**Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) Regulators in Africa – Country Profile**

**Kenya**

### General information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Eastern Africa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surface area</td>
<td>580,367 km²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>47,564,296 (KNBS, 2019)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban pop.</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural pop.</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply coverage</td>
<td>60% (WASREB, 2022)**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanitation coverage</td>
<td>93% (WASREB, 2022)**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WSS Regulatory Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban Water Supply</th>
<th>Sanitation</th>
<th>Rural Water Supply</th>
<th>Sanitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of Regulation</strong></td>
<td>Regulation by Agency</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of Regulator</strong></td>
<td>Water Services Regulatory Board (WASREB)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year of establishment</strong></td>
<td>2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Policy</strong></td>
<td>National Water Policy, 1999</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Legal instrument</strong></td>
<td>Water Act 2002 (repealed), Water Act 2016</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Area of Jurisdiction</strong></td>
<td>National</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of regulated service providers</strong></td>
<td>87 public utilities and 3 private companies*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type of service providers</strong></td>
<td>Sub-national</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Key functions**

- Standards formulation and enforcement
- Tariff evaluation and recommendation
- Licensing service providers
- Compliance monitoring and reporting
- Information management
- Informing policy development
- Complaints handling
- Facilitate consumer group establishment

**Best practice: Sector performance monitoring and reporting**

Licensed service providers are required to submit audits of books and accounts and details of their performance against a wide range of key performance indicators. WASREB validates this information through inspections and the tariff application process. WASREB generates a comprehensive annual impact report outlining the performance of the WSS sector and WSS service providers. Key aspects detailed in these reports include:

- Sector developments
- Detailed performance overviews of WSS service providers
- A breakdown of WSS services in each of Kenya’s 47 counties
- An overview of pertinent issues to the sector.

These reports are publicly available and create a lot of impetus on the performance of utilities and have become vital reference points for a number of stakeholders.

*Source*  **Source**

For more information on WASREB, click [here](#).