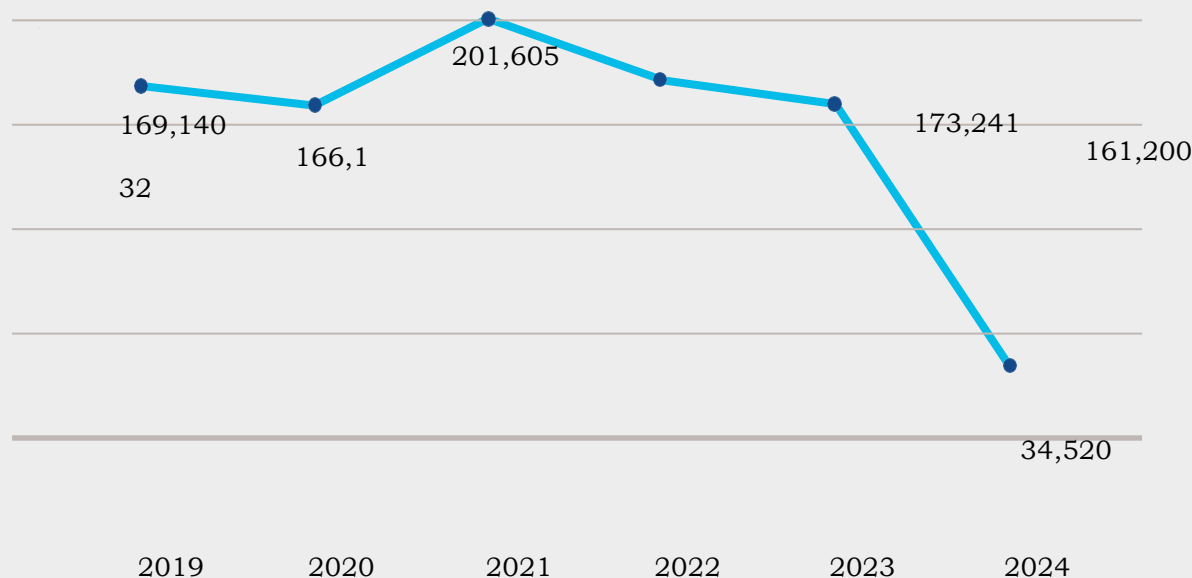
New water source point on the hill.

That previous mode of delivering water to the facility caused exorbitant recurring costs and strained the facility's meager financial resources. We could not adequately pay the staff salaries and easily cover the other operational needs of the facility.

The table below shows the historical costs incurred by the facility to get water in the five last years before the project.

YR. 2019	YR. 2020	YR. 2021	YR. 2022	YR. 2023	YR. 2024
Ksh. 169,140 (1,300.08 usd) Spent on water purchase	Ksh. 166,132 (1,276.96 usd) Spent on water purchase	Ksh. 201,605 (1,549.62 usd) Spent on water purchase	Ksh. 173,241 (1,331.60 usd) Spent on water purchase	Ksh. 161,200 (1,239.05 usd) Spent on water purchase	Ksh. 34,520 (267.29 usd) Spent on water purchase

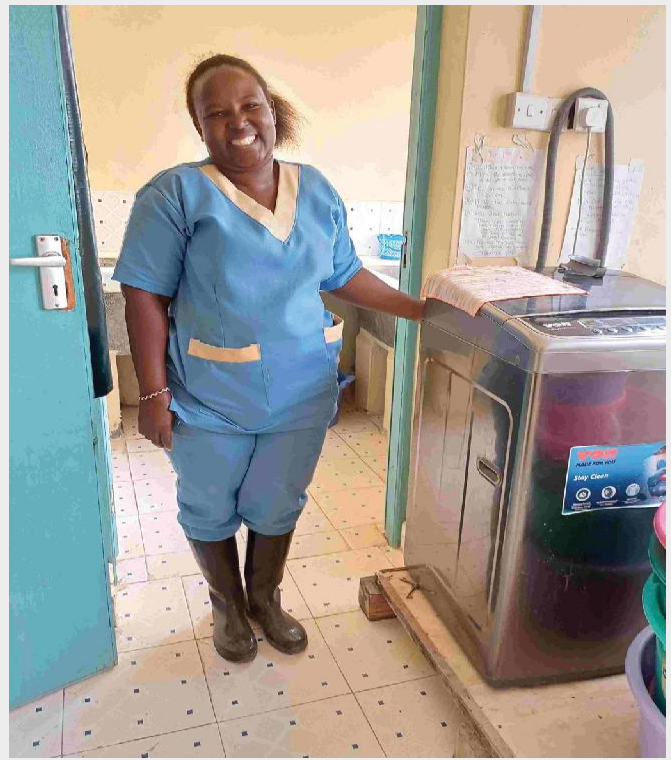
Water Expenses Trend



Source: Facility's Financial Report



New water tank reservoir



Cleaning made easier with sufficient water

Now we have a gravity water system built with financial and technical support from CRS and the Catholic Diocese of Kitui. The new water supply system provides us with large quantities of water every day and covers all our water needs, added Sr. Catherine.

“When we had to buy water from vendors, it was difficult to properly clean all the rooms at the Health Center because the water supply was insufficient, and we had to use the little we had sparingly. Now, my colleagues and I can clean all the rooms every day without fear of running out of water,” said Mary Danielle Mueni, a cleaner at Mutito Catholic Health Center.

Handwashing practices have improved significantly

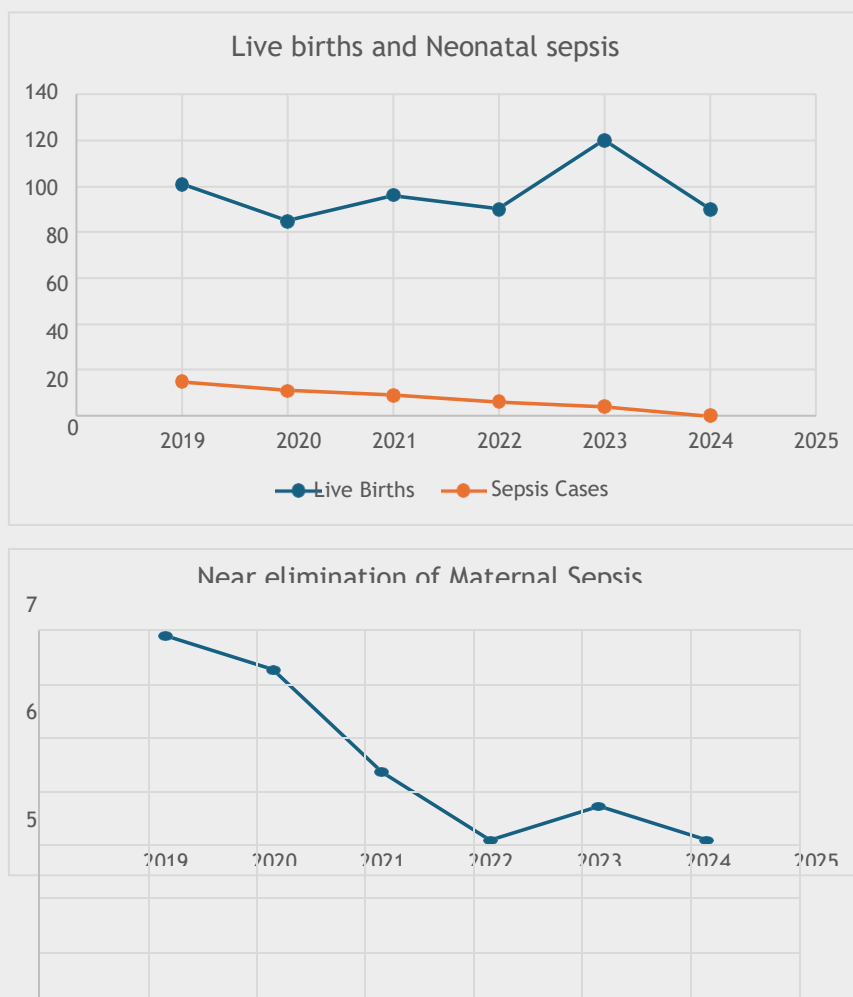
Before the improvement of water supply, handwashing practices were not systematic. This put the lives of patients and health workers at risk due to high risk of transmission of pathogens in the facility. Now that water is available, we have instituted close monitoring of health workers’ conduct on mandatory hand hygiene compliance said, Helen, nurse at the HIV treatment room. Unsafe WASH conditions and practices discourage people from seeking care at health facilities. This is unsurprising, given that more than 15% of patients are estimated to develop one or more infections during a hospital stay.



However, the implementation of effective hand hygiene and IPC (Infection Prevention and Control) practices has transformed Mutito Catholic Health Center into a safe and trusted healthcare facility. As a result, more people are now visiting the center, drawn by its enhanced safety measures and *commitment* to saving lives

Drastic Reduction of Neonatal Sepsis

Lack of water in a health care facility leads to serious and sometimes fatal consequences for users. Before the project, several women who had given birth at Mutito Catholic health center used to return with complaints of maternal and neonatal sepsis. Now, because of permanent availability of water and enhanced IPC practices the **neonatal sepsis rate has drastically decreased from 14.8% to 0% and postpartum sepsis nearly eliminated in 2024 as shown in the below graphs.**



Source: Facility's HIS Report

The ripple effects of the project extend beyond the facility:

1. **Schools:** Surrounding schools, including St. Faustina Academy and Fr. Nicky Polytechnic, now enjoy free-flowing water, eliminating the burden of students carrying jerrycans and reducing hygiene-related illnesses like urinary tract infections.
2. **Community Water Point:** A community water point has been set up that provides affordable access to clean water, with minimal fees collected for water facilities' maintenance.
3. **Kitchen Garden:** A thriving garden supports the health facility's nutrition program and generates income, improving patient's diets.





On the Right the community water point, on the left Sr. Catherine and Sr. Monica inspecting the facility's flourishing kitchen garden.

4. **Environmental Enhancement:** Planted flowers and trees beautify and cool the environment.
5. **Community Ownership:** Residents actively monitor the safety of water facilities and report cases of vandalism, breakdowns and water leaks, fostering sustainability.
6. **Recognition:** The Kitui East sub-county health team has rated Mutito Health Centre as the best in IPC/WASH.
7. **Cost Savings:** Before the project, the facility relied on expensive water delivery by donkey and tractor. Annual water purchase costs ranged from Ksh. 161,200 to Ksh. 201,605. In 2024, post-project completion, costs dropped to Ksh. 34,520, freeing resources for other critical needs. These freed up financial resources helped the facility improve maintenance operator payments and cover spare parts expenses.

A.S.N Olomalaika Health Centre

ASN Olomalaika (means: “under the protection of the Guardian Angels” to guard, protect and pray for the premises, the sick, the staff, administration and the Assumption Sisters.)

The Health Centre was started on 3rd March 2002 in a very humble background under the ownership of the Assumption Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Nairobi (ASN).

The health centre is situated next to Ololoitikosh trading Centre on Kiserian-Isinya main road; in the Catholic Diocese of Ngong, Kajiado County in Kenya.

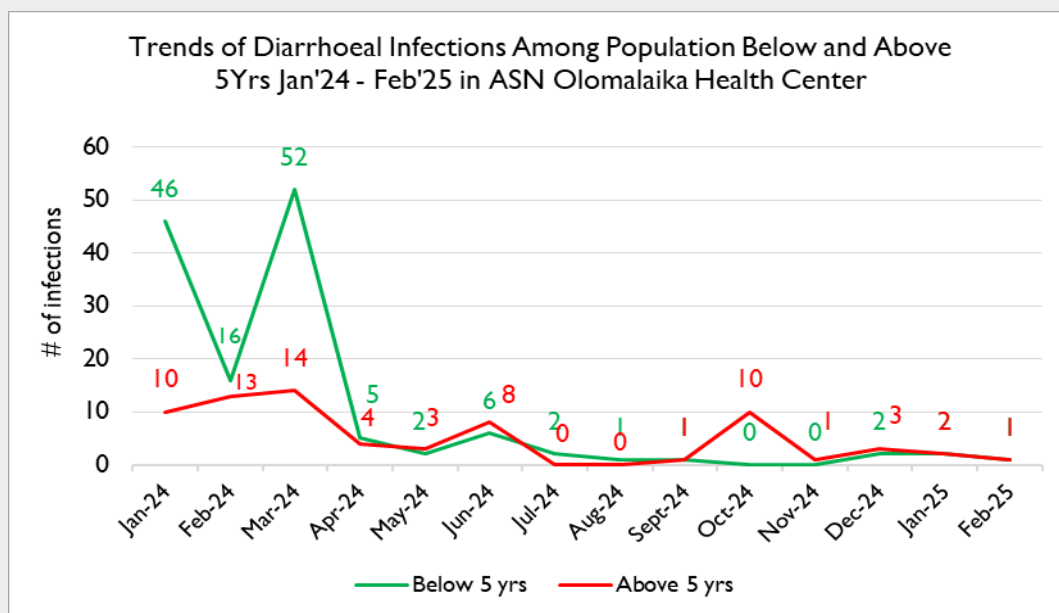
The Health Centre was started as a dispensary in a portable wooden house to serve Baraka High School Students by then manned by the Assumption Sisters; after which the local native community of Masai expressed their need and desire for medical services from the Assumption Sisters. This was considered and the portable building was transferred to Olmalaika land at Ololoitikosh in a small town by name Birika, where the facility developed into a health Centre in 2005 after inspection by the Ministry of Health from Kajiado County (District by then).

The legal registration and Licensing of operation was done on 27th July 2005 and 3rd August 2005 respectively.

ASN Olomalaika Health Centre offers quite a variety of services beneficial to the rising population of Birika and neighbourhood.



Before the WASH interventions, Olomalaika faced significant challenges due to the lack of clean and reliable water. Families and children relied on unsafe water sources, exposing them to frequent cases of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea, typhoid, and skin infections. The long distances travelled mostly by women and girls to fetch water reduced time for school, caregiving, and productive activities. Health facilities struggled to maintain hygiene standards, affecting patient care and infection prevention efforts. Overall, the absence of clean water increased household medical costs, undermined dignity, and limited the community’s potential for better health and socioeconomic stability.



Key WASH Interventions Implemented to Reduce Diarrhoeal Infections

- **Construction of a Water Tower:**

A fully completed water tower now provides an elevated and secure water storage system, ensuring consistent water pressure and safer water distribution within the facility/community.

- **Installation of Two Water Storage Tanks:**

Two high-capacity water tanks have been purchased and installed, significantly improving the availability of clean and safely stored water—critical for handwashing, cleaning, and safe food preparation.

- **Pending Water Connection:**

The final step, connection to the main water supply line, is underway. Once completed, it will ensure uninterrupted access to safe water, further strengthening efforts to prevent diarrhoeal diseases.



Water is now available on-site, enabling and sustaining agricultural activities within the farm.

This reliable supply not only boosts food production but also enhances nutrition and resilience for the community/facility, contributing to improved overall health outcomes.



Our Lady Star of the Sea Huruma Health Centre.

Background of WASH Project

Most of the health facilities run by the Catholic Church majorly face ultimate challenges considering the background of the community they serve. One of the challenges being lack of availability of clean water for drinking and general hygiene. Majority of the people Catholic Health facilities serve come from vulnerable backgrounds which require Health education and practical training on hand hygiene in order to improve their livelihood and prevent the spread of infections that occur due to unavailability of clean water.

The journey began when the health facility identified the dire need for clean water, construction of hand-washing points at all stations within the facility and need for a modern burning chamber. Advocacy efforts were made to the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, health Department and KCCB health department; who facilitated the WASH Project. Thanks to KCCB in conjunction with Catholic Diocese of Nakuru for their highly valued support. The facility received the WASH Project funds in March 2024 and started the project immediately. The implementation of WASH project has led to a significant increase in patient flow, improved health outcomes, and enhanced community trust in the facility. This report outlines the key changes observed post-intervention and quantifies the impact on service utilization.

Prior to the WASH Intervention

The facility faced many challenges which contributed to low patient turnout and increased risk of healthcare-associated infections. These were as follows:

- Poor Waste Management.
- Poor hand-washing facilities
- Lack of enough water storage facilities and supply.
- Old pit latrines with several health and environmental risks.

WASH Interventions Implemented

- Installation of water tanks for storage of water
- Construction of gender-segregated toilets
- Placement of handwashing stations at key points (entrance, wards, toilets)
- Regular cleaning protocols and waste management systems
- Community sensitization on hygiene.



Old burning chamber



Current burning chamber



Old Hand-Washing Points



Current hand-washing stations Infection prevention protocols in place



Old pit latrines



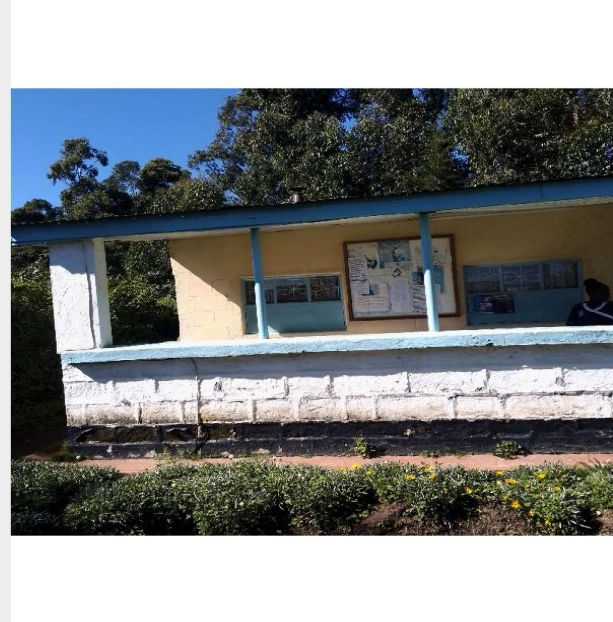
Current flush toilets



New storage water tanks



old storage water tank



Gutters in place now previously there were no Gutters



WASH Community sensitization

WASH IMPACT ON PATIENT FLOW

INDICATOR	Prior WASH project	Post WASH Project
Average monthly outpatient visits	1800	3000
Average Antenatal clinic monthly visits	32	72
Average Child immunization monthly visits	58	150

Feedback

1. Patients report feeling safer and more comfortable using the facility.
2. Staff morale has improved due to a cleaner working environment.
3. Community members now view the Health Centre as a reliable place for care.
4. Continue hygiene promotion to sustain gains.

Conclusion

The WASH Project has transformed Our Lady Star of the Sea Huruma Health Centre into a more attractive and trusted healthcare provider, resulting in a measurable increase in patient flow and better health outcomes. Continued investment in WASH is essential for sustaining these benefits.

Good Samaritan Catholic Mission Hospital - Tangelbei



WASH Project Success Story

Strengthening Infection Prevention and Control through Sustainable Water Access

Executive Summary

The KCCB-led Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project at Good Samaritan Catholic Mission Hospital, Tangelbei, Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, has transformed healthcare delivery through sustainable access to clean water. The intervention has significantly improved hand hygiene practices, strengthened Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), reduced neonatal and maternal infections, and extended benefits to surrounding schools and the wider community. This project stands as a replicable model of faith-based, community-centred development.

Background and Project Rationale

Catholic health facilities serve some of the most vulnerable populations in Kenya, particularly in remote and arid regions. Despite their critical role, many facilities face chronic water shortages that compromise hygiene, patient safety, and quality of care.

Globally, Catholic health institutions—through collaboration with the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development—have prioritized the improvement of WASH standards as a core component of dignified healthcare. In response to this call, the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB) initiated targeted interventions to improve WASH services in selected Catholic health facilities.

In collaboration with the Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, Good Samaritan Catholic Mission Hospital, Tangulbei, was identified as a priority site due to its acute water challenges and high maternal and child health burden. The project's objective was to ensure continuous access to clean water, strengthen IPC systems, and enhance healthcare outcomes for patients and staff.



Situation Before the Intervention

Prior to the project, the health facility lacked a reliable water source. Water had to be fetched from distant community boreholes or purchased from vendors. This process involved hiring donkeys, trailers, or tractors, resulting in:

- High operational costs
- Delays in service delivery
- Compromised hygiene and sanitation
- Increased risk of healthcare-associated infections

“Accessing water was our biggest daily challenge. Sometimes clinical services were interrupted simply because there was no water,” recalls the facility’s administrator



Project Intervention and Implementation



With financial and technical support from KCCB, a gravity-fed water supply system was constructed to provide a reliable and sustainable source of clean water. The system now supplies sufficient water daily to all departments of the health facility, including maternity, outpatient services, and sanitation areas and to the local Tangulbei community.

The intervention also supported the strengthening of WASH and IPC protocols, ensuring effective utilization of the improved infrastructure.



Key Outcomes and Impact

4.1 Improved Hand Hygiene and IPC Compliance

Reliable water availability has enabled the introduction of systematic hand hygiene practices and close monitoring of compliance among health workers. This has significantly reduced the risk of pathogen transmission within the facility.

“With water always available, hand hygiene is now strictly enforced. This has greatly improved patient and staff safety,” noted the Medical Officer, Dr. Clement.

As a result, the facility has gained increased trust from the community, leading to higher service utilization.



Conclusion and Way Forward

The KCCB-funded WASH project at Good Samaritan Catholic Mission Hospital, Tangelbei demonstrates the transformative power of sustainable water access in healthcare. By strengthening the WASH infrastructure and IPC practices, the project has saved lives, restored dignity, and reinforced the Church’s mission of integral human development.

This intervention provides a scalable model that can be replicated in other Catholic health facilities facing similar challenges.



St. Anne's Dispensary Eshisiru - WASH Project Success Story

Water Sanitation and Hygiene



Figure 1: St. Anne's Dispensary Eshisiru

Transforming Lives Through Access to Clean Water

Access to the reliable clean water at St. Anne's Dispensary Eshisiru has truly transformed the hospital and the wider community. Made possible through the support of the Vatican Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) project, implemented by KCCB and the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega. This initiative has greatly enhanced hygiene, strengthened infection prevention control and improved overall healthcare outcomes. The project continues to make a meaningful difference in the life of the people it serves.

Background and Project Journey

The facility is owned by St. Anne's Catholic Church under the Catholic Diocese of Kakamega. It is managed by the parish council headed by Rev. Fr. Kizito Mmasi, who is the administrator of the facility.

The facility is run by a Nursing Officer in Charge who oversees the day-to-day activities of the hospital. The facility is located in Kakamega County, Lurambi Sub-county,

Butsotso Central Ward, along Shikoti–Eshisiru–Esumeya Road, opposite the Catholic Church.

It is registered by KMPDC and started in the year 2014 at the parish's hall, later moving to the current dispensary grounds in 2016. It was officially opened in May 2016 by Rt. Rev. Joseph Obanyi Sagwe, Bishop of Catholic diocese of Kakamega.

It is serving as a level 2 facility offering outpatient and maternity services.

Geographically the facility is in a rocky environment and lack of water has been a constant challenge in the community & the facility, hindering prevention of infections & health.

To address this critical problem the diocesan health coordinator made an appeal to the Vatican dicastery for promoting integral human development whereby three facilities in the Kakamega in response to diocesan call the KCCB in collaboration with the catholic diocese of Kakamega identified & assessed the health facilities.

The journey began in 2023 June when the team from WASH project visited the facility for assessment and identified the need for clean water in the area, funds were allocated to the facility through KCCB for water drilling which was successful but was not serving the purpose properly mainly due to lack of funds to facilitate piping and pumping of water from the main house to the facility & low voltage due to overload of the transformer & frequent black-out.

Early this year we received the 2nd phase which was allocated for piping, pumping & tank installation at every service point.

Currently the facility has clean running water which has improved the service delivery & hygienic environment for the patients & staff.



Facility Staff drawing water from underground tank



Drilled borehole and water available



KCCB, diocese and facility team at the project's site.

Impact of the Water Project

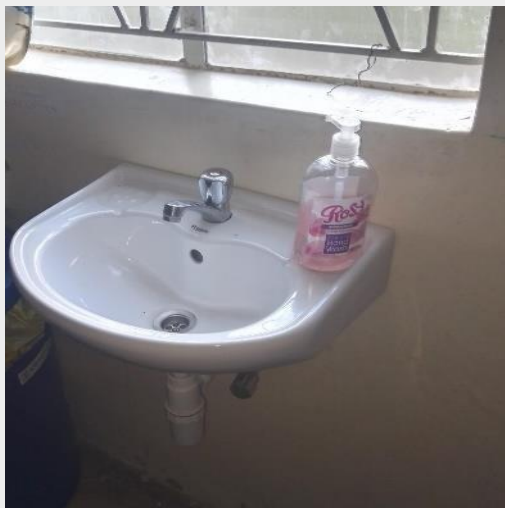
Before the project, the facility never had a reliable source of water since establishment & was relying on harvested rain water at the parish which was insufficient due to lack of enough storage tanks & the distance between the facility & parish required labour engagement which was costly thus hindering service delivery IPC, maternity services & risk for human consumption.



A cleaner at her daily duties.



An improvised hand washer before.



sinks

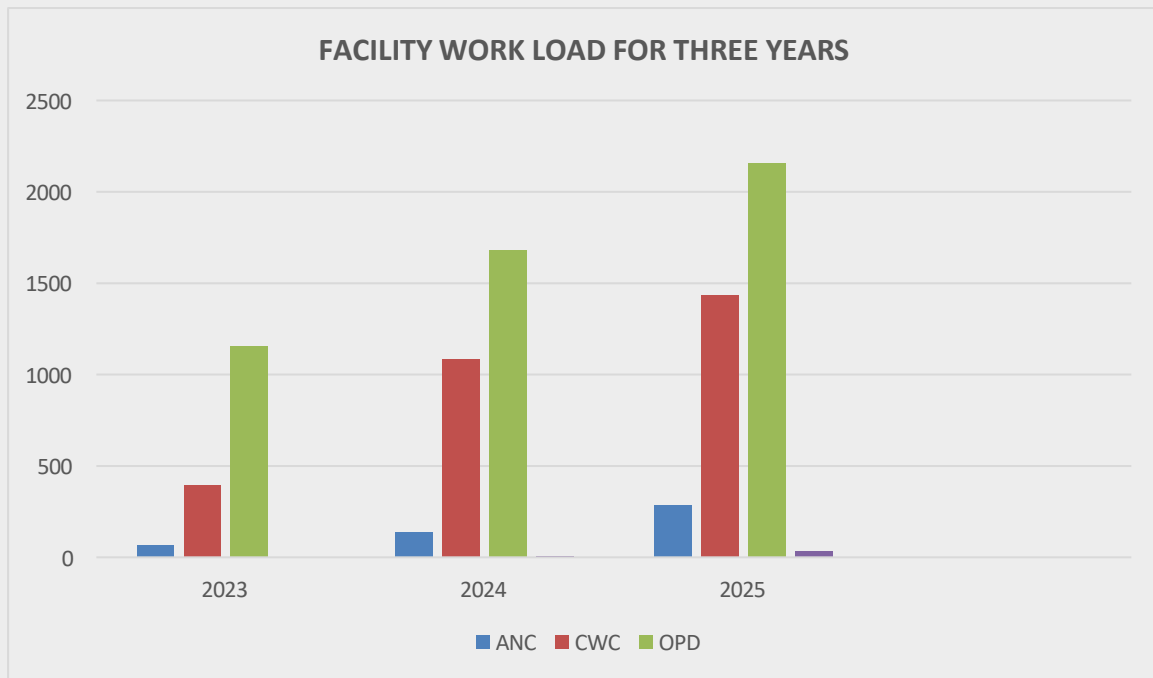


A patient washing hands at the facility's entry.

The availability of water supply has improved the quality of services such as regular cleaning of the facility and the washrooms, systematic hand-washing practices and also serving the community at large. It has also promoted the provision of maternity services thus reducing maternal mortality, home deliveries, neonatal sepsis & reduction of postpartum sepsis.



A new mother nursing her child after delivery in the facility.



KEY:

ANC: Antenatal clinic
 CWC: Child welfare clinic
 OPD: outpatient department

MAT: Maternity.

It has also improved patient turn-out due to improved quality services and commitment to saving lives.

It has also helped to enhance the environment as more trees are being planted at the facility to beautify and cool the environment.

The Lurambi sub-county team has rated St. Anne's Dispensary as the best in IPC/WASH. A community water point has been set up to provide affordable access to clean water.

It has also improved patient turn-out due to improved quality services and commitment to saving lives.



Community members fetching water from the facilities.

Conclusion

The *Impact of WASH 2024–2026: Streams of Progress* clearly demonstrates that strategic investment in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene is a powerful catalyst for transforming healthcare delivery in Catholic health facilities across Kenya. Across diverse contexts—rural, arid, and underserved communities—the WASH interventions have consistently improved infection prevention and control, strengthened maternal and child health services, reduced waterborne and healthcare-associated infections, enhanced staff morale, and restored dignity to patients and communities.

These success stories affirm that reliable access to clean water, safe sanitation, and good hygiene practices is not an added luxury but a foundational requirement for quality, safe, and trusted healthcare. The collaborative efforts of KCCB, dioceses, congregations, partners, and facility staff have shown that sustainable, community-centered WASH solutions can generate far-reaching ripple effects beyond health facilities, benefiting schools, households, and local livelihoods.

As Kenya continues its journey toward universal health coverage and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 6, these experiences provide practical, replicable models for scaling WASH interventions nationwide. Above all, the report reflects the Church’s enduring commitment to integral human development, upholding health, dignity, and hope for the most vulnerable, while reaffirming that service to humanity remains a true service to God.



DICASTERY FOR PROMOTING
 INTEGRAL
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT